

# THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 2, 2011

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Volume 37 // Issue 21

## UNDER FIRE

**Tenured professor accused of  
stalking former student awaits trial**

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Drew Valentine avoids sophomore slump to emerge as defensive stopper

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# this week

February 2 - February 8, 2011



## Homecoming festivities // Saturday, Jan. 29

JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

For the first time ever, Oakland University hosted a sanctioned tailgate prior to the men's and women's basketball doubleheader on Saturday. An estimated 300 students, fans and alumni gathered in the cold for three hours. University president Gary Russi and other administrators made the rounds to try food from many of the cookouts.



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**CAMPUS //** Alumni returned to OU for a mixer at Meadow Brook Hall Friday as part of the third annual Homecoming weekend.



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**SPORTS //** The Golden Grizzlies lost in double overtime to Oral Roberts, the class of the Summit League, in a measuring stick game Monday.



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**LOCAL //** An Auburn Hills cafe aims to deter patrons from a fear of the Islamic way of life.



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**FEATURES //** A staple of the Fireside Lounge, the history of the piano and its usage is discussed by students, both those who listen and play.



The Oakland Post provides online coverage of every home basketball game immediately after the game ends. Check out our coverage if you can't make it to the O'rena to see it live.

## THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Dial up the dialogue

Members of the campus community are abuzz with conversations about the professor accused of stalking a former student, but many fail to see that incidents leading up to the arrest of Srinarayan Sharma took place over the course of 16 months.

Why did the alleged victim wait so long before she reported the inappropriate attention? Reactions to the story have ranged from tasteless to totally racist, but that is one question we haven't heard yet.

While we have yet to find out whether Sharma is guilty of the crime he has been charged with, we do believe one certainty: If the student felt uncomfortable, she could have and should have reported it sooner.

According to police reports obtained by The Oakland Post, the student said Sharma's behavior became inappropriate after a course taken in the Fall 2009 semester. However, she didn't alert any authority figure until December 2010.

Measures are in place to facilitate the resolution of seemingly unmanageable situations like the one faced by the former Oakland University student, but is it enough? In this instance, the student felt that because the professor had control over her grade, she could not report him.

Systems like "Report and Support" are

designed to have a larger scope and aim to put students on a level playing field with members of the staff and faculty when it comes to reporting erratic behaviors, but it may not seem like that to a student faced with other possible consequences.

## Reporting a major problem earlier might not eliminate the situation, but can help alleviate it.

While she used the proper channel — contacting the Dean of Students' office — to file a report and seemed to be aware of the availability of the process, she did not do so until after her class with Sharma ended.

It took two e-mails allegedly detailing personal information about Sharma's wife and children to call for his arraignment.

While the series of events brought about the misdemeanor charge of stalking, something must be done so that other students who are in the plaintiff's position do not have to face the same situation again.

According to Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh, a grade dispute is generally

resolved between the course instructor and student. It then gets pushed to the department's chair if no resolution is reached. We can easily see why the student did not want to go through the system and instead ignored the problem.

Though the process can be unavoidably long, the key seems to be early reporting of a problem. McIntosh said no complaints had ever been lodged against Sharma before, but that he mostly learns of incidents like these through direct communication.

Perhaps the student felt Sharma was untouchable because of his tenure? Action should have been taken at the campus level before it spiraled into a legal situation.

Judge Julie Nicholson of 52-3 District Court approved Oakland County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Paul Walton's request Monday to deny Sharma contact with his family in order to protect their safety. One has to think of how to intervene in this situation earlier if the allegations are indeed true.

Maybe there is nothing that can be done to avoid incidents like these, but we can at least try to come up with solutions to avoid what the student in this case went through. If you see odd behavior, report it.

Don't let the bystander effect take place.

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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.





# Protests present problems, new and old

**The events that unfolded in the small country of Tunisia have made a big impact.**

It happened all of a sudden: Arab nations in chaos, dictators' power in question, hope for a new beginning ...

