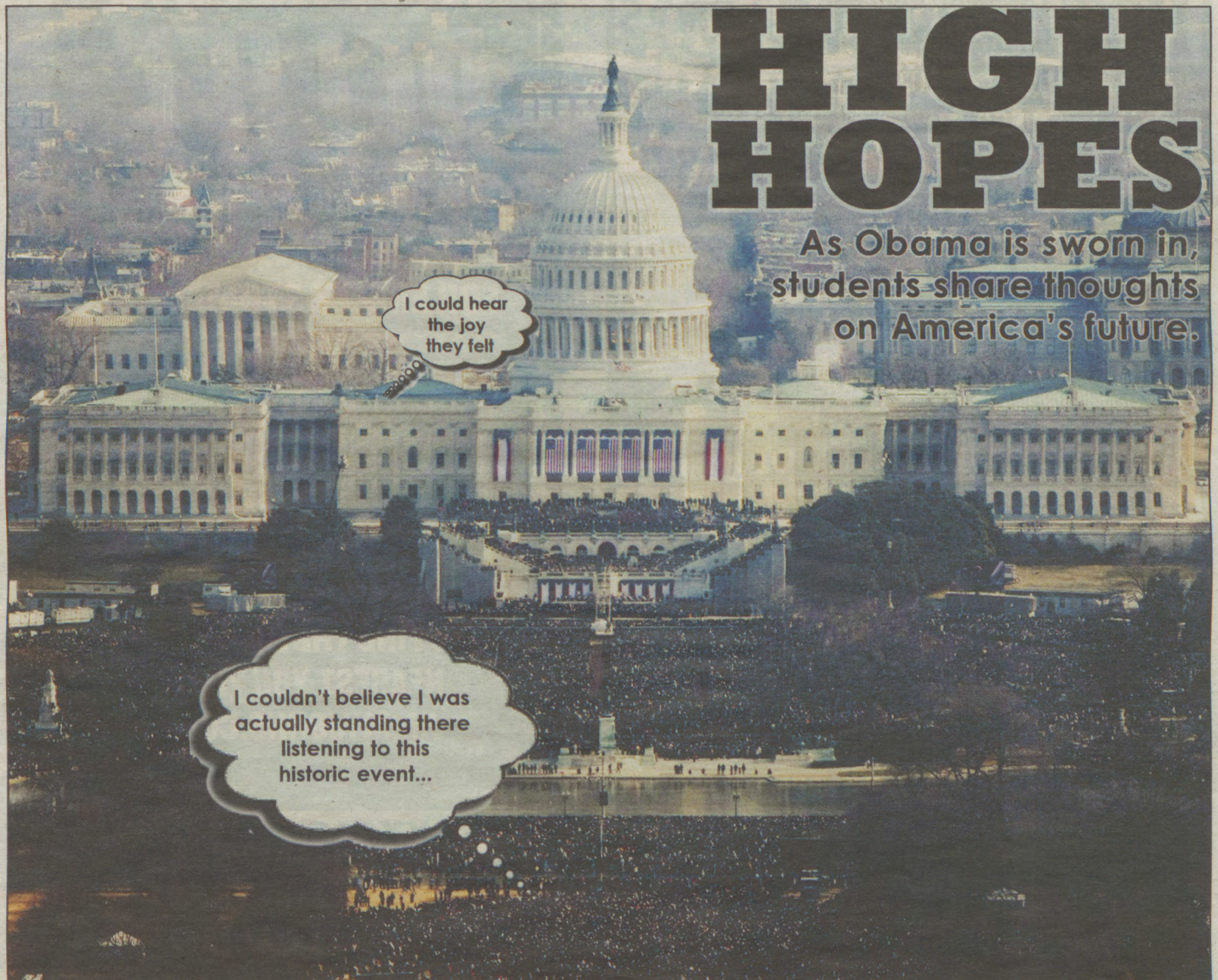


THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

January 21, 2009

Volume 35, Number 16



HIGH HOPES

As Obama is sworn in, students share thoughts on America's future.

Photo: LUIS ALVAREZ/ Associated Press

CAMPUS

Keepers of the Dream: Students recognized for their efforts to promote racial equality, Glover speaks
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SPORTS

Four OU skaters face mental, physical and emotional challenges next week at U.S. competition
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MOUTHING OFF

Watching end-of-the-world scenarios play out on TV and movies is the guiltiest of pleasures
page 22

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There's still hope for (what's left of) Tiger Stadium, as it gets a preliminary OK for a revamp.



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Students write in from Washington D.C. about their experience at the inauguration and students on campus share their expectations for the new president.



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The world watches as the 44th president is sworn into office as a massive crowd cheers historic event.

THE OAKLAND POST
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EDITORIAL

Lindsey Wojcik
Editor in Chief
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-4268

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

Brooke Hug
Photo Editor
oakpostphoto@gmail.com
(248) 370-4266

COPY EDITOR
Katie Jacob
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

Amanda Meade
Scene/Mix Editor
oakpostfeatures@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

SENIOR REPORTERS
Sean Garner
Rory McCarty
Tom Murphy Jr.
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2849

Jared Purcell
Sports Editor
oakpostsports@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

STAFF REPORTERS
Joe Guzman
Janice Williams

Masudur Rahman
Campus Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

STAFF INTERNS
Kathleen Quandt
Brad Slazinski

Tim Rath
Managing Web Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

John Gardner
Web Master
(248) 370-4266

Tom Rowland
Multimedia Editor
oakposteditor@gmail.com
(248) 370-2848

ADVERTISING | MARKETING

Sarah Lang
Lead Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Mallory Lapanowski
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Jillian Field
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

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

Steve St. Germain
Asst. Ads Manager
oaklandpostadvertising@gmail.com
(248) 370-4269

Get Posted!

Where do your classmates commute from? What time does your professor go to bed? Find answers to these questions and more daily as The Oakland Post begins to blog.

This week on
oaklandpostonline.com.

Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

January 21, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Don't break our hearts, Barack

At about 11 p.m. on Nov. 4, 2008, millions of Americans had that butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling when it was announced that Barack Obama would become the 44th president of the United States. He courted us for two years and Americans said yes. And this past Tuesday, the world joined in celebration as our relationship with Obama was consummated.

But much like the beginning of any other relationship, America's love affair with Obama began with astronomic expectations that not even Superman could meet if he took the presidency.

Obama has promised to help us make peace with our past, especially the baggage we left in the Middle East. According to USA Today, Obama intends to "bring the Joint Chiefs of Staff in" and "give them a new mission: to end this war responsibly and deliberately but decisively."

Obama has also promised to ease our money problems, which has been proven time and again that are never good for a relationship. According to Reuters, he hopes to "protect or create 3 to 4 million jobs" in his first four years in office. Within his first 100 days in office, he has vowed to "get Congress to pass his stimulus plan of \$825 billion."

Finally, Obama has promised to help us clean up our act. According to USA Today, his energy plan includes yearly weatherization of "one million homes, \$7,000 tax credits for fuel-efficient cars and putting one million hybrid cars on the road by 2015."

Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who took office in 1933, is a good example of getting in and taking care of things. He had a burst of activity in his first 100 days as president to enlarge the federal government and pull the United States out of the Great Depression. Some analysts believe that Obama faces a time of financial crisis on par with Roosevelt's.

Americans will almost certainly stalk the new president's every move in his first 100 days in hopes of seeing sweeping changes from our last "relationship," which left many financially, emotionally and perhaps politically scarred.

Despite America's projected surplus when George W. Bush was elected in 2000 and the electoral "mandate" by which he was re-elected in 2004, Bush now leaves office with a mere 24 percent approval rating, according to PollingReport.com.

Although the wind is at his back, it is important to understand that Obama may not live up to the expectations we have set for him. In spite of the similarities in their situation, it is worth noting that FDR's famous "First 100 Days" did not completely heal America's wounds.

But for as much as his predecessor President Hoover is blamed for the Great Depression, the fact is that it took America's involvement in World War II to completely pull us from the ditch.

However, we are not interested in throwing water on the fire that is Obama's parade. Even if he does not follow through on his promises, his election as the first African-American president of this country a mere 143 years after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery is worth one last reflective thought on how far we have come.

That said, before Obama has the chance to mess things up with the American public, let's simply take a moment to remember that we as Americans are here to see such a monumental moment of history. For now, that should be enough.

Before television pundits, hockey moms and editorial writers have a chance to tear down Obama, let us pause and savor this last, simple moment; when the old flame finally burned out, when fist-bumping replaced cigarettes as the post-coitus celebration and President Barack Hussein Obama II was merely "Barry" in our eyes.



NOW COMES THE TOUGH PART FOR OBAMA: HOW TO FILL GEORGE BUSH'S SHOES.

CAM CARDOW/The Ottawa Citizen

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CORRECTIONS CORNER

On the cover of the Jan. 14 issue, Mike Palmer was incorrectly attributed.

On page 21 of the Jan. 14 issue, the photos were courtesy of © HFP.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Banks should help homeless

Colleen Miller
Managing Editor



The arctic cold front that passed through metro Detroit is a wake-up call. Fingers go numb, even with gloves, just walking to across campus.

Being homeless, especially in deathly-cold weather, is unimaginable. Yet homelessness is rising while more and more foreclosed and abandoned properties rot. A drive through Pontiac or Detroit is heart wrenching. Homes have tarps, barely covering windows, while the homeless seek warmth and cover.

In a 2008 report by the National Coalition for the Homeless, 41.6 percent of surveyed homeless coalitions said that they think those affected by home foreclosures are on the streets.

Meanwhile, vacant and abandoned properties account for about 15 percent of a typical large city according to the

Brookings Institution.

Foreclosures are perpetuating this no-win cycle. I understand the need for repercussions for not making good on a loan, but this process should be reevaluated when Michigan's unemployment rate is 9.6 percent.

A lot of the people that can't afford to make their mortgage payments right now are not going to be any better off making a rent payment without the stability that a home offers.

Can you imagine trying to make it on time to the morning shift at JCPenney or trying to find a job without your laptop and Internet, without a loofah sponge, without those peep toe heels that were too impractical to hang on to because they serve no survival purpose when you're living out of your car, assuming you still have one?

At the same time, the banks aren't really benefiting from a foreclosure if they are losing a borrower. After all, banks make their money off of loaning people someone else's money. The banks are cutting their own throat by cutting out their source of capital.

Can't the banks show a little social

responsibility and try to bridge the abyss between the growing numbers of empty properties and people that are homeless?

Most companies do their part to give back to society by donating to causes or starting their own. Starbucks, for example, supports organizations that help create a better coffee product, a better life for those that rely on coffee exports and those that rely on their daily caffeine fix.

Even musicians do their part by writing songs in their old age to combat the prejudices or wrongdoings they may have made seem cool in their heyday. So why can't these financial institutions make an effort to pay society back for all of the pain they inflict? I don't consider free checking or a free duffle bag for opening up a CD an earnest enough effort.

