



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Volume 33, Number 14

'Knick
Knack'
returns
- B1

Auto Show
Coverage
- A7



Accidental fame found by student

By WENDY LYONS
Contributing Writer

It is amazing how one seemingly chance encounter can literally change the course of someone's life. For Oakland University senior Mike Metz that is exactly what happened. And this change led him all the way to Hollywood.

Little did Metz, 21, of Troy, know the new direction his life would take when he happened to meet former Oakland University student David Lehre in Intro to TV Production class

back in 2005.

Metz, a communication major/advertising minor, thought he might become a firefighter after graduation.

That is, until Lehre invited Metz to participate in a short movie he was producing.

Metz didn't know any of the other people involved - he barely knew Lehre - but he thought it sounded fun, and he had nothing else to do. "I was like, 'Yeah, I don't see why not,'" said Metz. "I never really thought anything of it."

That 11-minute video, conceived, produced and edited by Lehre, became "myspace: the movie," a spoof that pokes fun at some of the absurdities that make MySpace what it is. Metz, who had no previous acting experience, plays opposite Lehre in a skit that lampoons a blind date gone bad. "It was kind of fun because I never did anything like that before," said Metz.

When finished, the movie was uploaded to YouTube, and, according to ABC, within two days it went viral with 1 million hits. Metz and his friends became instant celebrities.

But the journey doesn't end there. In December 2005, Metz, Lehre and their friends Joe Laduke and Jeremy Kerr entered the "MyEntourage" contest cosponsored by HBO and MySpace.

The rules were simple: set up a MySpace page with a group of four friends, say how you met, why you should win and how your foursome resembles "Entourage" - a show about

Please see **METZ/A2**

Graduation 2006



Thousands of new Oakland University alumni walked across the stage Saturday, Dec. 16 for their time in the spotlight, for some marking the end of their OU journey and for others marking the beginning of the rest of their lives.

—Check out the rest of our graduation 2006 photos on A6.

Women's losing streak extends to five

By ROB TATE
Senior Reporter

OU's first game of the new year couldn't have gone any worse for the Golden Grizzlies as 23 turnovers and poor shooting gave the Chicago State Cougars a 54-42 victory. The loss extend-

ed a season-high five-game losing streak for the Golden Grizzlies who came into the game off a holiday trip that resulted in losses to bigger conference schools in West Virginia, Auburn and 6th-ranked Connecticut. Chicago came into the game 4-11. The Cougars left the

Mid-Continent Conference after last season and are now an independent team.

"Chicago State is a really good team, they beat Central Michigan by (12),

Please see **BBALL/A2**

Resolving to change our lives, world

It's definitely that time — the time to purge all of the guilt we're experiencing from indulging in the typical excesses that the holiday season offers. The

New Year always seems to embody the single greatest opportunity we have to wipe the slate clean and start fresh with a new agenda designed to improve our quality of life. Therefore, if we may be so bold, here's a list of resolutions we hope everyone can commit to.

■ **Let's become more willing to embrace diversity**

Look around the Pioneer Food Court next time you're eating lunch. It slightly resembles the design of a yin-yang. Same goes for social groups around campus. How often have you

seen people of mixed ethnic and racial backgrounds walking side-by-side? This phenomenon is definitely

not unique to OU (the Detroit metropolitan region is one

of the most segregated in the country), but let's take it upon ourselves as progressive-minded college students to buck the trend. When it comes to taking action, people often express concerns like, "What am I supposed to do — racially profile potential new friends?" We appreciate that, but it's not necessary. Just think a little outside the box and talk to some new people. Despite the perceived differences, it's amazing how alike we all really are.

Please see **EDITORIAL/A5**

EDITORIAL

Fitness moves
for the new year
— A10

Also inside

Campus — A3

**OU celebrates
50th anniversary**

Kick-off breakfast introduces concept of time capsule, more fun to come.

the Mix — A10

**'Blood Diamond'
challenges ideals**

The Post goes inside the film with an analysis and review challenging conventional wisdom.

Features — B1

**January is National
Blood Donor Month**

The Post goes inside this month with a first-hand account of the importance of blood donation.

Sports — B4

**Men's basketball
weekend recap**

The Golden Grizzlies win Thursday then lose Saturday in case of déjà vu.



APPLE UNVEILS
IPHONE
- A9

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■ Find out
what these
numbers
mean and
what they
mean to
people on
campus.
—A2

METZ

Cont. from A1

the day-to-day life of a successful young actor in Hollywood and his entourage of hometown friends.

Building upon Lehre's initial concept, the four friends collaborated, and, after 14 hours of filming, they came up with a winner — literally.

"I found out we won the contest a day after my birthday this summer," Metz said. They were notified, via a letter sent Federal Express, that, out

of about 600 entries, they were the winners, he said.

The prizes: "Entourage"

Season 2 on DVD; a Samsung cell phone with \$250 worth of service; an Xbox 360 premium package; an all-expense-paid three-day/two-night VIP trip to Los Angeles with \$1,000 spending money; and a Chrysler Crossfire worth over \$30,000. EACH.

As if that wasn't enough. The prize-winning entry, along with HBO's short biographical clip filmed during their trip to

Los Angeles, is set to air with the first episode of the new season of "Entourage" in April.

But wait, it gets even better. Last summer, after the media frenzy created by the success of "myspace: the movie," Lehre was invited to Hollywood to pitch a comedy skit pilot to Fox network executives.

The show would star Metz, Lehre, Kerr and Laduke, plus several other friends — all from Michigan — that make up the cast and crew of Lehre's Vendetta Studios.

And this isn't just a run-of-the-mill show; Metz and his friends believe it could change the course of TV programming. "It's not like a 'Saturday Night Live' or 'Mad TV' thing; it's got a lot more to it," said Metz. "It's kind of hard to explain because there's nothing out like it now."

"On all the other skit shows, they go: 'Here're our skits,' they do it, blah, blah, and they're done," said Metz. "Ours has a lot of outtakes and behind-the-scenes stuff. You get to know everyone in the cast, basically. You feel more connected to the people who are filming it."

"Before, the big thing people wanted to see was reality

TV, starting with 'Survivor.' Everyone wanted to watch it, and everyone was like, 'I wanna be on that show,'" said Metz. "Now, everyone is kind of sick of reality TV."

Since this show would be performed by everyday kids from a small town in Michigan, Metz thinks that viewers will relate to them and be inspired to try it themselves. "I think this is the next thing that will get people to go: 'I'm going to do that, too, so I can try to be on TV,'" said Metz.

"I think it is the next thing after reality TV," said Metz.

By the end of January, they will find out whether or not Fox will pick it up. If all goes well, Metz said it will be positioned opposite "Saturday Night Live" on Fox.

And there is more. A couple of weeks ago, Metz and his friends were seen on ABC's "20/20" and "Good Morning America." Soon, he'll be appearing in one of three short promotional films Lehre was hired to create for the spoof feature film "Epic Movie." And there is more in the works, but it's under wraps.

But Metz isn't letting his current celebrity status go to his head. "I'm just tak-



Photo courtesy of Mike Metz
The Vendetta Entourage gets interviewed for their biographies being aired before their movie premiers on HBO. Metz is featured second from the right and Lehre is third from the right.

ing everything as it goes and appreciating everything," said Metz. "Hanging out with my friends, doing something I enjoy doing and having fun doing it means more than 20 million people seeing something that I didn't enjoy doing. I'm just having a lot of fun doing it, and it just happens to be taking me somewhere; so that is even a bonus."

As to the course of his life, Metz said: "I'll find out in maybe three weeks if it has

changed my life — where it's going. If they pick up this pilot, then definitely, yes. If they don't, it was still a lot of fun, and I have something I can put on a resume."

Either way, "I'm going to graduate," said Metz. "I want to get my degree."

No doubt this seemingly chance encounter with Lehre changed Metz's life. And if Metz and his friends are right, they might change American TV as we know it and possibly even more. Amazing.

More info

- Check out the "MyEntourage" contest winning film "Vendetta Entourage" at: http://myspace.com/entourage_vendetta
- "Entourage" air date: According to HBO's consumer affairs, it is tentatively scheduled for April 8 at 9 p. m.
- To watch "myspace: the movie," or to see more of Mike and what he and his friends are up to, check out: www.davidlehre.com

Hall closed to McGwire as Ripken, Gwynn gain entry

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark McGwire's Hall of Fame bid was met with a rejection as emphatic as his upper-deck home runs.

While the door to Cooperstown swung open for Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn on Tuesday, McGwire was picked by less than a quarter of voters — a result that raises doubts about whether Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa or other sluggers from baseball's Steroids Era will ever gain entry.

McGwire, whose 583 home runs rank seventh on the career list, appeared on 128 of a record 545 ballots in voting released Tuesday by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"I hope that as time goes on, that number will increase," Gwynn said.

"I hope that one day he will get into the Hall of Fame, because I really believe he deserves it."

The 23.5 percent vote McGwire received represented the first referendum on how history will judge an age when bulked-up players came under suspicion of using performance-enhancing drugs. Baseball didn't ban steroids until after the 2002 season.

"We knew," Gwynn said. "Players knew. Owners knew. Everybody knew, and we didn't say anything about it."

Gwynn, with an infectious laugh and smile, and Ripken, with cool professionalism, were different on and off the field. They both said they knew McGwire would take some attention from their elections, but while Gwynn was open with his opinion on Big Mac, Ripken was

guarded. Ripken said Goose Gossage and Jim Rice belong in the Hall, but stayed away from whether McGwire should gain the honor.

"I don't think it's my place to actually cast judgment," Ripken said.

He also rejected Gwynn's assertion that steroid use was common knowledge.

"I didn't know," Ripken said. "Looking back, maybe I can be the most naive and most ignorant person around."

As the announcement approached, fans, players and managers voiced their views. Many voters said McGwire was hurt by his 2005 congressional testimony, when he repeatedly evaded questions.

"There's that big black cloud hanging over baseball with steroids," Gossage said. "It's a shame. There are a lot of great players in that era.

Who knows what's going to happen?"

Gwynn remembered the way McGwire "was able to really bring a town and a country together" when he hit a record 70 homers in 1998 — a mark Bonds broke when he hit 73 three years later. Gwynn predicted

McGwire eventually will be elected.

Jim Milner, McGwire's business representative, did not return telephone calls. McGwire, who lives in a gated community in Irvine, Calif., has made few public comments in recent years.

Ripken and Gwynn were rarities in the age of free agency, each spending his entire career with one team. They will be inducted during ceremonies July 29 at the Hall along with anyone elected from the Veterans Committee vote, which will be announced Feb. 27.

Ripken, the Baltimore Orioles shortstop who set baseball's ironman record, was picked by 537 voters and appeared on 98.53 percent of ballots to finish with the third-highest percentage behind Tom Seaver (98.84) and Nolan Ryan (98.79).

Gwynn, who won eight batting titles with the San Diego Padres, received 532 votes for 97.61 percent, the seventh-highest ever, also trailing Ty Cobb, George Brett and Hank Aaron.

If he had been picked by two of the eight voters who didn't select him, Ripken would have set the percentage record, but he didn't mind. Two voters submitted blank ballots.

"All I wanted to hear was, 'You're in,'" Ripken said. "I really didn't get caught up in wanting to be unanimous or wanting to be the most."

Gwynn worried that he might get 100 percent.

"For the last month, I think, that's all I could think about, hoping that I didn't get near that number," he said. "We've never had one, and so I sure didn't want to be that guy who was closest."

BBALL

Cont. from A1

and we lost to Central," said Head Coach Becki Francis. "We knew coming in that they had good wins against good teams."

OU never got anything real solid going on that afternoon, and the start of the game was nothing to brag about as OU turned over the ball quickly two times in the first two minutes of action, a trend that continued throughout the game.

Leading scorer for Oakland was freshman Hanna Reising with nine points and pulled in a career-high eight rebounds.

Taking charge for the Cougars was Ayesha Neasley who scored 20 points on nine of 16 shooting, dominating inside the paint. Casey Hadley helped CSU take the lead for good midway through the first half, hitting two three-pointers.

Oakland got a great effort off the bench from freshman Melissa Jeltima who got things going for OU offensively. Jeltima brought the Golden Grizzlies within one point with 7:07 left in the 1st half; the closest OU would get to the lead the remainder of the game. Jeltima ended the game with seven points off the bench.

Oakland wrapped up the home stand on Monday night with a crushing defeat at the hands of the IUPUI Jaguars 50-46 to kick off the Mid-Con schedule. The loss extended Oakland's losing streak to six

games.

OU led the game from midway through the first half until a turnover by sophomore Rikka Terava turned into a lay-up by Jaguars' forward Tiffany Finkton.

Senior forward Nicole Piggott had a rare off-night scoring, and it couldn't have come during a worse time. Piggott shot one for 10 from the field and totaled only four points, 10 points below her season average.

"We were up most of the game, they pulled out in the end, but it's a learning experience," Piggott said. "The important thing is how we respond to it," she added.

Piggott was double and triple teamed at times and in the paint, and she struggled finishing her shots.

"I did get some good looks, they just weren't falling," Piggott added.

"She's our returning conference leader, and I told her and Bonnie (Baker), 'you guys are going to have all the pressure,' this team is trying to adjust with the departure of Jayme Wilson and Anne Hafeli," said Francis. "Bonnie and Nicole were basically role players behind them and now the best defenders are going to be on them."

Another bad trend that continued for the Golden Grizzlies was turnovers. OU compiled 18 on the game. The last two games have featured defenses playing in a zone. OU only saw one team play a zone defense earlier in the season, which was against UConn.

"It's tough to play against

that when you're used to playing man-to-man," Francis said. "I think we are just adjusting still."

"We just have to come out and put two halves together," sophomore Jessica Pike said. Pike led the team in scoring with 13. "We had great intensity for most of the game, and when we needed it most, we just didn't get it done."

"What hurt us at the end was our defense," Francis said. "We got to be able to play defense the whole game."

Also a disappointment during the losing streak has been Hanna Reising's point production falling. Reising got off to a hot start at the beginning of the season averaging 16.8 points per game after her first four career games.

"She's a freshman and playing in some clutch situations, (she) has a lot of pressure, she was carrying the load early, when other people aren't hitting she might feel like she has to be the hero" Francis said.

Reising had a couple good looks at three pointers during the game but had no luck going 0 for 6. She ended the game with four points.

"I just love her guts, that she took those shots; I was completely happy that she took those shots," Francis said of Reising's performance.

The Golden Grizzlies hit the road for two non-conference tilts starting with Western Illinois on Saturday and wrapping up the trip with Valparaiso Monday night. OU is 4-10 on the season, 0-1 in the Mid-Con.



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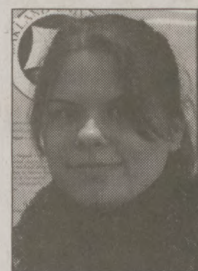
Link to the future

Career Services
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FROM A1

Q: How much are you spending on textbooks this semester?