It all began in Tunisia. After years of squandering the rights of its people and censoring news agencies, Tunisians overcame and overthrew a kleptocracy that plagued their lives for many decades.

This was something relatively new as protests were usually suppressed quickly and business went on as usual.

But with the recent decline in economic conditions, the Tunisian people no longer could stand a high rate of poverty as their rulers lived a life of luxury.

The people just needed a spark. And it came as an unemployed college graduate was hassled by local police for selling fruit illegally or, to put it another way, without a permit.

The man could not make a living. So he tried to commit suicide. And as he lit himself on fire, he became a symbol and catalyst for the biggest revolt in a decade.

No big deal though. It's just a small



**Daud Yar**  
Guest Columnist

country we've never heard of. Right?

Wrong. The uprising sparked spontaneous demonstrations all across North Africa and the Middle East.

Arab people, disgusted with the corrupt dictatorships and constant oppression by state officials, jumped at the chance for something new.

Egypt is presently flooding the wire as its people are calling for the removal of their president, Hosni Mubarak.

A long time ally of the U.S., Mubarak has managed to stay in power for around 30 years — banning all other political parties was a great help. And that is where the U.S. comes in. Our government needs to make a choice in regard to Egypt.

On one hand, there is democracy — and possibly the first step to peace in the Middle East — and on the other, there is

a prosperous U.S. economy. The great thing about this situation is that we possibly could "have our cake and eat it too," depending on how we play this.

The U.S. is always looking out for itself, like any other country would. And we need petroleum. America is addicted to the natural resource.

As we currently import one-fifth of our oil from Arab countries, we want to eliminate any X factors in pricing by influencing these nations to be friendly with us. The best way to accomplish this outlandish scheme is to align with Egypt.

Egypt is the largest, most influential and most educated Arab country. Any activity in the country can ripple through the region like a "domino effect."

Every moment the Egyptian people protest, the more likely other Arab countries will follow their lead.

Just yesterday, Jordan's president called for massive reform.

Presently every Arab country oppresses their population beyond the extent of a mild irritation.

The occupants of these countries would be overjoyed to throw out their rulers, unleash the social bonds cast down upon them and live the way human beings were meant to live.

So when Arabs look upon Egypt and the events that are transpiring there, they cannot help but to log onto Facebook — if it is not already blocked — and organize the next million man march.

That's how Egypt did it, and they've been continuously protesting since last week.

But these actions have consequences. There is now tremendous uncertainty in political as well as economic affairs. And uncertainty is not good.

As we speak, a barrel of oil sells for over \$90 — over a \$10 increase over the last week. The U.S. imports around five million barrels a day. Suddenly, a 10 dollar increase is looking to be a big fluctuation.

As it stands, our economy is recovering at a slow pace. Imagine the hit it will take with each rise in oil prices.

We may be looking at controlled black-outs across the country or worse — emphasis on the "worse".

So, it all comes down to this. Do we promote the domestic principles by which we live by? Or do we survive? Or is there another way?

America is definitely at a fork in the road. And while I cannot offer any real solution, I am sure our generation will come up with something.

## CORRECTIONS CORNER

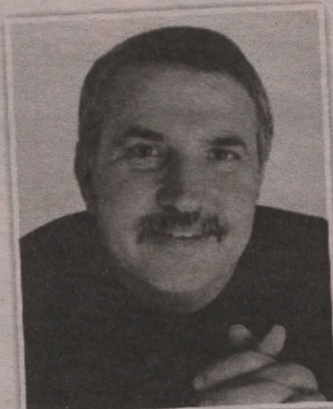
— In last week's story "Students gather to discuss Friedman best-seller," we mistakenly said Maggie Walters was pictured in the photo. It was Meaghan Walters. Also, Brittany Kelley's name was incorrectly spelled.

