

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

STUDENTS TURN UP AND
TURN OUT AT HOMECOMING
Pages 8-9



THE FLU STRIKES

Influenza makes its
unwelcome appearance
on campus.

PAGE 5



HOT IN THE CLUB

Club sports feature
winter guard, women's
rugby and dance.

PAGE 10



NOT IN MY SPOT

Sophomore wins parking
space but loses battle to
use it.

PAGE 15

thisweek

January 29, 2014 // Volume 40. Issue 18



ontheweb

The University Drive overpass that leads in to the front gates of OU is temporarily closed—find out why and when it will reopen online!
www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

WHAT DOES MY REFLECTION SHOW // After the first wave of the polar vortex, Oakland Post Chief Copy Editor Haley Kotwicki noticed the subtle reflection of barren trees in the puddles that now lined her driveway. As she shovelled and cleared away the muck, she noticed the puddle itself was ankle deep. It took two hours to drain away of all water, snow and ice. *HALEY KOTWICKI/The Oakland Post*

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



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A SMASHING SUCCESS

Oakland Grizzlies send another to the junkyard as they wale away the rage and take turns tearing apart this spray painted car.



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GREASED LIGHTNIN'

SAE rolls into the 2014 International Auto Show in Detroit, getting much praise and collecting income and sponsorship from top tear auto companies.



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MOUSING OFF

Like a cat in the night, Scott Wolchek is on the prowl looking for a renegade mouse loose in his house. He's in his walls, in his bed and is eating his peanut butter. And for Scott, this means war.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Have you gotten your flu shot yet?

- A** Yup, and now I'm healthy as a clam
- B** I don't believe in getting vaccinations
- C** No, but I plan on getting one soon
- D** Why get a shot now, this late into the season?

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What do you think of the campus food provider, Chartwells?

A Food is delicious and the service is great

8.6%

B I hate the food and it's overpriced

51.4%

C Food is great, price is not

25.7%

D I don't eat on campus

14.3%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JANUARY 29, 1979

Several student organizations complained about small spaces for their respective groups in the Oakland Center, including WXOU & the OU Ski Club.

JANUARY 27, 1970

Reports released that a 20-year-old female student was stabbed in a OU parking lot by her ex-boyfriend. After the stabbing, the ex drove and emitted her to Royal Oak Beaumont.

JANUARY 30, 1978

Campus closed for two days due to the previous record high for snow. Many commuters were unable to attend even after the campus reopened, due to icy roads and hazardous conditions.

BY THE NUMBERS

346

Inches of snowfall in January as of Sunday night

12.5

Average January snowfall in inches

29.6

Previous January snowfall record in inches

-21.1984

Coldest recorded January day as of Tuesday, Jan. 28th, 2014

195

Average January temperature between since

STAFF EDITORIAL

A president's message to young men, a moral for all universities

While the bitter chill of January may be a far cry from April, there is never a more convenient moment to address sexual assault and rape, as President Obama has done over the weekend.

According to the Associated Press, Obama has assigned a task force to the front lines against sexual assault, in the dawn of a White House report that one in five female college students are victims of a sexually fueled physical crime.

Before you think this statistic is outlandish, know that only one in eight of those victims actually follow through reporting an incident.

While the President's announce surely relates to more than a singular matter, it does come at the timely heels of an ongoing OUPD search for a sexual assailant on campus.

"I want every young man in America to know that real men do not hurt women," Obama said during his weekly Internet address.

We could not be singing louder in unison.

Upon the spectrum of criminal activity, sexual assault, rape and other

"I WANT EVERY YOUNG MAN IN AMERICA TO KNOW THAT REAL MEN DO NOT HURT WOMEN."

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

forms of sexually forced acts rank with the most heinous, despicable actions.

According to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, a sexual assault happens every two minutes, and 44% of all the victims are under the age of 18.

Also according to RAINN, 80% of all sexual assault cases happen to people under the age of 30.

It's an act that can, and has, scarred up to 22 million women and 1.6 million men domestically, and a clearly preventable issue, if we could control our disparate urges.

However, we all know there are always a few bad seeds in every apple.

Even if the White House task force comes up short, there are ways you can stand up tall and prevent a potential rape scenario.

Be visually aware of the presence around you, especially women. Report

any suspicious activity.

Attending any kind of parties where libations are readily available - have a safe, trusted party with you to be a second set of eyes.

Also keep in perspective that two out of three assault cases are committed by assailants known to the victim. This phenomena has been dubbed "scouting" by RAINN.

The term applies to assailants who befriend their victims, and scavenge them for information and weaknesses.

So again, be aware of those around you.

It's a sad state when we have to be so guarded in our lives over such a private and stigmatized issue like rape - as dignified people we hold ourselves to be, we shouldn't have to worry about sexual assault ever occurring.

Which is why we agree that any measure taken to erase it as a looming presence is a wise step forward.

The staff editorial is written weekly by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.

Corrections Corner

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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.



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Campus

Polar Vortex settles over OU prompting third 2014 closure

Low pressure system native to Canada pays a visit to the U.S.

Adam Kujawski
Staff Reporter

The unconventional start to the 2014 winter semester can be credited to the latest buzz words being used by meteorologists everywhere – polar vortex.

A polar vortex is a low pressure weather system that typically resides in northeastern Canada. However, this year the vortex extended well into the United States, causing temperatures to dip several degrees below average.

At OU, the vortex prompted another series of buzz words – cancelled classes.

As a result of the inclement

weather, Oakland University has cancelled class on three days since the winter semester began, the most recent closure was Tuesday, when dangerously cold temperatures blanketed the midwest. Associate Vice President of Facilities Management, Terry Stollsteimer, detailed the process.

“On days where it looks like weather may be a concern, I’m generally in at 4:30 a.m. to assess the situation,” he said. “From there we decide whether campus can be made safe and accessible. Our goal is to have a final decision by 5:30 a.m.”

The decision process starts with a meeting between Stollsteimer and the OUPD chief of police. Once they agree, their recommendation is sent to the vice president for finance and administration and finally to the president of Oakland University,

who ultimately makes the final call.

Stollsteimer was confident in saying his crew could have cleared the snow with ease, but low temperatures made for ineffective salting of the icy roads.

“Most of the time clearing the campus of snow isn’t the issue,” he said. “It has a lot to do with the surrounding communities clearing the roads to get here.”

Once classes finally resumed, keeping the buildings warm and the staff and students comfortable became a priority. Oakland University’s policy is to heat the buildings to between 68 degrees and 72 degrees during the winter months.