\$300



Jeanna Paul
Freshman
Undecided

\$200



Natasha Fairley
Sophomore
Nursing

\$500



Heather Chajnowski
Senior
Dance

\$265



Jaclyn Kapustka
Sophomore
English

Happy Golden, Oakland

Time capsule dedication kicks off university's 50th anniversary festivities

By **JESSE DUNSMORE**
Senior Reporter

In recognition of Oakland University's 50th year, the Office of the President hosted a 50th Anniversary Faculty and Staff Kickoff Breakfast in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms, and presented plans for a time capsule to commemorate the anniversary.

In an interview during the 8 a.m. Friday breakfast, University President Gary Russi said, "What you're seeing now with this initial or official kickoff is just to say to the community, 'It is the fiftieth, we're proud of what's happened so far, but we've got a long way to go and we look forward to the future.'"

In a speech presented to approximately 600 attendees, Russi described OU's history, and said he was "proud" of college faculty, staff and students. He closed by introducing the next speaker, David Baker Lewis.

Lewis prompted laughter from the audience when he said, "I became a student here at Oakland University in the Jurassic Period, back in 1962."

In addition to holding several other positions over the years, Lewis was a member of OU's first Board of Trustees in 1970, and served as chairman from 1978 through 1981.

He shared some of his memories, such as the introduction of sports to OU; the university's first student newspaper, The Oakland Observer; and "The Phantom," a vandal whom Lewis said snuck into the Lepley Center during construction "to place banners and signs declaring The Phantom's skill in avoiding detection by the campus police."

"I remember a genuine air of excitement and intellectualism here at Oakland University," said Lewis, "the result of a carefully-crafted plan to declare that Oakland would be the Harvard of the Midwest, primarily because 70 percent of the faculty had Ph.D.s from the nation's top universities."

"Oakland has taken its rightful place among the institutions of higher learning," he said.

He then explained the idea for OU's time capsule.

"The capsule is intended to be opened 50 years from now, during the university's 100th anniversary."

Waiting a beat, he jokingly added, "We will all meet right back here at the Oakland

Center in 2057 for the occasion."

Over 60 items provided for the capsule by 26 departments, offices and schools of OU were displayed on a table outside the banquet rooms.

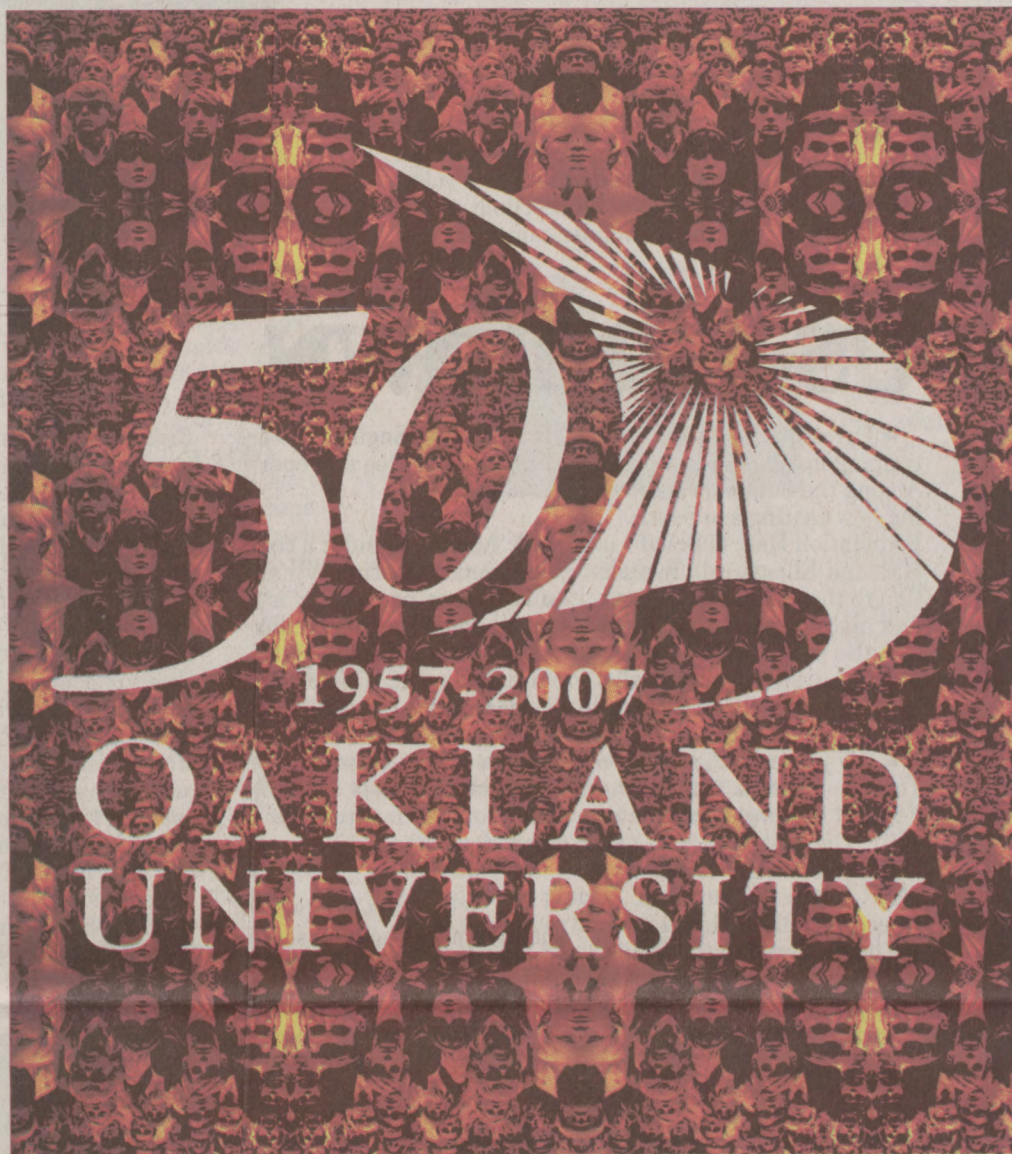
Most items were publications, including a program for Meadowbrook Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol" and the Fall 2006 issue of the Oakland University Journal.

Director of Communications and Marketing Geoff Upwards said he hopes to

get more "three-dimensional" memorabilia for the capsule.

According to Upward, the capsule-sealing ceremony will be on Founders' Day, which is April 18. The design for the capsule has not yet been finalized.

To check out more information about the history of OU, visit the "50th Anniversary" link at www.oakland.edu. Celebratory events are scheduled throughout the year, including an anniversary exhibition at Meadow Brook Hall.



CELESTE FILIATRAULT/The Oakland Post

Keeper of the Dream celebrates diversity

By **PAUL GULLY**
Assistant News Editor

Following in the tradition of past dignitaries such as Coretta Scott King and former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, activist, actress and author Ruby Dee will be featured as the keynote speaker at this year's Keeper of the Dream scholarship banquet.

For the past 15 years, the Keeper of the Dream scholarship has been awarded to students who have "contributed to interracial understanding and good will" at an annual awards ceremony.

Traditionally, the ceremony has been limited to mainly corporate sponsors and guests of the recipients. However, this year's event will incorporate a new approach in hopes of

attracting a much broader attendance.

"In previous years a very limited number of students were able to take part in the celebration," said Omar Brown-El, director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives. "So this year we've made an attempt to include the entire campus and surrounding community in the event," he added.

The banquet, which kicks off African-American Awareness Month at Oakland University, will be held on Jan. 15 at noon in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms, and will be free of charge and open to the public.

The event will be emceed by Carmen Harlan, WDIV news anchor while Dee is scheduled to give the keynote address at the banquet.

Dee, whose acting career

spans eight decades and includes such films as: "A Raisin in the Sun," "Gone with the Wind," "The Jackie Robinson Story," and "Do the Right Thing," has been nominated for eight Emmy Awards in her career, winning two of them.

Along with her late husband, actor Ossie Davis, Dee was a prominent civil rights activist, and, according to Brown-El, served as Mistress of Ceremony for Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" march on Washington.

"Each year we look for someone who has a connection to Dr. King and the civil rights movement, and Dee was a natural fit," Brown-El said.

This year, the Keeper of the Dream scholarship is being awarded to six students, Kwame Everett, Matt Kelly,

Tiffany Teagarden, Aaron Kochenderfer, Sean Buono and Brandon Svenson, all of which will be honored following Dee's address to the university, said Brown-El.

Since its inception in 1993, the award has increased from two \$1,000 dollar scholarships to several \$5,000 scholarships.

"Not only have the scholarship award amounts increased since '93, but recognition of the event has also grown," said Brown-El. "There were only 100 to 200 guests at the first award ceremony, and now we're talking about over 1,000 people for this year."

For more information on the Keeper of the Dream Awards, visit the Center for Multicultural Initiatives web site at www2.oakland.edu/cmi/ or the Dean of Students Office.

Bonderman, Nate Robertson, Kenny Rogers, Carlos Guillen and Brandon Inge are scheduled to appear. Coaches Jeff Jones and Andy Van Slyke will also be on hand.

OU's Men's Basketball coach Greg Kampe will share air time as emcee with Fox Sports Net personalities Mario Impemba and Rod Allen.

The event is free and open to the public.

WORD ON THE STREET ...

Local artists present "Telegraph," an art exhibit featuring painting, sculpture and photography at the OU Art Gallery. The exhibit opens Jan. 13 and is scheduled to run through Feb. 25.

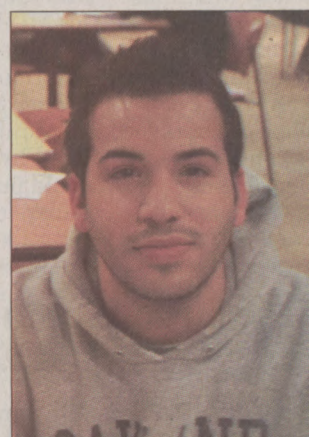
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Q: What did you miss most about Oakland University over the holiday break?



A: "I missed Coyote Jack's fries with the chili ketchup."

Lindsay Anton
Senior
Psychology



A: "Break time. Hanging out with friends and whatnot."

Matthew Kassa
Junior
Sign Language



A: "Having something to do. I just sat around all break."

Kevin Carpenter
Sophomore
Biology

Grizzly Trivia

How well do you know OU?

Q: What was the original mascot of OU?

A: OU's first nickname was the Pioneers. The unofficial mascot was a student's rendering of Pioneer Pete, an aerospace pioneer wearing buckskin.

Q: In what year did the first class of students enroll at Oakland University (then Michigan State University-Oakland)?

A: In 1959, 570 students enrolled at Oakland, paying \$255 a year in tuition and fees.

Q: How many presidents has OU had since its opening in 1959?

A: Gary Russi, the current President of OU, marks the fifth to hold the title. His predecessors include Sandra Packard, Joseph Champagne, Donald O'Dowd and Woody Varner.

Q: In 1970, OU received a donation of 6,000 artifacts pertaining to what former President of the United States of America?

A: Abraham Lincoln.

Q: What city is Oakland University located in?

A: Technically, the OU campus is in the city of Auburn Hills. However, in 1958 Matilda Wilson insisted that the university share Meadow Brook Hall's Rochester address.

Welcome Back, Tigers

By **JEFF KRANITZ**
Managing Editor

Good news for those who are still mourning the collapse of the University of Michigan's football season.

Only a few months removed from their stunning appearance in the 2006 World Series, an all-star portion of the American League Champion Detroit Tigers and coaches

will visit Oakland University Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. as part of the team's annual winter promotional caravan. The first 250 people through the doors of the O'Rena will receive Detroit Tiger rally towels.

The caravan will arrive just weeks before the start of spring training.

New addition Gary Sheffield, along with Magglio Ordonez, Curtis Granderson, Jeremy

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Bowl-a-thon Raises Money and Awareness

Club earns \$576 for local MDA

By CARRA PAYNE
Contributing Reporter

The Pre-Physical Therapy Club started off the New Year right with a fundraiser for their charity of choice, the Michigan chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

The Bowl-a-thon, held Jan. 5, was the collaborative work of the entire club, which is excited to see a new year with new officers in place to make some serious contributions to the community affected by Muscular Dystrophy (MD).

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, muscular dystrophy can be any of a group of different genetic diseases affecting the degeneration of skeletal muscles that control movement.

The diseases vary by muscle

groups targeted, as well as at what age the disease progresses.

While there is no specific treatment which can stop or reverse MD, physical and drug therapy regiments can help to ease the symptoms.

The Pre-Physical Therapy Club chose MD as their flagship cause because of how the group of muscular diseases pertains to the work club members will encounter in the future.

Michelle Bieniek, a Pre-Physical Therapy Club member, said she was pleased with the 43-person turn out for this event. "We wanted a fun activity for OU students, family and friends to be able to come to."

In contrast to their past gala events for MD, the Bowl-a-thon offered a casual fun factor for participants and club members involved in the planning stages. "This is a nice and easy-going way to raise money for MDA," Bieniek said.

Bowlers weren't the only people to contribute to the cause. Troy Lanes Owner Mike Walker contributed by discounting lanes and food for the Pre-Physical Therapy club so they could put more of the contribution dollars to good use.

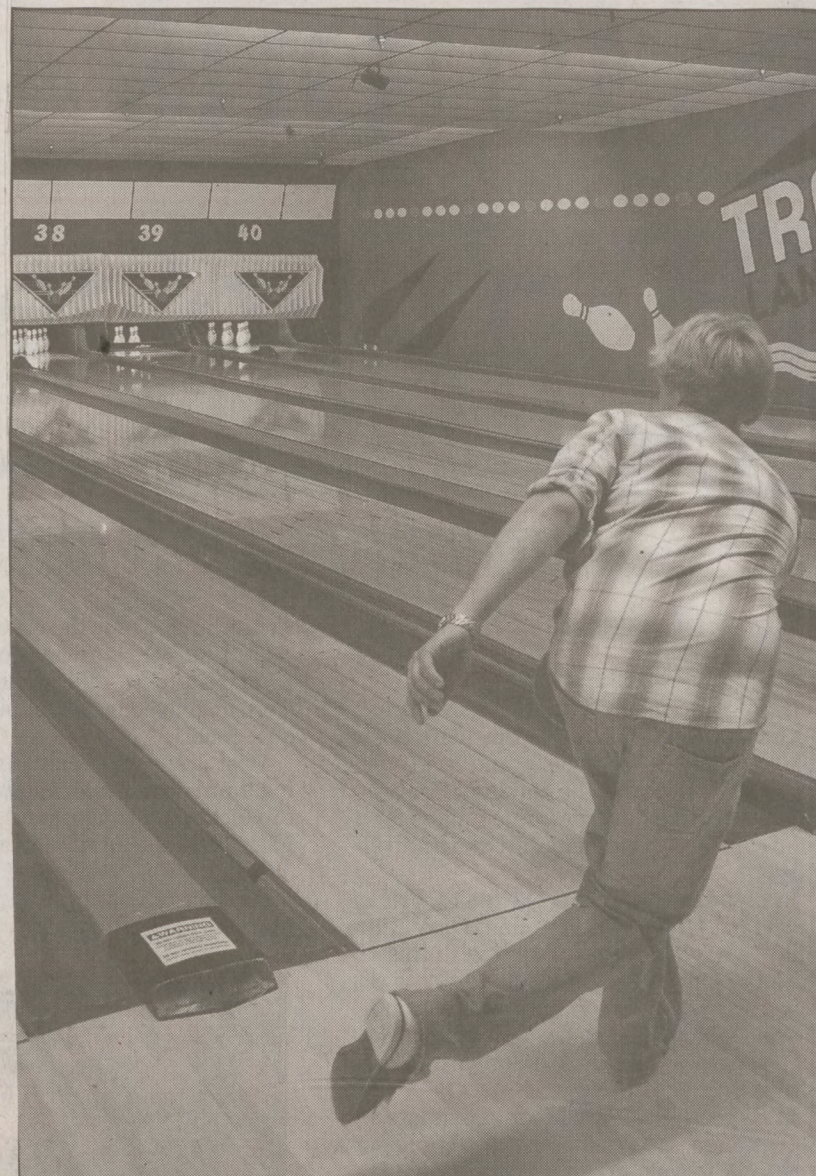
Troy Lanes also helped bowlers have a better game by instilling a "9-pin tap-out" rule of play – bowlers need only knock down nine pins for a strike! This, along with the pizza and pop made the \$20 contribution well worth it.