A little social responsibility isn't too much to ask for when the industry is the cause for some of the harm. Banks should team up with the National Vacant Properties Campaign, an organization that assists in vacant property revitalization efforts.

There's no reason that there should be families freezing at night when there are so many empty buildings.

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Nominees for the 2009 Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards must be graduating seniors in Winter 2009 or have graduated in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2008.

The awards recognize one female and one male who have contributed as scholars, leaders, and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. Nominees must have a strong academic record of a 3.5 or higher GPA.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

Nominees must be graduating in Winter 2009 or have graduated in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2008.

The Human Relations Award recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to inter-group understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community. The major consideration of the award is the individual's service to the community.

A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.

Nomination forms are available online at www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/ under "Scholarships and Awards" or at 144 Oakland Center. Call 370-3352 for more information.

Deadline for both awards is Monday, February 2, 2009.

Students keeping King's dream alive

MLK Day kicks off OU's African-American Celebration Month

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

Thirty-six years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech and one day before Barack Obama became the first African-American president of the United States, four Oakland University students were recognized for their commitment to improving race relations on campus.

Lisa Daily, Jasmine Rudolph, Relando Thompkins and Norris Chase each received the 17th annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award on Monday, Jan. 19 in front of a crowd of over 200 people in the Oakland Center's Banquet Rooms.

The scholarship is sponsored by the OU Center for Multicultural Initiatives.

CMI's director Omar Brown-El said one of the goals of the award is to show the community the progress that continues to be made in race relations. The award recognized student efforts to break down racial stereotypes and promote interracial understanding.

"We are trying to promote Dr. King's legacy, his vision, his dream," Brown-El said. "We are trying to say that today's students have the opportunity to go to college and get an education."

"These students exemplify the ideals of Dr. King in terms of their educational pursuits as well as their promoting the breaking down of racial lines," he said.

The ceremony was highlighted by the keynote speech of world famous actor and distinguished civil rights activist Danny Glover.

Glover helped organize the longest student strike in American history during his college days at San Francisco State University that led to the establishment of an ethics department at SFSU.

He told the crowd Monday that while there are many positive developments in race relations going on around the world, patience and constant pursuit of justice are still necessary.

"A movement is a process, not an event," Glover said. "How do we mobilize all these very different strands of resistance at this particular point in time? [King] understood clearly that a movement is based on the vocal organizing of men and women."

The human condition

Thompkins, a social work major, said in a prerecorded speech shown at the ceremony that he "longs to find a way to improve the human condition." Thompkins interned at Oakland County's Children's Village and served as a mentor at GEAR UP and at CMI, and said that improving the human condition mainly consists of working for equality.

"To me, improving the human condition means establishing a society where each individual has the same value placed on their lives, where no one is considered better than anyone else," Thompkins said. "Like Danny Glover was talking about, it is a process to improve things from what America once was into what America could become. America could truly live up to the ideals that were written into the Constitution, but I think we have [a] long way to go still before we reach that mark."

Barriers between people

Rudolph, a senior nursing and biomedical engineering major who plans to attend medical school after graduation, said she wants to break down social barriers that still exist on campus.

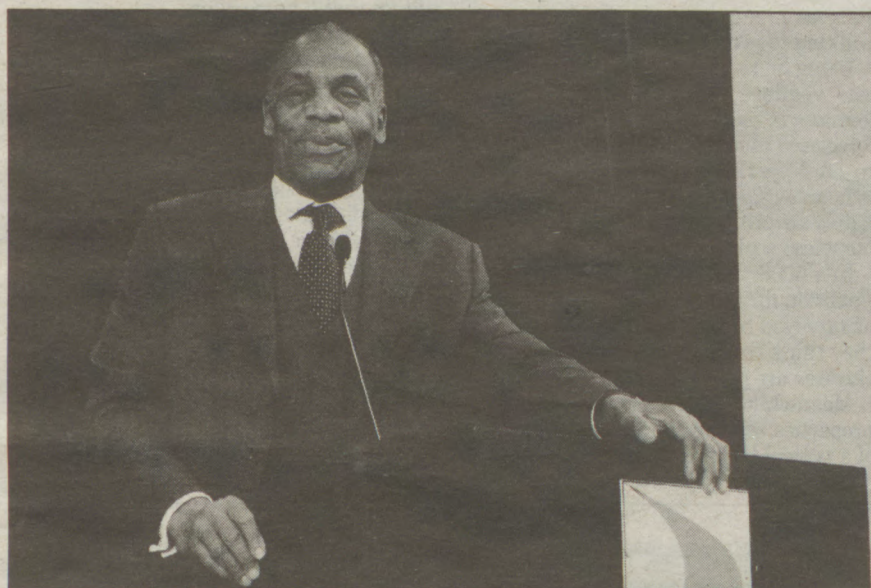
"We're advocates of anything on campus that is positive and will help break down barriers of communication," Rudolph said. "I'm more so concerned about the barriers between organizations on campus. We have over 100 student organizations on campus, and a lot of times they don't even interact amongst one another."

"I want people to know that if you're Asian. You don't only have to go to the Asian celebration, you can also go to the African-American celebration."

Daily, a junior nursing major, said fostering racial harmony and equity has been one of her major prerogatives since arriving at OU from "tiny" Kingston, Mich.

"It is incredibly rewarding because I really have tried to do a lot of things to break down multicultural and racial barriers and try to show everybody that we are judged by our character and not what we look like," Daily said.

Daily, the only white recipient of the Keeper of the Dream Award, described



All photos by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

Danny Glover said that while much progress in race relations has been made, more needs to be done.



Norris Chase



Lisa Daily



Jasmine Rudolph



Relando Thompkins

herself as an "all-American country girl" and said that growing up in a community like Kingston helped inform her about the importance of racial unity.

"By being from such a homogeneous area and now being in such a diverse place, it is really refreshing so that you can see all these different people interact and show how other parts of the world really are."

Each recipient said they strive to achieve the values of King regardless of any recognition.

"I feel like it's a human duty, it's our responsibility," Rudolph said.

A monthlong celebration

Several past winners were in attendance at both the ceremony and a lun-

cheon held afterwards. Brown-El said that many of the past winners still act as ambassadors for OU and remain committed to the ideals the award represents.

"We have 17 years of history behind us and those students are doing wonderful things in the community and their professions," he said. "We invite all our past winners back every year, and many of them returned for the event today."

Monday's event was the first of many planned for OU's African-American Celebration Month. Its theme this year is "The Journey of Black Political and Economic Empowerment."

The events run from Jan. 19 - Feb. 19 and include campus visits from black professionals such as Wayne County Prosecutor Kim Worthy on Feb. 12 and neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson on Feb. 5.

Kresge Library getting a facelift

By BRAD SLAZINSKI and
KATHLEEN QUANDT
Staff Interns

Construction is underway to make renovations on Oakland University's Kresge Library, and it could be finished by the end of winter semester.

The construction doesn't include the café that library administrators would like to have because not enough funds have been raised for the café yet.

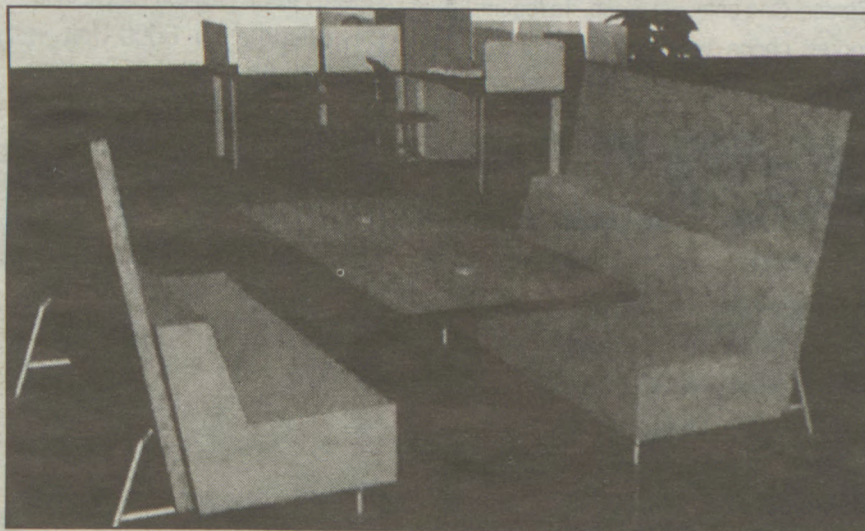
Associate dean of the library Frank Lepkowski said the project was started in Fall 2008. When completed, the government documents originally housed on the second floor — the main floor — will be moved to first floor, the second floor will have a new seating arrangement on one side, study rooms on that side will be turned into group study rooms, and e-learning will be moved to fourth floor.

Lepkowski said the funding for this project came from OU President Gary Russi as part of an initiative.

Designed for students' benefit

"When it's done, it's going to change things quite a bit," Lepkowski said. "The idea is that this whole space becomes a space that is flexible. We figure that students are going to be able to set up with what they feel."

Dean of the library Julie Voelck said they want students to be able to work individually and with groups.



MASUDUR RAHMAN/The Oakland Post
A model of one of the new kinds of furniture to be added to the library to facilitate working in groups.

"We will also offer white boards to students with capability to have the information on the board converted into a JPEG to take with you," Voelck said.

She said the ideas came not only from the faculty, but from the students too.

"We have a Facebook page where we asked for comments," Voelck said. "We looked at the comments from students for what they envisioned."

"Ideally, we'll be able to have installation during winter break," she said. "But it's kind of out of our hands, we're not sure if everything will arrive on time."

Lepkowski said that they considered leaving one floor open 24 hours a day, but that due to security reasons it looks to be out of the question.

The café that could be

Voelck said that the plans for the café came about because of student demand.

"It isn't in fruition yet, but the idea came about because the students want it," she said. "Students have been telling me for quite some time that they want this café."

She said that instead of being a staffed café, it will be more like high-end vending: serving snacks, coffee, espressos and lattes.

"The idea with the seating and everything is to create a very distinct and different kind of atmosphere in that area," Lepkowski said. "This goes against the old no food, no drink, no fun, no speak, no noise type model of the library."

The could-be-café will cost about \$90,000. Voelck said she is working hard to raise \$50,000.

"It may not be this year maybe next year, but I am confident we will eventually have it," Voelck said.

Voelck asked OU Student Congress to help with the café, and OUSC has donated \$5,000, and plans to donate more.

OUSC President Dan Evola said Congress members liked the idea when Voelck presented them with the plans.

"It seemed to be in student demand," Evola said. "It seemed like something permanent to invest in."

Voelck said other locations were considered, but the fishbowl near the entrance was chosen because all the others were out of sight. She said this way the students will see it right away when they walk in.

Voelck said that she did some investigations into the café that was installed in the undergraduate library at the University of Michigan last year. She found that their café is also right by the entrance.