“We try to keep the buildings within one or two degrees of our target temperature,” Stollsteimer said.

Director of Engineering, Siraj Khan, is certain the heating sys-



Kailey Johnson / The Oakland Post

Keeping OU warm: the Central Heating plant stands at the ready

tem OU has in place is effective.

“We have no problems with heating the campus,” he said.

That being said, the unusually cold weather is undoubtedly going to affect the bottom line. With last year’s gas purchases amounting to just over \$1.7 million, Stollsteimer anticipates an increase in spending for 2014.

“We do expect our gas bill to go up this year,” he said.

With more snowy, bone-chill-

ing weather being forecast for the coming weeks, the possibility of additional school closures can’t be ruled out.

Students with a valid OU e-mail address and a Grizzly ID can sign up to receive text message alerts regarding school closures by visiting www.oakland.edu/police/text.

Contact Adam Kujawski at ajkujaws@oakland.edu

LIVE SEX

BY THE STUDENT GROUP

February 4, 2014
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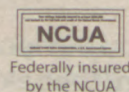


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Flu reaches Grizzly proportions

**Graham Health Center
urges students and
faculty to get vaccinated**

Oona Goodin-Smith
Staff Reporter

We hear and see it everywhere from the chronic sniffer in the back of the lecture hall to the frequently empty chair next to us in class. Flu season has come to OU, and this year, it's at an all-time high.

"Flu has already come to Michigan this season, causing an unusually high number of severe cases and hospitalizations for this time of year," said Michigan Department of Community Health Chief Medical Executive Dr. Matthew Davis. "Vaccination is a very effective way to protect ourselves and our communities against flu, every year."

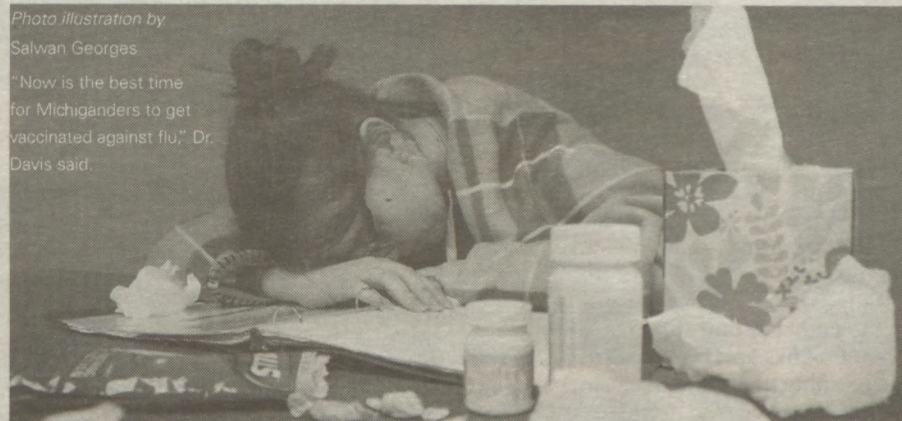
"I call [getting vaccinated] cheap insurance," said Nancy Jansen, director of the Graham Health Center.

"It's so much better to suck it up and get the shot than get sick."

According to Jansen, so far this year "well over 300" students and faculty members, a number much higher than in previous winters, have taken advantage of the vaccinations offered at the GHC.

Photo illustration by
Salwan Georges

"Now is the best time
for Michiganders to get
vaccinated against flu," Dr.
Davis said.



Despite the heightened interest in the vaccination at OU this year, Jansen said that still "not enough students view getting their flu shot as a priority."

Estimates from last flu season show that only 40.8 percent of Michigan residents were vaccinated against the flu. Out of that, according to Michigan's immunization registry, only 9 percent of residents ages 18-24 and 11 percent of residents between 25-49 received the flu vaccine.

According to the MDCH website, "any flu infection carries a risk of serious complications, hospitalization or death, even among healthy children and adults."

H1N1, this year's most prevalent strain of flu virus, but the traditional flu vaccine

defends against it.

"There's still some resistance to the shot out there," Jansen said. "It's declined a lot throughout the years but we've still got a ways to go."

OU senior Anna Maria Tucci had the flu earlier this season but says she's skeptical on the vaccine's effectiveness.

"I've actually never gotten a flu shot before," she said. "I don't know if I even believe that they actually work."

"We expect this is just the beginning of the flu season that will likely last for the next few months," Dr. Davis said.

"It's never too late to vaccinate," Jansen said.

Flu shots are \$20 at the Graham Health Center and appointments are available.

Grizzlies on the Prowl: *"Do future employers have rights to see your social media?"*



**Alexander Murphy, sophomore,
business management**

"(Yes). When you hire somebody, you're not just hiring someone to work for you - you're having them represent your company."



**Emily Donovan, junior,
pre-physical therapy**

"I feel like it shouldn't be allowed because you have the right to privacy... but you shouldn't have to hide anything."



**Barbara Walker, sophomore,
Japanese**

"No. I think there should be a huge separation between personal or professional life."

— Compiled by Kaylee Kean,
Staff Reporter

POLICE FILES

Suspicious person in P5

OUPD was dispatched to P5 Jan. 20 at 2:50 p.m. to investigate a suspicious person report.

The student said she was walking to her car the night of Jan. 19 and was approached by a car. The driver stepped out and asked where the athletic center was.

She told him that she couldn't talk and was going to see her boyfriend. He replied that she was a pretty girl and her boyfriend was lucky. He also said he would be lucky to have her as a wife.

He then offered her peanuts and hugged her.

The student was able to point him out to police in the Oakland Center Jan. 21 at 12:35 p.m.

Officers questioned him, but he denied hugging her or offering her food. OUPD advised him to be conscious about his actions before talking to strangers.

Lieutenant Ross received an email Jan. 21 which advised that another female student had a similar interaction with him.

The investigation will continue.

Update: harrasment on Twitter

Oakland University police met with a student who was concerned he was being harrassed on Twitter Jan. 15 at 2:28 p.m.

OUPD met with the student who made the tweet and told him to refrain from making comments like that again.

The assistant dean of students met with the student who made the tweet and he was sent to OUPD Jan. 24.

He told detectives that he searched the other student's Twitter feed looking for the words "hate" and "kill." He found tweets concerning those words in reference to himself, other students and his father.

When asked why he did the search, the student said he knew he was meeting the dean of students and wanted to share his side of the story.

OUPD advised the tweets should be turned over to the dean of students for review and that both the students be evaluated at Graham Health Center.

