

THE OAKLAND POST

JANUARY

28

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER — 2015 —

KEYING IN

After a rocky start, the men are stealing back the season **PAGE 19**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FREEDOM.

Celebrating Black History

PAGE 9

SPACE.

The OC's growing pains

PAGE 10

INK.

Tatted and proud

PAGE 12

thisweek

January 28, 2015 // Volume 40. Issue 49



ontheweb

We're hosting a competition! We've taken pictures of each Resident Assistant's decorative board on the different floors of the dorm buildings. View and vote for your favorite this week by liking them at www.facebook.com/theoakpost.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SHIP SHAPE // During a break in Saturday's swim meet against Michigan State University, student organizations designed and raced cardboard boats across the pool at the aquatic center. Abby Godwin, right, of the Student Programming Board paddled her org to victory and boxy bragging rights.

Photo by Nowshin Chowdhury/ The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

Did you get a flu shot this year?

- A** Yes! Shots, shots, shots, everybody!
- B** Nope. Vaccines are the enemy.
- C** I just didn't have time.
- D** I'm planning on it. Better late than never!

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Do you use wearable technology?

- A)** Heck yeah! Inspector Gadget is my hero.
20%
- B)** I've thought about it — maybe when the prices go down.
20%
- C)** What am I? A robot? No thanks.
20%
- D)** I already have a smartphone; what's the point?
40%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

January 21, 2009

"Nazism as a Political Religion," presented by Professor Derek Hastings, was the first installment in the "History Comes Alive" lecture series from the OU history department.

January 25, 2006

OU student journalists met with Detroit Tigers players at the Roostertail for the Detroit Tigers Student Media Luncheon, part of the team's 2006 Winter Caravan.

January 28, 2004

OUSC heard a proposal from OU seniors Erin McCarthy and Tom Hopkins on how to save Meadow Brook Hall. The proposal revolved around students paying \$20 per semester, adding onto the students' biannual semester bill.

-Compiled by Morgan Dean, copy editor



7

HOMEWARD BOUND

It wasn't an easy journey, but after eight years of searching, OU alum Viorica Culia will reconnect with her Romanian roots.



14

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

OU student musicians in Carved Out are prepped and ready to make their mark on the local scene.



18

WATER WORKS

Golden Grizzly senior swimmers recieved a special send-off at home as they squared off against the Michigan State Spartans Saturday.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tattoo edition

>20,000

tattoo parlors are in the U.S. with a new establishment opening every day

36%

military veterans and those currently serving have tattoos, double the number for those who haven't served

\$1.65 bil

spent on tattoos in America annually

40%

people ages 26-40 have at least one tattoo, according to a 2006 survey

3,000

times per minute: the rate at which a tattoo machine can pierce the skin

Come snow or more snow

By Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

It's winter in Michigan. The snow starts falling, the roads get slippery, and the Facebook posts start coming. "Will school be closed?" "Hoping it's a snow day!"

Students wait for the announcement and it never comes. The comments grow angrier.

"OU should be ashamed of itself."

"The administration doesn't care about our safety. Does it ever even consider closing? What's wrong with this school?"

Students may think otherwise, but the lack of school closings is not meant to incite rage. The matter is also considered more deeply than students think, and there is a process to it.

When bad weather strikes, the president's council comes together to deliberate on the matter. The responsibility rests on the vice president for finance and administration, the president and the senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Decisions on the closing policy also involve the Oakland University Police Department, according to David Groves, director of campus communications.

While not everyone thinks so, these administrators weigh countless variables and examine each snowy situation on a case-by-case basis, according to Groves. There are a few things they con-

sider at minimum:

- They look at how easily snow can be removed before the start of the day for safe campus travel.
- They find out how much more snow will be experienced during the day.
- They inspect the conditions of roadways and major highways leading to and around OU's campus.

"The bottom line comes down to two basic priorities — to protect the safety and health of the campus community, and to ensure that the University maintains normal operations at all times possible," Groves wrote via email.

We at the Oakland Post commend OU for placing a priority on the right to education and instruction.

We appreciate this council for taking each case into consideration and carefully deliberating about whether to keep school open, even when its decision is usually the same. We appreciate it for closing when absolutely necessary, but for staying open as long as conditions allow.

There are many students who blast the university when it stays open, questioning the administration and whether it cares.

We discourage this unbridled anger towards the university for doing what it believes is right.

Students aren't the only ones who commute to school. When the members of the administration

ask students to brave the weather, those members must brave it as well.

The university does care about students' safety, and it considers what students will have to face to attend school. It also cares about their rights to a quality education, however, and we applaud this.

If you really feel unsafe, you can make the choice to stay at home. You can communicate with your professors and find a way to make up the work. Getting your money's worth out of college does not fall on physically being in a classroom at all times — there is much more to it than that.

When OU stays open during those snowy and icy days, it's giving you a choice: the choice to brave the weather and get an education, or the choice to stay home and make up another day.

When the school closes, it's taking away that choice. Maybe you will feel safer, maybe you won't. But you won't have a say in the matter and there will be no school to go to.

Some of you only meet around 15 times a semester, when every class counts. Some of you don't mind braving the weather to see their instructors. Some of you have all of your classes in the same days and would rather make the slow, cautious drive.

Many of you want to stay home, and that's fine. That's your choice.

For all this money you're spending on your education and the college experience, wouldn't you rather have that choice?



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Corrections Corner

Last week we decided to test our readers by goofing up the preview descriptions in the Table of Contents. At least, we wish it was a test — we accidentally re-printed the descriptions from Jan. 14's issue. Oops!

Student Body President Annie Meinberg's name was spelt wrong on page 8 of last week's issue. It is Meinberg, not Meinburg. Mein-bad, Annie.

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

Letters to the Editor

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.

Perspectives

Leaving Oakland University may be harder than it looks

Graduate climbed mountains, learned life-long lessons during time on campus

Robbie Williford
Class of 2014 Alum

When I graduated from Oakland University in April of 2014, I knew that I could look back without regrets.

I met some of the greatest people on this planet, I was involved in some of the greatest organizations and departments and I was able to make my own impact through those involvements.



Robbie Williford
Oakland University
Class of 2014

It felt like I just reached the top of a mountain with a smile on my face.

But, like most other experiences that involve change, I moved away to attend graduate school and inevitably felt like I was

starting at the bottom of that mountain again.

Don't get me wrong, the change was necessary.

In order for me to grow in the ways that I wanted to, I had to get as far away from my comfort zone as I could.

In order for me to become a better version of myself, I needed to leave everything and everyone I've ever known and start creating a new path for myself.

There's something about being in a different state and surrounded by completely different people that brings out more opportunities for you to learn more about yourself.

It's like re-learning what it means to live in your own skin, but being somewhere new.

One thing is for certain: I needed to leave Oakland so that I could learn to fully appreciate what this institution has done for me in the last five years.

For starters, I've been able to appreciate how much Oakland has taught me how to interact with people who are not like me.

In my time at OU, I was taught how to celebrate the differences among those who I was surrounded by—differences

"Realizing the parts of me that are heavily influenced by Oakland University doesn't mean I'm starting over on this journey...It means that I'm never going to have to take this journey alone. I'll always be able to carry each moment that I have spent with the OU community with me wherever I go."

Robbie Williford
Oakland University Class of 2014

in opinion, differences in how we look at life, differences in beliefs and so on.

This has proven to be vital to my success as I aspire to work long-term in student affairs.

Secondly, I realized after leaving home that I was taught the value of the voice of the student by some of Oakland's greatest staff, faculty and administrators.

People like Jean Ann Miller from the CSA, Jim Zentmeyer from Housing and Professor Kathy Pfeiffer from the English Department led me to discover my own voice. And, to use it to foster moments of impact among my peers and the campus community no matter where I go.

Third: more than anything, my time at Oakland taught me the importance of human connection.

It taught me that people matter, that what you do for others is important.

There really is no amount of money that I would trade any of my true friends for.

Realizing the parts of me that are heavily influenced by Oakland University doesn't mean I'm starting over on this journey up a mountain.

It means that I'm never going to have to take this journey alone.

I'll always be able to carry each moment that I have spent in the OU community with me wherever I go.

For now, that means back up a mountain and on to the next chapter of my life.

I say without hesitation that I would not be the person that I am today without the experiences that I've had at Oakland University. The same goes for you — you just don't know it yet.



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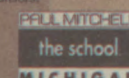
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Freedom of speech does matter

Student Statesman: Americans should be grateful for the privileges they have

Nick Walter
Junior, political science

Who cares about Argentinean politics? Anyone? I would be surprised if there was even one student here at OU who gives a snap of their fingers about the subject. Good grief, I can hardly get you all to care about American politics, let alone Argentinean.



Nick Walter,
Student Statesman

Sarcasm aside, recent development have given us all reason to pay very close attention to what is happening in that narrow spot of land

stretching from the Amazon to Tierra del Fuego. Here's the story:

For the past 10 years, according to the New York Times, a prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, has been investigating the president of Argentina, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, about the mysterious circumstances surrounding a 1994 terror attack. The investigation is centered on whether or not Kirchner and her government had "conspired with Iran to cover up responsibility for the bombing as part of a deal that would supply Iranian oil to Argentina." (Before reading any further, such activities are not unknown in scandal- and corruption-ridden South America. And you thought our government was bad.)

Nisman is dead. He was found

shot through the head in his apartment a couple of weeks ago, a pistol lying next to him. There was no suicide note, although Kirchner's government quickly called suicide. The government has since shifted its position, as Nisman was shot point-blank through the forehead (not to mention the suspicious timing) practically ruling out suicide.

Those are the facts. Um... so what? It's a tragedy, of course, but how does it affect us?

In the U.S., such actions would be met with absolute outrage, riots even. A journalist dies right before releasing a damaging story on the government? Unbelievable.

And yet, you ask, why should we care? It's Argentina. Here in America, journalists are free to write as they please, even on highly controversial topics. So why should we be disturbed by Nisman's death?