— It was incorrectly stated in "Homecoming weekend approaches" that Centenary College's nickname is the Cyclones. They are known as the Ladies and Gents, respectively.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact.

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

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.4268.



**Student Life Lecture Board in connection with the Varner Vitality Seminar Series Presents**

## Thomas L. Friedman

Three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Foreign correspondent for The New York Times. Author of "The World is Flat" and "Hot, Flat, and Crowded."

**Tuesday, February 8  
7:00 p.m., O'Rena, Recreation and Athletics Center**

**Tickets are FREE for OU students, faculty and staff**

**Tickets are still available at the CSA Service Window, 49 Oakland Center**

Sponsors of the Friedman lecture include OU's Student Life Lecture Board, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs divisions, Student Program Board, and Oakland University Alumni Association.



## Sharma proceedings underway

### OU professor sentenced to house arrest after alleged stalking incident

By MIKE SANDULA

Managing Editor

An Oakland University professor awaits trial after being charged with stalking a former student.

Srinarayan Sharma, 43, was arraigned and charged with stalking on Jan. 21 after an alumna reported him to the OU Police Department. Sharma, who's been at OU since 1996, is an Associate Professor of Management Information Systems in the School of Business Administration.

#### When it all began

According to an OU police report, the contact began in Fall 2009, following a class the student had with the professor. She soon started to receive e-mails that made her feel uncomfortable. In December 2010, she contacted the Dean of Students.

The contact escalated on Jan. 14 when the woman, who graduated in December, received two e-mails where Sharma stated he wanted to leave the country with her and encouraged her to kill his wife and children. He included personal information about his family members, as well as photos.

OUPD was then notified. Following a mental health evaluation, Sharma was arraigned and released on 10 percent of a \$10,000 bond Jan. 21.

#### Defining the charge

Michigan Compiled Laws defines stalking as repeated or unwillful conduct "that would cause a reasonable individual to suffer emotional distress and that actually causes the victim to suffer emotional distress."

It becomes a felony if it's a second offense, a restraining order or



Professor Srinarayan Sharma (right) sits next to his attorney, Jerome Sabbota, at 52-3 District Court in Rochester Hills during a discovery hearing Monday morning.

SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

probation is violated, or there's been a believable threat against the victim, the victim's family or another individual living with the victim.

Oakland County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Paul Walton said Sharma was charged with a misdemeanor, because none of those situations applied to him.

"The threats were never against the victim. Ironically, they were against the defendant's own's family. That's why he couldn't be charged with a felony," Walton said.

Stalking charges are not uncommon, according to Walton.

"They unfortunately occur a fair amount," he said, most of them being misdemeanors.

#### OU's policy

According to the police report, the woman was hesitant to report the professor while she was in his class because she was worried he

would fail her.

Breanne Thomas, an undecided freshman, wasn't surprised it took so long for the student to report the incident.

"I think it's understandable that she didn't right away, but I'd take it to authority," Thomas said.

Other students agreed they'd have told someone about it before too long.

"I would have reported it," said Helen Marsack, a senior social work major. "I don't think I would have taken too kindly to repeated e-mails from someone who I'm supposed to know in an educational and professional sense. It's so personal."

If a student feels he or she has received an unfair grade or feels harassed, Dean of Students Glenn McIntosh said students shouldn't hesitate to report it.

"If the grade dispute cannot be resolved between the course instructor and student, it should be

advanced to the course department chair," McIntosh said. "The chair works to resolve the dispute through the department's grade appeal process."

Thomas Lauer, Management Information Systems Chair, said the process to appeal grades is easily accessible. He would not comment further on the case.

"It's in the realm of gossip," Lauer said.

McIntosh said there are several options for reporting incidents of harassment, including OUPD, the Provost's office, the office of inclusion and intercultural affairs and his office.

He said he hadn't received other complaints regarding Sharma, and that such complaints about a course instructor are rare.

"When they do (occur), students should feel comfortable sharing their concerns with university officials, trust us to investigate their concerns and take action to re-

solve the problem," he said.