Student groups try to make campus greener together

By JANICE WILLIAMS and MASUDUR RAHMAN
Staff Reporter and Campus Editor

Students are making strides to make Oakland University's campus more environmentally friendly. They're hosting upcoming events to make the OU community more green-aware.

Environmental Coalition, a student organization, has been working with other student groups and OU administration to do so, focusing especially on recycling, waste reduction and energy efficiency.

"We're a student organization just trying to benefit students in every department on campus," said Avery Neale, founder of the Coalition. "The coalition is meant to be a place for students who share common interest in the environment."

The Environmental Coalition works with Eco-Interest Team and Sustainability Outreach Peer Educators. These organizations are separate, but their members work together.

SOPE's are students employed by OU to create awareness and environmental programs throughout campus. Student housing, the Oakland Center and the Recreation Center each have their own SOPE.

"SOPE's are special groups designed to be based on peer education and eco-friendly initiatives," said Ed Reamer, who is the Recreation Center SOPE as well as public relations officer for the Coalition.

Eco-Interest Team is a group separate organization administered by University Housing. The student members are supposed to create awareness and find ways to make campus living more environmentally friendly. Currently, eight of them live together in a floor on Hamlin Hall.

By fall 2009, they plan to reserve an entire floor in West Vandenberg Hall for Eco-Interest students. Reamer said this will help them stay focused and come up with ideas to create awareness.

Together, the three groups are responsible for many eco-friendly assets on campus, like the recycling bins.

Before the Coalition's efforts, there weren't many recycling bins on campus. Now, there are bins for recyclable paper and plastic waste in most buildings, as well as bins for used cell phones, dry cell batteries and printer ink cartridges in several buildings.

The Coalition is constantly working on recruiting activities revolving around outreach. They host events that will help increase awareness as well as interest

students to get more involved with the green movement.

On Thursday, Jan. 22, the Coalition will host the event "Energy at OU," a PowerPoint presentation by OU's energy manager Jim Leidel. In the presentation, Leidel will explain the initiatives taken for making OU a better and more eco-friendly environment.

On Feb. 2-5, they will have a table set up in the Oakland Center and give away T-shirts to raise more knowledge about the organization.

Reamer said SOPE has a theme every month. January's theme is quitting smoking, and February's theme will be recycling awareness, and they'll have events throughout the month to promote it.

"The whole point is to get students and faculty involved," Reamer said.

Neale said the Environmental Coalition is always seeking to expand membership and always encourages students to take the next step and get involved with Eco-Interest Team or become a SOPE.

The Coalition has a monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 9 p.m. in Vandenberg Lounge. For any questions or for more information people can e-mail them at ou.env.coalition@gmail.com or visit the Facebook group "OU Environmental Coalition."

ANNOUNCING "Build a Grizz Bear" Contest

Entries for all student & Greek organizations, club sports and University Housing floors and buildings must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 30. Entries can be dropped off at the Heritage Room, Oakland Center. One entry per group. To register, submit organization, floor, or building name, address, phone and email, as well as a contact person, to Jean Ann Miller at jam@oakland.edu.



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POLICEFILES

On Jan. 13, a student reported the theft of several items from his apartment in 6000 University Student Apartments. The items included a \$500 PlayStation 3 and a \$1,200 Dell computer. He said the door was unlocked because his roommates were in the apartment, but the roommates were in another room at the time the suspected theft occurred. The roommates said they did not see or hear anything.

On Jan. 16, a student reported the theft of some items from her dorm room in East Vandenberg Hall. The items included an iPod charger, batteries, 15-20 pencils, two packs of gum, a box of popcorn and straws.

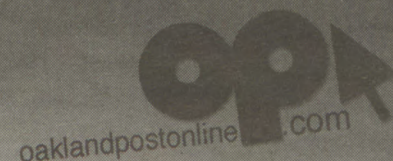
On Jan. 17, a female student reported that a drunk man tried to get in her apartment in 6000 USA. When confronted by OUPD, the man resisted and was placed in handcuffs.



Read what fun events are coming up on campus. Look at where crimes happened with an interactive map of the campus interlaid with OU Police Department reports.

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Teaming up for research on sports injury

By MASUDUR RAHMAN
Campus Editor

Two research projects that are in their early stages now could lead to healing ligament damage without surgery and to detecting a type of arthritis at early onset.

The projects are a collaboration of two Oakland University professors and several doctors at Beaumont Hospitals, with participation from athletes in OU's women's basketball team and women's swim team.

The two projects are funded by grants from the OU-Beaumont Multidisciplinary Research Awards program.

This grant program is a by-product of the recent partnership between OU and Beaumont in creating the upcoming OU William Beaumont Medical School, said Beaumont's Dr. Joseph Guettler, who is involved in both of the projects.

Guettler is also an adjunct professor at OU, although he is not currently teaching any classes.

John Reddan, a biology professor at OU, is working with Guettler for the damage-healing project. Yang Xia, a physics professor at OU, is working with Guettler for the arthritis project. Several other Beaumont researchers are also assisting in the projects.

Healing a common injury

The anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL, is one of four ligaments that are critical to the stability of the knee joint. For athletes, damage to the ACL is one of the most common injuries in sports and can lead to knee

instability and arthritis.

"It's almost endemic," Guettler said of the common-placeness of ACL tears.

He said there is currently no way to heal ACL tears without surgery, but he and Reddan are trying to see if they can treat the tears with certain growth factors.

Guettler said this project is "in the midst of pilot work." He said that they've so far worked with rabbit models and tested the procedure on three rabbits, and that they will continue testing throughout winter.

He said that if the experiment is successful on the rabbits, they may start testing on humans sometime "conceivably down the road."

"If we save some people's need for surgery, that'd be incredible," he said.

Athletes at risk for arthritis?

The other project's goal is to observe athlete's cartilage to detect arthritis at the early stages, as well as to see if high-impact athletes are at risk for developing Osteoarthritis in their knees.

High-impact athletes do a lot of running and jumping in basketball and soccer, for example, whereas low-impact athletes don't do as much of those activities.

Xia and Guettler both said high-impact athletes usually have damage to their cartilage earlier than other people and that most athletes have pain in their joints by the time they're in the 30s.

For this research project, OU women's basketball team is participating as the high-impact group, and OU

women's swim team as the low-impact group.

"When you jump around, you put pressure in the [bone] joints," Xia said. "If you don't do exercise, it's bad for your body. But if you do too much, it's bad for your body too."

He said swimming does less damage to people's bodies because the buoyant force of the water takes away from the hard effects of gravity.

He said they're trying to look at subtle differences in athletes' cartilage over time to look for damages as early signs of arthritis. He said that right now nobody knows how to catch this disease at the early stages.

"At the late stage you don't need a doctor to tell you something's wrong ... you can feel the pain," he said.

To do this, they are using a relatively new software in a MRI machine at Beaumont Hospital to visualize very early cartilage damage.

Guettler said the research is currently in the preliminary stage, and the new software was installed just last week. They did their first test run last week and are analyzing the gathered data.

If the preliminary tests go well, they hope to bring the athletes in and test them by the end of winter semester, before the teams' spring season begins.

Xia and Guettler both expect that swim team will have less early cartilage damage than basketball team.

"From [our research results], we could give better recommendations for appropriate training," Guettler said. "We may conceivably [ask the athletic teams] to include less high impact activities in the training regiment."

Profs don clown makeup

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

A lone, remote-controlled miniature VW Beetle scuttles across the floor. Two voices echo from somewhere outside the stage and yet still inside the tiny car. They argue about directions as they make their way to a show. Finally the car stops.

When the miniscule car doors pop open, the performance of "How Many Clowns Can You Fit In A Volkswagen?" has truly begun.

"Clowns" features OU professors Karen Sheridan and Rick Carver, and was performed in Varner Recital Hall several times from Jan. 16-18.

It's a collection of unrelated pieces where Sheridan and Carver, in clown makeup, act out mostly nonverbal sketches involving dancing, masks and magic. Sketches also included the pair doing such things as trying to assemble a see-saw, juggling with invisible balls, trying to escape from a straight jacket and attempting to sit on a chair.

"It's a physical comedy show, it's about relationships ... there's something for everybody," Sheridan said. "We call it an adult excuse for physical comedy."

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to enjoy it, but you could enjoy it if you were a rocket scientist," she said.

Some scenes, such as one where Sheridan and Carver dance to two disparate types of music one after the other, resulting in humorous awkwardness, are done without words.

They said they have performed "Clowns" over 40 times since 1992.

Carver said that changes to the show were made when he slammed his finger in an Applebee's door in the days leading up to the performance. Despite his injury, Carver managed to play the piano in a sketch.

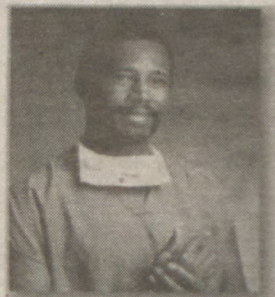
Katie Nabors, a senior theatre performance major who appeared as a sidekick in "Clowns" said it was "a wild ride." The sketches with her in it were newly added.

"It's theater without words, but it's hilarious," she said.

Carver said that although he doesn't see them quitting performing "Clowns" in the near future, there may come a day when the show will be passed on to younger performers.

"There will be a point where if we continue to do the slapstick, we wouldn't be able to get up in the next morning," he said.

Oakland University
Student Life Lecture Board Presents



Dr. Ben Carson

Thursday, February 5, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Banquet Rooms, Oakland Center

A pediatric neurosurgeon of world-renown, and a mentor to countless individuals of all ages, Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D., carries with him his message of hope for and faith in the human spirit and the remarkable ability of the human brain. To all who say that circumstances in their lives have made personal success impossible, Dr. Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, is living proof that perseverance, prayer, and self-respect, combined with a devotion to acquiring knowledge, can overcome any obstacles in one's way. (www.drben Carson.com)

This lecture is free; no tickets are required. Seating is on a first-come basis. For more information or to request special assistance, please call the CSA Office at 248-370-2400. Additional information about this program can be found at www.oakland.edu/csa.

Tiger Stadium may get revamp

Nonprofit group vying to reconstruct partially demolished stadium

By BEN LEUBSDORF
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT—A nonprofit group's plan to transform what remains of old Tiger Stadium into a commercial and educational center has received preliminary approval from the city of Detroit.

The Economic Development Corp. granted approval to the project's budget and plan in a letter dated Friday to Thomas Linn, president of the Old Tiger Stadium Conservancy.

After months of uncertainty about the prospects for saving part of the historic ballpark, "now there is a clear sense of 'yes, we can,'" said conservancy secretary Gary Gillette on Tuesday. "We have demonstrated that we have a clear plan, we have demonstrated that we are working on the practical components, we have demonstrated that we are working with the community ... This is a huge step forward."

But a greater challenge is still to come — the conservancy faces a March 1 deadline to show it can provide an estimated \$27 million to pay for the project.

And city officials still have reservations, with the letter to Linn noting that "EDC staff is not fully in agreement with all the assumptions contained in the Plan and Budget."