Here's why: because free speech matters. Because the

ability to sit down and write a column such as this or speak out for your beliefs is not to be lightly taken for granted. Because we in America are among a privileged, envied few in the world who still have this right.

We have a hard time envisioning this idea because we have never lived through true, crushing oppression of our right to free speech.

We must realize that the tragedy in Argentina is merely the next-to-final step in a road that many countries have traveled: the road that starts at gentle disagreement, continues through overt favoritism, heads towards stern censorship, and culminates in brutal crackdown.

There are already subtle indicators that show us that we are heading down this road.

Professors in universities across America are fired for preventing valid alternate viewpoints to the established scientific order. Lawmakers are

ostracized for not toeing the party line. Public figures are denounced and their characters ruined for merely voicing their opinion on divisive social topics.

It's hard to see how this backlash is just the first step down a well-traveled path. (Partly because we think we're better than history; bad stuff can't happen to us, we're America!)

The consequences are real, though. This hate-filled, foaming-at-the-mouth fury that another would dare to have an opposing opinion will lead to outright banishment, which will lead to government favoritism of certain ideas, which will lead to punishment and jail time for dissenters, which will lead to an American version of Alberto Nisman dead in his apartment.

Let us pay attention to the warning of Argentina and not travel down that road.

Contact the writer at nwalter@oakland.edu.

5 The Top Five Reasons to Become an OU Credit Union Member

Stay tuned for reason 5.

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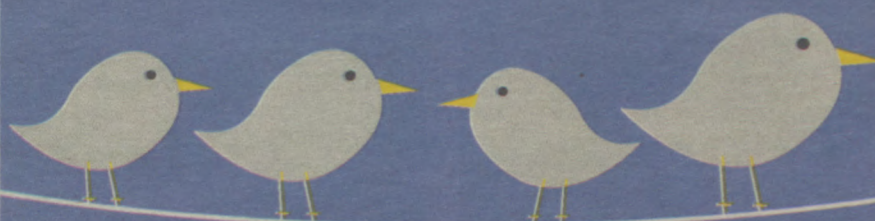


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Campus Grizzlies on the Prowl



*"Have you ever
been to an OU
sporting event?"*



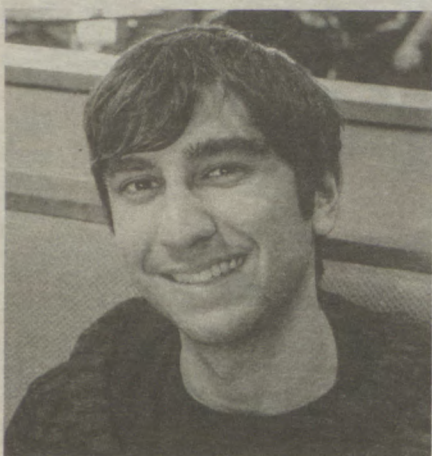
**Anna Abraham, freshman,
nursing**

*"No. I've been busy. If I had
time, I would go to the basketball
games."*



**Kara Syakovich, junior,
exercise science**

*"Yes, a basketball game this year
for the first time. I sat with the
student section."*



**Kevin Roumayah, senior,
chemistry**

*"I went to one basketball game
last season because my friend
was in the pep band, and the
men's soccer championship
game this year. I usually have a
class during the games."*



**Mark Wright, senior,
biology**

*"I went to a basketball game
three years ago and a women's
soccer game during Welcome
Week last year. I usually don't
have time between classes and
work."*

— Compiled by Photographer Nowshin Chowdhury

POLICE FILES

Two marijuana use citations issued in North Hamlin Hall

OUPD responded to a report of a marijuana odor in North Hamlin Hall Jan. 22 around 8:00 p.m. Upon arriving, officers were informed by the complainant of a strong marijuana odor being emitted from two persons he had come in contact with. He also said that they appeared to have red, watery eyes.

The officers then asked the persons if they could speak with them about it, and they consented. The officer asked if they had smoked marijuana, to which they both admitted that they had.

The officer then asked them if they had any marijuana on them. One of them admitted to having a grinder and a small plastic bag with marijuana inside, which they turned over to police. Both of them were issued citations for marijuana use.

Student assaulted in Vandenburg Hall, taken to Crittenton Hospital

Police received a call Jan. 22 at 4:00 a.m. from Crittenton Hospital that a student had been admitted with head injuries who had been assaulted in Vandenburg Hall.

When the officer arrived, he was met with a person who said she didn't know what had happened to the victim, but when the victim complained of "head pain" she decided to drive her to the ER.

When the officer was able to speak to the victim, she told him that she had a disagreement with her boyfriend, and that he had physically harmed her. She told the officer that they had been in arguments in the past but that they had never led to violent confrontations before.

She told the officer that the man had come to visit her at about 3:00 a.m. She said that once she and the man were in the elevator, he grabbed her around the neck with both hands and pushed her against the wall. She explained that he then struck her head against the wall two or three times, and that he didn't speak during the assault.

She said that she thought he was done assaulting her, so she walked with him to her room and let him in. Once inside, he pushed her down from behind, causing her to fall. Once she was on the ground, he punched her three or four times in the back of the head, and several times in the stomach.

She said that the man then attempted to take her purse off of the bed. The victim then tried to get her purse back by striking the man in the face with her hand full of keys. The man then punched her several more times in the head, causing her to fall to the floor again. The man left the room and the victim requested a ride to the Emergency Room.

The victim was still being evaluated by doctors when the officers left the hospital. Officers were unable to find out any information about the man. They found that he had signed in as a guest with a different name than the victim had provided.

— Compiled by Josh Soltman
Chief Copy Editor



Katherine Cagle / The Oakland Post

Viorica Culea, a former OU student, used the power of social media to find and reconnect with her family from Braila, Romania.

Finding family in the Internet age

Selah Fischer
Staff Reporter

Born in Braila, Romania and brought to America when she was only 15 months old, former OU student, Viorica Culea, has traveled thousands of miles in search of her birth family.

It has been a long journey filled with joy and heartache, but Culea never gave up. She spent seven years on an emotional roller coaster - searching.

"If anyone says you can't do something, prove them wrong and don't ever give up," Culea said.

Culea had a great childhood, and it wasn't until she grew older that she started asking questions about where she came from and her birth family.

Culea was adopted by an American couple when she was young. They always encouraged her to take pride in being Romanian - until she grew older. Then, things took a turn for the worse.

They started poking fun at Culea's culture and threatened to send her back to the orphanage in Romania. They also told her lies about her birth family when she started asking questions about where she came from.

Culea now has no contact with her adoptive family and feels it is better this way.

Although she doesn't have them as a support system anymore, Culea's friends have been supportive every step of the way.

"Having no support from her adop-

tive family, she still jumped into searching," said Loredana Yenick, a close friend of Viorica's. "She is smart and brave and never gave up."

Culea was determined to find out the truth for herself. She started searching for her family back in 2008.

She created a Facebook page titled "Adopted from Romania," as well as a Facebook group called "United Adoptees of Romania." The pages were such a hit that within days, her family was found. She received friend requests from her uncle, aunt and cousin.

"Facebook is your friend and Google translate is a great thing," Culea said.

Although some of her family was found and reached out, she was told that her birth mother didn't want to know her.

After dreaming about her mother her entire life, Culea was devastated, but again, she didn't give up.

Culea was later contacted by Romanian media and flown out to Romania to be in a documentary and on a talk show. She had never been more excited. It was planned that Culea would meet her grandfather for the first time.

"I can't imagine how hard it would be for a young person who doesn't speak the language or know the customs of Romania to just go there and face the truth, or what she believed to be the truth," Yenick said. "The journey took her to hell and back, but she was so desperate to find her roots and was hurt many times."

After flying out to her hometown,

it turned out her grandfather wasn't what she expected. She found out he was the reason she was given up for adoption. He had forced her mother to sign the papers.

He also made her mother believe she was dead.

The media had also created unnecessary drama and made Culea believe two different men were her father while neither actually was.

"At first I was happy with the media because they paid for my trip, but it turned out horrible," she said. "Once I got there I thought to myself, 'What did I get myself into?'"

After so many family members had turned on her and weren't what she expected, Culea finally received the news she was waiting for. Her birth mom had decided she wanted to meet her.

Dealing with devastating news and searching in circles for her Romanian family was a long and tiring process, but in the end it was worth it.

Culea now talks to her mother all the time and can't wait to meet her. They plan to meet for the first time this June.

"I'm nervous, excited and happy," Culea said. "My mom says we are basically not going to sleep when I'm there. We're going to go fishing and camping and celebrate my 21st birthday."

Her journey isn't over yet, but in the end she will get what she wanted most - her family.

Calling the shots — flu shots, that is

Kevin Teller
Staff Reporter

Flu season is in full effect. The Graham Health Center (GHC) has diagnosed six cases of the flu this semester.

Even with the medical advancements of today, the flu can still be deadly. There have been 26 cases of flu-related death in the United States this flu season; the most recent of which was in Michigan last week.

In light of these numbers, questions were raised on why this year's flu is so different and dangerous.

"The H3N2 is in that flu vaccine, but the strain has made a little bit of what they call a 'drift,'" GHC Director Nancy Jansen said.

According to Jansen, the shifting of flu strains is perfectly natural. This stopped the Influenza Pandemic of 1918.

One of the families that has been greatly affected by the flu in recent years is the Yaksich family, who, in 2003, lost 5-year-old Alana to the flu. Since then, they have worked to raise awareness about the nature of the flu and promoting vaccination, particularly at OU.

Alana's Foundation, the Yaksich family-run organization, was the force behind the Flu Vaccination Challenge that began last fall. OU came in third place in this competition, vaccinating over 12,000 people. That's more than 2,000 additional vaccinations when compared to last year's total, and the season isn't even finished yet.