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki,
Chief Copy Editor

OU Writing Center celebrates banned books

Kaylee Kean
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Writing Center is throwing its very first Banned Books Week Jan. 27 through Jan. 31 at the Kresge Library.

Each day of the week a new book will be focused on and discussed, according to Ashley Cerku, consultant mentor for the center.

A consultant for the center will do a synopsis of the book, read a few of the controversial passages, explain why it was banned and then lead a discussion about the book and its banning.

"What we found interesting was the topic of censorship in all these classic and well-known books that have been taught in class and even classes here," said Cerku.

Caryn Rochfort, a writing consultant for the OUWC, said this is her first Banned Books Week.

Rochfort said she has read many on the banned books list so far, but there is "never enough time" to read them all.

One of the most interesting banned books Rochfort has read was "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov. The book is about a

sexual predator getting involved with a pre-pubescent girl.

"I actually like this because you get to reconnect and learn about the different books that are out there and why they're banned," said Rochfort.

There are many factors that play a role in the controversies surrounding these books, including religious, governmental and family value factors, according to Cerku.

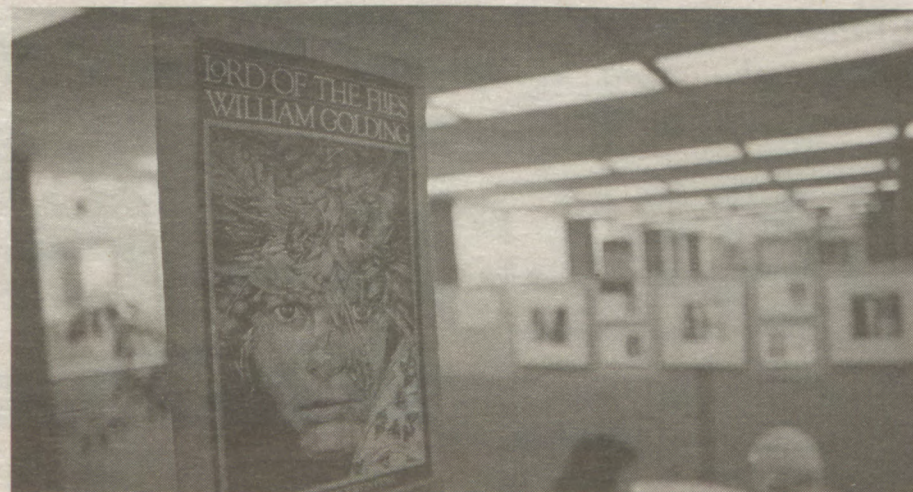
The center is currently decorated with over 30 books and information regarding the banning of each book.

The top five most frequently banned books are "The Great Gatsby," "The Catcher in the Rye," "The Grapes of Wrath," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Color Purple," according to the Writing Center's website.

Cerku said she has always loved reading and has read many of these banned books. The most interesting one she has read is "Huckleberry Finn".

"It was the whole concept of race and all of that," said Cerku. "Some of the versions... actually took out the character Jim entirely."

The center is also holding an erasure contest until Friday at 5 p.m., according



Jon Davis / The Oakland Post

"Lord of the Flies" by William Golding, a very popular read, was listed as a banned book.

to Cerku. Participants can submit up to three erasures created from a controversial passage.

"Basically you're taking a passage from a book... and either eliminating or rearranging or adding punctuation to the words on that passage and creating a new text," said Cerku.

Cerku said she and coworkers will

choose submissions to be featured on the OUWC's website.

"We thought of incorporating that concept into Banned Books Week because it puts another spotlight on censorship as well," said Cerku.

For the reading schedule go to oakland.edu/ouwc or visit the Writing Center at Kresge Library.

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Kailey Johnson and Jon Davis / The Oakland Post

The Grizz said, 'Knock you out'

OU goes UFC on UIC-themed junker

By Jon Davis
Managing Editor

The hammer came swinging down Saturday, Jan. 25, at this year's annual Grizz Gang Car Smash.

The event was sponsored by Oakland University's Student Congress. Grizzlies took part in slathering one donated car with the University of Illinois at Chicago's flame red and indigo blue colors.

The festivities were set to kickoff at 10 a.m., but the beatings began around noon due to poor weather.

As the snow resided, a flurry of fury began as students surrounded the car to wail away with a seven-pound sledgehammer.

"The hammer used to be bigger," OUSC Legislator Kyler Johnson said. "But people kept missing and hitting the ground."

The car was donated a local toy company that provides junk yard 'clunkers' to organizations that wish the whip up some vehicular mayhem.

The event ended around 1:15 p.m., leading up to the Piston's drum line performance and annual pre-game parade.

As students marched off to the parade, they left the ripped and wrecked vehicle in the cold shadow of the Girzz statue just outside of the O'rena.

1. While writing her statement, Gilson imagined the personal feeling of the African animal. I imagined putting on the headdress and feeling the weight of it changing how I moved.

2. Gilson imagined the personal feeling of the African animal. I imagined putting on the headdress and feeling the weight of it changing how

3. African animal. I imagined putting on the headdress and feeling the weight of it changing how I moved, and I pictured changing the way I walked

4. While writing her statement, Gilson imagined the personal feeling of the African animal. I imagined putting on the headdress.

5. African animal. I imagined putting on the headdress and feeling the weight of it changing how I moved, and I pictured changing the way I walked.

6. While writing her statement, African animal. I imagined putting on the headdress and feeling the weight of it changing how I moved, and

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HOMECOMING: GRIZZLY STYLE

♠ STORY BY KALEE MATHIAS ♦ PHOTOS BY KALEE MATHIAS & SALWAN GEORGES ♣ DESIGN BY FRANK LEPKOWSKI ♥

Oakland University hosted several events, including decade themed evenings of fun for students

From tentgating, basketball games, and decade themed evenings, Homecoming 2014 consisted of fun-filled events to celebrate life at Oakland University.

"We want our student community to get to experience what other universities experience," Jean Ann Miller, director of Center for Student Activities (CSA), said. "Everyone always knows about homecoming, which is traditionally associated with football."

This year was unique because it will be Oakland's last winter homecoming, from now on it will be a fall event. The weather and availability of Oakland alumni played a role in that decision. Groove On

One of the decade themed evenings was the 70's themed roller rink hosted by the CSA co-sponsored with Grizz Gang. The banquet rooms upstairs were transformed into a roller rink with OU in the middle. The transformation process

took about two hours.

"We tried to set the food to the mood," Miller said. "In the 70's chex-mix and pringles were created, and so were various candies we have, Reese's Pieces for example."