At the end of the night, Pre-Physical Therapy Club treasurer Jeff McDonald reported the contribution to the Michigan chapter of MDA would be \$576.

Club member Julia Ferry says the club favors contributing to MDA's Michigan chapter because doing so ensures that the money they raise will be used locally for families and children in need.

There are many ways OU students can contribute to causes such as MD. If you have an interest in learning about physical therapy and want to become a part of the Pre-Physical Therapy Club, contact the health and science advisor, Tamra Bays, at tebays@oakland.edu. All majors can participate.

If you'd like to get involved with MDA, visit their Web site at www.MDA.org for information or volunteer for a local office, clinic or MDA sponsored summer camp.



CARRA PAYNE/The Oakland Post
member of the Pre-Physical Therapy Club throws a strike.

CAMPUS RUNDOWN

■ OUSC is offering GrassRoots Organizing Weekends (GROW) to train students interested in motivating groups for specific causes or issues. Facilitated by the United States Student Association, the training program typically costs thousands of dollars. Students at OU can sign up for free in the Oakland Center between 12 and 1:00 p.m., Jan. 10-12.

■ The Oakland University Gaming Guild recently donated an Xbox gaming console to the Student Resource Center. Complete with controllers and a small library of games, including Halo, Halo 2, Grand

Theft Auto San Andreas and Castlevania, the new addition is available immediately for students with a valid school identification card.

■ Dueling pianos will perform at the Oakland Center Friday, Jan. 12 as part of a new late night programming initiative courtesy of the Center for Student Activities and Residence Halls Programming. Dubbed the Black & Gold Club, the event series will feature a casino night and a game night in future months. Come at 9:00 p.m. on Friday to catch the music. Stay late for pizza and a disc jockey.

■ Furniture updates are popping up all over campus. Among the buildings sporting new seating are South Foundation Hall, O'Dowd Hall and Elliott Hall. In addition to the cushioned chairs and high-top tables, students can also enjoy wireless access in areas designed specifically for their comfort.

■ OU presents the Tournees French Film Festival beginning in January 2007. The first film, "La Femme de Gilles," is scheduled to show Sunday, Jan. 14 at 124 Wilson Hall. Like the other shows in the festival, "Gilles" will be shown in

French with English subtitles. Admission is free and open to all.

■ "Musica Mundi", a concert blend of Latin rhythm and African percussion, is scheduled for a performance in the Varner Recital Hall Friday, Jan. 12. Hosted by the Department of Music, Theater and Dance, the concert will feature OU professors as musicians. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$10 for students and seniors.

■ The Golden Grizzly baseball team will hold its second annual First Pitch Preseason

Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 5-9 pm in the O'rena. The fundraiser generates finances to help obtain new equipment, travel resources, and improved recruiting capabilities. The banquet will feature former Detroit Tiger Matt Nokes, and Executive Vice President of Palace Sports and Entertainment and the Detroit Pistons Dan Hauser, along with a silent auction, among other planned events. Tickets for the event are \$75 per person or \$600 per table of eight. For more information, contact head coach Dylan Putnam at (248)370-4059 or putname2@oakland.edu.

OUSC

An investigation is underway regarding the resignation of recently confirmed Student Activities Funding Board Chair Michael Mersol-Barg. Taking over for Mersol-Barg will be former Associate SAFB Chair Kirbionne Fletcher. Student Body President Madalyn Miller said that Fletcher, a finance major, has been involved with SAFB for over a year.

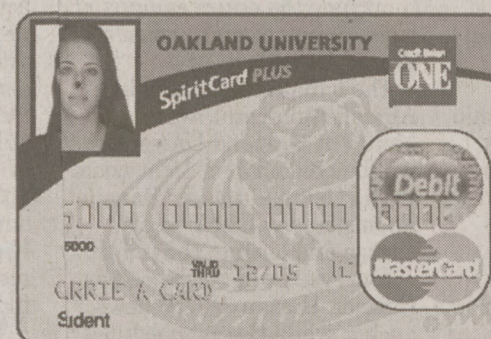
"She's been extremely helpful in the transition process," Miller said.

Fletcher works as a resident hall resident advisor and was one of last year's recipients of the Keeper of the Dream award.

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Great news for Oakland University Students, Faculty and Staff! Oakland University recently expanded its relationship with Credit Union ONE to provide the following:

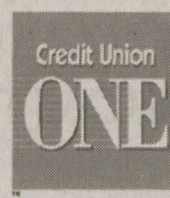
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Perspectives

January 10, 2007

www.oaklandpostonline.com

A5

EDITORIAL

Not spring yet, but let's turn over a new leaf

EDITORIAL

Cont'd. from A1

■ **Let's also show a little more solidarity as a nation**
Media personalities ranging from Chris Rock to Jon Stewart have already touched on this one. Rock said it best in his latest HBO stand-up special "Never Scared." Leaving out a few "f-bombs," he essentially said that no decent, good human being is just ONE thing. Democrat or Republican? Conservative or liberal? Not since the Civil War has the power structure caused so

much divisiveness. Let all that go, and let's focus on the values that truly embody the American spirit. Our society should be one that's open and freethinking, where opposing perspectives are carefully and respectfully considered.

■ Think more critically

Too many debunked myths continue to carry weight and influence behavior. We've all gotten e-mails suggesting a swift call to action for the purpose of securing some of Bill Gate's massive fortune or stopping the federal government before it starts charging for e-mails. Hopefully, most are now aware that those are both hoaxes — cooked up by some demented cyber geeks bent on the idea of flooding e-mail in-boxes and inspiring people to waste time and energy. Sadly, a lack of critical thought can lead to much greater consequences. Cases in point: swift boat political maneuvering and "expertly authenticated" Bush-smearing military documents. As a public, it's our inherent responsibility to be savvy enough to distinguish between truth and bullshit. If it's not readily apparent, investigate — but remember to use credible sources. Wikipedia and blogs do not qualify.

■ Read more

It goes without saying that our generation needs to smarten up a bit. And not in the sense of exercising better judgment to avoid stupid behaviors (although we should probably bear that in mind, as well) — but rather, we need to be more knowledgeable and worldly. Yeah, we know our president has set a pretty terri-

ble example, but we can't use that excuse any more. The world is quickly shrinking and, as a country, we're no longer isolated and insulated by the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Knowledge is perhaps a more powerful weapon now than it ever was before — and ridiculously easy to access. Read the newspaper, browse Google News, or pick up a Time, Newsweek, Vanity Fair or Esquire Magazine. Round it out; a little bit of fluff will help maintain sanity — US Weekly is a great publication, but it probably won't enable you to have an intelligent discussion about issues that affect us. If you really want to test your mettle, check out the book "The World is Flat," by Thomas Friedman, a brilliant writer for the New York Times. Getting through that one might be worth as much as a couple 400-level political science courses.

■ Try to lead a healthier lifestyle

We think that all of our resolutions will make us healthier, but here we mean in the physical sense. Although it's important psychologically, this means more than losing weight just to look good during spring break. We're slowly committing suicide every day with the crap we put into our bodies and our lack of physical activity. Since we've already resolved to read more, pick up a book or a magazine on nutrition. And since we're paying for it with tuition dollars, head over to the Rec Center. University plug: The Rec Center is a wonderful, modern facility with an indoor track, Olympic-size swimming pool and a fitness center with all the cardio machines and weight-training equipment.

— The Oakland Post

STAFF COLUMN

MLK's legacy part of history - his lessons remain timeless



Thirty-nine years after Martin Luther King Jr. was taken from us, his message, ideals and beliefs haven't turned into history.

The teachings of King are more necessary and alive today than any era besides his own.

Racism remains the single greatest divider in American society, flowing into every aspect of society, including economics, education, politics, media, athletics and almost any other pursuit. We must take the lessons from King

to heart, judging people based on character. His words take on new meaning in the global marketplace, where tolerance can smooth out social and cultural differences.

The most successful way to spark hatred between people is to categorize and divide, and King's message was one of unity and togetherness.

We must deal first, though, with racial relations between blacks and whites in our own backyard.

As long as black candidates are passed over for jobs, students at heavily black schools are denied the same education as their white counterparts, and black businesses don't receive the networking opportunities that those in the white sector enjoy, King's dream will not be realized.

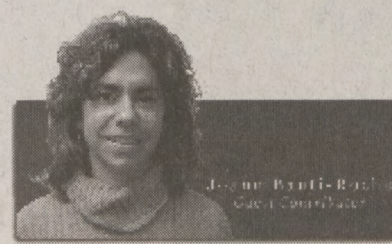
It goes without saying that there is still much work that needs to be done.

On Monday, let's remember all that King did and said as current history. His legacy is still a living, breathing ideal, not a published and forgotten history book.

We have the opportunity to realize and surpass his dream, to achieve where our predecessors have failed. King's compassion and pacifistic nature are qualities that we can embrace in a time that so much mirrors his own, with war and social strife dominating the landscape.

GUEST COLUMN

New GSC leader avoids complacency



Happy New Year students, staff and faculty of Oakland University! The start of each new year often reminds us of what has transpired over the previous years to bring us where we are today. With those thoughts of past experiences in mind, we look to the future with new goals and fresh ideas. As the new Graduate Student Intern in the Gender & Sexuality Center, I spent the last couple weeks in December cleaning and organizing the Center. During this process, I unearthed files that described the story of the GSC before its existence.

A student organization, Students for the Development of a Gender & Sexuality Center, was established in Fall 2004. As I read through

the files, I learned that this group of dedicated students put a lot of time and energy into educating the campus community on the need for a center. This student organization conducted research on lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, questioning and women's issues, they met weekly to strategize and educate, and they researched the many public universities in Michigan who have women's centers and/or LGBTQ centers. Their coordinated efforts to lobby the universities administration to establish a Gender & Sexuality Center proved successful.

As I take up the torch of leadership in this new role at the Center, I realize how far we've come since Fall 2004. Yet, I know how much farther we need to go. As we look to the future, we can find affirmation in the vision of 'Oakland University in 2010.' There are four strategies highlighted in this vision — quality academic programs, inspired faculty, scholarly community strengthened by its diversity, and community outreach and partnerships. The latter two strategies are inextricably linked to the mission of

the GSC.

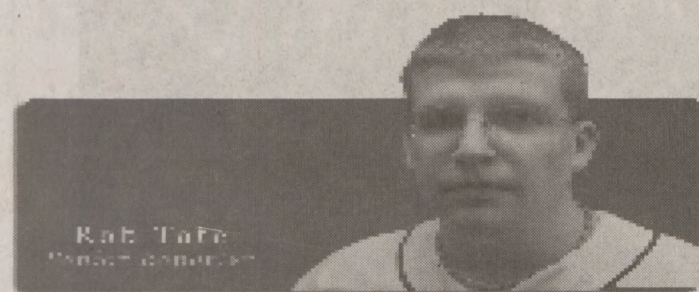
The Gender and Sexuality Center offers various resources and support on women's and men's, as well as LGBTQ issues in an effort to combat sexism, gender bias, heterosexism and homophobia on campus. The center works with other campus organizations and offices to strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus community that promotes gender equality and awareness and welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities by providing support, educational resources and advocacy.

To welcome everyone back for the start of winter semester, we will have an open house on Jan. 12 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Beverages and snacks will be provided, new hours will be posted and copies of our GSC Newsletter will be provided.

We are excited that Aimee Coldren will be back to host 'That Time of the Week' for winter term. Her first discussion will be Wednesday, Jan. 10th from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The Center is open from 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. See you soon!

STAFF COLUMN

The insanity continues: fire Millen



As the Detroit Lions 2006 graciously wrapped up their season at an abysmal 3-13, one would want to know who put together the talent that could play so poorly. The man behind the team is Matt Millen. Millen was a prolific NFL linebacker for the

Raiders, 49ers and one season with the Redskins during the 1980's. Millen won a total of four Super Bowls between the three teams.

After retiring from the league, Millen joined the world of broadcast journalism with The NFL on Fox where

he was often praised for his knowledge of the league. Upon the 2001 season, the Lions hired Matt Millen straight out of the booth, a man with no experience coaching or running a professional sports team was handed the keys to a team that had never been to the Super Bowl (although the Lions have hosted it twice). At this point in his career, Millen has a career record of 24-72 as the president of the team.

It isn't coaching that's the problem. Although the Marty Mornhinweg hire was horrible, Millen redeemed himself by getting us a legitimate NFL Head Coach in Steve Mariucci in 2003, who previously took

San Francisco to the playoffs four of their last six seasons. Mariucci and Millen were never on right page so the hiring turned out to be a bad one in Millen's case because he kept drafting the type of wide receiver that wasn't needed for the west coast style offense that Mariucci ran. Millen has should be having nightmares for his NFL draft picks alone. Millen was the mastermind behind the drafting of busts like Joey Harrington, Charles Rogers, and at the moment, current wide receiver Mike Williams. You can't blame some of these players for being drafted into a young, inexperienced environment.

Charles Rogers didn't have any mentors on the team, he got injured frequently and it eventually got him cut last summer. Millen can't control everything on this team.

Things you can't fault Millen on are injuries that the team suffered especially in 2006 as three running backs, four offensive linemen and three starting defensive linemen were all placed on injured reserve. Millen however is the one that is not drafting well, not signing good enough free agents and not hiring coaches that cater to the abilities of the talent that is here. Millen has not earned the right to be here seems how it would take

three straight perfect seasons for Millen to draw even on his record.

And by NFL standards, perfect seasons are hard to come by as the 1972 Miami Dolphins have been the only NFL team in the Super Bowl era to achieve it.

Millen has an immense amount of work on his plate to make it up to the fans that are left of this team.

Lion's fans at this point are so apathetic about this team that they are finding better things to do with their Sunday's then watch the Lions. Millen should be embarrassed and he should quit on his own.



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



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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.