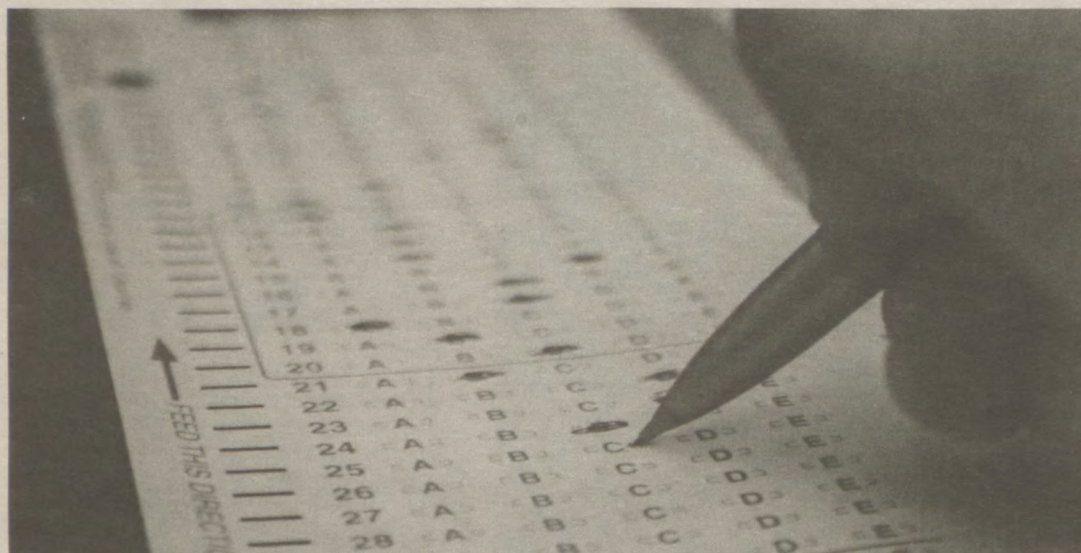
"It was fun. We vaccinated double the amount of people [as last year], and it gave us as staff some energy," Jansen said.

Each season, when cases of the flu are recorded, a sample of the strain is taken and sent to the CDC. The GHC is one of the many sentinel health centers around the state that collects and reports this data.

Third year student Sydni Golfin received the flu vaccine this season because she was required to do so by the hospital that she works for.

"I usually get the flu every winter, but I haven't this year," Golfin said.

OU has statistically peaked for this flu season, according to the GHC, but Jansen said that they are still urging everyone to get vaccinated.



Danielle Cojocari/The Oakland Post

Education students are having a hard time passing the state's new Professional Readiness Examination.

PRE presents problems

Perspective: education student shares frustration with new test

By Alicia Pemberton
Junior education major

The Professional Readiness Examination (PRE) is a test that most education students, including myself, are stressing over.

I feel like I am a capable student and will one day be a capable teacher, but I have taken this test multiple times and am waiting to get my results yet again.

I am not the only one.

There are many paths to help prepare for these tests: seminars, personal meetings with faculty, and an outline study guide. With each additional path, however, there is an additional cost, and nothing has helped me pass so far. I am funnelling money into what seems like a hopeless, endless loop of tests.

Oakland University has offered seminars to help better prepare for this impossible test. The very first seminar, held in spring of last year, was free for any education student. Now, however, there is a fee for each testing session (there are three sessions for this test).

The Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) website provides a small version of a study guide as well as the objectives for the test. There is also a study guide that you can purchase from the website, but the study guide material is more ba-

sic than the actual testing material.

Each paper-based test costs \$50, late fees are \$80 dollars, and the price just goes up from there.

Due to such a small passing rate on the PRE, there are now two ways that can help students like me "pass" this test. The first is your ACT score; if it's high enough in a subject, it will make you exempt in that subject. The second is if two sections of the test are passed. If that's the case, the score on the third is dropped to a lower exceptional score.

The school does not seem to understand why students cannot pass this test in the first place.

I think I can.

First of all, the time crunch makes things very difficult. Four and a half hours may seem a reasonable enough amount of time to take the three sections of the test. However, when you account for the reading passages, the many math problems, the writing questions that involve a fair amount of reading, and the two writing passages, there is just not enough time to really focus on the test closely.

Second, the way the test is scored seems too complicated. The last time I took the PRE I scored a 210 in the writing with a 220 needed to pass. Four stars means that most of the ques-

tions in that category were answered correctly. I received mostly three and four stars. So how did I not pass?

Educators that are already working in their field say they understand that the test is hard. They say they have not heard good things about it. They can't relate, however, to something they themselves have not taken.

It seems that the state of Michigan is trying to test future educators to the max in order to have better test scores show up later on in the classroom. There are many other qualities, however, that a person can have to be a great, successful teacher. A good test-taker does not always make a good educator.

This month Bridge Magazine published an article on Michigan's pass-fail rates of the PRE exam, a test all education students must pass to continue in their programs. The PRE is a new test, and the results are shockingly lower than those from the previous Basic Skills test.

The report shares data compiled by the state board of education and features comments from OU's associate dean of the School of Education and Human Services and the chair of the Department of Teacher Development and Education studies.

Find a link to the full story at oaklandpostonline.com.

Getting your foot in the door

Career fair prep sessions teach students tips and tricks for dressing for success

Sean Gardner
Web Editor

Successfully navigating a career fair and an interview is a key step to getting your foot in the door and starting your future.

At Oakland University, the Career Services department will give you the tips to do so, in their prep sessions.

It may seem obvious, but many students wonder how they can benefit from a career fair—especially if they are nowhere near graduating.

Even if you are not in the job market, there is never a bad time to network and get your name around. If nothing else, it is a chance to practice speaking to professionals.

To get ready for a fair: update your resume, research the companies attending and have professional attire ready to wear.

Researching

Researching a company is more than just seeing they have an open position. It is about setting yourself apart and showing that you care.

Look up interesting facts, past work, charitable events and keep up with their current news.

"Showing that you value them, makes them value you," said Megan Tack, OU Career Ambassador.

Impress the Recruiter

Most companies want you to apply online, according to the career ambassadors.

They also advise to apply for positions before the career fair. That way you can talk to the recruiter in more detail and put a face to your resume.

It is also important to work on an elevator pitch—a quick and simple summary of who you are and what makes you different and sets you apart.

According to entrepreneur.com, "You typically have just 60 seconds to leave an exciting, impactful and meaningful impression."

Creating an impressive elevator pitch in those 60 seconds is what can make or break an opportunity.

How to dress

For men, wearing a neutral shirt and tie will go a long way. It is important to be well groomed — trim your beard and comb your hair.

Dark dress shoes are preferred, and your belt and shoes must match.

"Please, don't wear white socks with dress shoes," Tack said.

For women, wear a pant suit or a proper length skirt. Clothing should be neutral and paired with conservative shoes. Keep jewelry and makeup to a minimum — it's about looking professional, not enticing.

At the fair

"You need to have your ID," Tack said.

After registering, each person will receive a map.

On the map is each company, where it is located, and what kind of position or positions it is looking for.

It is recommended to bring at least 10 resumes, and to keep your options open. There might be a company that catches your eye that you didn't plan on seeing originally.

Go in with a purpose and show off your research. It is all about getting your name out there and separating yourself from the pack.

As Jackie Duc, Career Ambassador puts it: "Network, network, network."

For information on upcoming events, visit oakland.edu/careerservices.

What does 'freedom' mean to you?

Students learn about culture, take a 'Walk Through History'

Erica Marracco
Staff Reporter

Last Thursday the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) hosted "Walk Through History," the third event held at OU this year as part of African American History Month.

The event took place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and was held in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center (OC).

Participants were educated on information about important people and events in history.

"It can be very beneficial for students to attend because this is an event filled with educational interaction to broaden perspectives," said Erin Ward, Oakland University Student Congress' director of multicultural affairs.

Some of the things students learned about were the first African American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African American President Barack Obama, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Freedom Rides and the March on Washington.

"We're revitalizing the African American celebration month to highlight students' talents and give them an opportunity to display their work," said CMI Retention Coordinator Denise Jones.

There were craft activities such as coloring pictures of influential icons and making Valentine's Day cards for the Detroit Children's Hospital.

Participants created a paper chain of personal phrases that represented what "freedom" or "friendship" meant to the them.

"I enjoyed the chain-linking activity the most because



"I enjoyed the chain-linking activity the most because I wonder every day what freedom means to me and so it means a lot that this question came up."

Imani Smith,
Journalism major

I wonder every day what freedom means to me and so it means a lot that this question came up," said second-year journalism student Imani Smith.

When a participant visited four out of the seven tables, he



or she was put into a raffle for Grizzly gear — a sweatshirt, Camelback water bottle, a tote bag and a few other goodies.

African American History Month at OU takes place Jan. 19 through Feb. 19. All events are free and open to the public.

To view the calendar of events go to www.oakland.edu/cmi/aacm.

Contact staff reporter Erica Marracco via email at emmarrac@oakland.edu.

TOP Students were asked to write their definitions of "freedom" and "friendship" on brightly colored strips of paper.

BOTTOM Guests created Valentine's Day cards for kids at the Detroit Children's Hospital.

Danielle Colicari/The Oakland Post

GROWING

STORY BY CHEYANNE KRAMER // DESIGN BY KELL

CRAMPED QUARTERS

When a student visits the Oakland Center (OC) during a weekday, available seats are difficult to come by. To seat the growing OU population, a much-needed expansion is pending approval.

"The food court opened in 1996. Today, it is critically undersized. The food concept area is too small for the student population we currently serve," Richard Fekel, Director of the OC, said. "As a result, the OC is a congested dining experience and is sub-par due to a lack of space and ease of service."

"This is a realistic plan. The renders of the new OC are made, but right now, the plans are dependent on money," Miller said.



If the plan goes through, the OC will be expanded outwards and upwards.

PLANS TO EXPAND

According to Miller, the unused areas around the OC would be added to the building, and the banquet rooms upstairs would grow out with the expanding lower floor. She said that if the banquet rooms were to be expanded, the seating capacity would go from 600 to 1000 individuals.

Issues within the OC stem farther than a lack of seating. According to Miller, the conference rooms are always booked no matter the day because there are so few rooms and so many organizations in need of space.

"We always give student-run organizations a priority when booking the rooms, but they still fill up rather quickly. Most of the time, the rooms are booked an entire semester in advance," Miller said.