Many Oakland students received an e-mail about the Oakland events which encouraged them to come out even in cold weather conditions.

"I like skating. I haven't been in so long," Daysha Jackson, freshmen, said "I think it's cool. I love all the different events they put on and it's a great way to meet people."

The skates were free for Oakland students to rent. 100 to 125 skates were requested for the evening. Because of the large turn-out skaters had to return their skates after 30 minutes of blading so other attendees could skate.

"The 70's themed roller rink is fun unique and different, I like it," Kelsey Ball, junior, said.

The next themed night took it back to the Roaring 20s—Jay Gatsby style

Casino Night was held on Saturday, January 25. The OC was transformed into a casino—Jay Gatsby Style.

"When I'm setting up an event I'll set up lights with random colors to see what gives it the best pop and eye-catching appearance," Tyler Johnson, technology director for SPB said.

The SPB event required several collaborations on campus including; housing, Chartwells and three different companies brought in for games.

"Planning was very stressful and I didn't know if I could do it," Brittany Hall, Annual Events Planner of SPB. "My committee has been awesome and having housing here to help is great. The E-board has been extremely supported. It just feels good to be in the middle of the event finally."

Students could play slot machines, use the photo booth, get photos taken, play black jack and various other games, play wheel games, enjoy the food and watch a screening of "The Great Gatsby" in the Gold rooms.

"Roaring Twenties is awesome," said Darnell Gray-Shawver Special Events Director for SPB. "I'm loving the twenties fashions; embellishments on the dresses the flapper look. People have really came dressed up very classy. That's what I love is the fashion."





MEMORIES OF OU

BY KAILEE MATHIAS

Homecoming brings alumni back to share experiences of their educational career at Oakland.

Members and friends of the Black Alumni Chapter were invited to a social hosted by the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) on Saturday, January 25.

The event was held in the Gold Rooms in the Oakland Center.

"It feels wonderful we're happy to see all the alumni come out and participate in homecoming," Omar Brown-El, director for CMI said. "It's a way to get them back on campus and see all the wonderful things going on at Oakland University."

Brenda VanTull current member on the Board of Directors for the University Alumni Association, graduated from Oakland in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in business management.

"I had a great experience with professors, faculty and staff," VanTull said. "It was no problem having someone have your back if you were out sick."

After graduating VanTull worked for a trucking company and then began to work for the city of Detroit in human resources and has been there ever since.

"When I went to take my entrance test for my current job for the city of Detroit, on the exam were exact questions that I had in accounting classes at Oakland," VanTull said. "Word for word. I said to myself 'oh my goodness that education paid off.' I actually used what I learned here."

VanTull had such a great experi-

ence at Oakland she would like to make it a family affair.

"I bring my 12-year-old son to as many events on campus as possible," VanTull said.

VanTull said the distance of Oakland from her hometown was perfect.

"It was far enough away, but not too far," VanTull said.

Similarly, alumni Robynn Diamond also liked the location and atmosphere at Oakland.

"The campus life, campus conditions and academics here all played a huge part in my selection process," Diamond said. "I lived on campus all four years so I have a tremendous respect for the residence halls. There was a lot of activities on campus, which made us grow very close as a campus."

Diamond, current board member for the African American Alumni Association, graduated from Oakland in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts and Communications.

After graduating, Diamond went to Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia to earn her Masters of Public Administration with a human resource focus.

"A lot of my courage to venture out came from my growth here on campus," Diamond said.

Even after venturing to Georgia, Diamond acknowledges the life-lasting friendships she created at Oakland University.

Diamond has worked in human resources ever since. Ford Motor Company and Detroit Public Schools are just some of her former employers.

**"IT FEELS WONDERFUL
WE'RE HAPPY TO SEE
ALL THE ALUMNI COME
OUT AND PARTICIPATE IN
HOMECOMING"**

Nachale!

DANCE TEAM

Courtesy of Nachale Dance Team

New sports clubs make debut

Jake Alsko
Sports Editor

The dance club began as a student organization in October 2012 and just became a club sport this month.

"Nachale Dance Team is a Bollywood dance team that draws inspiration from modern Bollywood style and music," said club treasurer Erin Moore.

Bollywood is the informal name used to refer to the Hindi-language film industry.

The team's 11 current members began practicing on Jan. 17. The team will practice every Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the Vandenberg dance studio until they have no more performances, according to Moore.

Students wishing to join are required to attend "the recruitment meeting held at the beginning of every semester and the try-out after that," Moore said. "If a student makes it through try-outs they are on the team."

Moore urges anyone interested to not hesitate to join, the club welcomes all.

"Anyone interested in dance or learning about a new culture should join," she said. "Race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality do not matter. It is a good way to meet new people, perform and have fun."

Please contact nwahi@oakland.edu for additional information.

Women's rugby



Designed by Kalle Wanagat

"The idea has been around for years to start a team at OU and finally we have the numbers, motivation, and excitement to see it through," club president Marie Burchi said.

Burchi checked out a couple men's rugby practices last year to see what the sport was all about, and proceeded to fall in love with it.

"I wanted to see the building of the club through because I knew there were other girls like me who wanted to play," she said.

The team currently is training for competition with ten members and is coached by men's rugby members Hunter Michaels and Devon Medows. The team trains in the Recreation Center on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-7 p.m.

The club plans to move practices outside in a of couple weeks to the field at Walton Boulevard and Adams Road. The club will be run year-round.

"Rugby isn't seasonal, it is a lifestyle," Burchi said.

Women wishing to join must a \$40 entry fee and a to-be-determined club due fee. Additionally, prospective club members need cleats and a mouth guard.

"You don't need to have played a sport, you don't need to try out, you just have to give the sport your all and train hard," Burchi said. "We are a very welcoming group and support system."

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/RugbyatOU> for additional information.

Winter guard



Designed by Kalle Wanagat

"Winter guard is a form of performing arts," club founder Laura Coan said. "It's dance with equipment thrown into the mix. We spin things such as flags, rifles, sabers and some other forms of equipment."

The club began just last week but has already committed 20 members.

"I knew that they're had to be more guard people at

Oakland (so I) took a chance to starting the team," Coan said. "And I am so blown away by the response I have gotten. I am so excited to finally be getting things going."

The only cost for entry into the club is to participate in every club fundraiser.

Next year, Coan plans on entering the club into competitions within the Michigan Color Guard Circuit. Since the club isn't able to compete in the circuit this first year, Coan plans on putting on a performance at the end of the season.