"We recognize that the Conservancy has taken on a tremendous challenge, and it has presented us with a very aggressive financial plan. Nevertheless, we felt it appropriate to give the Conservancy an opportunity to continue moving forward toward its next milestone," said Brian Holdwick, vice president of business and financial services at the Detroit Economic Growth Corp., which staffs the EDC, in a written statement.

Tiger Stadium was built in 1912 as Navin Field and later was known as Briggs Stadium. The Detroit Tigers played thousands of games there before moving to nearby Comerica Park after the 1999 season.

The historic ballpark has stood vacant for almost a decade. Demolition began last summer but a wedge extending from dugout to dugout was left standing as the debate over preservation continued.

The conservancy has ambitious plans for the remaining portion of the stadium, including restoring the ballpark to its pre-1978 green paint job.

The Tigers' old clubhouse and the broadcast booth area would be preserved as exhibit space for baseball and sports artifacts. Retail stores and restaurants are planned for the ballpark's main level as well as 20,000 square feet of leasable office space in the upper deck.

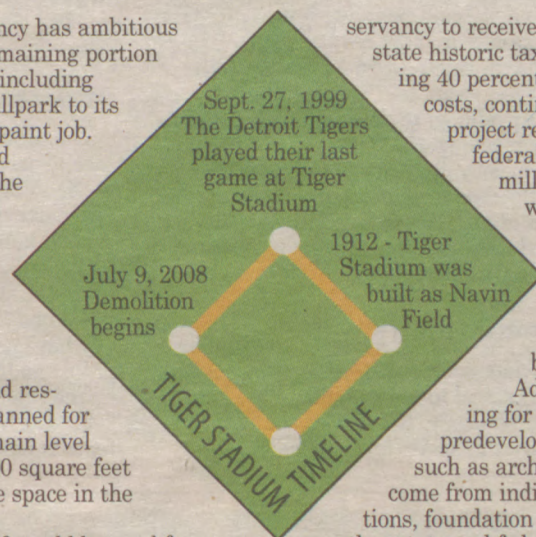
The field itself would be used for youth baseball and other activities.

After a closer evaluation of the project's costs, the price tag has almost doubled from the figure of \$15 million or \$16 million presented last year, Gillette said.

According to the group, a recent change in state law permits the con-

servancy to receive federal and state historic tax credits totaling 40 percent of the project's costs, contingent on the project receiving some federal funding. A \$4 million earmark was approved by a Senate committee last year but has been held up by a federal budget stalemate. Additional funding for the project and predevelopment costs such as architects' fees could come from individual donations, foundation support, loans, other state and federal tax credits and possibly a slice of President Barack Obama's proposed stimulus package, according to Gillette.

"We are certainly making tremendous progress and I think things are falling into place beautifully right now," Gillette said.



MIKE MODRZYNSKI/Associated Press
Above: Former Rogers City Area Schools Superintendent Dan Byrne stands before Judge Scott Pavlich in court in Rogers City, Mich., Monday Jan. 12. Byrne pleaded guilty to possession of child sexually abusive pornography.

Below: New Detroit Lions head coach Jim Schwartz, who is faced with the gargantuan task of turning around the NFL's worst team, is introduced at a Ford Field news conference in Detroit, Friday, Jan. 16.



CARLOS OSORIO/Associated Press



ROBERT KILLIPS/Lansing State Journal, AP
Above: An Eaton County Sheriff's Mounted Division horse wears a customized blanket which commemorates their participation in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Charlotte, Mich. on Saturday Jan. 17.

Below: A coyote is held in a cage caught by Ron Baker in West Bloomfield on Dec. 12, 2008. Baker, 43, of Trapper Ron, a pest-removal business, caught the coyote that had attacked a dog and was being a menace in a subdivision in West Bloomfield. The dog-like predators are a growing presence in populous southeastern Michigan, officials say.



KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/Detroit Free Press, AP

Postal employee stashes 988 letters

A Michigan mail carrier pleads guilty to deserting her route

By ED WHITE
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — There were jokes and snickers at a Michigan post office when customers learned that an overwhelmed carrier had rented a storage unit to hide thousands of pieces of mail.

"I heard a couple of people come in and say, 'Can I pick up my mail — or is it in storage?'" said Annette Koss, the postmaster in Howell, 50 miles northwest of Detroit. "We just didn't understand it. It's such a stupid thing to do."

Jill Hull pleaded guilty Tuesday to deserting the mail, a misdemeanor. The case is rare but it happens: From North Carolina to North Dakota, carriers in recent months have been hauled to court for failing to fulfill their routes.

Mail has been found in basements, garages and, in Hull's case, a self-storage unit in Livingston County.

In September, after she had failed to pay her bill, managers opened Hull's unit and discovered thousands of pieces of unopened mail, including 988 first-class letters. Some had postmarks from 2005.

"I was unable to deliver all the mail," Hull, 34, said during a brief hearing in federal court in Detroit.

In a court filing, postal investigator Douglas Mills said Hull had planned to catch up with late payments

and apparently keep the mail under lock and key until she died.

No one on the rural route had complained about missing any mail.

"Looking back at her time sheets, she was leaving early everyday," said Koss, who became postmaster shortly after the discovery. "It's like it got dark and she didn't know what to do with the mail."

Hull and her attorney had no comment after the guilty plea. The maximum penalty is a year in prison, but Hull is hoping for probation.

The Postal Service says there were 333 cases of theft, delay or destruction of mail by employees or contractors filed in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. A California postal manager was sentenced to 18 months in prison for stealing thousands of DVDs.

More than 600,000 postal employees last March received a reminder in their pay statement that delaying, stealing or throwing away mail is a crime. "You don't have to be a genius to know," it said with an image of Albert Einstein.

"It's not a systemic issue; the majority of employees are hardworking and honest," said Agapi Doulaveris, spokeswoman for the Postal Service's internal investigators.

Postal Service spokesman Gerry McKiernan said steadily decreasing mail volume — down by 9 billion

pieces in the last fiscal year — and route changes should help alleviate any stress felt by carriers.

In North Dakota, Allen Prochnow, 62, will be sentenced in March for delaying mail for 10 years. Four tons were removed from his house in Wahpeton, including 3,000 pieces of first-class mail.

"He'd see a magazine he'd like to read and pretty soon it was quite a bit of mail," lawyer John Goff said. "A lot of it was piled neatly along walls in the house. In his own mind he was building a bunker. ... His most frequent answer has been, 'I don't know why.'"

A tip from a meter reader led authorities last year to the home of Steven Padgett, 59, a carrier who delivered in the Apex, N.C., area. Authorities used four trucks to remove third-class mail that had been stashed in his garage for six years.

Padgett felt "it was almost a relief to get caught," lawyer Andrew McCoppin said in a court filing.

"He denied that it stemmed from an anti-junk mail moral protest. It seems more likely that this man ... could not admit to himself or his employer that he was beginning to have difficulty getting the job done," McCoppin said.

Padgett was placed on probation and fined \$3,000 — a penalty that was mostly paid by MailChimp, an Atlanta company that specializes in marketing through e-mail, not traditional mail.



INTRODUCING THE SPIRITLOAN

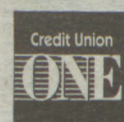
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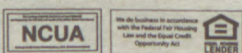
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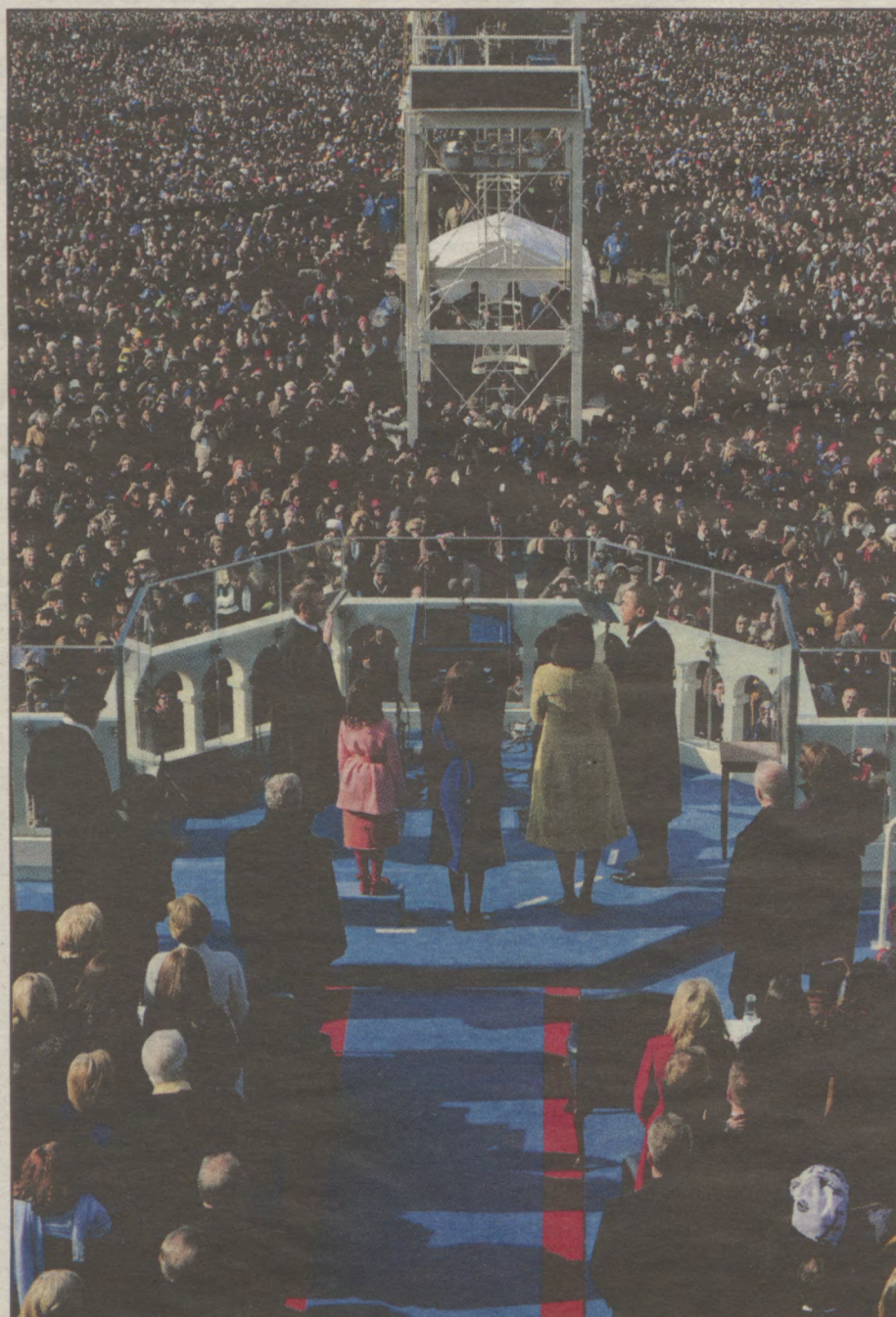
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SUSAN WALSH/Associated Press
Barack Obama, right, joined by his wife Michelle, second from right, and daughters Sasha, second from left, and Malia, takes the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts to become the 44th president of the United States at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Jan. 20, 2009, Washington, D.C.