A COMMON GROUND

Another issue, according to Miller, is the Oakland Center. The pending plan incorporates new centers, including an expanded game room.

"As students seek on-campus amenities and a better experience, the OC needs to foster an environment," Fekel said.

Along with entertainment purposes, academic study lounges are a possibility.



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	SM	MED	LG	X-LG
CHEESE (100% Mozzarella).....	\$5	\$7	\$9	\$11
ADD A TOPPING.....	99¢	\$1.29	\$1.59	\$1.89

Large Square Deep Dish \$1 More

PIZZA TOPPINGS: Pepperoni, Mushrooms, Italian Sausage, Ham, Ground Beef, Bacon, Green Peppers, Red Onions, Black Olives, Pineapple, Mild Peppers, Fresh Tomatoes, Extra Cheese, Cheddar Cheese, Feta Cheese, Parmesan Cheese, 3-Cheese, Anchovies, Jalapenos

SPECIALTY PIZZAS

	SM	MED	LG	X-LG
ASIAN CHICKEN	\$8	\$11	\$15	\$18
Tangy Asian Sauce, Grilled Chicken Breast, Red Onions, Green Peppers, Sesame Seeds & Mozzarella Cheese				
BBQ CHICKEN	\$8	\$11	\$15	\$18
Sweet BBQ Sauce, Grilled Chicken Breast, Bacon, Red Onions & Mozzarella Cheese				
BUFFALO CHICKEN	\$7	\$10	\$13	\$16
Spicy Buffalo Sauce, Grilled Chicken Breast, Red Onions, Cheddar & Mozzarella Cheese				
PHILLY STEAK	\$11	\$13	\$16	\$19
Special Cheese Sauce, Marinated Steak, Green Peppers, Mushrooms & Red Onions, Covered with Provolone Cheese				
MEAT EATERS PLUS	\$11	\$13	\$16	\$19
Pepperoni, Ham, Ground Beef, Sausage, Bacon & Extra Cheese				
HUNGRY HOWIE'S WORKS	\$11	\$13	\$16	\$19
Extra Cheese, Pepperoni, Ham, Italian Sausage, Ground Beef, Mushrooms, Green Peppers, Red Onions & Black Olives				
MEAT EATERS	\$9	\$11	\$14	\$17
Ground Beef, Ham, Pepperoni & Sausage				
VEGGIE	\$9	\$11	\$14	\$17
Red Onions, Tomato, Green Peppers, Mushrooms & Black Olives				
HOWIE SPECIAL	\$9	\$11	\$14	\$17
Ham, Pepperoni, Green Peppers, Mushrooms & Red Onions				
HOWIE MAUI	\$8	\$10	\$13	\$16
Bacon, Ham & Pineapple				
BACON CHEDDAR CHEESEBURGER	\$8	\$10	\$13	\$16
Bacon, Cheddar & Ground Beef				
HUNGRY HOWIE'S JUNIOR SINGLE 8" INDIVIDUAL CHEESE PIZZA	\$3			

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3-CHEESER HOWIE BREAD	\$4.99
A Generous Portion of Hot Buttered Garlic Bread topped with Parmesan, Mozzarella & Cheddar Cheeses Served with Zesty Sauce for Dipping	
CINNAMON BREAD	\$3.99
CAJUN BREAD	\$3.99

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Cheese, Pizza Sauce & your 3 favorite Toppings		
DELUXE ITALIAN SUB	\$4.99	\$6.99
Ham, Salami, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato & Italian Dressing on the side		
STEAK, CHEESE & MUSHROOMS	\$4.99	\$6.99
Steak, melted cheese, Mushrooms, Lettuce, Tomato, & Italian Dressing on the side		
HAM & CHEESE	\$4.99	\$6.99
Ham, melted Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, & Italian Dressing on the side		
TURKEY SUB	\$4.99	\$6.99
Turkey Breast, melted Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, & Mayonnaise on the side		
TURKEY CLUB SUB	\$4.99	\$6.99
Turkey Breast, Ham, Bacon, melted Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, & Mayonnaise on the side		
VEGETARIAN SUB	\$4.99	\$6.99
Double cheese, Mushrooms, Red Onions, Green Pepper, Black Olives, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomatoes		

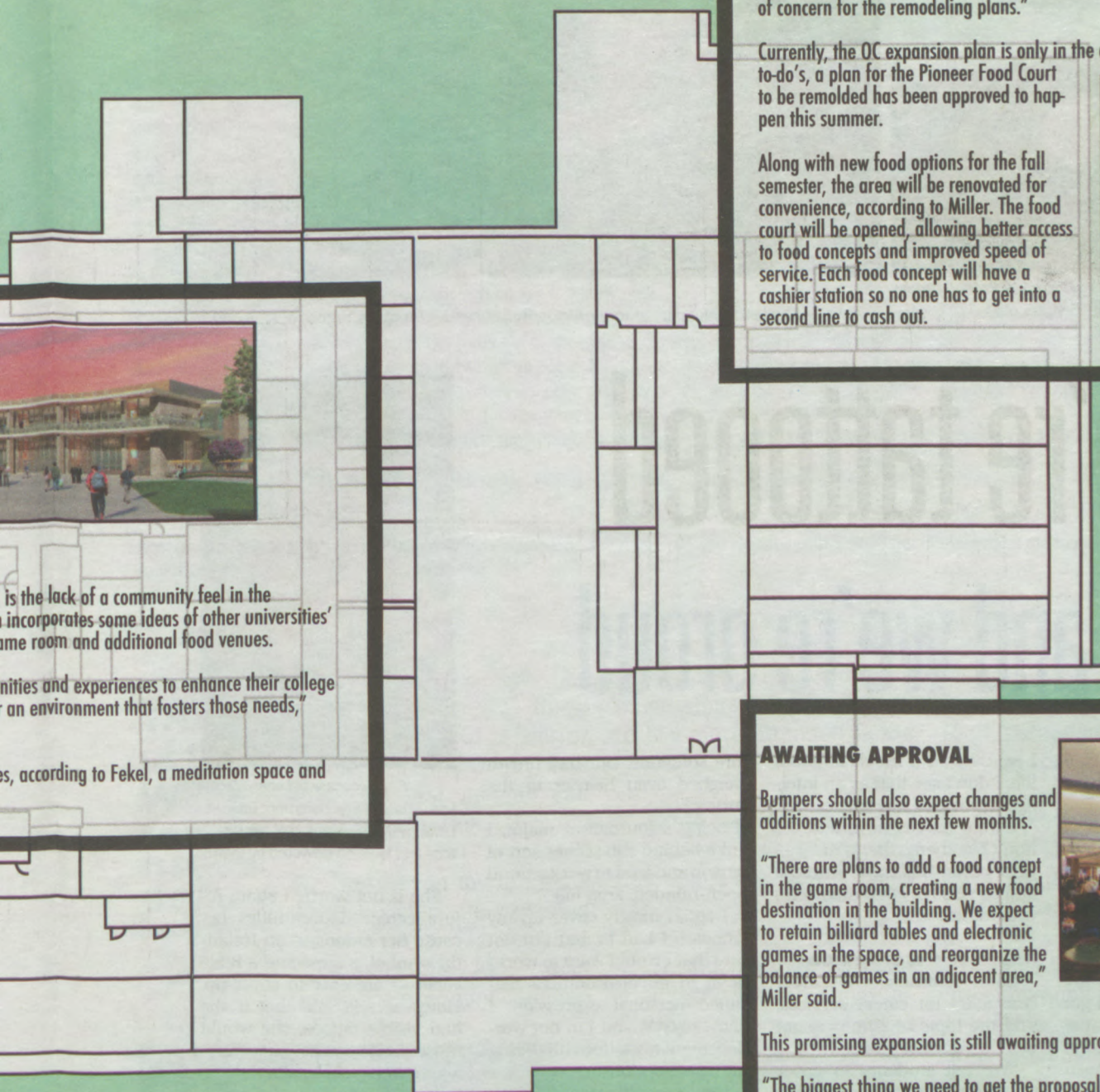
FRESH SALADS

	SM	LG
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Grilled Chicken Breast, Asiago Cheese, Over Fresh Romaine Mix, With Side Of Caesar Dressing & Croutons		
CHICKEN ASIAGO	\$5.99	\$7.99
Grilled Chicken Breast, Asiago Cheese, Tomatoes, Red Onions, Black Olives, Over Fresh Romaine Mix & Side Of Dressing Choice		
GARDEN	\$4.99	\$6.99
Tomatoes, Red Onions, Green Peppers, Black Olives, Over Fresh Romaine Mix With A Side Of Dressing Choice And Croutons		
ANTIPASTO SALAD	\$5.99	\$7.99
Fresh Crisp Lettuce, Ham, Salami, Cheese, Peppers, Tomatoes, Black Olives & Red Onions		
GREEK SALAD	\$5.99	\$7.99
Fresh Crisp Lettuce, Feta Cheese, Tomatoes, Red Onions, Black Olives & Peppers		
CHEF SALAD	\$5.99	\$7.99
Fresh Crisp Lettuce, Tomatoes, Red Onions, Topped With Ham, Mozzarella Cheese & Black Olives		
DRESSINGS Ranch, Italian, Greek, Caesar		

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PAINS

ELLY LARA //PHOTOS BY ERIKA BARKER



is the lack of a community feel in the
incorporates some ideas of other universities'
game room and additional food venues.

unities and experiences to enhance their college
an environment that fosters those needs,"

es, according to Fekel, a meditation space and

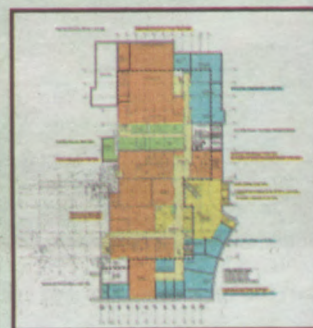
CONCEPTUAL COMPLICATIONS

However, there are some possible problems with the OC being remolded.