Damon Duncan, an undecided freshman, said he's never been in that kind of a situation before and feels no one ever should be.

"If it got to the level of uncomfortableness where I didn't like them as a teacher, I would just switch out. But if it got as serious as stalking, I would probably let somebody up the list at OU know," Duncan said.

#### Present and future

Sharma is currently on house arrest with a tether. Judge Julie A. Nicholson of 52-3 District Court granted the prosecution's request Monday morning that Sharma have no contact with his wife and two children.

Defense attorney Jerome Sabbota said there's "no reason to believe he's a danger."

He is voluntarily moving into an apartment in Troy while his family will remain at its Rochester Hills home. He is allowed to leave home for court-related business, medical appointments and to shop for personal items.

Sharma, who has tenure, is currently suspended. As for his future at OU, Media Relations Director Ted Montgomery said Sharma would have to go through the reinstatement process, but first OU would "have to see how this plays out in court."

"The criminal issue and employment issue are two different things. They're not necessarily intertwined," Montgomery said.

A pre-trial hearing is set for Feb. 15, with the trial beginning March 4.

— Rhiannon Zielinski and Kay Nguyen contributed to this report.



## campus briefs

### Kresge welcomes Charles Pugh

Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh will speak at Kresge Library on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 12-1 p.m. The event is part of OU's African American Celebration Month festivities. A reception will follow.

### Chinese New Year Celebration

Celebrate Chinese culture and traditions on Thursday, Feb. 3, in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms from 4-7 p.m. The celebration will include live performances, a sampling of traditional Chinese New Year food, authentic calligraphy and crafts.

### Chamber Orchestra performance

OU's most recent ensemble, the Chamber Orchestra, will perform in Varner Recital Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 8, from 7-9 p.m. Admission is \$8. For more information about the event and tickets, please visit [oakland.edu/mtd](http://oakland.edu/mtd)

### Thomas L. Friedman

The Student Life Lecture Board presents Thomas Friedman, a three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and a Foreign Affairs columnist for the New York Times. The even will take place in the O'rena on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the CSA window.

### Etiquette Dinner

Students are invited to attend the 2011 Etiquette Dinner in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 5-7 p.m. Students will enjoy a four-course meal and network with business leaders and alumni. Registration is \$10 and tickets can be purchased at the Career Services desk.

— Compiled by Lauryn Andrews,  
Staff Intern

# Alumni meet at Meadow Brook

By RHIANNON ZIELINSKI

Campus Editor

More than a hundred alumni, students, faculty and members of the administration gathered at Meadow Brook Hall on Friday, Feb. 29 to celebrate homecoming for the Alumni Welcome Reception.

The reception was the first of its kind for Oakland University. It was free of charge and available to any member of the campus community, presented by the OU Alumni Association and the OU branch of the MSU Federal Credit Union.

Those in attendance enjoyed free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar in the ballroom of Meadow Brook, discussing their lives since graduation and why they chose OU however many years ago.

Catherine Healey graduated with a degree in management information systems in 1986. She chose OU for the affordable place and proximity to her home.

"It was a good experience," Healey said. "I did a year at Michigan State and the class size at Oakland was so much better. The instructors were just as good or better, so I think I actually got a better education here than I would have at Michigan State."

Since graduating, Healey worked for 20 years with the automotive industry before starting venturing out to start her own line



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

Catherine Healey, SBA '86, partakes in the Alumni Welcome Reception at Meadow Brook Hall. The event featured free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

of handbags, Fossati.

Matthew Berard, a 2009 political science graduate, works as a clerk at the Oakland County Circuit Court while he attends law school at University of Detroit Mercy. He credits his experience at OU for his success since graduation.

"I think it's the practical experience that you have and the opportunities around campus to work in the relevant fields that you're going into sets you apart," Berard said.