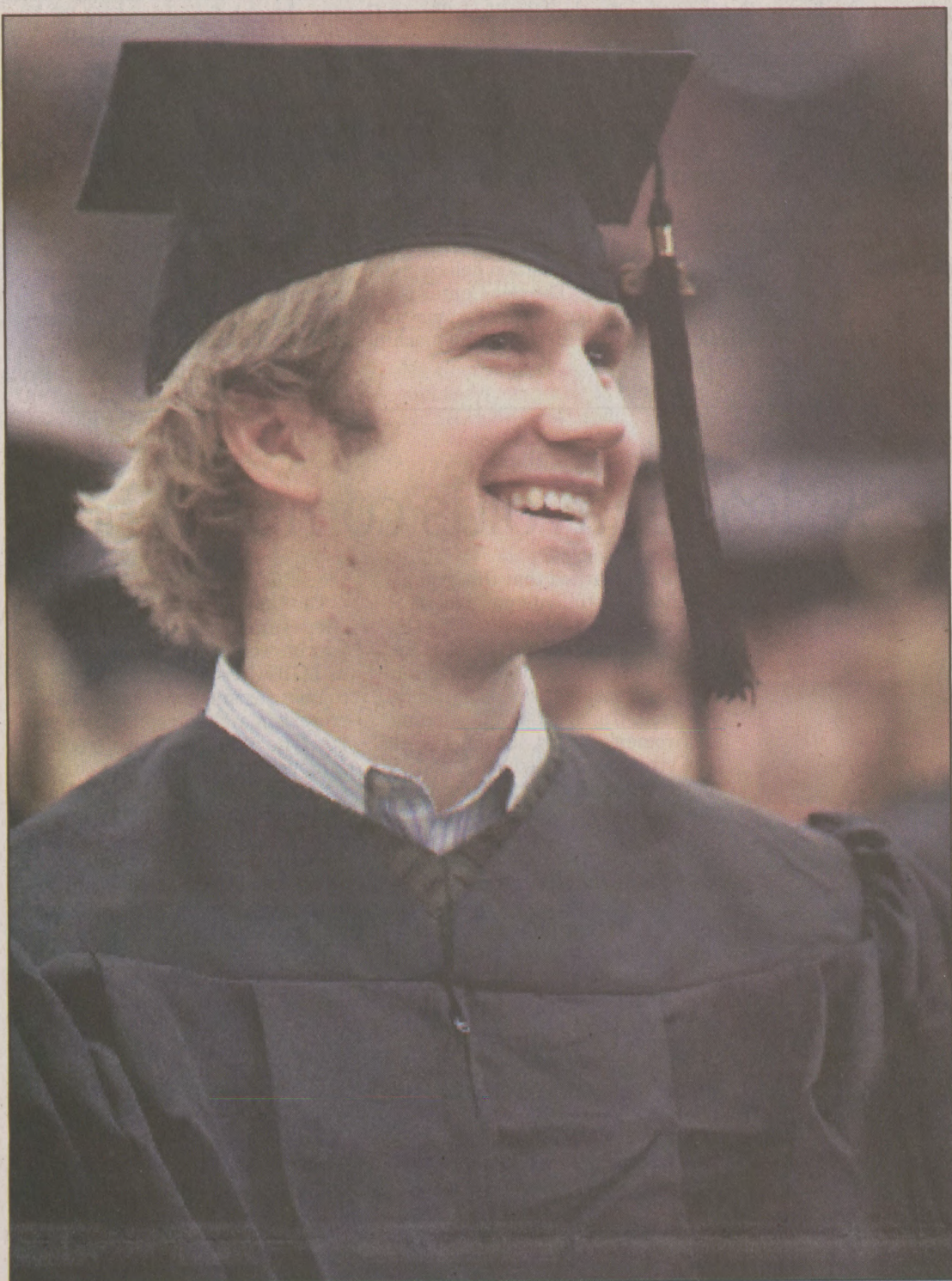
CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail editor@oakpostonline.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.

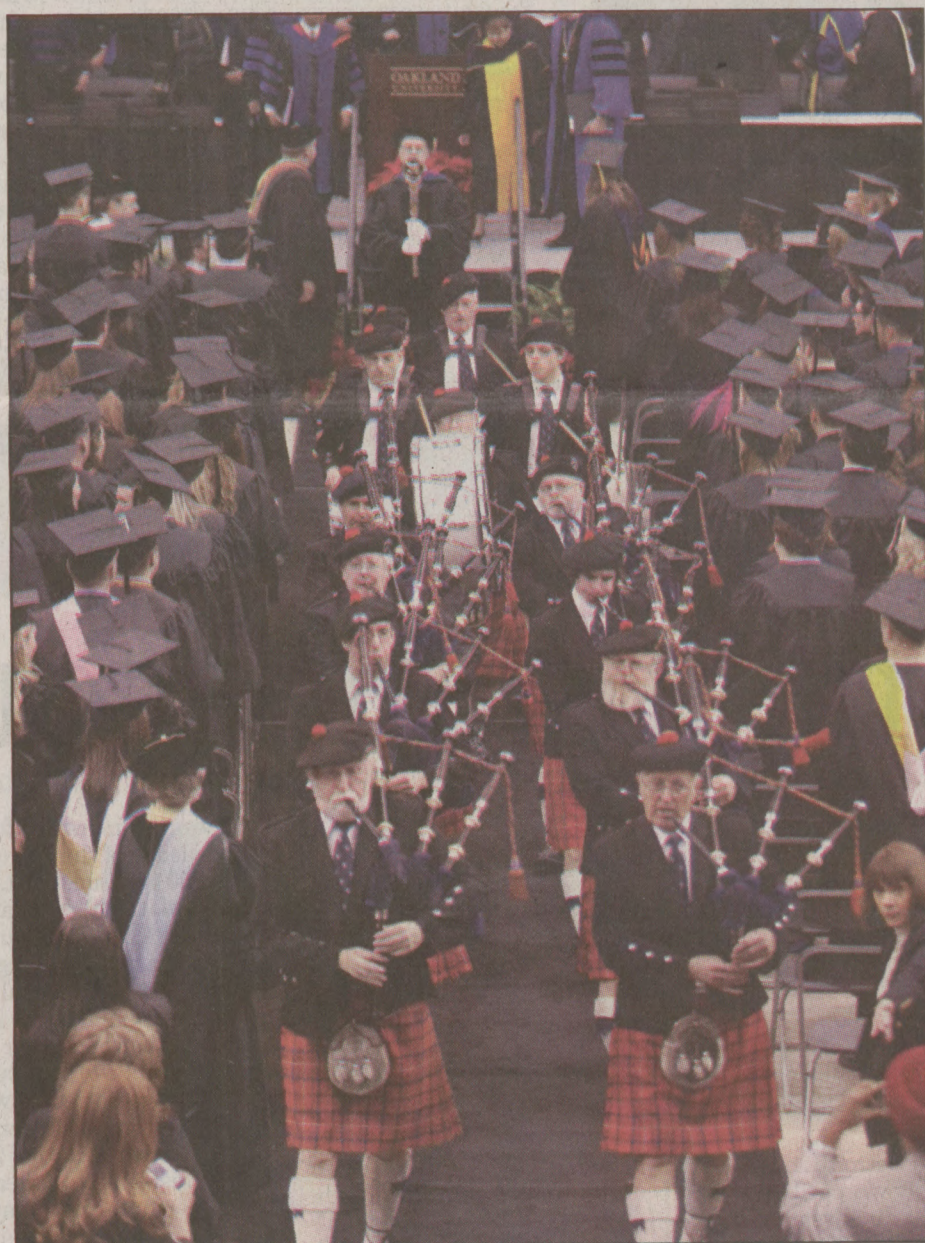
— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Photos By Gary Malerba



MOVING ON...

Oakland University 2006 graduates commemorate their years at OU at during their winter graduation ceremony held on Dec. 16.



CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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WELCOME WEEK @ Oakland University

January 4 – 12, 2007

Celebrating OU's 50th Anniversary, 1957-2007

TODAY

SPB & OUSC: Open House
Noon – 2PM
OUSC/SPB Offices, 62 & 64 OC

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11th

Kresge Library: Kresge Café
8AM – 10PM
Student Lounge, Kresge Library

Career Services: Open House
11AM – 1PM
Fireside Lounge, OC

Commuter Council: Hot
Chocolate & S'mores
Noon – 1PM
Between NFH and SFH

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12th

Gender & Sexuality Center: Open House
11:30AM – 1:30PM
49 OC

Residence Hall Programming:
Friday Night Live: J. Chris Newberg
7PM – 8PM

Vandenberg Dining Center, Vandenberg Hall

"Black & Gold Club"
(Late Night Programming)

Presents:

DUELING PIANOS
from JD's Key Club in Pontiac
9PM – 11PM

Pizza, Pop & Prizes Social
11PM – MIDNIGHT
Banquet Rooms, OC

CSA: Lunch & Learn- Dining & Business Etiquette

TODAY
Noon- 1PM
128 – 130, OC

Presented by OU
Alumna Pamela Bar of
Etiquettes Edge

Student & Greek Organization Training

TODAY
5PM
128 – 130, OC

New Presidents &
Treasurers-
Sign up in advance in the
CSA Office,
49 Oakland Center.

CSA Annual Leadership Retreat

Golden Ticket to
LEADERSHIP

January 27 – 28th, 2007
Marriott Courtyard

Sign up is available at
the CSA Service
Window, 49 OC.
This event is free for all
OU students!

CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS

Discount tickets for the following shows and events are available to the Oakland University community. You can purchase tickets or pick up a detailed schedule of dates, times and prices at the CSA Service Window, 49 OC.

- Rent
- Color-ography
- Riverdance
- Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy
- I Can't Stop Loving You

Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Monday, January 15

ABS "Freedom March"
9AM

Hamlin Circle
(Presented by Association of Black Students)

ABS Alumni Reunion Brunch
9:45AM – 11AM

Gold Rooms, OC
(Presented by Association of Black Students)

Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award Celebration

Key Note Address by Ruby Dee
FREE & OPEN to all Students
Noon – 1:30PM

Banquet Rooms, OC
(Presented by the Center for Multicultural Initiatives)

African American Celebration Month Opening Ceremony

1:30PM – 2:30PM
Fireside Lounge, OC

(Presented by African American Celebration Month
Committee)

QUOTE OF THE DAY ...

"We hope to benefit from Wal-Mart. We have to put our best face forward and hope it's a good corporate sponsor. We have to welcome it to town."

— Rochester Hills Mayor and former OU Student Body President Bryan Barnett on the new Wal-Mart at Adams Road

Ford plans to do more with less people

Despite plans to cut 14,000 workers, Ford hopes to produce better designs faster

By TOM KRISHER
AP Business Writer

DETROIT (AP) — With orders to turn out cutting-edge cars and trucks faster than ever, Ford Motor Co.'s top designers see a conflict between their mission and the struggling company's plans to slash its white-collar work force by 14,000 people.

Inevitably, some of those who leave under company buyout and early retirement offers will be designers, but Peter

the number taking buyouts if necessary. Ford isn't releasing numbers on how many have accepted offers so far.

No matter how many people leave, for Horbury and his boss, J Mays, it means taking advantage of every timesaving method they know. Chief among them is greater use of computer-aided design to reduce the number of clay models and prototypes they build. It also means having designers take part in researching customer wants

"There's nothing like a crisis to focus your attention. It certainly has ours."

— J Mays
Ford's vice president of design and chief creative officer

"Fewer people doing more designs in less time," he said in an interview with the Associated Press Monday at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Across the company, Ford managers aren't quite certain how the loss of 36 percent of all salaried workers will affect its operations. With offers on the table and a Feb. 19 final deadline for sign-ups, no one really knows for sure how many people will retire early from each department, although managers can limit

how they liked the headlamps and other features, said Mays, Ford's vice president of design and chief creative officer.

Ford has mortgaged its assets to borrow up to \$23.4 billion to fund a massive restructuring plan and cover billions in losses expected until 2009. The company, which lost \$7 billion in the first nine months of last year, expects to burn up \$17 billion in cash during the next two years. It's trying to put new prod-



J Mays, Ford's group vice president for design and chief creative officer sits in the automaker's Airstream concept at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Monday. With orders to turn out cutting-edge cars and trucks faster than ever, Ford Motor Co.'s top designers see a conflict between their mission and the struggling company's plans to slash its white-collar work force by 14,000 people.

ucts into an increasingly competitive marketplace as it cuts fixed costs, including the white-collar buyouts and early departures. About 38,000 blue-collar workers also have signed up for similar offers as the company tries to shrink itself, closing plants to meet lower demand for its products.

"There's nothing like a crisis to focus your attention," said Mays. "It certainly has ours." Horbury said that previ-

ously, he and other designers spent much of their time trying to push work through Ford's thick bureaucracy. But under new Chief Executive Alan Mulally, hired in October from aviation giant Boeing Co., decisions are made more quickly, also reducing product development time.

Mulally also has confidence in the design team, Horbury said, allowing them freedom to do their work. The historical

Ford tussles between design and engineering also have gradually gone away.

"There's nothing on the engineering side holding us back from succeeding," Mays said.

That means the men are under the spotlight to deliver, which they think they have done with the two redesigned 2008 models that made their debut this week during media preview days at the show, the Focus small car and the Five

Hundred larger sedan.

Both took design cues from the company's successful mid-sized car, the Fusion, which will serve as a base for all of the new Ford products it rolls out in the future.

But they won't say what new cars or trucks are next in the environment of rolling out better designs faster.

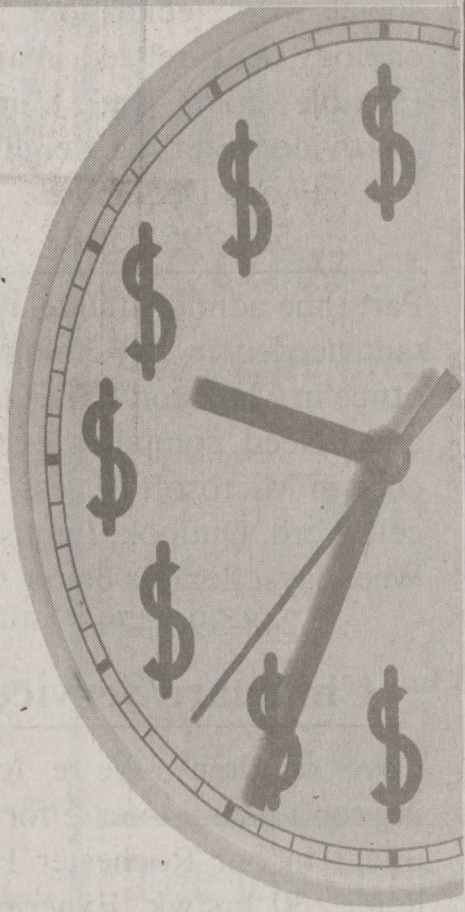
"You won't have long to wait," Mays said. "You'll see it this year."

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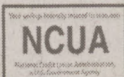
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Mixed reactions to new Rochester Hills Wal-Mart

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY
Contributing Reporter

America's most popular retail chain is garnering less than popular reactions from the citizens of Rochester Hills.

The discount retailer Wal-Mart is facing opposition from residents of the upscale Oakland County city where building will begin at the corner of M59 and Adams Road.