"If it's totally redone, there's a chance the OC would have to close during construction. Ohio State did a similar remodeling, and had to relocate all of it's contents into other buildings during construction," Miller said. "So that is a point of concern for the remodeling plans."

Currently, the OC expansion plan is only in the conceptual stages. On the list of to-do's, a plan for the Pioneer Food Court to be remolded has been approved to happen this summer.

Along with new food options for the fall semester, the area will be renovated for convenience, according to Miller. The food court will be opened, allowing better access to food concepts and improved speed of service. Each food concept will have a cashier station so no one has to get into a second line to cash out.



AWAITING APPROVAL

Bumpers should also expect changes and additions within the next few months.

"There are plans to add a food concept in the game room, creating a new food destination in the building. We expect to retain billiard tables and electronic games in the space, and reorganize the balance of games in an adjacent area," Miller said.

This promising expansion is still awaiting approval.

"The biggest thing we need to get the proposal passed is student support," Miller said. "Everything is based on budget, and since it's not an academic building project for the university, it can't get federal funding."

Students who wish to help aid the OC expansion are encouraged by Miller to attend OUSC meetings and bring up the idea to gather more student support.





Photo courtesy of Allisondra Gutschow

Allisondra Gutschow got her first tattoo in Las Vegas when she was just 16 years old.

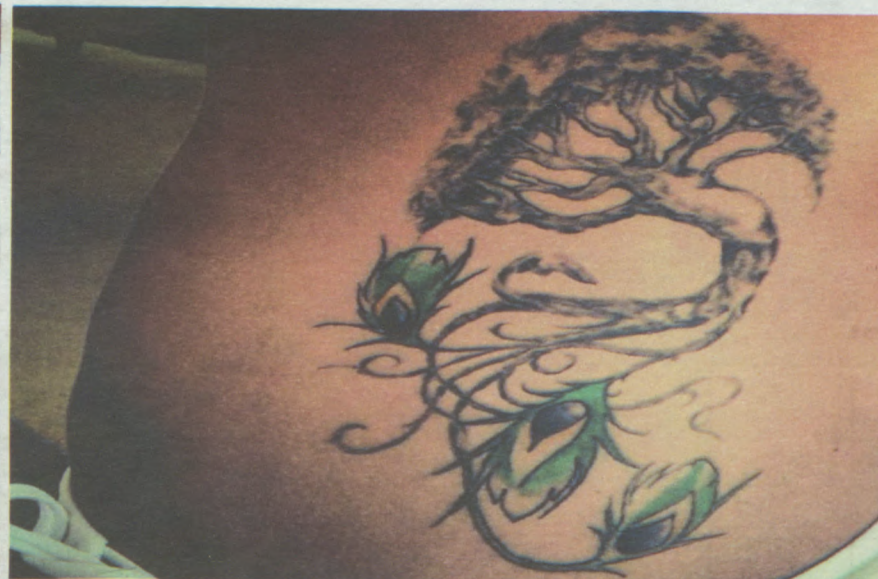


Photo courtesy of Alexis Rutter

Oakland University student Alexis Rutter has a tree of life tattoo located on her hip.

LeeAnn Brown
Life, Arts and Entertainment
Editor

I am an OU senior, graduating this April. I am an editor for the Oakland Post. I have a 3.8 GPA, have been on the dean's list the past two years and have held two internships in the "real world."

I also have tattoos - nine total.

If we were taking the SAT a few years ago, it wouldn't be hard to pick which of the above statements doesn't fit with the rest. But the tattoo taboo is changing.

According to USA Today, around 40 percent of Millennials (that's us - Generation Y) have a tattoo. The more tattooed people, the more businesses and people are accepting of that permanent ink. But, it's not always the case.

My ink

I work at Trader Joe's, a grocery store chain that was founded in California in the late 1970s.

Until recently, most of my tattoos (except the one on my inner wrist and back of my neck) were covered up at work.

A few months ago, I began to work on a half-sleeve on my right arm. The tattoo depicts a detailed Yoda surrounded by space-y looking flowers and is quite obvious unless I am wearing a long-sleeve shirt.

I can have my tattoos showing at work, and most of the

time, I do. However, in the cold winter months, I usually have them covered up.

Depending on the length of my shirt's sleeves, I can definitely tell a difference in how people respond to me. In my experience, the reaction depends on age.

Most of my peers either don't say anything or gush over my tattoos, asking me where I got them and complimenting the art. Any time I've received a negative comment, it has been from someone in the older generation.

Comments range from the innocent, "But doesn't it hurt?" to "Why would you do something like that?"

I once had a manager say, "You're going to be 80 with a Yoda on your arm," to which I replied, "If I'm lucky."

If I only did things now that I would do as an 80-year-old,

I would lead a much different life. I don't see that as an intelligent or useful way to live.

I want tattoos now, and if I don't like them when I'm 80 — who cares? I'll have wrinkles and 60 years of good memories with my ink.

Ink in the workplace

Carol Ketelsen, OU career consultant for career services, said the topic of tattoos is not one they discuss much.

"We tell students to cover up all visible tattoos until they know the company policy and culture," Ketelsen said. "Every company has its own policy on tattoos, but for all companies, the tattoos should be covered until you learn the policy."

According to USA Today, "31 percent of human resource managers said visible tattoos could have a negative impact on their decision whether to

hire someone, but bad breath weighed even heavier in the survey."

Being a journalism major, I am a behind-the-scenes sort of person and tend to work around open-minded, artsy folk.

I could mostly cover up my tattoos if I had to, but I'm not sure that I would want to work/fit in in an environment that stifled personal expression. I know myself, and I'm not worried about my tattoos hindering my career options.

However, every workplace is different — something to consider before getting inked.

OU sophomore, Allisondra Gutschow, a health science major currently working as a certified nurse aide, has to cover up her tattoos.

"The employers don't want anyone to be offended and want us to look professional," Gutschow said.



Photo courtesy of LeeAnn Brown

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor LeeAnn Brown is proud of her tattoos and feels empowered by them.

She is not worried about future career opportunities because her tattoos — an Icelandic symbol, a cross and a Bible verse — are easy to cover up. However, she said that if she had visible tattoos, she would most likely not be hired anywhere within the health field.

A lasting decision

Whatever your opinion of tattoos may be, remember they are a personal choice. Tattoos no more define a person than his or her hair color.

It is also a permanent choice. If you want a tattoo, get one! But make sure you are okay with having it on your body for the rest of your life.

WEIRD RULES AT OU

Unfortunately, OU students aren't allowed to ride unicorns around campus.

Other equally disappointing regulations can be found in the "University Housing Student Handbook." According to Brad Beldo, an OUPD officer, these 10 wacky rules are put in place with good reason.

- 3.10:** Mobile homes, boats or trailers aren't allowed on campus. Exceptions can be made for events. This helps the parking situation.
- 4.01:** Aircraft may not take off from or land on campus. Exceptions can be made, such as when important people arrive in helicopters or an event uses a hot air balloon.
- 4.05:** Boating is not allowed on campus. GrizzOrgs have had boat races on Bear Lake, but people weren't allowed in the boats, Beldo said.
- 4.07:** Camping is not allowed on campus. Students and faculty have been caught camping before, usually on the golf course or in the fields.
- 4.14:** Riding horses or other animals on campus is not allowed unless they are part of an event. This is why unicorns must stay at home.
- 4.17:** Pets have to be on a leash or in a cage and all solid waste has to be picked up. However, deer on campus may not be leashed or caged. "There are more students who are afraid of the deer than the deer are of them," Beldo said.
- 4.18:** Picnics are only allowed on campus in designated picnic areas. Beldo defined a "picnic" as family reunion style—lots of people with coolers of food and paper plates blowing around like tumbleweeds.
- 4.19:** People may not mutilate plants on campus because OU pays for its landscaping. OUPD has dealt with people taking their anger out on trees or groups of students pulling entire trees out of the ground. Replacing a small tree and paying for its installation can cost \$1,000.
- 4.23:** Swimming is not allowed except in swimming pools. Beldo has caught students swimming in Bear Lake. "They'll be pretty sly about it," he said, mentioning that they try to deny it as they rain lake water. Because many items, including bikes and a car, have been dragged out of Bear Lake, OU police officers have to get a tetanus shot if an emergency requires them to take a dip.
- 4.27:** Capturing or killing wildlife on campus is not allowed. While this isn't a problem with students, poachers have hunted deer on campus.

OUPD can issue tickets for breaking an ordinance, but let most students off with a warning if no one is hurt or in danger. "We want people to enjoy their time on campus," Beldo said.

Skateboarding is allowed on campus as long as property isn't damaged and skateboarders don't get in the way of the walking traffic. Beldo said that many students think it's not allowed.

—Compiled by Grace Turner, Staff Intern

YAKS of the WEEK

Yik Yak:
The voice of the people



1. "If you say 'bro' three times in front of a mirror in a dark room, a guy in a snapback will appear and ask if you have kik."

2. "The reason my grandma doesn't listen to rap and hip hop music is because apparently it's ALL about throwing pregnant women

down stairs... guess I need to pay more attention to the lyrics."

3. "She plays me on Trivia Crack, so it's safe to say that things are getting pretty serious."

4. "I don't know why my friends think I'm so immature. Maybe it's because I haven't given them their noses back yet."

5. "Do math majors graduate with degrees or radians?"

6. "Sitting at a different table than usual in the OC... so

I guess you could say I'm really stepping out of my comfort zone."

7. "You know the parking at Oakland is bad when you have nightmares about not being able to find a spot."

8. "Thank you Chartwells for the unplanned entertainment of a Pepsi machine creating an unstoppable waterfall."

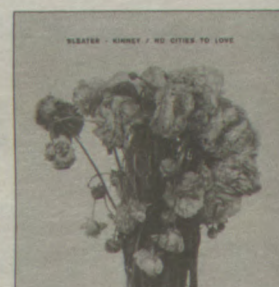
9. "Just inhaled a snowflake and saw my life flash before my eyes."