Associate Dean of Kresge Library Frank Lepkowski said he has built his career around OU, after arriving in 1985 as an assistant professor.

"Oakland students are strivers," Lepkowski said. "I feel that because it's such a young institution, our alums feel that they are making the influence that Oakland is having in the world."

Visit the Alumni Association website for information on upcoming events at [www.oualumni.com](http://www.oualumni.com)

## Workshop teaches textbook reading strategies

By MAYURI MUNOT

Staff Intern

"The first thing to do is have a positive attitude."

With these words, Eric Brown, the assistant director of the Academic Skills Center and a communications professor at OU, began his workshop entitled "Textbook Reading Strategies" on Jan. 27.

This workshop, along with other ones, was initially a part of the C.L.A.W. Series, according to Brown, which has been discontinued.

"We try to offer skill sets for test-taking," Brown said. "We try to provide information to students that is beneficial to them."

The first reading strategy that Brown introduced was creating a reading schedule, and he suggested reading when you were

most alert.

The second reading strategy, said Brown, was to find a quiet place. The third was to review past readings and chapters to be up-to-date on current information.

Brown stressed that a very important reading strategy was to preview the reading by looking through the table of contents and looking for highlighted and boldfaced words, title headings and graphs and charts.

Brown recommended going to the end of the chapters, doing the chapter summaries, and creating a list of questions. He also recommended reading in chunks and concentrating on reading faster because it would help in comprehension of the material.

"The theory about reading faster was new to me," said Aaron Segel, a junior cinema studies student. "I'm not sure if it's going to help, but I'll give it a try."

In total, Brown discussed 18 different reading strategies, many which might have been new to many students.

"Just because you're reading it doesn't mean that you're comprehending it," Brown said. "You have to make an association with the words."

There will be two more workshops in the month of February. One workshop entitled "Learning Styles & Study Strategies" will be held on Wednesday February 2 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Lake Huron Room of the Oakland Center. Another workshop, "Ace My Tests," will be held on Thursday, Feb. 10 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Oakland Room of the Oakland Center.

All of the workshops are sponsored by the Academic Skills Center and are free. For information visit the Academic Skills Center website at [www.oakland.edu/asc](http://www.oakland.edu/asc)



# Advising launches redesigned website

By RHIANNON ZIELINSKI

Campus Editor

Academic advising has launched a new website that offers comprehensive information and resources for all schools and departments.

The website is the result of six months of collaboration between advisers, professors and students.

The assistant dean of the nursing school, Pamela Marin, school of business advisor Kellie Klinck and Director of the Advising Resource Center Kim Schultz led the way for the development of the new site.

Academic advising has launched a new website that offers comprehensive information and resources for all schools and departments.

"Last summer the academic advising coordinators were pulled together as a group and everybody agreed that it would be great to have a comprehensive website that served students' needs in academic advising, acting as a portal to the other related sites

on campus," Marin said.

They brought together a student focus group to find out exactly what students were looking for.

"We looked to get a good representation of students in different standings and different majors," Schultz said. "We pulled from students that we already have a working relationship with that we felt would give us good, honest feedback."

The students looked at the old website and worked together to decide the best way to update it.

"Before the new advising website, there wasn't any easy to use, central place where students could find information about the individual advising office in each separate schools or college," said Rachel Reardon, a senior French major and member of the student focus group.

One of the common problems that students faced was understanding how advising works and where to go for different services.

The new website addresses this prob-

lem by providing prominent headings on the main page regarding how to find your academic adviser, degree requirements and frequently asked questions.

In December, they met with different departments on campus for an internal launch of the site, to gauge their reactions.

"The feedback that day was wonderful," Marin said.

They will be holding a larger launch party for students on Feb. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the Fireside Lounge to officially introduce the new site and share what it has to offer.

The advising office has rented a Shutter-booth for the event so that students can get free pictures taken while they learn about the new site.

"All of the advising staff will be represented," Marin said. "The Grizz and Clawzz will be there too for students who would like to have a picture with one of them."