Rochester Hills has the highest average family income in Oakland County and residents fear that, in addition to bringing down the property value of their homes, Wal-Mart will bring an undesirable client base.

"No one wants a Wal-Mart in their backyard," said Jim Dow, a retired professor of anthropology. Prior to his retirement, Dow taught at Oakland University and still resides in the faculty subdivision across the street from campus.

"Wal-Mart has a reputation for attracting crime with its scuzzy clientele," said Dow.

Dow is one of many Rochester Hills citizens voicing concerns over the new store, which is set to open by the

end of 2007. The plot of land where Wal-Mart will be opening was originally intended for industrial use rather than business, but the owner of the property sought and received a zoning change.

Rochester Hills City Council has taken steps to fight back, but to no avail. Mayor Bryan Barnett is disappointed that the zoning plans are being violated, but the City Council has run out of money to challenge the actions taken by Wal-Mart.

"It's not quite the blessing we thought it was," said Barnett of the \$18 million the City of Rochester Hills received to fix the Adams Road intersection.

It didn't matter to residents of Rochester Hills what was built on the site where Wal-Mart will soon begin construction, residents voiced their concerns.

"They don't care what it is, they don't like it," said Barnett.

Although residents of Rochester Hills may not have an interest in shopping at Wal-Mart, one demographic in the area has been overlooked. Many college students live not only on the campus of Oakland University, but also

in and around Rochester Hills. Wal-Mart's low prices may be more attractive to a college student with a part-time job than a white-collar worker in Rochester Hills.

The company is also taking measures to ensure that it will not be a typical Wal-Mart. The exterior will differ from other stores to make it fit in with the landscape of the surrounding community.

As for the issue of increased crime, the residents are demanding extra security to deal with panhandlers and fights. There has also been a motion to limit the hours of the store, which is proposed to be 24 hours. However, since there were no restrictions when original negotiations began, mediator Edward Avadenka ruled that the hours could not be changed, according to the Citizens Voice of Rochester Hills Web site.

Despite the controversy surrounding the new Wal-Mart, Barnett must put aside his personal beliefs.

"We hope to benefit from Wal-Mart. We have to put our best face forward and hope it's a good corporate sponsor," said Barnett. "We have to welcome it to town."

MDEQ tentative okay to UP mines

By JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality tentatively approved a proposal Tuesday to drill a nickel and copper mine in the Upper Peninsula.

The department's ruling is a crucial step for Kennecott Eagle Minerals Co.'s plan to operate the mine in the Yellow Dog Plains region of northern Marquette County. A final decision will be made later this year, following a public comment period.

The proposed mine has

drawn heavy opposition from environmentalists, who say it would endanger the sensitive Salmon Trout River headwaters and pose other ecological threats.

DEQ Director Steven Chester said the agency would take public reaction seriously as it works to "ensure that this project is as protective of the environment as it can be."

Company officials say they would take extensive steps to avoid polluting the river and its surroundings. They say the mine would provide jobs and boost the economy in the struggling Upper Peninsula. Michelle Halley, an attor-

ney for the National Wildlife Federation, said the group would file a lawsuit if the DEQ ultimately issues permits for the mine.

"We certainly think this is a very bad decision by the governor and her staff, and we expect the DEQ will take a much harder look at the science, and the final decision still needs to be a denial," Halley said.

The mine would be the first to win approval under a set of nonferrous mineral mining regulations adopted by the DEQ in 2004, which the agency says are among the nation's most stringent.

Bush 'surge' in Iraq faces Democratic challenge

By ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is telling lawmakers he will send thousands more U.S. troops to Iraq's two most troubled regions, in a plan that Democrats are resisting as a major escalation of a 3 1/2-year-old war.

Bush on Wednesday will announce a new war strategy and is expected to call for as many as 20,000 additional troops, according to several senators briefed by the president on Monday.

On Tuesday, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said he expects Bush to announce that up to 20,000

additional troops will be sent to Iraq, but will not say how long the extra forces will be there. Levin, who spoke to reporters a day after meeting with White House national security adviser Stephen Hadley, said he thinks Bush will signal that the overall U.S. commitment in Iraq is not open-ended.

The extra forces would be sent to Baghdad, which has been consumed by sectarian violence, and the western Anbar Province, a base of the mostly Sunni insurgency and foreign al-Qaida fighters, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and others said following the session with Bush.

A day before Bush's nationally tele-

vised speech describing his proposal, Sen. Edward Kennedy, a longtime critic of Bush and the war, will propose legislation denying him the billions needed to send more troops to war unless Congress agrees first. Though it was unclear whether the bill would ever reach the full Senate, it could at least serve as a rallying point for the most insistent foes of the Iraq conflict.

Democrats seem divided on whether to block funds for troop increases, but many were not ruling it out. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Democrats would "look at everything" in their power to curb the war, short of cutting money for

troops already in the field.

Levin, said he would only consider an increase in U.S. forces in Iraq if Bush agreed to start withdrawing troops within six months.

"We've got to focus the attention of the Iraqis on their responsibility for their own country," Levin told the Detroit Free Press. "The only way to tell them is that we're going to redeploy our forces in 4 to 6 months."

The bill by Kennedy, D-Mass., is guaranteed to fuel the debate among lawmakers on how far they should go to try to force the president's hand on the unpopular war.

Under the Constitution, the president has broad war-making powers,

while Congress controls spending. Democratic leaders have swiftly rejected any suggestion of withholding money from troops already in combat zones.

"The Congress has the power of the purse and what we are saying is before the president sends additional American troops into the civil war, the president has to come back to the Congress and get the authority for that deployment," Kennedy said Tuesday on NBC's "Today" show.

"The American people ought to have a voice and a vote and members of Congress should be held accountable. We ought to take this step and stop the surge," Kennedy said.

Helicopters launch new attacks on al-Qaida suspects in Somalia

By SALAD DUHUL
Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Attack helicopters strafed suspected al-Qaida fighters in southern Somalia on Tuesday, witnesses said, following two days of airstrikes by U.S. forces — the first U.S. offensives in the African country since 18 American soldiers were killed here in 1993.

In Washington, a U.S. intelligence official said American forces killed five to 10 people in an attack on one target in southern Somalia believed to be associated with al-Qaida. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the operation's sensitivity, said a small number of others present, perhaps four or five, were wounded.

A Somali lawmaker said 31 civilians, including a newlywed couple, died in Tuesday's assault by two helicopters near Afmadow, a town in a forested area close to the Kenyan border. The report could not be independently verified.

A Somali Defense Ministry official described the helicopters as American, but witnesses told The Associated Press they could not make out identification markings on the craft.

Washington officials had no comment on the helicopter strike.

The U.S. is hunting down Islamic extremists, said the Somali defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Earlier, Somalia's president said that the U.S. was pursuing suspects in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa, and that the effort has his support.

Somali troops and their Ethiopian allies were attacked in the capital late Tuesday by gunmen riding in two pickup trucks who fired two rocket propelled grenades, witnesses said.

The rocket attack was followed by several minutes of rifle fire. One Somali soldier was killed and two other soldiers and a bystander were wounded, said minibus driver Harun Ahmed, who took the injured to a hospital.

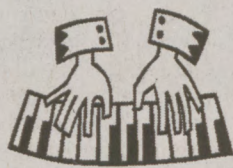
Col. Shino Moalin Nur, a Somali military commander, told the AP by telephone late Tuesday that at least one U.S. AC-130 gunship attacked a suspected al-Qaida training camp Sunday on a remote island at the southern tip of Somalia next to Kenya.

Somali officials said they had reports of many deaths.



U.S. NAVY, MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN DAVID DANALS/The Associated Press
In this photo released by the U.S. Navy on Tuesday, a plane captain signals the pilot to check the flaps of an F/A-18F from the Jolly Rogers of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103 aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower on Monday. The U.S. military said Tuesday it had sent the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower to join three other U.S. warships conducting anti-terror operations off the Somali coast. The aircraft carrier is part of the Navy's Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet.

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Classifieds

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Apple CEO unveils new name, long-awaited phone

By RACHEL KONRAD
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs on Tuesday announced the iPod maker's long-awaited leap into the mobile phone business and renamed the company just "Apple Inc.," reflecting its increased focus on consumer electronics.

The iPhone, which will start at \$499 when it launches in June, is controlled by touch, plays music, surfs the Internet and runs the Macintosh computer operating system. Jobs said it will "reinvent" wireless communications and "leapfrog" past the current generation of smart phones.

"Every once in a while a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything," he said during his keynote address at the annual Macworld Conference and Expo. "It's very fortunate if you can work on just one of these in your career. ... Apple's been very fortunate in that it's introduced a few of these."

He said the company's name change is meant to reflect Apple's

transformation from a computer manufacturer to a full-fledged consumer electronics company.

During his speech, Jobs also unveiled a TV set-top box that allows people to send video from their computers and announced the number of songs sold on its iTunes Music Store has topped 2 billion.

Apple shares jumped more than 8 percent on the announcements, while the stock of rival smart-phone makers plunged. The run on Apple stock created about \$6 billion in shareholder wealth.

While Jobs noted the explosive growth of the cell phone market, it's not clear that a device as alluring as the iPhone poses a threat to mainstream handset makers due to the price, said Avi Greengart, mobile device analyst for the research firm Current Analysis.

"My initial reaction is that this product actually lives up to the extensive hype, and I'm not easily impressed," he said. "But the vast majority of phones sold cost way less than \$500." Instead, the rivals most likely to face new

competition from Apple's handset are makers of higher-end smart phones such as Palm Inc.

Tim Bajarin, principal analyst with Creative Strategies, said the iPhone could revolutionize the way cell phones are designed and sold.

"This goes beyond smart phones and should be given its own category called 'brilliant' phones," he said. "Cell phones are on track to become the largest platform for digital music playback and Apple needed to make this move to help defend their iPod franchise as well as extend it beyond a dedicated music environment."

Apple currently commands about 75 percent of the market for downloaded music and portable music players. But it's expected to lose market share on both fronts as rivals introduce their own gadgets and music stores.

Jobs said Apple expects to sell 10 million iPhones in 2008, the first full year in which they'll be available. That's about 1 percent of the global market for mobile phones; 957 million were sold

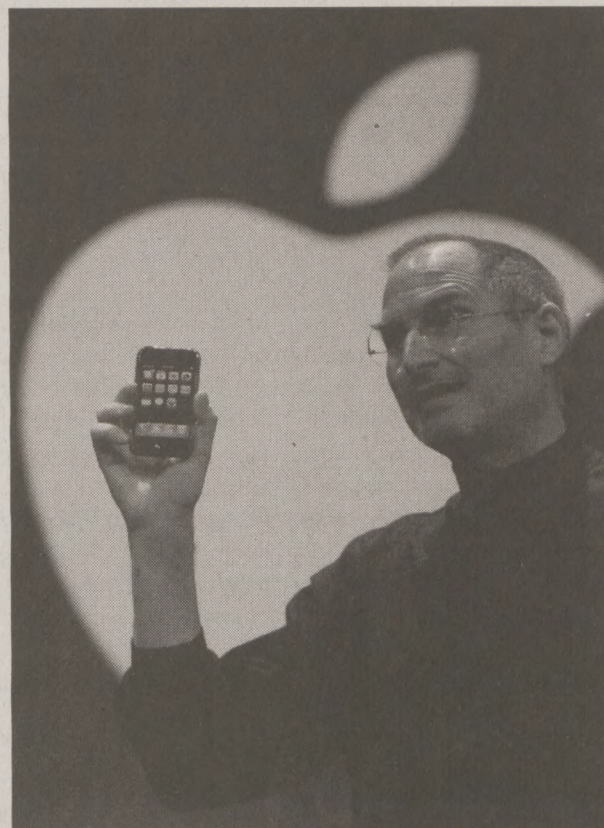
worldwide in 2006.

The Apple phones, which will operate exclusively on AT&T Inc.'s Cingular Wireless network, will start shipping in June. A 4-gigabyte model will cost \$499, while an 8-gigabyte iPhone will be \$599. While wireless carriers typically offer discounts and rebates on new devices when they agree to sign a two-year service contract, Cingular said it was unclear whether this would be the case with the iPhone.

Cingular declined to comment on its financial arrangement with Apple.

iPhone is less than a half-inch thin — less than almost any phone on the market today. It comes with a 2-megapixel digital camera built into the back, as well as a slot for headphones and a SIM card.

The phone automatically synchs the user's media — movies, music, photos — through iTunes on computers running either Mac OS X or Microsoft Corp.'s Windows. The device also synchs e-mail, Web bookmarks and nearly any type of digital content stored on a PC.



PAUL SAKUMA/AP Photo

Apple CEO Steve Jobs holds up the new iPhone during his keynote address at MacWorld Conference & Expo in San Francisco, Tuesday.

NATION IN BRIEF

Texas jury set to consider death sentence in nation's deadliest human smuggling case

HOUSTON (AP) — With their arms around each other, relatives of a truck driver facing a possible death sentence in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt listened as a defense attorney pleaded to jurors to spare his life. "I ask you as if his father were asking. Please save his son, please save his son," attorney Craig Washington said Monday as he turned and looked at the father of Tyrone Williams. "You have the power in your hands to save (his) son." Jurors began deliberations Tuesday on whether to sentence Williams to death or up to life in prison. He was convicted last month on 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting immigrants in connection with the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants. More than 70 immigrants from Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic were packed inside Williams' trailer in the failed 2003 smuggling attempt from South Texas to Houston. Nineteen died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation after nearly four hours inside the oven-like container.

California governor proposes sweeping plan to cover the state's uninsured

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — To succeed with his plan to extend health care to 6.5 million uninsured Californians, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will have to find common ground between groups that often are at odds. Union leaders quickly balked at a requirement that all Californians have insurance, calling it a tax on the middle class. A demand that all but the smallest businesses offer their workers insurance upset many of Schwarzenegger's business allies. "I look forward to everyone now having those debates," Schwarzenegger said via videolink to a panel of health care stakeholders who assembled Monday to hear his plan. "There are a lot of people around the table." Under the proposal, all Californians must have insurance, although the poorest will be subsidized. Those who go uncovered will be subject to tax penalties. Businesses with 10 or more employees will have to offer insurance to their workers or pay 4 percent of their payroll into a state fund. Smaller firms, which the governor's office said make up 80 percent of California businesses, will be exempt. Insurers would no longer be allowed to deny coverage to people because of their medical problems. All children, regardless of their immigration status, will be covered through an expansion of the state and federal Healthy Families program. "If you can't afford it, the state will help you buy it. But you must be insured," said the governor, who presides over a state with more uninsured people than any other.