—Compiled by Shelby Tankersley, Intern

TOP TUNES

wxou albums of the week

1. Sleater-Kinney — "No Cities To Love"
2. Ariel Pink — "Pom Pom"
3. Aquadolls — "Stoked on You"
4. Bully — "Bully" [EP]
5. Ty Segall — "Singles 2"
6. D'Angelo and the Vanguard — "Black Messiah"
7. Panda Bear — "Panda Bear Meets The Grim Reaper"
8. Ty Segall — "Mr. Face" [EP]
9. Cloakroom — "Further Out"
10. Parquet Courts — "Content Nausea"



SLEATER-KINNEY - No Cities to Love

The lady from Portlandia has a band?!

Yes, she does. Before starring with Fred Armisen in the witty IFC sketch show, Carrie Brownstein gained her fame fronting Sleater-Kinney back in the 90s. The group was one of the most important players in the "riot grrrl" scene that spawned an entire wave of melodic, feminist punk bands. Now Sleater-Kinney is back and as tight as ever with "No Cities To Love," its first album in ten years. Though the band may have looked like three out-of-place soccer moms on its most recent appearance on The Late Show with David Letterman, it shredded through an energetic performance of "A New Wave," the album's catchiest moment. This album is strongly recommended for fans of Portlandia, soccer moms and women and gender studies students.

Start with: "A New Wave," "No Cities To Love," "Price Tag."

—Anthony Spak, WXOU Music



Katherine Cagle / The Oakland Post

OU students and musicians Kevin Teller, left, and Aaron Rush rock out at Hatchy's in Utica on Jan. 17.

Carving out a spot in the local scene

Students plan ahead, prepare for their band's debut

Erica Marracco
Staff Reporter

Carved Out is a new, local hardcore band that includes OU students Aaron Rush and Kevin Teller.

The band's first live show was just last week at Hatchy's in Utica. Before even playing its first show, Carved Out already had its artwork designed, two songs recorded and uploaded onto Spotify and iTunes and future gigs lined up.

"We're ready to get out there and make a presence," said Teller, bassist and backup vocalist. "We've all been in different bands at one point before so this is our comeback."

Besides Rush and Teller

"Our lyrics are emotions put into words. 'Chemotherapy' is about the purification process of oneself and how hard it is to self-reflect."

Aaron Rush
Vocalist and rhythm guitar,
Carved Out

there is Dave White on drums and Niko Cardenas on guitar and vocals.

Teller is a third-year student and also a reporter for the Oakland Post. Rush, the band's lead vocalist and rhythm guitar player, is a second-year student.

So far, Carved Out has five songs: "Coquette," "Reflect" and "Respond," "Wanderer," "Chemotherapy" and "Never Worn."

"Our lyrics are emotions put into words," Rush said. "Chemotherapy" is about the purification

process of oneself and how hard it is to self-reflect."

Some artistic influences for the members of Carved Out are Counterparts, Architects, My Ticket Home, and Animals as Leaders.

The band's next show is on Friday, Jan. 30 at Simon's After Dark located in Allen Park.

One show members said they are really excited for is on March 13 at the Pike Room, where they will be playing with local bands Shapes & Colors, Alive in Standby, Get at Me, and the Timbre of Cedar.

Anyone interested in buying tickets for shows can contact the band via email at carvedoutmusic@gmail.com.

Are you a student and a member of an active band? Contact staff reporter Erica Marracco at emmarrac@oakland.edu for an opportunity to be featured in the Oakland Post.

OU Brass Band receives international praise

Kevin Teller
Staff Reporter

Many make it their goal to promote OU to a higher level of excellence, but the OU Brass Band brought its skills to an international level on its trip to England just a couple of weeks ago.

It was there that the band took second place in the Butlins Mineworker's Open Brass Festival.

"We would have been excited to just place in the top half," said junior Brandon Reynolds, who plays solo tenor horn in the band. "The only other American band that [ever] played in this competition came in 21st."

Arriving overseas

The band arrived in London on the first day of the trip. It was there that the band members went on a tour of the city and got the chance to sightsee and explore.

From London, the band traveled to Queensbury, England, where it witnessed the Black Dyke Band for the first time.

OU's band director, Kenneth Kroesche, said that the original Black Dyke Band was actually funded by a local coal mining company in Queensbury. It is still a lasting—and common—tradition, even for modern English brass bands to belong to a company or even a village.

The Black Dyke Band has been a subject of study throughout the class that Kroesche teaches, so many of the students were familiar with its work when they sat in on a rehearsal. The OU Brass Band members were right up next to these world-class professionals.

After witnessing the Black Dyke Band's rehearsal, the OU Brass Band sat in the same hall for its own rehearsal.

Fourth year student Emily Maas said, "It hit me then that I was about to play where so many great musicians have played for the last 160 years and it made me realize how

"We really distinguished ourselves, and I think that they were expecting that we wouldn't do that well."

Kenneth Kroesche
Director, OU Brass Band

far [we] have gotten in such a short amount of time."

Maas is currently in her third year of playing cornet in the brass band and is an instrumental music education major.

The competition at Butlins Resort itself took place on Saturday. It was then that OU's band competed with 18 other brass bands. It was the only American university band to ever perform there.

High praise

Even though all of the other competitors were professionals, OU was not looked down upon for being a band from a university.

There was even an article written in a magazine in England praising the OU Brass Band for being one of the most "British-sounding" brass bands they have ever heard, according to Kroesche.

"We really distinguished ourselves, and I think that they were expecting that we wouldn't do that well," said Kroesche "I think we raised a lot of eyebrows."

Campus support

Kroesche credits the band's success to the support they received on this side of the pond as well. The alumni, faculty, staff, and campus community also contributed to the band's crowdfunding campaign.

This campaign consisted of 80 contributors raised over \$12,000 for the band's trip.

Kroesche said, "That kind of support coming from the alumni, faculty, and staff is what makes OU a really special place."

**Ever wonder why your
mother named you Mandy?**

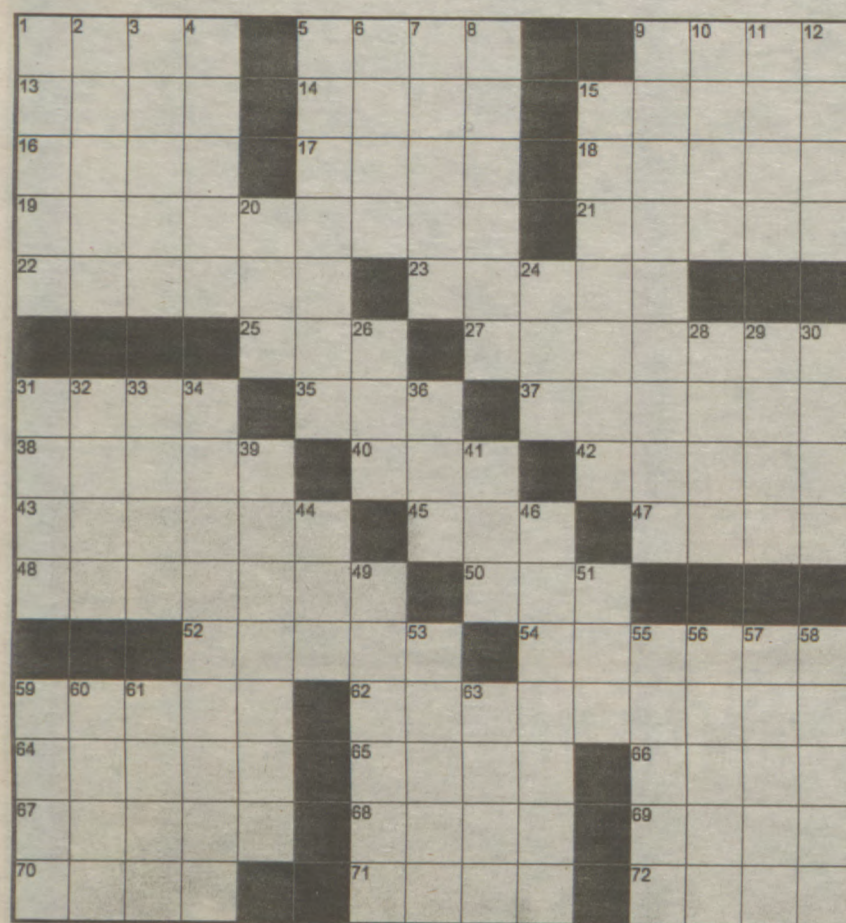
Wonder No More

MANILOW

**February 15
The Palace Of Auburn Hills**

Tickets start at 20 bucks and are available at
800-745-3000 or **ticketmaster.com**