Visit the new academic advising website and utilize the tools that it has to offer at [oakland.edu/advising](http://oakland.edu/advising)

## police files

### Chartwells retail fraud

On Tuesday, Jan. 25, it was reported that a student had stolen a bag of Doritos chips and consumed the product without purchasing it. The student was originally confronted because an employee thought the student had taken Chick-Fil-A fries without purchasing the item. It was discovered that the student had actually taken three bags of chips and only paid for two.

### Assault and student arrest

On Friday, Jan. 28, it was reported that a student had almost hit a marked, OUPD patrol car in the University Student Apartment parking lot. When the student failed to slow down, the officer followed the student and asked for her name, once she had exited her vehicle. The student continued to respond with profanity as she headed to her apartment. The officer followed the student on suspicion of intoxication or drug use. The student began to scream and said since she was no longer driving and that there was nothing the officer could do. Upon calling for backup, the officer reported that the student continued to act aggressively. The student was taken to the OU police station for booking and was kept at Oakland County Jail for the night.

### Casino Night false alarm

On Saturday, Jan. 29, it was reported that a student's cell phone was missing. Upon dropping the phone from a railing, while supervising the craps table at the event, the student reported that her phone was missing when she went to retrieve it. The phone was turned in that evening and returned to the student.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,  
Local Editor

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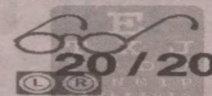
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Promotion ends February 14, 2011



# San Marino partnership sends students to Italy

By **NICHOLE SEGUIN**  
Features Editor

Instead of spending your summer on the shore of the beach or flipping burgers in a warm kitchen, why not travel to the small country of San Marino, located in Italy, and get a hands-on experience with ancient and medieval art?

For the first time ever, Oakland University has partnered with the University of San Marino, offering students of any major the opportunity to learn about art history as well as its conservation from May 9 to June 3 on an introductory course level.

"This program is unique because it's not just art history; it is art conservation and restoration as well," said Andrea Eis, associate professor of art and chair of the department of art and art history. "It's going to be a wonderful experience for students, and seeing actual historical monuments is so much different in person. It's also interesting because there is no prerequisite or prior art history courses required to go."

Students attending get a hands-on experience in the labs working with the artifacts and are given access to museums and restoration facilities in San Marino and Italy, according to Susan Wood, art history professor and "ringmaster" of the trip.

"(San Marino Professors) would be delighted to get chemistry majors and engi-



Photo courtesy of Andrea Eis

The Monastero Santa Chiara in San Marino, in Italy, is where most classes will be held. This is the first time OU has partnered with the University of San Marino.

neers — people with that kind of technical skill and scientific knowledge, because those are wonderful preparations for conservation," Wood said.

The \$3,300 program fee includes a stay in 2-4 person apartments at the USM Montegiardino campus, transportation and hotels on all field trips, entrance fees to archeological sites and museums, and all conservation/

restoration laboratories and workshops.

To help with the costs, art history majors with at least a junior class standing and art history alumni are able to apply for the John B. Cameron travel award in Art History.

"We're trying to cut the cost down as much as we can because we want it to be affordable," Wood said. "The price includes some food, housing, travel costs and all

the field trips. The Cameron scholarship wouldn't cover the entire cost, but it would certainly help students out."

Students can also apply for an art and art history grant.

As for field trips, students are going to be traveling a lot, since the best way to learn is to "get out and explore," Wood said.

"We actually calculated that there is only going to be one Sunday that is completely free for students," Wood said. "Every weekend is going to be full of overnight trips to Rome, Florence and other cities, and there are going to be a lot of day and half-day trips as well."

The trip isn't entirely a vacation though. Students will also be taking classes taught by professors at USM, various professors from all over Italy and by Wood herself.