Four busloads of Oakland University students packed their iPods and laptop computers for a 10-hour bus ride to see history in the making.

After bearing witness to the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, on an unseasonably warm, sunny day in Washington, D.C., it seemed as if no one would trade the leg cramps for anything.

Three students who experienced the inauguration firsthand, shared their stories with The Oakland Post from the road.



Kristin Dayag

The trip started out a little later than what was expected. All the students had their luggage in their

hands and were ready to go. As soon as the buses had arrived to the lot, everyone cheered and we finally realized how fortunate we were to be able to travel to Washington, D.C. and see Barack Obama be inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States of America.

Regardless of all the transportation issues we had encountered I was happy to arrive in our capital safe and sound. Once we got there the people were roaming the streets, eager to get to the National Mall, but we all made sure we took our time and were careful so that everything could go as peacefully and smoothly as it could for today.

I turned the corner to find a sea of people with signs, posters, pins and clothing marked with "Obama." Never had I seen so many people moved and inspired by one single person.

Before heading back to the buses my friends and I ate at a restaurant and watched the parade on TV. Ironically,

these are the same friends that did not vote for Obama, but they were really proud of our country and how far it has come because of him.

No matter what party affiliation someone has or no matter what beliefs they carry, I think we all can agree that we were united as a whole and have the confidence that something even greater will come as a result of this day. We just need to be patient.

It was as if everyone put their political thoughts behind and took a moment to celebrate that one man and everything he represents — hope, change, goodness and unity. As I stared at that television screen, I felt astonished to see how far one man can go and the impact that a person can have on the world as a whole.

There are many times that I hear Obama being compared to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I am so glad that I was alive and present to see this inauguration take place because truthfully — I didn't think it would have been possible to have a black president as our leader in this lifetime.

This is one of the rare times that I was thankful to be proven wrong. It was just so wonderful to see a president who is indeed living the dream that Martin Luther King envisioned for our country so many years ago. And it's about time someone has.

Jordan Tworay

As I listened to Barack Obama's speech as our new president, and looked up at the Washington Monument — it was all I could see while smashed in a sea of humanity — I was truly inspired. This is the guy I voted for and actually felt good about doing it, standing victorious as the leader of the free world.

I couldn't believe I was actually standing there listening to this historic event with a president determined to meet the most serious challenges we've ever faced as a nation. Images of rallies and events flashed through my head as I looked at the huge mass of people filling up the National Mall and making my walk to each Metro station a pain in the ass.

This inauguration is truly one of the pivotal moments of our time, and I got to be there.

Such a once in a lifetime opportunity is something I will never forget.

The roar of the crowds during and after the speeches was truly something to

behold. I had never seen crowds of this size and the sheer numbers of them were overwhelming. There was a sense of euphoria among those in attendance, a sense of optimism and relief. "Yes we can" was an apt slogan for Obama, because with his victory people seemed to believe that things can get better — you could feel the positive outlook in the crowd and hear it in their conversations.

Just like the campaign this day seemed to occur in fast forward. When it all began, it felt like it would take forever, but before we knew it, one president had moved out of the White House and a new one moved in.



JANELLIE ARBUCKIE

The 2008 election was the first election I was allowed to participate in and while I did not vote for Barack Obama, the

ricades and ducked under massive leafy trees just to catch a glimpse of the newly-elected president. It took a lot of patience to survive the streets of Washington D.C. this afternoon, but in a positive way. The firsthand experience of witnessing the first African-American president get sworn in was truly unbelievable. I honestly couldn't believe I was watching history in the making.

Today exceeded all my expectations and truly made me realize the importance of political figures. While listening to people in the crowd, I could hear the hope and joy they felt. Most people feel it's been a very long eight years and that a change was

necessary but more importantly that change could come from a man like Obama. Though this change will not come overnight, I believe over

time President Obama will exceed everyone's expectations, even dissenting parties.

As an American, I hope President Obama turns our economy around so that students at Oakland University and around the country will be able to experience a "real career" when they graduate. I can only hope for the best for my future and today's events prove the best choice for president is Barack Obama.

"I almost felt like I was in New York City on New Year's Eve with thousands of people and nowhere to go."

crowd today made me feel like I should have. From the crowds chanting "Obama, Obama" to the "Oh my gosh, the Obama babies" Jan. 20, 2009, was something to remember.

The crazy display of Obama T-shirts, buttons, blankets, scarves, puppets, sequined beanies and hoodies were contagious in Washington D.C. For whoever wasn't displaying Obama pride, the vendors definitely found a way for them to purchase even the smallest button.

Obama supporters, both young and old, paraded through the streets from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial creating complete chaos and obscene rioting. I almost felt like I was in New York City on New Year's Eve with thousands of people and nowhere to go. People huddled under cement bar-



TOM ROWLAND/The Oakland Post

Students flooded the Oakland Center from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday to watch history in action as Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States in Washington D.C.

Obama Vision

While dozens of Oakland University students attended the inauguration Tuesday in Washington, D.C., many more joined in observation in the Oakland Center via live broadcast on the big screens. The Oakland Post compiled student reactions of the inauguration and their expectations for Barack Obama's presidency. For exclusive video click on www.oaklandpostonline.com.



"I watched it here in the OC. It was kind of hard to see and hear, there are a lot of people."

Rachel Thomas
Sophomore, Physics

"I think that he talks it up a little more than he can do because there are a lot of things to fix right now. He might be in over his head but I think he'll do a good job."

Alayna Thison
Sophomore,
Human Resources Management



The best skate forward

Four students ready to compete in U.S. Skating Championships

By ALEXANDRA DUNNE-BRYANT
Contributing Reporter

At 10 a.m., Ameena Sheikh balances 10 feet in the air, holding on to her partner Aaron Van Cleave with one hand, as he travels across 40 feet of slippery ice. By 2 p.m., Sheikh sits in Wilson Hall, preparing for a career in television production. After class, she's back on the ice, landing on one skate with a blade as long and sharp as a steak knife after being launched into the air by Van Cleave and rotating three times.

"Skating's a different kind of job, but it's all consuming; it's hard to comprehend how draining it is," Sheikh said, comparing figure skating to school. "School is more mental than physical, and a little emotional. Put all three together and you've got skating."

Next week, Sheikh and Van Cleave will compete at the 2009 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland, battling 12 other pairs to win a national title in the Junior Pairs division. Not only that, she'll be one of four Oakland University students traveling to the prestigious event. The other three include Jonathan Cassar, who will compete in the Senior Mens division, Laura Lepzinski in Senior Pairs, and Melissa Telecky in Senior Ladies.

Narrowing the field

Qualifying for the national championships is an arduous multistep process and skaters must pass demanding skill tests to move between levels. Only 1 percent of all skaters ever achieve the senior skating experience level — a prerequisite for consideration for the placement on the World and Olympic Team.

Once the senior level has been passed, skaters may enter the qualifying event structure. The United States is divided into nine regions.

At the Regional Championships, the top four skaters from each region qualify for their respective sectional championship. The top four at each of the three sectional meets earn a spot in the national championship, along with skaters who receive automatic qualification with their international results.

This year, Cassar joins 18 other senior men, Lepzinski and partner Ethan Burgess are one of 16 senior pairs, and Telecky joins the largest-ever senior ladies' field, with 25 women competing for two spots representing the United States at the 2009 World Championships in Los Angeles.

This is the life

Qualifying for the National Championships is the culmination of years of grueling training that takes a toll on body and mind. Training at least 20 hours per week, three of the four moved away from home to seek professional training at the world-renowned Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills. All four balance a rigorous college education with the physical and psychological demands of figure skating at an elite level.

"Figure skating is one of the misunderstood sports as far as what all goes into it and how much energy and time you put into the sport," Telecky said. "I don't think people realize at the end of the day, your body is beaten up and you're tired. Everyday you're hurting on the ice, and you're achy, and mentally drained. It's that much harder to sit down and do homework. You don't really have much come-down time. There's not one day of the week that I can do nothing."

In addition to on-ice training, figure skaters engage in off-ice training designed to enhance conditioning, stamina, strength, flexibility and grace. Lepzinski said that she practices ballet, Pilates and modern dance multiple times each week — not to mention a circuit-training program for conditioning and core strength.

Before setting foot on the ice, Lepzinski and Burgess begin each day by practicing their lifts on the floor. Burgess holds Lepzinski over his head, often with one hand, as she moves through various positions and he walks through the turns that will later propel them down the entire length of ice.

"Skating takes up a majority of our time," said Lepzinski, a psychology major at OU.

The physical pain can also be over-



Photo provided by LAURA LEPIZINSKI

Laura Lepzinski twirls through the air with her partner Ethan Burgess. The pair are competing in the Senior Pairs division this week at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland, Ohio.

whelming. Telecky, who missed nearly a season and a half of competition due to injury, hurts almost constantly.

"Most days, I feel like I've been hit by a semi, every joint hurts, every muscle hurts," Telecky said. "It hurts to do

simple things like walk up the stairs or switch laundry from the washer to the dryer."

Beyond the physical discomfort, the mental effort required can be nearly as difficult.

"If [skaters] are not internally motivated, they can't make it work," said Aaron Parchem, Lepzinski and Burgess' head coach.

Parchem, a 2006 Olympian in Pairs who attended OU for a year before graduating from the University of Detroit, said he hopes that his skaters become well-rounded people with success in each aspect of their lives, but insists that school must be a priority.

Sheikh agrees. "I will never sacrifice school for skating," Sheikh said, who is a member of the Honors College with a full scholarship. She tries to focus on whatever task is immediately in front of her.

"I'm not naturally a structured person and that's what I've learned the most from skating," Sheikh said.

When the lights fade

Telecky, who plans to enroll in health science major, plans to work as a physician's assistant, while Lepzinski hopes to use her experience in skating to assist other elite athletes as a sports psychologist. After her competitive skating career is over, Sheikh wants to tour professionally as a skater, and then parlay her skating fame into a role as a talk show host.

Cassar, who will graduate this spring, isn't worried about his future quite yet.

He credits professors Laurie Eisenhower and Greg Patterson of the dance department for helping him realize that he doesn't have to make a final lifelong choice at 21, but can continue to explore all creative choices.

"They help me take a step back and look at the big picture in skating and life in general, and how important it is to do things in your life that make you feel happy or fulfilled," Cassar said.

This season, Cassar has developed a reputation as a trailblazer in the normally staid world of figure skating, incorporating modern dance into his on-ice choreography. This season, he said, "What is skating missing? What could I try to bring in, what could I promote?"