Puzzles



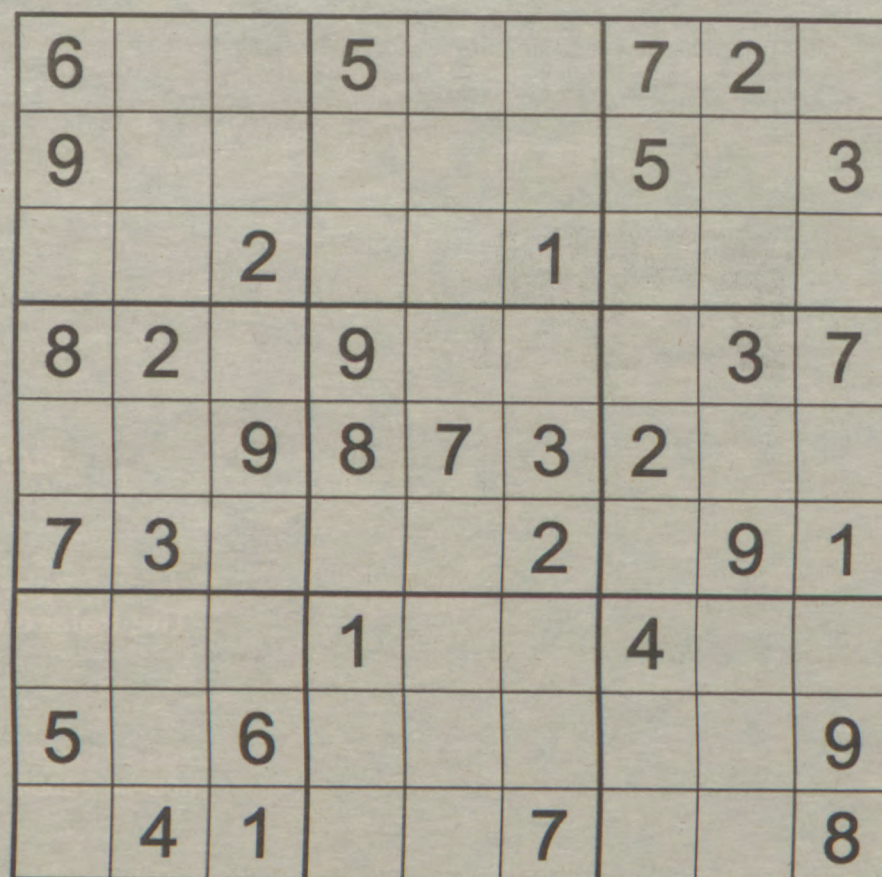
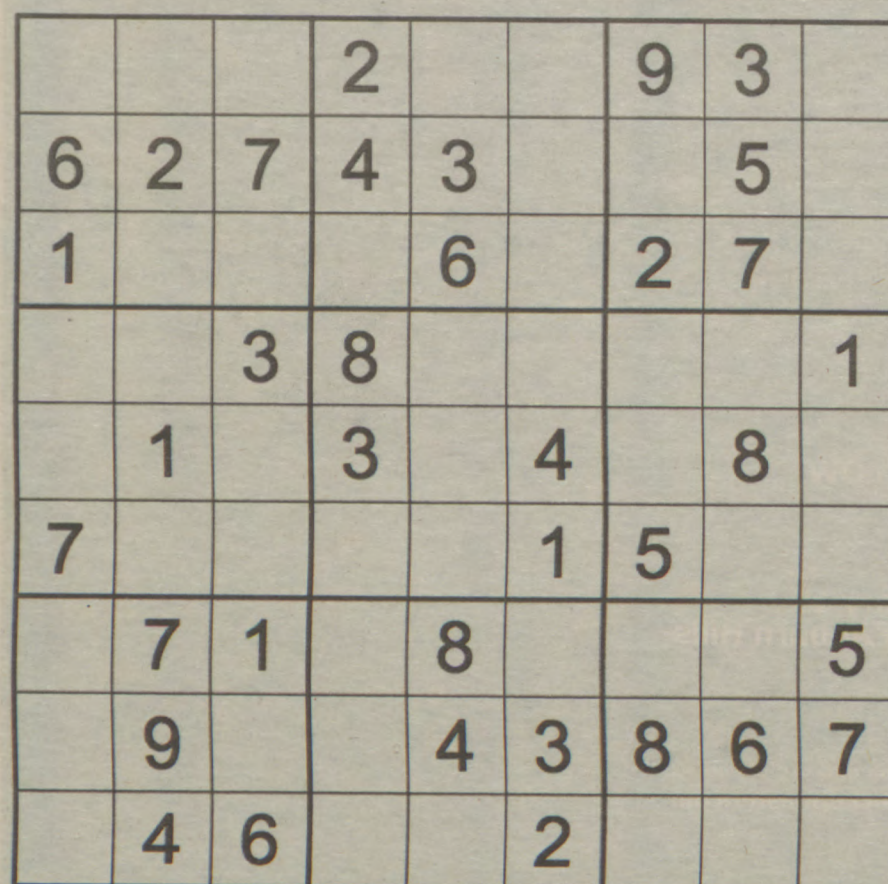
Across

- 1: Riffraff
 5: City map
 9: Something to make at night and break in the morning
 13: Pumice source
 14: King of the road
 15: Selfish person
 16: Important work
 17: Pulls a heist
 18: Part of PABA
 19: Stomachs
 21: Picture in a locker
 22: Catches
 23: Decade units
 25: Not very many
 27: Went hastily
 31: Track figures
 35: One rotation of the earth
 37: Comfort
 38: Eucalyptus muncher
 40: Josh
 42: ___ firma
 43: Delay
 45: Spider in the kitchen
 47: Common tater
 48: Free from germs
 50: Line of clothing
 52: One of the senses
 54: Reckless
 59: It can get you down
 62: Blood vessel connected to a capillary

- 64: A little bit of haven?
 65: Lobster and beluga products
 66: Multigenerational story
 67: Campaign poster plea
 68: Tickled-pink feeling
 69: Long haul
 70: Nerd
 71: Boulevard liners
 72: Lacking, along the Loire

Down

- 1: Casino machines, briefly
 2: Food fowl
 3: Soft palate part
 4: Microwave device
 5: Expressed in words
 6: Rioter's illegal take
 7: Monastic building
 8: Plays quoits
 9: Victoria's Secret offerings
 10: Analogous
 11: Maître d's offering
 12: Stage piece
 15: Plant's principal feeder
 20: KO caller
 24: Rm. coolers
 26: Mindless card game
 28: Waterproof cover
 29: Non-clashing color
 30: More than slow, in retail
 31: Gumbo vegetable
 32: 'That ___ it!'
 33: Prom escort
 34: Comedy type
 36: Shriek bark
 39: Most bohemian
 41: Scrooge's exclamation
 44: Do some research
 46: Mortal enemies
 49: Use plastic
 51: Spoil
 53: Fairy tale creature
 55: Cuts back on calories
 56: Coconut product
 57: Starring vehicle for Sigourney Weaver
 58: Quick kisses
 59: Like most colleges
 60: Angelic aura
 61: One working with Linux, e.g.
 63: Overflow



SATIRE

Look at my balls of fire

Josh Soltman
Chief Copy Editor/Person

If you happened to look up into the sky at any time on Monday, you probably didn't notice anything out of the ordinary. Since it's 2015 and the only people who own binoculars are perverts and bird watchers, you probably didn't have the chance to see asteroid 2004 BL86 which, according to NASA, was visible through telescope or powerful binoculars.

Asteroid 2004 BL86, which is just a fancy way of saying a giant rock that could have killed us all in a fiery, cataclysmic event of death and destruction. It's just the latest flying ball of death that has attempted to wipe us out. Asteroid 2014 RC passed by earth a few months ago, and although it was small, it still managed to clench a lot of buttocks when it was close.

Earth's latest not-so-close call with an asteroid got me thinking about how literally everything in the universe wants to kill us all. Not just earthly manifestations

either; even shit from space wants to come and metaphorically put it in our butts.

Still, when we aren't at risk of being wiped out by giant rocks, there are plenty of earthly things just waiting to wipe out the human race. Spend time in the sun — cancer. Drink diet soda — cancer. Talk on a cellphone — brain cancer. Ask a girl out — get kicked in the nuts. Turn a doorknob — Ebola. Read this story — several gastrointestinal problems. Hell, you can even die from dropping a deuce, like Elvis.

There is so much stuff out there waiting to kill each and every one of us that I often wonder, "Why even get out of bed?" It's much more plausible to just stay in bed and binge-watch "Scrubs" all day long, never stepping outside and risking destruction.

People don't seem to be worried about these gigantic flaming asteroids that keep threatening us. According to an article on NASA.gov, scientists predict that an asteroid with the ability to actually do widespread damage only



Really, really poor photo illustration by Josh Soltman

Chief Copy Editor Josh Soltman dresses extremely well for the end of civilization.

comes along every million years or so.

I'm not worried, though. I like

those odds.

That's about as often as I have sex, so I'm used to it.



FRANGELA

SNICKERS & SNACKS

FEATURING

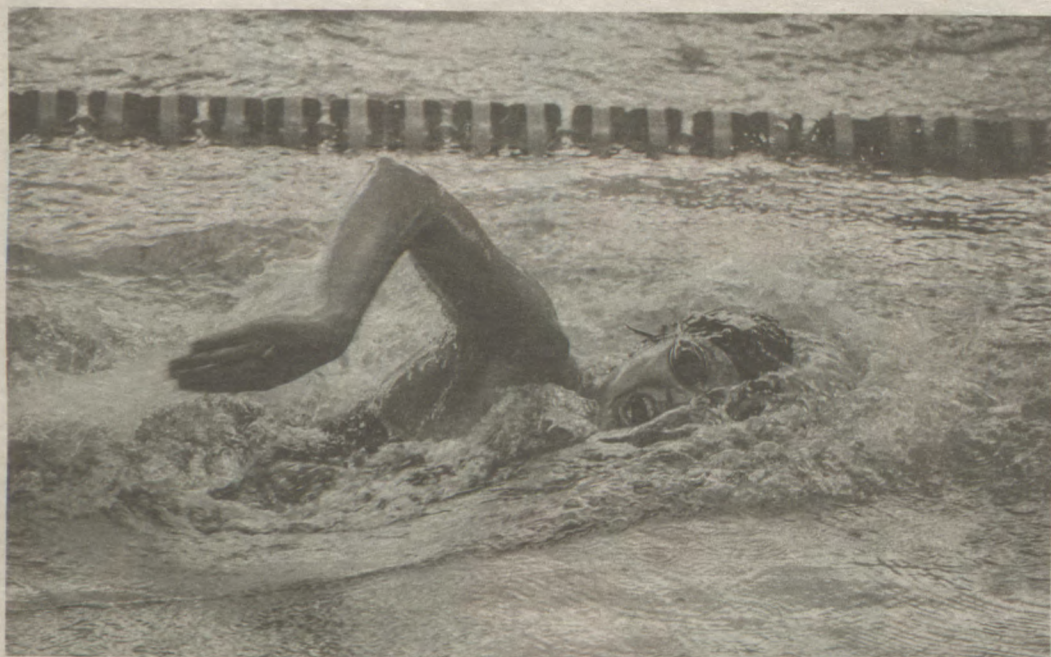
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KEVIN YEE



KEVIN YEE

FEB 9TH // 7PM // BANQUET ROOMS



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

The women sunk under the pressure of the Spartans in their final home dual meet Saturday afternoon, 186-108.