"This is our pilot program," Wood said. "It's going to be an interdisciplinary course. There will be some art history, some conservation, some military history because there are some fascinating old fortresses around there and I'll be teaching a few classes, but I'm not going to be doing more than a third of the teaching at most. The professional conservationists at the USM will be teaching those classes and leading labs."

A \$500 deposit for the program is due on March 1. Students interested in learning more about the program can contact Wood by e-mail at wood@oakland.edu



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## Grizzlies' defense overwhelms Centenary in second half surge

By **DAN FENNER**  
Senior Editor

It didn't feature a game-winning shot in the final seconds like last season, but Saturday's Homecoming game between the Oakland University men's basketball team and Centenary College certainly capped off an exciting day for the Grizzlies' faithful.

Behind the strength of senior Keith Benson's season-high 30 points and seven blocked shots, Oakland moved to 11-0 in the Summit League by knocking off the Gents, 100-70.

The Grizzlies got off to a sluggish start, and found themselves behind 8-2 in the opening minutes of the game. By halftime, Oakland had only managed to build a 44-36 lead over winless Centenary, which showed no resemblance to the team OU blew out earlier in the season.

Head coach Greg Kampe's initial post-game statement summed up the Grizzlies performance quite succinctly.

"I wasn't happy and then I got happy," Kampe said of the discrepancy between the two halves and his team's effort.

"They were scoring against us and getting good looks against us. We want pressure on the ball (handler) with our athleticism. We want to swarm the ball and I didn't see that (in the first half). I saw complacency, and I'm not really good with complacency, so I was upset."

A decision to switch to a full-court press defense in the second half gave Centenary fits bringing the ball up the court. Kampe credited Associate Head Coach Jeff Tungate with the idea that ultimately helped OU pull away.

"The guards were really getting out there on the perimeter pressuring the ball in the second half and that's what really turned the game around," Benson said of the defensive switch. "(Centenary) felt nervous and we were getting a lot of turnovers."

Twenty-six turnovers to be exact, of which 17 came after halftime.

Early in the second half, Reggie Hamilton scored 12 straight points for Oakland, surpassing 1,000 career points in the process.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

With Saturday's win, Oakland has now won 36 consecutive games dating back to last season when leading at halftime.

To the delight of the 3,675 fans reportedly in attendance, Benson and teammate Will Hudson were each able to slam down several dunks to fire up the crowd.

"It's great when you have a big home crowd behind you and a lot of people come to support you," redshirt freshman Travis Bader said. "I just wish we played at home more (this season) with the big fan base we have. It's great when you make a shot and hear the roar of the crowd to really get us going."

Bader finished with 16 points, including his typical allotment of 3-pointers (4-for-7). In all, 10 different players scored for the Grizzlies on the night.

"I've never coached a team like this of-

fensively ... This team is unbelievable. We go eight deep and we can score eight different ways," Kampe said. "The issue with this team is if anyone (beats) us, it's because we turn it over and we think we're so good that we try to do too many great things."

With another pair of wins under its belt, Oakland will hit the road this week for games against Western Illinois and IUPUI on Thursday and Saturday, respectively.

The latter game against the Jaguars is arguably OU's toughest remaining game, as the Grizzlies will look to avenge last year's road loss — the one defeat in their 17-1 conference finish a year ago. The game will be played at Consecro Fieldhouse, home of the NBA's Indiana Pacers.

### A LOOK AT THE SUMMIT

Summit League standings  
as of Feb. 1

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Oakland 11-0  
IPFW 8-3  
IUPUI 7-3  
South Dakota St. 6-5  
UMKC 6-5  
Oral Roberts 6-5  
North Dakota St. 5-6  
Southern Utah 3-8  
Western Illinois 2-8  
Centenary 0-11

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Oral Roberts 11-0  
IPFW 8-3  
Oakland 8-3  
North Dakota St. 6-5  
South Dakota St. 6-5  
Western Illinois 5-5  
Southern Utah 5-6  
UMKC 4-7  
IUPUI 1-9  
Centenary 0-11

#### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Men's basketball  
2/3 at Western Illinois  
2/5 at IUPUI

Women's basketball  
2/5 at IUPUI  
2/7 at Western Illinois



# Calhoun's 28 points not enough as OU falls

By **RYAN HEGEDUS**  
Senior Reporter

Whether they considered it or not, Monday night's game against first-place Oral Roberts served as a measuring stick game for the Golden Grizzlies.