WORLD IN BRIEF

32 killed in cargo plane crash north of Baghdad, Turkish foreign ministry says

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — A cargo plane carrying Turkish construction workers crashed during landing at a foggy airstrip north of Baghdad, killing 32 people and injuring at least one, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said. Two people were unaccounted for. The pilot had aborted an initial attempt to land because of heavy fog, then crashed on a second try, a Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity because an official announcement had not yet been authorized. Private Turkish news agencies said the plane was trying to land at the U.S. military base at Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. The Foreign Ministry did not say whether it was at the U.S. base. The Russian-made Antonov-26 plane, belonging to the Moldovan Ariantur air cargo company, had taken off from Adana in southern Turkey and was carrying mostly workers from the Kulak construction company, the governor of Adana said. The company's owner was among the dead, CNN-Turk television reported. Phone calls to Kulak's offices in Adana and Ankara went unanswered after the crash. On board were 35 people — 29 Turks and one American, as well as a crew of five — three from Moldova and one each from Russia and Ukraine, Gov. Cahit Kirac said.



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Get Fired Up

Rochester business puts a spin on a hobby
By CRYSTAL NELSON
Contributing Reporter

Juliann Roush makes an entrance like every artist should - dramatically.

The door slams as it leaves her hands and the wood floor audibly shifts, welcoming her back to the studio. Her tousled red hair hints at her intensity and passion for the shelves and shelves of pottery behind her.

Since the opening of The Painted Pot 10 years ago, Roush has built upon her success by hosting paint parties and making artists out of walk-in customers.

"Pretty much anybody can come in and do a project," she said, "I have a lot of customers that have been coming here for 10 years - I do have a big mom-and-kid clientele, but I also have the regulars who come for ladies night out to get away from their kids," she said.

Customers can purchase bisqueware, or fired clay, from the shelves and pay for studio time by the hour. There are hundreds of various bisqueware items to choose from. After they have been

painted, they are covered in a clear, food-safe glaze and fired in a kiln at 2,165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Before opening up shop in Michigan, Roush was living in California and had seen paint-it-yourself pottery shops emerging in the early mid-90s. "My brother basically said he'd support my business if I moved back to Michigan," she said.

"Opening your own business is a challenging endeavor, it's one of those things you say 'I know it's going to be a lot of work,' but you never really realize how much work," Roush said. "It's an amazing amount of work you have to do, especially the first five years - you live your business."

Knowing The Painted Pot would do pretty well in the area, Roush waited eight years to open a place where she could throw clay.

"We opened A Place to Clay two years ago this month, because that is really my passion - I'm a potter; that's what I wanted to do," said Roush. Although she doesn't get to do it as often as she'd like,



JULIANN ROUSH GETS READY TO HEAT THINGS UP

photo courtesy of The Painted Pot

Roush said she likes producing her own artwork. Much is vibrantly displayed throughout the building and even in the bathroom.

Beginners are encouraged to take a class on how to use the pottery wheel and equipment properly. Besides beginning classes, continued ceramics and hand-

building classes are offered.

Classes are \$195 for eight weeks. This includes 25 lbs. of clay, glazes, firings and unlimited access to the studio. The monthly studio rental is \$110 plus the cost of clay, which is approximately \$25. Further questions can be answered online at www.thepaintedpot.com or by phone at 248-652-8255.

Blood Diamond

A film that challenges America's modern ideals
By JEFF KRANITZ
Managing Editor



What causes apathy? How are most of us able to live with the shame of not taking action when we know horrific injustices are being perpetrated against masses of good, innocent people?

Many sociologists say it has to do with the ability of a group of people to differentiate from those afflicted by a struggle - to look at them as "other." This makes the most sense in the Third World, where the lack of modernity enables Westerners to view Third World inhabitants as relatively uncivilized - perhaps even savages in the eyes of some.

If you're getting upset at this point and saying "Not me," then maybe you're an exception. Or maybe it occurs on a subconscious level, making you unaware.

Yet in "Blood Diamond," a story set in 1999 Sierra Leone, a country then torn apart by a civil war fueled and funded by slave labor in the diamond mines, director Edward Zwick ("Glory," "The Last Samurai") and screenwriter Charles Leavitt portray one of those "savages" as a farmer caught up in the struggle trying to save his family - and initially unable to tell a lie.

Before his village is decimated by members of a revolutionary force drunk on hate, power and bloodlust, farmer Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou) embodies the principles that we hold most sacred.

Vandy does not, at first, understand the concept of lying - even for the purpose of saving his family from an indescribable fate.

"How can I say I am a photographer if I am not one?" he asks Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio), the diamond smuggler he is working with to get past enemy lines to recover a priceless stone (for Archer) and save a family.

Honesty is a virtue that we hold most dear in our society yet rarely practice, it often seems.

So who's the savage now? Ask yourself that the next time you change the channel from a disturbing news broadcast

to watch "SportsCenter" or "American Idol."

This is only one of the many truths exposed in "Blood Diamond," an upsetting rollercoaster ride of a film that somehow satisfies and works itself out in the end - as long as you're able to make it that far without having a heart attack.

Like most painful doses of truth, however, "Blood Diamond" met with some resistance before it hit theaters last month by - you guessed it - the diamond industry.

Six months before the film was released, huge players in that industry expressed concern that the film would lead the public to believe that the situation in Africa regarding conflict diamonds is the same today as it was six years ago.

Speaking to Reuters at the World Diamond Congress in Tel Aviv back in June, Shmuel Schnitzer, outgoing president of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses, firmly stated that the conflict diamond problem was "practically over" and that the film "is an injustice to our industry, which has done so much."

It would be an injustice to overlook the fact that since 1999, through measures such as the Kimberly Process where diamonds are tracked and certified, the industry has taken tremendous steps toward eradicating the problem.

But the movie clearly points out the time and place where the story occurs and is in no way misleading.

In a telephone interview with The Oakland Post, Zwick put it best: "It's my job as a filmmaker to tell the facts of the story as I have learned them to be, and their job as a trade industry to try to enhance the image of their product. But not to tell a story about what happened for fear that it might influence the image of a product would be to say that one shouldn't make a movie about what happened in Germany in 1945 because we've since become allies."

It clearly wasn't an easy task getting this film made.

DiCaprio said he and other cast members were severely banged up while filming some of the film's action sequences.

But because the people who endured the struggle depicted in "Blood Diamond" sacrificed infinitely more, the least we can do is strive to become more conscious of not only how our consumer needs affect the rest of the world, but how we can help those afflicted by such struggles.

Make this your move

Rec your resolution



PERSONAL TRAINER LISA NELSON SHOWS US HOW IT'S DONE photo by Charles Graski, photo illustration by Celeste Filiatrault

The initial position is stepping back with one foot, while placing arms at shoulder height. Lunge forward on one leg, making sure your knee doesn't extend over your toes. As you lunge, raise arms above your head. Step back, returning your arms back to your shoulders slowly. Repeat the process, this time lunging with your opposite leg. **Check back with us again for more tricks to impress everyone at the gym.**

—By LAURA FAWAZ

Scholarship Opportunities for Fall '07 -Win '08

...Sponsored by the OUAA

The Oakland University Alumni Association will be accepting applications for several \$3,000 one year, non-renewable scholarships beginning January 3, 2007.

- College of Arts and Sciences
- School of Business Administration
- School of Education and Human Services
- School of Engineering and Computer Science
- School of Health Sciences
- School of Nursing
- Honors College
- Black Alumni Affiliate

These scholarships are open to any undergraduate student who will have junior or senior status by Fall 2007. Scholarship recipients must have two or more full-time semesters remaining in their academic program and must have a 3.0 GPA in their major field of study and a cumulative 3.0 GPA at OU.

Applications are also being accepted for the following one year, non-renewable scholarships:

- Frances C. Amos School of Business Administration \$5,000 (open to juniors and seniors with at least 3.4 cumulative GPA)
- Thomas A. Yatooma School of Engineering Alumni Memorial \$3,000 (open to juniors and seniors with a 3.25 cumulative GPA)
- Legacy Scholarship \$3,000 (open to freshman and sophomores whose parent or grandparent is a graduate of Oakland and a member of the OUAA)
- Returning Alumni Scholarship \$3,000 (open to students who have earned a degree from OU and are returning to pursue a second degree. Must be admitted to a program and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA)
- Working Student Scholarship \$2,000 (open to all OU students who are working at least 20 hours per week in addition to pursuing a degree. Must have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA)

Scholarship Applications will be available on the alumni website at www.oualumni.com beginning January 3, 2007. Contact Erin Sudrovech at the John Dodge House (248) 364-6140 or sudrovech@oakland.edu for more information. Completed applications for all OUAA scholarships must be submitted by February 14, 2007 in order to be considered.

it's going down

WXOU

News Weekly is a new show on WXOU radio that features all you need to know about what's going on in the Oakland University community. Tune in while you're in the Rochester area at 88.3 FM or online at www.wxou.org

This week will explore the high price of textbooks through interviews with students and bookstore officials. Steve Perry, the author of "Man Up," talks about his new book, calling the African American community to take responsibility for their advancement in culture.

88.3 FM

THE BAND'S GONNA MAKE IT.

Are you an Oakland University musician, performer or artist?

The Mix is looking to feature talented students in an upcoming issue of The Oakland Post. Email your skills to:

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January is for saving lives

For some, National Blood Donor Month is personal

Every two seconds, someone in America needs a blood transfusion, totaling 39,000 pints of blood per day, according to aabb.org.

The American Red Cross would like to have a 30-day supply of blood in the bank, yet they currently struggle to maintain a 48-hour supply.

Donation levels are lowest during winter months due to the holidays, travel, inclement weather and illness. January has the greatest need.

For this reason, the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) has made January National Blood Donor Month in order to raise awareness about the need for blood donations.

This deficit is not only a point of interest for me as a health science major; this is an issue that hits close to home.



Rowan

Two weeks before Christmas 2005, my now 9-year-old sister was diagnosed with leukemia.

When most people think of needing a blood transfusion they think about blood replace-

ment for accidents, surgery and transplants, but there are numerous other recipients, including cancer patients. The chemotherapy my sister undergoes kills cells irrespective of whether or not they are infected. There are many occasions when the treatment destroys more blood cells than her small body can afford to be without.

The AABB separates each one-pint blood donation into three parts: red and white blood cells, platelets and plasma — potentially saving three lives.

The red blood cells transfer oxygen to organs and muscles, while the white blood cells are an integral part of the immune system.

The platelets are what make the blood clot; without enough, even the prick of an IV needle could be a cause for concern.

Plasma, the liquid portion of the blood, is used to clear or prevent blood clots. Cryoprecipitated anti-hemophilic factor (AHF) is another clotting factor that can be extracted from the plasma when needed.

To date, my sister has received 14 blood transfusions and 20 platelet transfusions.

Registered nurse and former



Oakland Post File Photo

January is the month when blood banks are most in need of donations. One donation can potentially save three lives.

Oakland University student Lori Curtis currently works at a private oncology clinic. She has had patients whose life depends on getting a blood donation within the hour. One patient lived for 5 years on donated blood. Every day, people count on blood transfusions in order to maintain a healthy, normal life.

The donation process takes less than thirty minutes and

is relatively pain-free. The body naturally recovers the volume of your blood within several hours of the donation, and the red blood cells are replaced in a couple of weeks. You can safely donate blood every eight weeks, for a total of six times per year.

You can get involved this month by going to the Red Cross Web site, www.givelife.org, and typing in the sponsor

code "oublood" to register for a timeslot for the OU blood drive, Jan. 22-24 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Without the maintained supply of blood banks, people like my sister would not have a chance at life.

—Allegra Rowan is a contributing reporter.

Knick-Knack headed to festival

Alumnus director looks forward to performance

By KELLY KOZLOWSKI
Campus News Editor

Meghan Trudell graduated from Oakland University last June with a degree in theater performance, but that hasn't stopped her from showing up to university rehearsals lately.

As the director of OU's student-written play, "Knick-Knack," Trudell will accompany the show's cast and crew to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Milwaukee, Wis. this week.

After attending the benefit performance of "Knick-Knack" at the Varner Lab Theater last weekend (the funds raised will cover the cost of the trip), Meghan shared her thoughts on the show, theater and her Mork & Mindy bathing suit.

Trudell originally directed "Knick-Knack" in April of last year, and after the show was chosen to compete at the KCACTF, she got the call to return.

Written by junior English major Franco Vitella, "Knick-Knack" tells the story of an office employee who must go to great lengths for the privilege of putting a flower on his desk.

Audiences are introduced to a small company of characters, from the endearing to the outrageous. Using a simple set and few props, the show rests on individual performances and ensemble chemistry. Complete with cheesy company slogans and copy room sex scandals, "Knick-Knack" promises to simultaneously mock and explore the inner workings of corporate-American office life.

As a regional competitor, "Knick-Knack" will run three performances at the festival and could be selected for the national competition.

Trudell says the festival is a very big deal in the theater world. "You always want to have a resume and a headshot," she said, in case agents are there scouting for shows.

This week marks Trudell's fourth



John Wencel and Meghan Banks in "Knick-Knack." The cast and crew will participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival this week.

time at the festival.

A self-proclaimed performer from the age of two, Trudell says she isn't nervous about the competition. "It would be cool if we got chosen to go to nationals, but right now it's just an honor to be chosen to perform."

With years of experience under her belt, Trudell has reason to be confident. As a student in OU's theater

program, she learned everything from costume and make-up design to acting and directing.

OU's program "teaches students how to appreciate more of the theater family," said Trudell. "You learn it because you've done it."

That is particularly true in her case. Balancing four shows with 20 credits and a job in the costume

shop might prove too much for your average college student, but Trudell took the Nike approach, saying, "You just do it."

As a result, Trudell now boasts experience in just about every aspect of theater. She says performing is her favorite role, but directing comes in a close second.

"Knick-Knack" exposed Trudell to some of the many challenges that directors face. She had to work around other rehearsal schedules to accommodate her actors, figure out how to stage an entire show around a desk and chair, and find a replacement cast member three weeks into rehearsals.

Now, Trudell says she is looking forward to enjoying the festival as a director.

Equipped with advice from mentors at Oakland and role models ranging from Joan Rivers to Robin Williams (hence the bathing suit), Trudell says she plans to travel to New York in June to pursue an acting career.

For more information on university theater performances, visit www2.oakland.edu/mtd.



By ALLEGRA ROWAN
Contributing Reporter

Being human, we look for ways to make a difference in the world and leave our mark. But being college students, we wonder how we can do anything that counts since we have little time and no money.

At www.thehungersite.org, visitors can click on a button to donate food to Third World countries. This site, founded in 1999, will donate 1.1 cups of food, equivalent to about 2 servings of rice, for every click.

One-hundred percent of funding goes to the aid of hungry people in

74 struggling countries. This is made possible through the generosity of sponsors, including WorldVision, the Mercy Corps and Nature Made.

You can click the button every day, which means that in a year's time you can be responsible for supplying a hungry person with over 400 cups of food.

Living in the United States, where it's a challenge to buy a full meal for \$2, it is hard to see that close to 3 billion people, according to worldvision.org, subsist on less than \$2 per day.

So maybe you don't have a spare \$32 a month to sponsor a child for clothing and medical provisions, but when you sit down at your computer to check email, you can take 10 seconds out of your day to make a difference.

Get your kicks

New gear can inspire those resolving to exercise

By ROB TATE
Senior Reporter

Judging by the weather we have seen this winter, 2007 might be the best year to make that resolution to get into shape, and it couldn't be easier than going outside for a jog.