While the team has not yet decided on practice times, Coan is looking at practicing on Wednesdays from 6:30-9 p.m. and Sundays from 12-5 p.m.

"A normal season runs October-April," she said. "However, with this as our startup season, recruitment officially ends Feb. 5 and (we plan) to run it until April."

The club will having a short meeting on Feb. 5 following the end of recruitment at 7 p.m. in Kresge room 224.

Please contact lecoan@oakland.edu for additional information.

Swinging for the fences

Baseball player Andre Sopena uses life lessons to navigate first season

David Cesefsky
Staff Reporter

Growing up in Chicago, Oakland University baseball transfer student Andre Sopena has overcome numerous obstacles and trials that life has thrown his way.

Crediting his faith as well as his relentless attitude, Sopena chooses to wear his heart on his sleeve and be the strength and support for others in need.

Growing up

Born and raised in the Windy City, Sopena grew up just three blocks away from Lake Michigan.

"It was different growing up, I really didn't have a childhood, I didn't have many friends, because my life was baseball," he said. "My friends were my two older brothers and my Dad."

Sopena always holds his fishing pole, his love for baseball and his Bible close to him. He credits his father for his passion for baseball, as well as his strong work ethic in training.

"We would always go to the park," Sopena said. "My dad would hit us ground balls or work us out, either at the park or the track."

Growing up, Sopena admits baseball and expectations fueled his determination, but it also created strain in his relationship with his father.

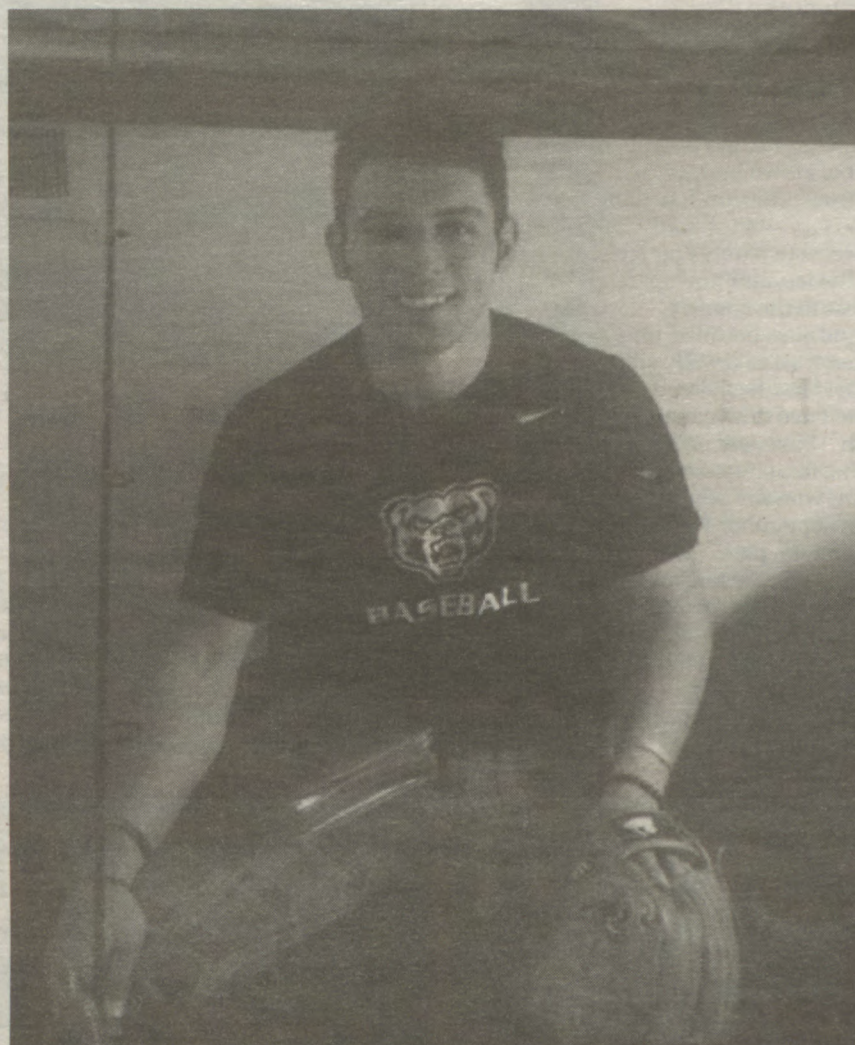
"I think baseball kind of took us on a different path, because we'd always get angry at one another after practice," he said.

As time has passed, Sopena's relationship with his father has changed dramatically, accompanying a new outlook on life.

"Our relationship now is great, we've grown together throughout baseball and life," he said. "Going through what we did has made us closer, because we realized life is short. Truly love one another and you'll see the love come out of them."

In his own words

"If I had to describe myself, I'd say I'm a person who honors his mother and father," Sopena said. "Someone you can call at any time of the day, (that has) a big heart and loves helping other



David Cesefsky / The Oakland Post

Andre Sopena is focusing on his past to help him in his baseball career and his life.

people.

Sopena considers himself a real personable kind of guy who naturally isn't a stranger to anyone, one that strives to stay thankful and to love other people.

The man on the baseball field also resembles the man off of it.

"There's one word that describes me on the field and off, and that's relentless," he said. "Relent' means to pull away and 'less' is the absence of something. This is a word I live by, so no matter what happens, I go for it."

Overcoming loss

For Sopena, it's not always about the destination, but more importantly, the journey.

When he was just a sophomore in high school, Sopena received a phone call that he would never forget. His best friend Conner had taken his own life.

Feeling at a loss for words, Sopena became depressed and confused with where his purpose in life laid.

"I needed something to help me feel revived," he said. "It took me a while, but I realized that it was faith."

Going through such a devastating loss forced Sopena to rethink things, changing how he shared his heart with others in the process.

"It taught me to love others with a pure heart, and to be there for others when they need me," he said.

"It was very hard for me, because he was my best friend and I wanted to be there for him, and I had no idea what he was feeling inside."

After the tragedy, Sopena has made a vow to be a friend and voice for others. Six years later, he still holds his morals and humbleness close, a mindset that can only serve him well going into his first season at Oakland.

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Track and field team travels to Findlay Classic

The Oakland University team was scheduled to travel to Fort Wayne for a Jan. 24 meet, however the event was cancelled. The throwers of the team elected to travel to the Findlay Classic the next day in Findlay, Ohio. Andrew Stebbins, Gino Vitella, and Katelynne Hartman all participated. Stebbins finished 13th in the shot on the men's side and Hartman 11th for the women. OU is currently waiting to announce where their meet will be this week to make up for the cancellation.