Swim some, lose some

Men ride the victory wave, women sink against MSU at home

Scott Davis
Staff Reporter

On Senior Recognition day at the Oakland Aquatic Center, the men's swimming and diving team squeaked by Michigan State, while the women dropped the meet to the Spartans.

The final home dual meet for the Golden Grizzlies took place in front of a packed house Saturday afternoon, as the men's and women's swimming and diving took on the Michigan State Spartans.

In another close meet, the men held off the Spartans 148.5-145.5, despite losing the final relay. The women could never catch up to Michigan State, losing 186-108.

Since it was the final home meet for the season, the nine women and four men that are seniors for Oakland were recognized in a pre-game ceremony. Head coach Pete Hovland said that this group of seniors was really special and meant a lot to the program.

"They are really the heart and soul of our program," Hovland

said. "We are proud of them and we know they are going to go on and represent the Oakland University swimming program real well."

Just as it has been for most of the meets this year, the men found themselves in another close meet. Thanks to an early 200 medley relay victory, three individual victories by Jorden Merrilees, and two victories from both John Schihl and Tuomas Kiviluoma, the men held the lead for most of the meet. The Golden Grizzlies had a 12 point advantage going into the final relay, and despite losing to the Spartans by only 00.09 seconds, Oakland was still able to escape with a three point victory.

"The whole team was pumped up for this meet; they would not stop hyping it. Beginning on Monday all people would say is 'Beat State' and that's all we wanted to do," Kiviluoma said.

After cruising in the four-team Winter Invitational last week, the women Golden Grizzlies fell behind early against the Spartans and were never able to make up the ground.

Individual victories for the

women included Nikki Flynn (200 and 100 free) and Takara Martin (100 and 200 breast). The team also added a victory in the 200 free relay with a time of 3:29.15.

The Oakland men's and women's swimming and diving team will be back in action next week when they travel to Cleveland State next Saturday for their final meet before the Horizon League Championships.

The league championships and will take place in Milwaukee, Feb. 25-28.

Swim team meets

NEXT MEET This coming Saturday, January 31, 1:00pm in Cleveland

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS Wednesday, February 25 through Saturday, February 28 in Milwaukee

MORE INFORMATION Go to goldengrizzlies.com/sports

Golden moments

Men's soccer reflects on bright season

Melissa Deatsch
Staff Reporter

The Horizon League champion men's soccer team stole the spotlight at the men's basketball half time show Thursday, Jan. 22. The team was honored at center court for its historic season.

As the men took the court, Oakland's announcer, Kevin Beers, read the long list of accomplishments that came from this season. A frustrating 0-5 start to the season ended in both regular season and tournament titles. The team then went on to win their first round NCAA game against number 24 seated Kentucky.

Individually, the Golden Grizzlies had five players selected for Horizon League honors. Joseph Tinnion, Shawn Claud Lawson, and Matt Dudley were first team

selections. Cody Archibald and Wes Mink were named to the Horizon League second team. Mink was also selected on the all-freshman team.

Coach Erik Pogue was also awarded Coach of the Year in the Horizon League.

The team took center court to pose for a picture while the crowd cheered. The crowd's attention was then directed to the video board where a video honoring their season played. The video, made by the athletic department, highlighted some of the biggest goals of the season including Archibald's header to take the lead against Kentucky.

"I was getting a little worked up on the court watching the video," Tinnion said. "It made me want to get back out there and battle it out with my teammates again. It honestly was a great experience being recognized for our achievements like that in front of a big crowd."



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

The 2014 Horizon League champion soccer team raises trophies in triumph.

www.oaklandpostonline.com



1



2



Erika Barker/The Oakland Post

3

1. Tommie McCune looks for a pass against Cleveland State Thursday night.

2. Grizz Gang members salute a 3-point make during a basketball game.

3. LeBron James made an appearance in the first half of Monday's game. He was there to support his childhood friend and the Golden Grizzlies assistant coach Brandon Weems.

GRIZZLIES STILL GOING STRONG

Men's basketball team defeats Cleveland State, gains four-game winning streak

Jackson Gilbert
Sports Editor

With LeBron James watching from a courtside seat Monday night, the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team defeated the Cleveland State Vikings 59-56 at the O'rena Jan. 26.

Since losing at Detroit Mercy on Jan. 10, Oakland

has won four straight games including victories over the two of the top three teams in the Horizon League.

Since league play began Jan. 2, Oakland has knocked off all three teams standing ahead of them in the Horizon with victories over Valparaiso, Green Bay, and now Cleveland State.

Oakland is 4-2 in the Horizon and 9-12 overall.

The four-game winning

streak has come with a noteworthy change in play style. For a program that for years relied on a high-octane offense to outscore opponents, Oakland is learning to thrive in the Horizon League on the strength of its suffocating defense.

Senior forward Dante Williams continued to add to his resume for defensive player of the year in the Horizon with another stellar performance, holding Cleveland State guard Trey Lewis to just five points on seven shots.

"I played hard and tried to limit his touches," Williams said after the game.

Prior to Monday night, Lewis had been named Horizon player of the week

two weeks in a row and was averaging 24 points per game in the three games before facing Oakland.

After the game, Oakland head coach Greg Kampe couldn't contain his praise for Williams.

"It's unbelievable, the defense he played against that young man," Kampe said.

Fellow senior Corey Petros, who was tasked with guarding Cleveland State's Anton Grady, was also quick to praise Dante's lockdown defense.

"He better get defensive player of the year," Petros said.

Sophomore guard Kahlil Felder led Oakland with 16 points and six assists. Freshman forward Jalen Hayes finished with 15 and

Petros contributed 14.

Kaza Keane scored 16 points for Cleveland State and added six assists in the losing effort. Cleveland State is 6-2 in the Horizon and 12-10 overall.

LeBron, along with fellow NBA star J.R. Smith, made his appearance about half way through the first half. Kampe told reporters after the game that James was there to support his childhood friend, Brandon Weems, now an assistant coach for Oakland.

Oakland will host Wright State Wednesday at 7 p.m.

With a victory, Oakland will have won four straight in the conference and will be in good position to boost its seeding for the Horizon League tournament.

Detroit hoops show no Mercy

Grizzlies fall to U of D, 'outplayed, out-coached, out-toughed'

Scott Davis
Staff Reporter

Just 12 days after the men's basketball team lost to the University of Detroit Mercy at Calihan Hall, the women's team did the same thing, falling 73-62 to the Titans Thursday night.

Despite having a halftime lead and some standout performances from sophomore Sinclair Russell and junior Elena Popkey, the Titans proved to be too much for the Golden Grizzlies.

The loss drops Oakland to 8-9 overall with a 2-2 record in Horizon League play.

Detroit now leads the inaugural Metro Series 8-4.

"We got outplayed, out-coached, outworked and out-toughed," head coach Jeff Tungate said. "Our basketball IQ wasn't there tonight. UDM deserved to win and they got the win."

Oakland started off hot, beginning the game with an 11-3 run led by Russell who started off 4/4 from the floor and finished with a career-best 16 points.



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

Starting off strong, the team lost its edge and the game on Thursday night.

Tungate said that it was the team's fault for not getting her the ball more throughout the remainder of the game.

"She did a good job attacking the rim and playing with poise, and the second half we got away from that," Tungate said.

"We have to do a better job of knowing where the ball needs to go and when."

Popkey also played well for the Golden Grizzlies recording 15 points, which marks the 50th double-digit point performance in her career.

Russell, Popkey and sophomore Nola Anderson each recorded nine rebounds for Oakland, but the team was only able to tie Detroit in the rebound battle with 43.

The Golden Grizzlies had a 32-27 lead over the Titans heading into the half and led by as many as 10 in the second half.

The Titans mounted 12 unanswered points and the game went back and forth for much of the second half.

Detroit wound up hitting 11 of 12 free throws in the final three minutes to secure the double-digit victory.

The women went on to defeat Youngstown State on Saturday at home 85-82 to bring their record to 9-9 overall and 3-2 in the Horizon League.

They'll play Wright State on Thursday in the O'rena at 7 p.m. to try to build up a streak of victories.

For more information on Golden Grizzlies basketball, visit www.goldengrizzlies.com

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Women's basketball

The Oakland University women's basketball team defeated Youngstown state 85-82 on Saturday to earn its third Horizon League. Olivia Nash led the team with 20 points in the effort.

Men's basketball

Detroit Pistons center Andre Drummond attended the men's basketball game on Thursday night against Milwaukee. On Monday night, LeBron James attended the game against Cleveland State to support his long time friend and Oakland assistant coach, Brandon Weems. Oakland Athletics' twitter handle

@goldengrizzlies was trending in Detroit at one point on Monday because of LeBron James' appearance.

Corey Petros was named as a candidate for the senior class award. He has a 3.43 GPA and is only the third player to earn at least 1400 points and 800 rebounds.

Men and women's track

The men and women's track and field teams traveled to Indiana last Friday and Saturday to compete in two meets, the Mastodon Duals and Gladstein Invitational. The men's team was able to defeat Butler 67-45 and IUPUI 71-23, but lost to Valparaiso 83-57 and Detroit Mercy 61-60. The women beat Butler 64-48 and IUPUI 68-38, but dropped to IPFW 71-67, Valparaiso 70-65, and Detroit Mercy 90-4.

Compiled by Jimmy Halmhuber,
Staff Intern

Horizon League Standings

Men's Basketball					Women's Basketball				
	W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L
1. Green Bay	17	4	6	1	1. Green Bay	15	3	5	0
2. Valparaiso	19	4	6	2	2. Wright State	15	5	4	2
3. Cleveland State	12	10	6	2	3. Youngstown State	14	4	3	2
4. OAKLAND	9	12	4	2	4. OAKLAND	9	9	3	2
5. Wright state	11	10	3	4	5. Milwaukee	7	11	3	3
6. Detroit	10	12	3	4	6. UIC	12	6	2	3
7. Milwaukee	7	14	2	5	7. Cleveland State	10	8	2	3
8. UIC	5	16	1	5	8. Detroit	7	12	2	4
9. Youngstown State	10	13	1	7	9. Valparaiso	4	14	0	5