The answer, drawing on the history and revolutionary origins of modern dance, has changed Cassar's approach to the sport. Skating elements are typically based on ballet, and Cassar's off-balance moves and unusual cadence are making skating more diverse and earning rave reviews from judges.

His goal is a top 10 finish but he's excited just to have qualified. He hopes to enjoy his experience as one of the 22 members of the Detroit Skating Club competing in Cleveland.

"We have a really great community," said Cassar. "We all support one another here. It sets us apart because we're always rooting for each other. It's fun at competitions because there's always a large group of us and it's always fun."

Meet the skaters



Name: Jonathan Cassar '09 (Dance)

Event: Senior Men

Previous placements: 2007, Junior Men 9th; 2006 Junior Men 8th

Coaches: Julie Berlin, Jason Dungjen and David Wilson

What to watch for: Cassar's choreography, inspired by modern dance, earns presentation marks on par with the nation's best, but without the difficult triple Axel jump, he cedes important technical points.



Name: Melissa Telecky '11 (plans to enroll in health science)

Event: Senior Ladies

Previous placements: 2005, Junior Ladies 10th; 2004 Junior Ladies 9th

Coaches: Jodie Balogh-Tasich, Zuzanna Szwed and Julie Berlin

What to watch for: Powerful skating, outstanding spins and impressive step and spiral sequences define Telecky's skating, but her all-important triple jumps have been fickle in competition this season.



Name: Laura Lepzinski '10 (Psychology)

Event: Senior Pairs (with Ethan Burgess, Los Angeles)

Previous placements: 2008, Senior Pairs 14th

Coaches: Aaron Parchem, Zuzanna Szwed and Natalia Deller

What to watch for: Lepzinski and Burgess' high-flying triple twists and throws are as good as any in the world, but they will have to hit their side-by-side individual jumps to content for a spot on the international squad.



Name: Aameena Sheikh '11 (Communications)

Event: Junior Pairs (with Aaron Van Cleave, Edmonton, Alberta)

Previous placements: 2005, Novice Ladies 11th

Coaches: Steve Hartsell, Jason Dungjen and Maria Lako-Pinkowski

What to watch for: With the most difficult planned program of any Junior Pair, Sheikh and Van Cleave could take the top prize, but have been plagued by inconsistency in the technical program.

By ALEXANDRA DUNNE-BRYANT

Photos provided by the respective skaters

Golden Grizzlies Game of the Week

ICE HOCKEY VS. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Pikunas, power play contribute for a win

By JOE GUZMAN
Staff Reporter

With its 4-1 win over the No. 12 ranked University of Central Oklahoma Broncos (10-7-2 DI, 14-7-2 overall) on Friday night, the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies hockey club (8-7-3 DI, 8-8-4 overall) accomplished two achievements that were long overdue.

The win, led by goaltending by freshman Alex Pikunas, brought the team's overall record to one game over .500 for the first time all season. The team also broke a streak of nine consecutive power play opportunities in which they failed to score after taking a 2-0 lead on Jarret Samp's second period goal.

OU head coach Sean Hogan was happy to get the monkey off his back, but noted that there was still work to be done on the power play.

"It was good to score early on the power play, but we still have a lot of room for improvement," Hogan said. "We have a real tough time breaking out of our zone. We

just have to keep continuing to work on it game by game, practice to practice, until it gets better."

Pikunas was in top form from the first drop of the puck, as the bigger and more aggressive UCO Broncos peppered him early and often. He made several key saves throughout the game when pressure was applied by the two-man forecheck.

He said after the game that weak first periods have been his downfall all season, something he worked on during break.

"Over break and this week, I just treated every practice like it was a game situation, and have just been refocusing and it worked pretty good

today," Pikunas said.

Among his 22 saves, Pikunas followed a sprawling puck with his blocker by stopping a two-on-one caused by a poorly-timed line change by OU, early in the second period.

"He played great," Hogan said. "He looked ready to go from the beginning; it was probably his best game of the year."

Despite the few breakdowns, the defense kept traffic away from their goalie, unclogging lanes to enable him to see shots clearly.

"I have to give a lot of credit to my defense," said Pikunas. "They're really good at communicating, they played great today, I just can't say enough."

OU gained a 1-0 lead in the first, on junior forward Cody Austin's first of two points of the night, when he

streaked passed a back-checking defender just inside the blue line, sliding the puck between the goalie's legs.

The team would capitalize once more with the man advantage when Austin received the puck on the doorstep of UCO's goal, and jammed it home for his

second of the game at 12:01 of the second period. UCO would make it 3-1 on a power play goal of its own three minutes later.

OU junior forward Brett Haugh would score the lone goal of the third period, when a turnover at the Golden Grizzlies' blue line caused a four on two. As Haugh trailed on the play, he received the drop pass directly in front of the net, having to chop at the puck a couple times before knocking it past the Broncos goaltender.

The win ensures at least a split of the two-game series between UCO, as OU continues to compete for a spot in the national tournament two months from now.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The stellar play by goalie Alex Pikunas was a key part of OU's victory over Central Oklahoma. Pikunas stopped 22 of 23 shots and finished with a .956 save percentage. Pikunas gave credit to the defense as well.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Cody Austin scored two goals to help OU win. The win gave OU its first winning record of the season.

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If you don't like being opponents, join 'em

Maynard and Cushingberry reflect on being high school foes and college teammates

By TOM MURPHY JR.
Senior Reporter

It has been a little over a year since Oakland University freshman Blake Cushingberry and Drew Maynard played against each other as high school seniors but the memories of that game remain fresh in their minds.

It was Jan. 17, 2008, when Cushingberry led the Romeo Bulldogs past Maynard's Lake Orion Dragons 90-64. Earlier that same year, both players had signed to play for the Grizzlies and



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Drew Maynard (above) can always joke with his teammate, Blake Cushingberry, about how he "knocked his ass out" in high school.

are currently teammates. OU head coach Greg Kampe was in attendance when Maynard and Cushingberry squared off against each other last year.

"Well [Cushingberry] had 40 [points] and [Maynard] had 33 and they were guarding each other, so my first thought was that neither one of them can play defense," Kampe said jokingly.

The game was played at Romeo High School and Cushingberry could not be stopped on his home court.

"I didn't have that tough of a defender guarding me that night," Cushingberry said with a grin aimed toward Maynard. "He was letting me shoot from anywhere."

Maynard said that Romeo had the advantage because they had more big men on their roster. Cushingberry said that he remembers Maynard pulling up from just beyond half court and launching three pointers and hitting them. Despite the score both players said they remember how much fun that game was.

"We were laughing and joking the whole game," Maynard said.

The game did not end without incident, however. During one play, Cushingberry stole the ball from Maynard and drove towards the basket.

"I knocked his ass out," Maynard said. Cushingberry distinctly remembers the play as well.

"I got a steal and I was on a break-away and Drew just comes from behind and rips me down and spun me," Cushingberry said. The two of them helped each other up and laughed about it after the play was over.

Fast forward a year later — the two of them are continuing to have fun on the court.

Both are playing significant min-

utes this season due to senior forward Derick Nelson being out of the lineup. Cushingberry started 14 games this season and Maynard started five, both of them average over 22 minutes per game.

"We felt that both of them were going to get playing time," Kampe said. "But we never wanted either one of them to be starters. I think that both of them have played more minutes than I would've liked, but it's only going to make them better and us better as a team in the future."

With having to step up and produce as freshmen, both Maynard and Cushingberry have had to learn the college game at an accelerated rate.

"We had to get used to the speed of the game," Maynard said. "And defense, if you can't play defense you can't play here. Everyone in Division 1 is a scorer. You have to be able to lock down and defend."

Kampe said that, so far, he is pleased with the way the two players have progressed this season but there are still some things for them to work on.

"We've told both of them that there are some things that they have to do to get better," Kampe said. "There are things that they have to concentrate on right now. There's things we learn about them as freshmen that we'll work on in the offseason but with the amount of playing time that they're getting there's things they need to do right now."

Kampe said that Maynard's main focus needs to be improving defensively and limiting turnovers.

Kampe said that Cushingberry's decision making abilities need to improve along with his shooting.

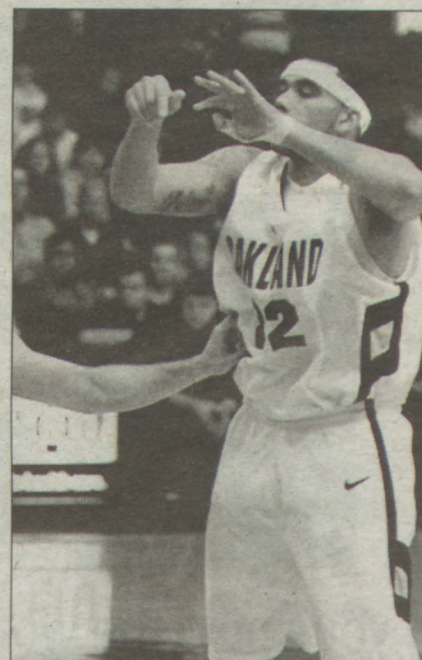
"He's a very good shooter but he's got to get more confidence to knock down

shots," Kampe said.

So far this season, Maynard is averaging 8.1 points per game and 3.8 rebounds per game. Cushingberry is averaging 6 points and 2.4 assists per game.

Cushingberry said that the experience that both he and Maynard are gaining this season will be very important in the future. Both agreed that having Nelson guide them is very helpful.

"With Derick in our ear to help us out with things, it helps us improve," Maynard said. "He's right there with us along the way."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Blake Cushingberry (above) may have the bragging rights after beating Drew Maynard in high school, but now enjoys Maynard as a teammate.

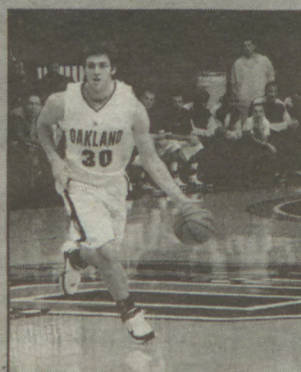
GRIZZ OF THE WEEK

After scoring a career-high 39 points and going 8-for-13 from long range against IPFW, he has been

named Summit League Player of the Week for the first time in his career. It's a long-overdue honor for the Golden Grizzly sharpshooter.

Erik Kangas
Men's basketball

Year: Senior
Major: Business administration



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Coming attractions

GAME SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JAN. 21-27

Date, opponent, time (location)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

1/22 vs. IUPUI — 7:00 p.m. (O'Rena)

1/24 vs. W. Illinois — 6:00 p.m. (O'Rena)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

1/24 vs. W. Illinois — 6:00 p.m. (O'Rena)

1/26 vs. IUPUI — 7:00 p.m. (O'Rena)

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

1/24 @ Don Wright Invite — 5:00 p.m. (Ontario, Canada)

ICE HOCKEY

1/23 vs. E. Michigan — 8:00 p.m. (Onyx Arena, Rochester, Mich.)