Swimming and Diving

Oakland swimming and diving had a busy week. On Thursday, January 23rd, the men and women competed at a dual meet against Michigan State, losing a tightly contested matchup. Jorden Merrilees won three events and Amr el Sayed, Grant Harding, Takara Martin and Patricia Aschan all won two events. But that was not enough for the Golden Grizzlies, with the men falling 154.5-143.5. The women also suffered a narrow defeat, 163-135. OU then went on to top Cleveland State and Xavier in a double dual meet Saturday, Jan. 25 at the OU Aquatic Center. Oakland had 19 top finishers throughout the meet, led by Jorden Merrilees for the men and Takara Martin for the women. Cleveland State's men's team, the previous Horizon League champ, was blown out of the water by Oakland, 184-109. The men also decisively defeated Xavier with a 213-69 victory. Oakland finishes out the regular season on Saturday, Feb. 1 at IUPUI.

For the full Sporting Blitz, visit Oaklandpostonline.com

Compiled by Jackson Gilbert,
Sports Reporter

DIII Grizzlies develop national presence

No. 1 ranked Oakland hockey team prepares for playoffs

Jackson Gilbert
Staff Reporter

Sitting first place in the Michigan Collegiate Hockey Conference's East Division with only a couple weeks remaining before the playoffs, the DIII Golden Grizzlies are rolling at 9-0 within the conference. The MCHC has 15 teams.

The team has also been ranked No. 1 at several points this season in DIII in the entire American Collegiate Hockey Association, which includes more than 60 schools.

OU's Division I team plays in the Great Lakes Collegiate Hockey League.

The DIII team's 22-7 overall record is somewhat misleading, as the team has suffered several shootout losses and one-goal losses. All things considered, Coach Troy Barron is impressed with this year's team.

"It's taken four years to put this team together ... we're not taking the best kids, we're taking the right kids," he said.

Leading the way for the Grizzlies is

senior forward Collin Elkins, who has 20 goals and 20 assists, leading the team in points at 40.

Zac Massa, Alexander Zakucia and Matthew Zuelch have also had strong campaigns, each amassing over thirty points on the season.

The group, led by upperclassmen, has sort of grown up together.

"Coach Barron has done an unbelievable job," Elkins said. "Four years ago, there were barely enough guys to get out on the ice, and now we're one of the best teams in the country."

And just because they're D3, doesn't mean it's a cakewalk, either.

Oakland has already beaten Michigan State once this year and also split a series with University of Detroit Mercy, only losing in a shootout.

OU won the other game 12-3.

In September, Oakland traveled to Cincinnati to participate in a tournament hosted by Xavier, matching up against the University of Mississippi, Missouri State and even an old basketball rival, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Then, in November, the team travelled to Florida for a tournament featuring



Courtesy of OU DIII hockey

There are 28 players on the DIII roster, and their class range is from freshman to senior.

teams Central and South Florida, Florida Gulf Coast and South Carolina.

OU ended up winning the tournament, outscoring its opponents 26-13 in just four games.

Interestingly, Barron mentioned that these games drew huge crowds, much larger than games in the northern states because there just isn't that much hockey to watch in the South.

OU is hoping to stay near the top of the

North rankings, as the top two teams get automatic bids into the National Tournament. If that can happen, Elkins believes the team should set its expectations high.

"Obviously, anybody's goal is to win the championship, I'd say our team has absolutely the best chance."

Oakland takes the ice next against the University of Michigan-Flint at 7:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, at the Detroit Skating Club, its home rink.

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Kailee Mathias / The Oakland Post

An SAE member works on one of the team's formula racing cars, two of which are on display at the auto show

Society of Automotive Engineers showcases cars

International Auto Show provides opportunity for SAE

Ali DeRees
Staff Reporter

Oakland University's Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is featuring two of its formula racing cars at the 2014 North American International Show at Cobo Center.

SAE president Sindy Zaki described the teams cars, their involvement at the auto show, and the sponsorships and grants they've received.

The 2013 GRX 3 is on display with DENSO on the main floor of the show and the 2012 GRX 2 is on display downstairs from the main floor.

DENSO is a global automotive supplier that provided a \$30,000 grant to OU's Department of Mechanical Engineering. Zaki said the money was used to buy tools that helped build the car's powertrain system.

Both cars boast impressive racing records. The GRX 3 placed 23rd overall at the Formula SAE Michigan Race at Michigan International Speedway and the GRX 2 came in 3rd overall at the University of Toronto Shootout.

Zaki says that the Auto Show

is an event that is "more social for our team."

Team members get to talk to various automotive suppliers, local area companies, and members of larger automotive companies such as Ford. Some of these employees and employers include OU alumni, according to Zaki.

"We get to build relationships with employees, a lot of them are alumni," Zaki said.

Local elementary and middle school students were able to come on education day this past Wednesday and check out OU's cars, Zaki said.

Overall, Zaki loves seeing people's reactions to their cars and displays at the show.

"People enjoy seeing that OU has a lot more to offer," Zaki said.

The team also received a \$5,000 grant from Chrysler.

Zaki describes the team's relationship with Chrysler as "a working partnership."

The team and the Big 3 Company have done events such as Car Talk, in which Chrysler brought some vehicles to be displayed on campus and the SAE team did as well. The team also partnered with Chrysler in a SRT event in which Chrysler brought out some of their SRT vehicles and demonstrated their capabilities in the PI parking lot.

The SAE team and their cars

have been displayed at the Auto Show for the past four years. Their displays have attracted many students and current members, including Lead Frame and Body Engineer Tom Garvey.

Garvey has been on the team for four years. He was so impressed with what he saw of SAE at the Auto Show that he decided to join the team.

He said there are four people from the team on rotation each day at the show. He believes this kind of exposure is huge for the team.

Right now the team is currently building the 2014 GRX 4. Garvey said he is finishing the rear of its frame so it can be painted.

"Once you build the frame, people get more excited about building the car," Garvey said.

Garvey said this year's new team has a lot of new faces but they also have a lot of potential.

"We've got a lot of new members filling big shoes," Garvey said.

When it comes to racing cars, Garvey believes speed isn't necessarily everything.

"You want your car to look good too," Garvey said with a smile.

Contact Staff Reporter Ali DeRees at apderees@oakland.edu

OU gains exposure through auto show app

Oakland sponsors 2014 North American Auto Show app

Ali DeRees
Staff Reporter

In partnership with Local 4 WDIV, Oakland University is the official sponsor of the 2014 North American International Auto Show app. The app provides a banner advertisement for OU; specifically it's Engineering and Computer Science programs.