But first you need to decide if the shoes that you are about to trek outside in are worthy of your resolution to stay healthy and in

shape.

One thing that keeps most people excited about exercising is purchasing something new, like shoes or clothing, to help them stay motivated to keep up with their regimen.

"It's worth the investment to buy better shoes," says Todd Snyder of Hanson's Running Shop in Royal Oak, formerly a runner at The U of M. Wearing old or cheap shoes can cause pains in your

shins, knees and back. Most good running shoes have a lifespan of 300-500 miles or six months use, after which they should be replaced.

Snyder believes that a good price range for running shoes is at least \$80. This will ensure that you get a quality shoe with better cushioning technology, that will subsequently add longevity to your workouts.

Snyder said that most college-age people favor Nike and Adidas, but there is so much more offered on the running shoe market. Some other affordable styles that are hot right now include Asics 2110, Brooks Radius 06 and Brooks Adrenaline GTS.

According to www.running-warehouse.com, the Asics 2110 features gel support for superior comfort. It can be purchased from around \$90. In the spring, a newer and lighter model of this popular shoe, the Asics 2120, will be available.

The Brooks Radius 06 is a pillow-like ride and costs approximately \$85. The Brooks Adrenaline GTS is a stability shoe that gives more

support for people who have weak arches.

Some new technologies that can help you reach your goals are now out on the market using an item that you may already own, an Apple iPod Nano, along with Nike's new line of shoes, the Nike+ series.

With the use of a microchip that can be purchased at some retailers or through Apple, the shoes can give you data, like miles run and calories burned. The information is then transmitted into your iPod Nano.

Altogether the system costs around \$300 (approximately \$100 for Nike+ shoes, \$150 for the iPod Nano and \$30 for the kit). Nike+ shoes range in price because the feature is available for different types of their shoes.

Using www.nikeplus.com, you can input your statistics to the Nano to keep track of your progress as well as challenge yourself or friends that are also using the technology. Nike hopes that people will push themselves and support each other while striving for better health and a better lifestyle.

Global warming ruined my Christmas

By **PAUL GULLY**
Assistant News Editor

I love the Christmas season and all the joyous activities and traditions associated with it. As Andy Williams ingrains in our minds every December (now, thanks to 100.3 WNIC, every November), the holiday season is the "most wonderful time of the year."

I love Christmas for many reasons. For the most-part, folks are in a jolly, festive mood; because I truly love buying people gifts; and because I love opening presents—not receiving presents—but the actual act of ripping the wrapping paper to shreds, especial-

ly if it's the kind that makes a beautiful, loud tearing noise (don't ask why, it probably stems back to some deep childhood psychological problem or something).

However, my Christmas was ruined this year, and there is one single culprit for the Scrooging of my holiday season—global freakin' warming.

I'll be the first to admit, I'm not a huge fan of winter. I don't mix well with the freezing cold weather. To me, it's never a good thing when it's so cold that it's a struggle to breathe, because, as most of you know, you can't just stop breathing—it's not good for your health. And I don't mingle well with scarves, so

I'm always the one making a scene, choking on the air.

I attempt to do the thing where I sport my coat eight inches higher than intended to try to cover my face, which only leaves my mid-section exposed to the frigid arctic temperatures. There's just no winning when squaring off with Mother Nature.

I'm also not a huge fan of wet, slushy jean bottoms, although it seems as though Mother Nature is trying to start a new fashion trend with them. I wouldn't be surprised to see "slushy bottom" jeans in next years Abercrombie holiday catalogue.

Winter is also terrible because it leaves me with dry

skin and the awkwardness of having to borrow fruity-smelling lotion from my female friends, which I secretly enjoy, but have to play off like I hate.

That being said, Christmas without snow just wasn't the same. The fluffy white precipitation adds so much to the holiday season. Without it, many of the joys of the season just aren't as enjoyable.

Going sledding without snow just isn't the same—I'm no physicist, but I think it has something to do with the grass causing too much friction for the sled to build enough momentum to slide; or maybe it has something to do with inertia, but I don't know. Throwing snowballs at

unsuspecting neighbors is difficult without snow, because then you're just throwing... balls at them, which is kind of mean.

Upon initial impact with a snowball, a typical person may get angry for a split second, until they realize that it was all in good winter fun. At that point, a quick smile is accompanied with a head shake and chuckle.

However, the same reaction is usually not attained after being struck with a football of one of those red rubber balls that fill elementary school recesses.

And putting snow down a girls shirt (or pants if you're feeling really risky) and saying

"Oh, I'm sorry, let me clean that up for you," as a means of childish flirting is rendered obsolete. NOTE: Guys, be careful with this one.

The joyous Gully family tradition of sipping on some of Grandma's super delicious hot chocolate just isn't the same—instead of providing needed warmth from the winter cold, I found myself sweating from the unnecessary, excess heat.

So I plead with you, listen to Al Gore: drive less, recycle more, plant a tree, DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS MADNESS; if not for the future of the planet, at least for the sake of my personal holiday joy.

Culture vs. counterculture: face to face in 2007

By **ALEX CHERUP**
Guest Columnist

It is now 2007 – which, in June, will mark the 40th Anniversary of the fabled "Summer of Love" in San Francisco. The summer of 1967, a mosh pit of love and peace where the young formed a prosperous, yet stoned counterculture, is now four decades in the past. And it certainly feels that way.

With Saddam Hussein's execution, the 3,000th American soldier killed in Iraq and a new album due out soon from the B-52's, a feeling of desolation is understandable at the onset of this year.

Does our current state of culture permit for a passionate anniversary of the love sum-

mer this year? Or will the celebration consist of a bouquet of withered flower children fertilized with medicinal pot and Viagra?

The paramount concern is our culture today. Can we unite and stand for something? Let us analyze:

1) The Counterculture

If the contemporary counterculture were a face, it would be misshapen and disfigured, as if molded by the inebriated fingers of a sordid Goth child. A face nurtured into existence by a squalid soul on a perpetual pilgrimage to the anti-establishment gang bang entitled Hot Topic. A nose with a trio of nostrils pierced each with a corresponding member of The Ramones, eyes of liquid

masochism and lips itching to scream, "Capitalism is the Real Bird Flu!"

Incidentally, this face is available at most Hot Topics for the popular price of \$14.99.

Unfortunately, there is the blatant zit on the counterculture's face. The counterculture negates itself without standing for much of anything. There is often substance, but not enough to have a substantial voice, or unite large amounts of individuals.

Every counterculture movement since the summer of love is an illegitimate love child of the promiscuous sixties and apathy—or a drunken roadie from Lollapalooza named Big Robbie (the tests have not come back yet). Each movement has positive

traits; however the DNA from the apathetic side stunts the growth and hinders an honest outcome. It always fizzles out and the true drive is changed, sometimes quicker than the television of an eight-year-old kid with ADD who has the remote.

Of course, some "legitimate" members of the counterculture hate this publicized image and avoid such establishments. Amen to you, and between you and me, what do you think the new Good Charlotte album will sound like?

2) Popular Culture

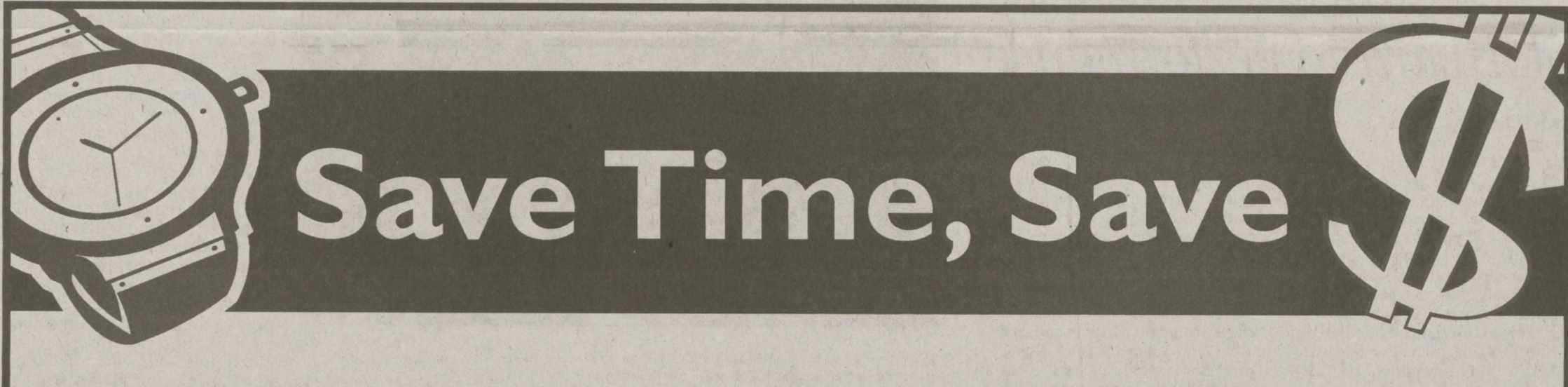
And if popular culture were a face, it would be even more undesirable. I suppose it would look like Joan Rivers, and made entirely of plastic.

Alas, the face of mainstream entertainment has enough cover-up to destroy the many sores of the innately marred exterior. Nonetheless, cosmetics make the brazen black-heads more grotesque. Here is the layman's map to the topography to the cheeks of pop culture after the cover-up is applied, followed by the actual reality:

a) American Idol
Popular culture: Beauty mark
Reality: Mole
b) Fergie
Popular culture: Sexy scar
Reality: Self-inflicted wound
c) Paris Hilton
Popular culture: Terrible acne
Reality: Terrible acne
(Popular culture is correct sometimes).
So at least there are some

parallels between counterculture and pop culture, however few. And these rare agreements between cultures are where unity will prosper. I say we can have another summer of love if we understand there is something worth fighting for and representing—and I feel this is where we are heading.

We must realize both cultures are ugly faces and need to be ditched. If we can join together the vigorous anger so many have toward the current government, and state of affairs, we can have a successful anniversary and powerful unification. Only this time, some of the veterans from the first summer of love can participate. I'll see you all in San Francisco.



Save Time, Save

Electronic banking services available at OU

Students can participate in the following electronic banking services offered by Oakland University:

NEW Student Account Refunds

OU now offers direct deposit for:

- Financial aid refunds
- Payments made by cash or check for dropped classes
- Reimbursements for expenses related to student organizations

Student Paychecks

Student employees may opt to have their paychecks direct deposited into their bank account.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.oakland.edu/directdeposit.



Student Bills

Don't write another check! Students can pay their student bills directly from their checking or savings account using eBill. For more information visit www.oakland.edu/eBill.

Stay Tuned

OU is expanding services that will help students save time and money.



HOCKEY

How the west was won

Grizzlies bury Stallions over weekend

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY
Contributing Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies are not a team to be taken lightly. Just ask Western Michigan.

After an embarrassing 8-1 loss Thanksgiving weekend, the Grizzlies bounced back with a pair of wins over the Stallions last weekend.

Friday night, the Grizzlies came up with a 5-0 victory in Kalamazoo. Though getting off to a shaky start, Oakland quickly gained momentum and couldn't be stopped.

Tim Michaels, Brent Cooper, Will McMahon, Scott Elder and Derek Baker all scored for the Grizzlies.

"The first couple minutes of the game I was a little nervous, they were all over us. It just takes some time for guys to get going after five weeks," said Head Coach Sean Hogan. "I was a little nervous, but I thought we'd be all right. As soon as we score, we're usually pretty good."

The standout of the night was Collin Chase in net, who stopped all 36 Stallion shots and recorded the team's first shutout since the 2003-04 championship season.

With over 100 penalty minutes accumulated on Oakland's behalf in the last meeting between the two teams, Friday night was surprisingly quiet.

"Tomorrow's going to be an ugly one," said Hogan. "Today, I thought they were going to take us lightly, and they did. 'Oh, 8-1, we'll stomp them.' It just goes to show you how much better of a team we are when we've

got everybody."

And ugly it was.

This time, Western took the bulk of the penalty minutes. Oakland made the best of the situation, capitalizing on the power play six times en route to a 6-3 win.

Matthew Burke scored twice, including the game-winning goal early in the third period. Steve Piccoli and Baker each struck with a two-man advantage to seal the deal. Baker now has a goal in each of the last three games.

The Stallions were able to keep up through the first two periods, but suffered a breakdown in the third period beginning with their coach being ejected from the game, which ultimately led to their defeat.

Adam Charnoby opened the scoring for the Grizzlies, and Cooper picked up a goal in the second period.

McMahon left Saturday's game after being checked from behind by the Stallions' Sean McWhorter. McMahon, who the Stallions were after

from the opening draw Friday night through his departure Saturday, did not return to the game.

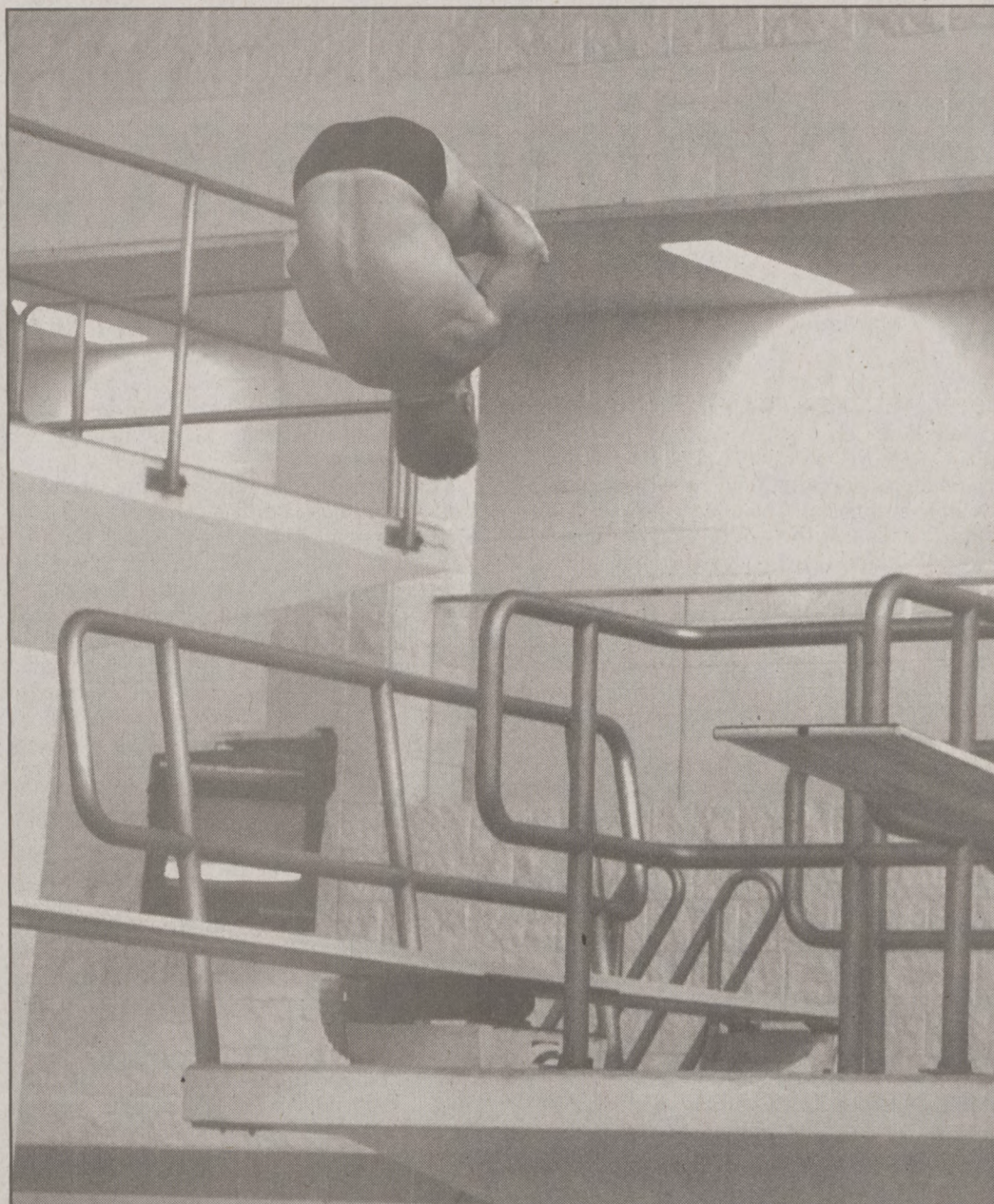
The wins last weekend proved that Oakland can move past the losing streak suffered earlier this season and, with a healthy roster, can stand a shot against any opponent.