1/24 @ E. Michigan — 7:30 p.m. (Ann Arbor Ice Cube)

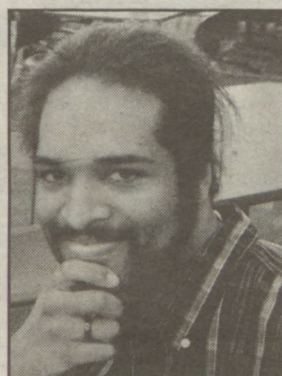
It's the end of the world

What fictional character or actor would you want to lead us through the apocalypse?



"Spiderman. He shoots webs, he could capture all the bad people."

Morgan O'Malley
Sophomore,
medical technician



"I like Mel Gibson's character in 'The Road Warrior.' He could handle himself in a post-apocalyptic environment. He was a serious badass."

Edward Thompson-Matthews
Sophomore, health science



"Superman. I grew up watching Superman."

JaKelle Mack
Sophomore, communication



"Pinky and the Brain. They were trying to take over the world for awhile. If they feel like it's that serious then why not?"

Asiajona Sanchez-Puebla
Junior, sociology

If you knew the world was going to end tomorrow, what would you do today?



"I would walk around naked. Because there's no reason why I shouldn't. I'm not going to get locked up or put in an insane asylum."

Tara Morgan
Junior, sociology



"I'd probably do all the things that I've always wanted to do like skydive, scuba diving, and then after that I'd probably get my life together."

Jonathan Jenkins
Sophomore, journalism



"I would spend time with all my loved ones and probably try to spend some time with my dad — I haven't talked to him in a long time — and go to church."

Dominique Rickett
Senior, education

Postie's Top Five End of the World Movies

"Independence Day" (1996)
— Lindsey Wojcik

"Children of Men" (2006)
— Masudur Rahman

"Mad Max" (1979)
— Tim Rath

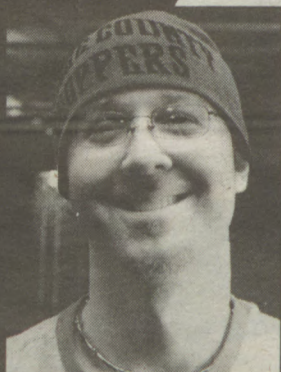
"Signs" (2002)
— Amanda Meade

"Dawn of the Dead" (2004)
— Colleen Miller

Graphics courtesy of Amazon.com

Would you rather...

The world end by zombie apocalypse or alien invasion?



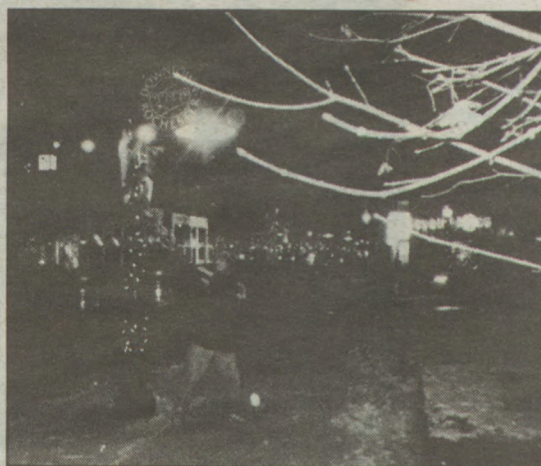
"Alien invasion. Because then they could repopulate the earth."

Chris Kaurich
Junior, clinical laboratory science



"Zombies. I think we already as a society have an idea of what zombies do. Aliens you have no idea what intelligence there is."

Demetrios Anastasiow
Senior, communication



The Oakland Post Photo Contest

This week's finalists are:

Scott Madej
and
Sai Myint

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The Scene

20

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January 21, 2009

New sports bar 'scores'

By JOE GUZMAN
Staff Reporter

The latest addition to metro Detroit's bar scene is expecting brisk business.

Our economy might not be in the best condition right now, but the owners of the new bar aren't too concerned.

"I'm not worried about the economy," said Randy Shafou, a co-owner of the sports bar. "When people are depressed they drink, the worse it is the more they drink."

An auto repair worker by trade, Shafou said he always wanted to open his own bar, so when a friend found that the Sterling Pub was shut down for liquor violations, he and four friends jumped at the opportunity.

This is the second Scores Sports Bar to open in the metro Detroit area, the first is located in Farmington Hills. In between the time they bought the space in September to opening its doors just four weeks ago, Shafou and the four co-owners implemented a little Sports Bar 101. They relied on their connections with the original Scores in hopes of creating a new image for the Sterling Heights bar scene.

Shafou had hoped to have the bar open by the biggest bar night of the year, the day before Thanksgiving, but because of problems with slow working contractors, the opening was pushed to mid-December.

Remodeling took three months, during which he added 17 HDTVs, two pool tables, and built a VIP section. The bar is stocked with liquor from top to bottom, in addition to a selection of nine different beers on draft, including a local micro-brew, Dragonmead.

"The hardest part [of replacing the Sterling Pub] has been getting people to come because of the reputation of the old management," said Jesse Francisco, a long-time bartender for Scores-Farmington Hills who now works at the Sterling Heights location.

He said that the previous bar attracted a rougher crowd that had tainted the location, even though the new ownership has made it its goal to disassociate itself with the previous ownership.

That shouldn't be too difficult. With the Farmington Hills location celebrating its one-year anniversary this past September, the new location will bring



The Sterling Heights Scores Sports Bar is equipped with 17 HDTVs, pool tables, a VIP section and a fully stocked bar.

JOE GUZMAN/The Oakland Post

with it the formula for success.

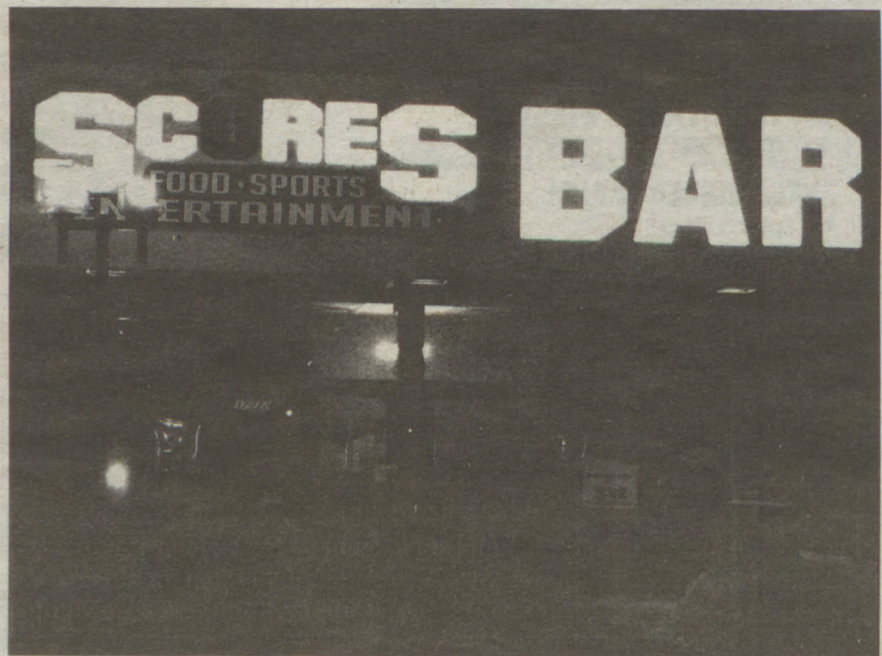
The menu offers more than your typical bar trough of burgers and wings. It offers sandwiches, wraps, pasta, pizza and Mexican options.

Sundays and Wednesdays are karaoke nights, Tuesdays are college nights, Thursdays they plan on having live bands, and Fridays and Saturdays feature channel 95.5's DJ Who.

"DJ Shortstop of 95.5 used to DJ for us [in Farmington Hills] and he introduced us to DJ Who and we are trying him out here," said Shafou.

According to Francisco, because they opened around the holidays, they had to hold off on advertising until now, and resorted to "guerilla" marketing. But with events every night, and "you-call" drink specials on Tuesday, he said he feels the bar has enough going for it to get people coming back to the location.

"Randy [Shafou] and I attacked a 10-mile radius around the bar and into the local neighborhoods to announce our arrival," said Francisco. "Anything to get these walls talking again."



The new bar is located at 37722 Van Dyke Ave. in a plaza with Rite Aid and Midwestern Dental.

JOE GUZMAN/The Oakland Post

Copious actress shows variety

By AMANDA MEADE
Scene/Mix Editor

Elizabeth Banks was prolific in 2008 with movies like "Zack and Miri Make a Porno," "Role Models," "Definitely, Maybe" and "W."

Banks' first film of 2009, "The Uninvited," is an American remake of a South Korean film "A Tale of Two Sisters."

The story follows Anna Rydell (Emily Browning) whose mother tragically dies. After recovering in the hospital from the trauma of her mother's death, Rydell returns to her father's home to find he is engaged to a woman named Rachael Somers (Banks) — the same woman who cared for her mother before her death.

Rydell is warned by her mother's ghost of Somers' intentions, and Rydell and her sister, Alex (Arielle Kebbel) attempt to warn their father of his new fiancée's objective.

Banks has played roles ranging from comedy to horror, and said that she really relished being bad in this movie, and she had fun being the villain.

"I based this character on three of my favorite femme fatales: Glenn Close in 'Fatal Attraction,' I based it on Rebecca De Mornay in the 'Hand that Rocks the Cradle,' and a little bit of Sharon Stone in 'Basic Instinct,'" Banks said.

The actress talked about the similarities between parents remarrying, whether it after a

death or a divorce.

"I think it's a really relatable concept, the idea of a parent remarrying after the loss of a parent," Banks said. "I think this movie is very much about control and power and who has the control and power in a household at any given time."

Banks said she enjoyed making comedies, and from a young age felt the need to be funny to gain attention in her family.

"I'm a big fan of Madeline Kahn, and I'm also a huge May West fan," Banks said. "I think those were the ladies who used physical comedy and their wits and I think they were ahead of their time."

Banks has been in a plethora of different films and TV shows during her acting career, but had an especially memorable time with one film.

"My favorite movie this year for me was 'Zack and Miri Make a Porno,'" Banks said. "I just thought that Miri was one of the best characters I've ever played. She starts out as sort of a lovable loser and finds love in the movie and it was really funny, one of the funnier female characters that I've read or played in a very long time."

Banks can be seen in "The Uninvited" when it hits theaters Jan. 30.

The Oakland Post was given permission to use Banks' transcript and was not actually involved in the conference call.



Photo courtesy of Kimberley French

In "The Uninvited," Rachael (Elizabeth Banks) gets engaged to her former employer whose first wife died while under her care.

Want free tickets?

The first 25 students to leave serious comments on an Oakland Post website's article will receive a pass, good for two, to see the Paramount Pictures release, "The Uninvited," before it opens in theaters on Jan. 30.

Go to www.oaklandpostonline.com.