The goal of this sponsorship was to use the popularity of the Auto Show to "continue to drive our brand as a premier institution of higher education," said Associate Vice President of Communications and Marketing John Young.

Interactive Marketing Director Bryan Cain led staff members from the communications and marketing team in working on interactive media, design and marketing professionals, according to Young. This work was done in conjunction with the tech team at Click on Detroit.com, said Young.

Gaining exposure

He said the sponsorship cost approximately \$65,000. He also noted that OU sponsored the same app in 2013 and was also involved in the 2013 Detroit Grand Prix in June.

Young described how the app provides exposure for Oakland University.

"The sponsorship of the app includes exposure and mentions on WDIV (channel 4) news broadcasts and auto show commercials," Young said.

Each time a user logs in to the app a banner ad is displayed with Oakland University content Young said.

Sponsorships like this do not come solely from the university's communications and marketing team, according to Young.

"OU's Communications and Marketing team looks at all

"The sponsorship of the app includes exposure and mentions on WDIV."

John Young
Associate Vice President of communications and marketing

sponsorships and considers each of them carefully with Enrollment Services and related academic unit," Young said

Young said he sees a lot of potential and promise in digital marketing. Smart phone applications, social media, and digital display campaigns "have proven to be highly successful with OU's target demographics," Young said.

This not only includes current undergraduate and graduate students, but potential student influencers, alumni, and donors, according to Young.

Though the app provides national exposure for OU, not many students knew of the app's existence or the sponsorship.

Students react

Senior and Secondary Education Major in History Rebecca Churray attended the Auto Show this past Friday.

"I didn't know the Auto Show had an app until I got there and saw a sign for it," Churray said.

Churray said she liked the app but said it had its limitations.

"The app was pretty cool, it wasn't very fast and didn't work in all areas of Cobo because service wasn't that great," Churray said.

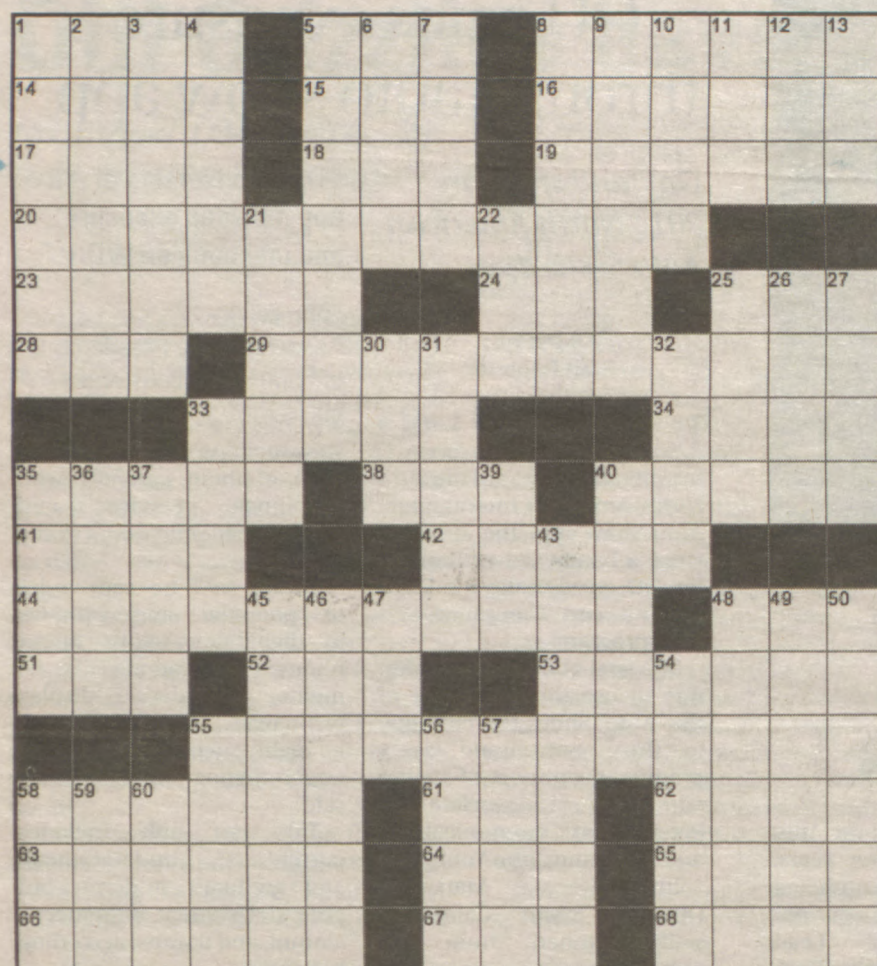
Churray said she would have liked to see advertising of the app on campus or perhaps discounts to the show for students.

Overall, Churray enjoyed her experience at the show.

"It was one of the best auto shows I've been to," Churray said.

Contact Ali DeRees at apderees@oakland.edu

Puzzles



Across

1. Rich Soil
5. Prickly casing
8. Mischievous one
14. Very top
15. Wrath
16. Llama cousin
17. Hearty meal
18. KO caller
19. Rose up
20. Selling of men's clothing
23. Circumvented
24. Many a time
25. Good, ironically, in slang
28. Fancy affairs
29. Bit of high jinks
33. Concluding dance movement
34. FYI cousin
35. West Point student
38. Lincoln loc.
40. Church recesses
41. Shrek, e.g.
42. Computer connections
44. Banquet figure
48. Had a bite
51. Chicken-to-be
52. Use the oars
53. Scrooge and Silas Marner

55. Many yacht owners, e.g.
58. Additional data on a news story
61. Some gametes
62. Buckwheat noodles of Japan
63. TV spots
64. Summer coat?
65. In a competent way
66. Right-triangle reciprocal
67. Peak stat
68. Brandon, Bruce and Brenda

Down

1. Struck with a cat-o'-nine-tails
2. Book size
3. They have pseudopods
4. Acted kittenish?
5. Hunting canine
6. Ammonia compound
7. Whistle-blowers, of a sort
8. Make more subtle
9. Warnings
10. Fix a hot dog?
11. Vehicle at a drive-in movie
12. Star pitcher
13. Male youth
21. Send payment
22. Garden tool
25. Smithereens
26. Players may up it
27. Cubbyholes?
30. 'Sister Act' extra
31. Retains
32. Chance occurrences
33. Turns to the right
35. Dove's domicile
36. Bug-eyed
37. Bummer
39. Repetitive computer program
40. Well-lit lobbies
43. Leftover amount
45. Neptune moon
46. Harry
47. Hole punch
48. Oxygen-dependent microorganism
49. Tweeter output
50. Test answers in blue books
54. Rugmaking fiber
55. Cass Elliot, once
56. Greek letter
57. Football's contour
58. At bats
59. Start to mature?
60. Sleepy coworker

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LEFT An OUPD barricade blocks off Samantha Nagy's personal parking space in the lot outside of Vandenberg Hall. The sign reads "Climate Survey Winner Parking-Only"

BELOW Nagy on one of those days she smoothly pulled into her spot on campus.