"A person with excuses would say that we only had eight forwards and five defensemen for the first game against WMU and now we have our full team back and have been playing well," said McMahon. "The first game, they outplayed us. They got some easy goals and we played bad. This weekend, we outplayed them."



AMBER DIETZ/The Oakland Post
Assistant captain Will McMahon moves to get an open look against WMU. OU is currently ranked 13th in D1.

GRIZZLIES SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
The Golden Grizzlies soared during their Saturday swim meet against Hope College. The men's and women's team dominated in 10 of 14 events, including one relay win. Meet highlights included junior Ryan Kish, who posted a pair of victories in the one-meter board and the three-meter board. His score of 308.60 in the one-meter board was a personal best, and freshman Rachel Girard set a personal best in the 200 by shaving off nearly a second with a time of 1:56.59. The next swim meet will be against Kenyon College this Saturday at 2 p.m. For times and information about this year's roster of swimmers and divers, check out www.ougrizzlies.com.

In Case You Missed It:

OU baseball to host banquet

The baseball team will be hosting its second annual "First Pitch" Banquet on Feb. 3 in the O'Rena from 5-9 p.m. to raise funds for the program. The banquet will also honor both current and former members of the Golden Grizzlies team. Keynote speakers for the event include Matt Nokes, a former Detroit Tiger, and Executive Vice President of Palace Sports & Entertainment, Inc. Dan Hauser.

Women's soccer helps out schools

Student-athletes from OU's women's soccer program have been helping out a local school for the past two months by taking part in a reading program for third, fourth and fifth grade students. The players read a book that relates to what the students are learning in class and then leads a discussion among the students and answers their questions about what life is like as a student-athlete at Oakland.

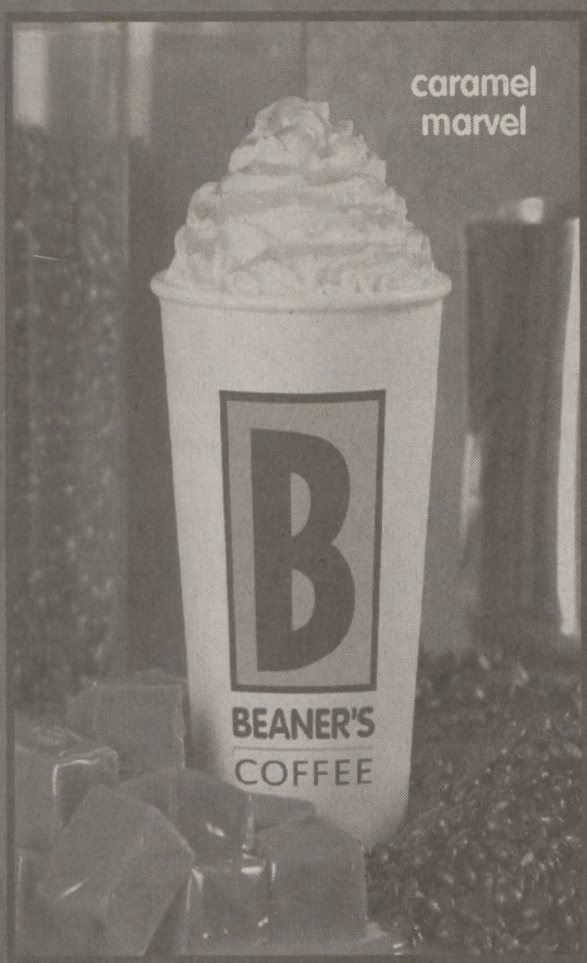
We're going on a roadtrip!

Men's and women's basketball are hitting the road this week to take on two Mid-Con opponents. Western Illinois University and Valparaiso are ranked first and second in the Mid-Con for the women and in the bottom half of the conference for the men.

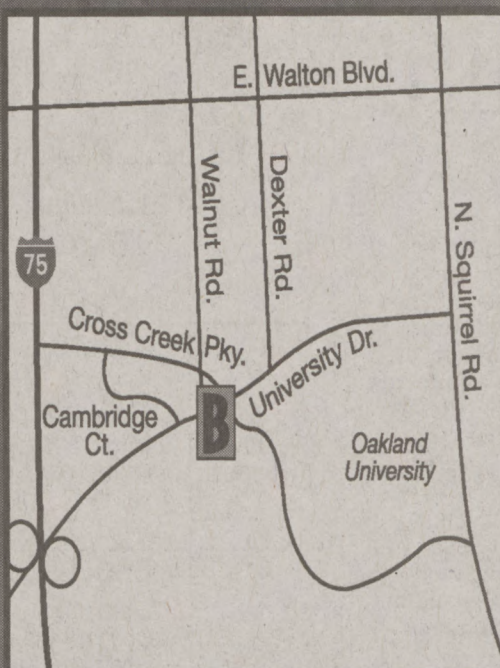
—Compiled by Samantha Franz
Sports Editor

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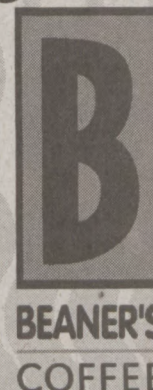
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Holding 'em and folding 'em

Grizzlies rise and fall in similar scenario

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

Some people call it déjà vu. Others may simply shrug their shoulders and say, "Oh well. That's just the way it goes." Either way, Oakland University's Golden Grizzlies were ahead by as many as 17 points in both contests against Mid-Con foe IUPUI and conference independent Chicago State this past week and on both occasions, OU watched their lead slip away to dangerously low single digits. On Thursday, OU prevailed. Saturday was a whole other story.

Let's start with Thursday's conference season opener against the Jaguars of IUPUI. With the cameras of Fox Sports Net present, the student section came alive more than it has so far this season, with booming cheers and creative signs coming from what looked like a sea of black and gold.

The first half showcased the offensive firepower of sophomore guard Erik Kangas, as he nailed five three-pointers and led all players at the half with 15 points.

The second half looked like it would be an easy one for the Golden Grizzlies. After all, they led by 11 at the half and took a 17 point lead about 13 minutes in. But then, the Jaguars found their rhythm and OU watched their lead chip away to a mere three points with 1:23 remaining in the game.

In addition, they would have to finish without senior center Shawn Hopes, who contributed nine points and nine rebounds before fouling out with 3:10 remaining.

Senior Vova Severovas banked the game-winning shot with 54 seconds to go, twisting his body around defenders to sink a difficult lay-up, making the final score 62-57. In addition, Kangas tied his career high in points, sinking 21 in the contest.

It wasn't a pretty victory, as OU actually shot a lower shooting percentage than IUPUI throughout the game (35 percent compared to the Jaguars' 48 percent), but as any athlete or fan knows, a win is a win.

"Was it an easy 'W'?" Well no, because of the way it ended," said Head Coach Greg Kampe. "We saw a lot of bad things happen down the stretch. But we hung on and won and that in itself will make us a better basketball team."

Sadly, it did not make them a better team in Saturday's match up against the Cougars of Chicago State.

The first half was almost identical to that of the IUPUI game. The Grizzlies maintained a double digits lead and Kangas continued

his reign from behind the arc, nailing four treys once again leading all first half scorers with 12 points.

Then, about 16 minutes into the second half, the Cougars applied full court pressure. The results were scary enough for a Vic Perrin voice-over, announcing that the Grizzlies had entered the "Outer Limits."

After entering the half with only four turnovers, the number more than quadrupled for Oakland in the second half, as they tallied 19 throwaways for the game and collapsed under the pressure, showing how tired the Grizzlies were from chasing CSU's speedy and athletic team.

In addition, it seemed that the Cougars were running circles around OU, diving for balls, tossing up alley-oop passes and slam dunking, all while never letting up steam. Kangas was also not a factor in the second half and he didn't score at all.

A three-pointer by junior Brandon Cassise at 8:36 would be the last time that OU would have a double digit lead. It was down to the wire after that.

With 46 seconds remaining, Hopes sank two crucial free throws and put OU ahead, 76-75. The lead was cut short when CSU's Royce Parran sailed over multiple OU defenders and sank a jump shot with 23 seconds remaining.

When Nelson nailed a lay-up off an offensive rebound with seven seconds remaining, the score was 78-77 and the floor practically shook from all of the cheering.

All OU had to do was hold on for seven seconds, and the game would have been a 'W' in their book.

But they weren't counting on Kourtney Calvin breaking through their defense to sink a lay up with three seconds to go. After two team timeouts, all OU had was a prayer as they heaved the ball down court.

But the ball was intercepted mid-air and the Cougars walked away with a 79-78 victory over Oakland.

"Not the way we wanted to end the home stand," said Kampe. "Unfortunately, we didn't handle the pressure very well. Obviously, that's an understatement. Anybody who knows or doesn't know anything can figure that out."

Despite the sour notes, there were a few bright spots in the game. Nelson and Hopes each tallied in a double-double and Hopes set a new career high for rebounds with 15 boards and tied his career high in points with 22 points.



Senior center Shawn Hopes powers over his Chicago State defender to sink another two points for the Grizzlies. While the team lost in the game's final seconds, Hopes tied his career high in points, putting 22 on the board.

Number Crunching vs. CSU			
4	25	13	24
Number of OU starters that finished the game in double figures.	Combined rebound total for Shawn Hopes and Derick Nelson.	Number of turnovers by OU in final 16 minutes.	CSU points off of Golden Grizzly turnovers.

DIANE WEISS/AP Photo/The Detroit Free Press

Steve Yzerman and his family look on as his number 19 jersey is forever immortalized in the rafters Jan. 2.



O' captain, our captain!

Hockeytown honors its favorite son

By BRIAN BLEAU
Contributing Reporter

Charles de Montesquieu said that "To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them."

For the first time in its 22-year existence, the number 19 in red and white defied this word of advice, the advice that seemingly got it there, as it was raised into the rafters of Joe Louis Arena and became a part of sports legend.

A jersey is just a jersey, a hockey player is just an athlete and a man is merely a man. But in Steve Yzerman's case, none of this seems to apply. His jersey has become an icon, one of almost holy proportions — representing loyalty, sportsmanship, perseverance and class. It represents 692 career goals, 1,063 assists, three Stanley Cups, the birth of Hockeytown and something much larger than himself.

Yzerman, who was picked fourth overall in the 1983 NHL entry draft, almost single-handedly breathed life back into the gasping franchise that was then known as the "Dead Things." He

impressed fans, coaches, and team management so much in so little time that he was named the youngest captain in the history of the Detroit Red Wings in 1986 at the age of 21. Years later, the man who would be known simply as "The Captain" became the longest serving team captain in NHL history — a record that many believe will never be broken in an age of inflated contracts, free agency, and lack of loyalty to cities, teams, and fans.

Its hard to put into words exactly what Steve Yzerman means to the City of Detroit and hockey fans not only here, but around the world. In 2002, the Detroit Red Wings were making a run at their third Stanley Cup championship in six years; Yzerman, who would later have reconstructive surgery on his battered knee after the season, added yet another defining moment to his already unbelievable career.

It was almost painful to watch our captain play in these playoffs. His knee was so banged up that when he fell to the ice, he had to use his stick as a crutch to get

back up; often, the play had already started back up-ice by the time he made it to his feet. In remarkable fashion, Yzerman played through the pain — he showed teammates, coaches, and fans the definition of a warrior. Yzerman, essentially on one leg, treated fans to a show that not even Hollywood's most brilliant mind could script. Finishing as the second leading scorer in the playoffs, Yzerman and his Red Wings were champions once again.

Last week, after a ceremony filled with laughter, tears, and joy, Yzerman along with his wife and three daughters, stood at the blue line and watched his jersey number elevate into the rafters of one of the most storied arenas in hockey, and into NHL history. Red Wing greats Alex Delvecchio, Ted Lindsay and Gordie Howe watched in approval as Yzerman symbolically took his spot next to them high above the frozen stage that made them icons.

Steve Yzerman; Born: Cranbrook, British Columbia, 1965. Adopted: Detroit, MI, 1983. Immortalized: Hockeytown, 2007.

Post Panel Picks

NFL Division Playoff Edition



	Samantha Franz Sports Editor	Rob Tate Senior Reporter	Paul Gully Assitant News Editor	Kyle Magin Special Projects	Brad Doescher WXOU Sports
Colts at Ravens	COLTS "Come on, it's Peyton! Plus, their D has improved as of late."	COLTS "Peyton Manning has just enough to beat Baltimore defense."	COLTS "I'm torn here, but in Peyton I trust."	COLTS "Indy's defense will show up. Again."	RAVENS "The Raven D will cancel out Colts' offense. Plus, they can run the ball."
Eagles at Saints	EAGLES "Garcia has stepped up and they are currently riding a six-game win streak."	SAINTS "Saints won 27-24 vs. Philly in Week 6. History will repeat."	SAINTS "N.O. has too many weapons for Philly to deal with."	SAINTS "Mix of run and pass game will keep Philly guessing."	EAGLES "Saints are too young of a team and the Eagles are the hottest team in the NFL right now."
Seahawks at Bears	BEARS "Chi-town's defense may be too much to handle for Seattle."	BEARS "Chicago defense will shut down Seattle."	SEAHAWKS "The Hawks have the experience and I still don't trust Grossman."	BEARS "Opportunistic Bears D will compensate a poor Grossman performance."	BEARS "They will win on their defense and will feed off the home crowd."
Patriots at Chargers	PATRIOTS "Brady and co. have three rings in five years, which speaks volumes."	CHARGERS "LT averages 14 yards per game and had five career TD's vs. the Pats."	CHARGERS "Great match up. NFL's most complete team should prevail."	CHARGERS "Brady will have to deal with the business end of Shawn Merimon."	PATRIOTS "If the experienced Pats stop LT, they won't have a problem."

Check out our conference picks next week!