For another chance to win, look for us in the Oakland Center Jan. 26-27 near the food court, where 25 winners will be selected at random to get a movie pass, good for two when they take our 2008 Best Of Survey.

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Doomsday destruction

Asteroids, super volcanoes, plague. Oh my! How are we going to die?

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Managing Editor

There's nothing more satisfying than watching the world almost come to an end, but be saved just in time by Will Smith, Ben Affleck or a sexy Hollywood no-namer. It gives us false hope that we can avoid our imminent extinction, the ways of which are outlined by voice-overs and balding scientists on shows like "The End of The World" and "Nostradamus: 2012."

In case you missed it, History Channel dedicated an entire week to doomsday programming. It's like a "Sex and the City" marathon, but for people who are not just cynical about relationships, but cynical about the existence of mankind. It's actually a great alternative to watching TV shows and movies that make you feel like your life is the only thing that's pointless.

But there's a downside to this guilty pleasure. You go into it, after watching the sensational commercials that promise the worst of the worst. You think that it will cement the idea that the world really is going to end, and it will make you feel better about all those Ferrero Rochers you just ate instead of going to the Rec Center like you resolved to do when the semester began.

Instead, these so-called "Armageddon" shows dangle destruction in front of you with the numerous ways it could happen, which ancient prophecies predicted it and all the credible scientists that agree. Then, like the 15-minute mark of an episode of "Full House," the producers bring in a little optimism. Total buzz kill.

Why do they need to make a rationalization that there is a chance that we won't all vanish or drown internally from a cement-like mixture or instantly incinerate when the planet becomes a fireball? I don't want hope at the end of a show like that. It's like opening Pandora's box to release the evils of the world and a little bit of "hope" slips out before you can slam it shut. What's with that?

Actually, that's a pretty good metaphor. Since we're going to refer back to ancient civilizations that obviously didn't know enough to keep themselves alive anyways, let's not leave out the Greeks. OK, so who would be the "hope" among



The world doesn't need natural disasters to meet its demise. We've got enough of our own problems.

the one, two or six disasters that would be capable of wiping out 95-100 percent of life on Earth? Holy Crap! It's right in front of us — President Barack Obama.

Some of the shows use this "unless we stop business as usual we might be able to avert our imminent extinction" bull to make you warm and fuzzy inside after accepting death. Unless it was supposed to be Hillary, because hope was one of her tag lines too.

But if prophecy meant for Hillary to be the one to bring us away from the "business as usual" in order to save the world from destruction, we still might be alright because she's the secretary of state and all.

Flashback: Ridding "business as usual" was one of John McCain's talking points. Uh oh.

Either way, if you're still bitter about the 2008 election or even if you're hopeful about the outcome — regardless of who you voted for — you can interpret the whole "hope" savior any way you would like, just as the balding scientists and History Channel producers interpret ancient prophecy to get awesome ratings

in possibly the most depressing month of the year.

Sorry if your birthday is in January, but seriously, it's depressing out there.

I personally don't believe in changing the path in which a prophecy has set us upon. I can't even force myself to recycle the life insurance offers I get in the mail, let alone believe that the world population can band together to actually change in a significant enough way to override Nostradamus' word. The man predicted Hitler for God sakes. But if there's anyone that can do it, it would be Obama. After all, he already did what so many thought was impossible.

I just wish that Hollywood and History Channel (well, scientists and stuff) would get together to make something I can watch about the end of the world that would actually be beneficial. OK, if a few of the possible scenarios play out nobody will live past five seconds, but there are a lot of others like plague, nukes, super volcanoes, meteors and climate change that would at least leave a bottleneck of survivors to carry on the human race.

In one History Channel show,

the movie inappropriately titled "Armageddon" is referenced because apparently, blowing up an asteroid (by the way, we are almost certainly going to all die from this giant asteroid heading toward earth, if not the first time it comes close then the second time) is the worst possible thing that you can do. WTF? Thanks a lot, Ben Affleck.

How many other movies are totally lying to me? If there's a terrible outbreak, should I not let one of the infected bite me? Even if it's my mom? I just don't know what to believe anymore.

Should we not let a pilot like Will Smith and a drunken crop duster save the day when aliens attack the world's major cities? I want a movie or TV show that isn't going to sugar coat it or make up fake ways to save the planet. Just give it to me straight.

Since we've already broken the barrier for making a movie about a president while he is still in office, I want to see a film about Obama saving the world that shows people what they should do in such disasters.

According to the History Channel there should be at least a dozen of these movies. Maybe a History Channel exclusive series? Or one movie with many, many bonus tracks. The perfect ending: Obama blows up an alien ship that is about to cause the eruption of an overdue super volcano which would cloud out the sun for decades and cause an ice age.

Cut to scientists (only a few, about the amount that could staff a shift at McDonalds) creating an awesome thingy that will save the polar bears and the polar ice sheets that keep the ocean currents going that keep us from all dying off like the dinosaurs might have while they have Tom Hanks up in Apollo 667 slightly altering the orbit of an asteroid the size of the moon so it doesn't kill us all.

Cut to Hanks living it up on a nice desert island with his coconut and his wife.

Cut to Vic Zambardi eating Ferrero Rochers.

Cut to Will Smith and the scientist guy lighting cigars.

Cut to Obama, saying "F" the White House policy and lighting up a Marlboro, inhaling the relaxation and the relief.

Now that's a guilty pleasure.

Barack Obama swears into office

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Before a jubilant crowd of more than a million, Barack Hussein Obama claimed his place in history as America's first black president, summoning a dispirited nation to unite in hope against the "gathering clouds and raging storms" of war and economic woe.

On an extraordinary day in the life of America, people of all colors and ages waited for hours Tuesday in frigid temperatures to witness the inauguration.

"We gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord," the nation's 44th president said.

The presidency passed to Democrat Obama from Republican George W. Bush

at the stroke of noon.

In one of the new administration's first acts, Obama ordered federal agencies to halt all pending regulations until further review — this after Bush's final weeks raised heated debate over rushing new rules into effect on his way out the door.

Obama plunges into his new job in earnest on Wednesday, meeting with his economic team and Iraq advisers while Congress gives his economic revival plan a going-over and takes up the nomination of Hillary Rodham Clinton to be secretary of state. Her confirmation has been held up for now by Republican concern over fundraising.

The new president had been buoyant and relaxed through the three days of pre-inaugural festivities. But he seemed somber as he stood on the Capitol steps, placed his left hand on the Bible used

by Abraham Lincoln and repeated the inaugural oath "to preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution.

"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly," Obama said. "This is the price and the promise of citizenship."

On the inaugural parade route, Obama and his wife, Michelle, climbed out of the heavily armored presidential limousine and walked a few blocks along famed Pennsylvania Avenue, waving to adoring crowds under the watchful eyes of security agents.

"With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come," Obama said.



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/Associated Press
Palestinian men gesture during a Hamas rally in Jebaliya, northern Gaza strip, Tuesday.

Hamas declares victory Gaza rallies

BY KARIN LAUB AND IBRAHIM BARZAK
Associated Press Writers

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Waving green Islamic flags atop the ruins of Gaza, Hamas proclaimed victory in rallies attended by thousands of supporters Tuesday, saying it survived Israel's military onslaught despite the destruction and massive death toll suffered by Gazans.

Beyond its fiery words, however, Hamas offered no plans for rebuilding Gaza, which suffered some \$2 billion in damage during three weeks of fighting. Gaza's borders with Israel and Egypt, largely sealed since the Islamic militants seized power 19 months ago, remain closed and are unlikely to open unless the militants relinquish some control.

Israel has also claimed victory, but neither side was the clear winner.

The fighting killed some 1,300 Gazans, the vast majority civilians, and thousands of Palestinian homes were destroyed. Israel emerged from the war with relatively few casualties — 13 dead, including 10 soldiers — but halted fire before reaching its objectives. No internationally backed truce deal is yet in place to prevent Hamas rocket fire on southern Israel or arms smuggling into Gaza.

Israel had withdrawn the bulk of its forces from Gaza by Tuesday evening. However, the temporary cease-fire remained shaky. Israel's air force struck a Gaza mortar squad after it shelled Israel, the military said.

Hamas held more than a dozen victory rallies across Gaza, choosing bombed-out buildings as backdrops to underscore its message of defiance and its claim to have survived battle against a vastly more powerful enemy.

N | W BRIEFS

01-15 | US Airways flight 1549 made a crash landing in the Hudson River, nobody was injured.

01-16 | Circuit City announced it will shut down its 567 U.S. stores, removing 34,000 jobs. | Eleven suspects are arrested in South Africa in an international rhinoceros poaching ring.

01-17 | Rebels set a Congo church on fire, bumping the month's death toll to at least 620, allegedly by Ugandan rebels.

01-18 | Russia and Ukraine struck a deal in natural gas dispute. | Six Guantanamo detainees are transferred, four to Iraq, one to Algeria and one to Afghanistan.

01-19 | UAW President Ron Gettelfinger said restructuring deadline for GM and Chrysler may be "unattainable."

01-20 | Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States.

Doing 40 mph on a slippery slope



JIMMY MAY/Blombsburg Press Enterprise, AP

Ken Snyder grabs a 12-inch thick, 44-inch wide ice block which was unloaded along Lake Ave. and moves it into place on the top section of the ice toboggan slide Saturday, Jan. 17 in Eagles Mere, Pa. The Eagles Mere Ice Toboggan Slide reaches speeds of 40 miles per hour and is set to open Jan. 23 and will run Friday, Saturday and Sundays for the next several weeks.

Five more dead and 2 injured in Iraq bombings

BY KIM GAMEL
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Two bombs struck separate U.S. military and Iraqi government convoys in Baghdad Tuesday, killing five Iraqi civilians and wounding two American soldiers, the U.S. military said.

The attacks were the latest reminder of the daily violence that continues to face Iraqis and Americans even as the U.S. military prepares to withdraw from the country over the next three years.

A car bomb targeted a U.S. convoy shortly after 3 p.m. in a northwestern area of Baghdad called Mansour, killing three Iraqi civilians and wounding the

two U.S. soldiers, the U.S. military said. It added that initial intelligence indicated al-Qaida in Iraq was to blame.

Attacks against Americans have dropped sharply along with overall violence over the past year but U.S. troops continue to be targeted along with Iraqis. U.S. and Iraqi officials have warned that militants would step up attacks before Jan. 31 provincial elections.

During his inauguration speech Tuesday, President Barack Obama promised to "begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan." That's in line with his pledge to end the war in Iraq.

The U.S. must pull out all forces from


Iraq by the end of '11 according to a security agreement that took effect Jan. 1.

Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh welcomed Obama's pledge but said any decision should be made jointly.

"The Iraqi government and security forces are doing their best to be fully ready to meet the deadlines mentioned in the security agreement," he told The Associated Press. "We think that such withdrawal will not endanger the security improvements."

In political developments Tuesday, Iraq's Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi accused his former Shiite ally Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of obstructing efforts to rebuild there after years of war.

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