INCONVENIENT PARKING BLUES

Sophomore wins personal parking spot, has OUPD issue three tickets in one week.

Scott Wolchek
Editor-in-Chief

Samantha Nagy is living every OU student's dream come true – she won her very own parking spot on campus.

But there's one small problem – everyone keeps ignoring the giant sign that reads in glaring letters 'Climate Survey Winner Parking Only.'

"I couldn't park in it the first day," Nagy said.

Another vehicle was parked in the spot she had won.

Nagy did what anyone would do in that situation – call Oakland University Police Department to have the car towed.

Unfortunately for Nagy, her hand-selected spot isn't a tow-away zone, regardless of the two tow-away zone spots next to it. She had to park in the dirt lots of the upper fields and wait for the vehicle's owner to move it.

"This parking spot was a good thing for me because I wouldn't have to walk to the dirt lots," Nagy said.

"The tow-away zone isn't up to OUPD to determine," said OUPD Captain, Mark Gordon. "We can't just wave a magic wand, so to speak, and make her spot a tow-away zone. That's not how the process works and that's not how the law works."

However, OUPD issued the

owner of the unwelcome car a ticket to discourage any further swiping of Nagy's spot.

"That's a costly parking spot," OUPD Lieutenant Terry Ross said. "That's a \$20 fine."

Nagy has owned the coveted space in Vandenberg's parking lot since Jan. 15. In the time-span of about a week, she had to call OUPD three times to issue tickets.

Each call resulted in a ticket. However, Nagy believes the lifestyle of constantly calling OUPD to inform them of violators is inconvenient for both her and the officers.

OUPD begs to differ.

"We have 22,000 people on this campus," Gordon said. "OUPD can't babysit on every

single spot. We can't just sit there and watch every one of these spots and make sure the person who parks in this spot is the one who's supposed to get that spot."

According to Gordon, if a violator receives six unpaid parking tickets, then the OUPD can tow them.

Tired of constantly calling the police, and not wanting to wait around for every single violator to receive six tickets, Nagy devised a few alternate solutions to all of the driving drama.

She tried attaching a handwritten note to the sign to let people know she really owned the spot.

She posted statuses on Fa-

cebook, pleading for housing residents to let her park.

Finally, Nagy came up with the idea of letting OUPD let her borrow a cone to place in her spot.

"If the sign didn't stop somebody, a cone won't stop somebody," Ross said.

Regardless, Nagy eventually received permission from an officer to use an old OUPD barrier to blockage her parking area.

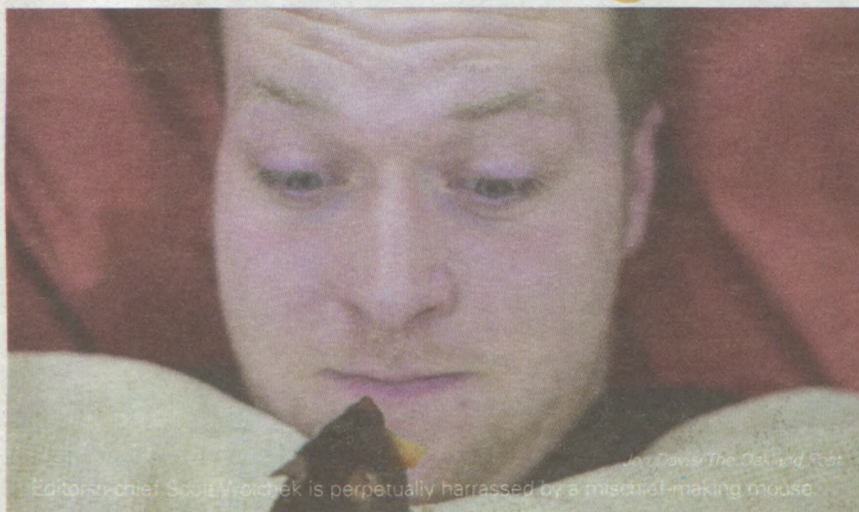
Ever since using the barrier, no one has stolen her well-deserved spot.

"I hate making myself a problem. I hate giving people tickets. I hate having to say and post stuff. I just want to park there."

Mouthing Off

SATIRE

Of mice and college men



Scott Wolchek
Editor-in-Chief / King of Rats

There's a mouse in my house, more cunning than the devil himself.

Not only does he constantly outwit my roommates and I, but he is adding much unwanted destruction to our apartment. He tears holes in backpacks, rips the carpet with his claws and, worst of all, leaves droppings everywhere.

Trust me, the 'P' in the word 'pest' stands for poop.

It is haunting my dreams.

The mouse has been nesting in the walls for a few months. I remember telling my landlord that we had a mouse. She replied "You have a mouse?" then chuckled heartily and gave us some glue traps.

Although grateful for the traps, I was unenthused by her optimistic demeanor. This rodent is no laughing matter.

Our house has become a warzone.

My roommate Parker and I devised a plan to leave stale pizza in the box on the floor.

Did I mention we put a glue trap on the pizza? It was a fairly obvious trick, but man's brain is much greater than mouse – or so we thought.

It turns out a mouse doesn't need to eat an entire pizza, so he didn't go into the trap.

We thought the mouse couldn't resist such a temptation. But he did. He ate a few bites of pizza, then crapped it out on our kitchen floor.

After we lost the battle of the pizza box, I called my father.

He told me to keep the traps close to the walls and to use the ultimate weapon: peanut butter.

No mouse can resist that ooey-gooey brown paste.

Technically, he was right. The mouse ate the peanut butter and got stuck in a trap – but it turns out my landlord gave us some fairly second-rate traps and the creative little rodent escaped yet again.

Perhaps we will ensnare this beast in the future. For now, though, he waits in the shadows for us to lay our tired eyes to rest and leave us some unwelcome presents.

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