After a double-overtime, 80-72 loss to the Golden Eagles, Oakland's standing in the Summit League became a little clearer.

Junior guard Sharise Calhoun scored a career-high 28 points on 12-of-23 shooting, but it wasn't enough to overcome a poor first half of play.

Calhoun added six rebounds and three assists, but committed seven turnovers. She drew the tough task of guarding ORU's player of the year frontrunner, sophomore Kevi Luper, who scored 36 points.

"(Luper's) a great player," Calhoun said. "You play your best defense and she still hits big shots. She's just one of those players where she's just a good shooter."

The Golden Grizzlies (14-8, 8-3) had gained sole possession of second place in the Summit League standings with a resounding 100-36 victory over Centenary on Saturday, but Monday's loss drops the team back into a tie with IPFW. Oral Roberts maintained its unblemished 11-0 Summit League record.

OU struggled offensively in the first half, which allowed Oral Roberts to build an early lead. The Grizzlies shot just over 24 percent from the field in the first half and only 32.5 percent for the game.

Despite trailing by as many as 15 points in the first half, OU stormed back in the second half to force overtime.

A second extra five-minute session became necessary when Calhoun hit a jump shot and subsequent free throw to knot the game up once more.

An offensive foul call negated what

would have been a go-ahead basket in the second overtime, and the game got away from the Grizzlies from there.

Oakland coach Beckie Francis said she was proud of the resiliency the team displayed.

"I just told the team in the locker room that I was really proud of their mental toughness," Francis said. "I think that we improved from the last time we played (ORU), and were more aggressive in the second half, and now we just need to do that for a whole game."

Francis said the second-half surge was due in part to the rebounding efforts of junior Brittany Carnago and freshman Zakiya Minifee.

Carnago scored 11 points to go along with 14 rebounds and three blocks, despite playing with four fouls for almost 20 minutes.

"I thought that was the best game I've ever seen Brittany Carnago play," Francis said. "She got some big rebounds and scored some really big baskets at the end. We just needed to get her the ball more."

Minifee had 12 rebounds, five assists and three blocks while playing 45 minutes.

Sophomore Bethany Watterworth, the team's typical leading scorer, managed to score 13 points, but struggled from the field, making just three field goals. She did tally nine assists and four rebounds, however.

"At first, I was just kind of shooting a lot of outside jumpers," Watterworth said. "Even as a team, in the first half, we shot a lot of three-pointers. In the second half, we had a different mentality. We were a lot more aggressive and we were really relaxed."

The loss was just the second for Oakland at home this season, with both defeats coming in overtime.

The Grizzlies will return to action Saturday to face IUPUI.

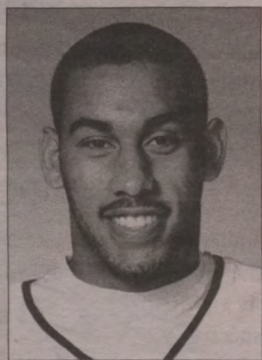


BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Oakland's performance against Oral Roberts Monday was an improvement over the team's 22-point loss to the Golden Eagles back in December, however, the net outcome remained the same — a loss.

## Super Bowl Predictions

With Super Bowl Sunday approaching, The Post asked five people around campus to weigh in with their picks for the big game.



Drew Valentine,  
Sophomore forward,  
men's basketball

34-31 Steelers



Matt Pocket,  
WXOU Sports Director and  
play-by-play announcer

27-24 Packers



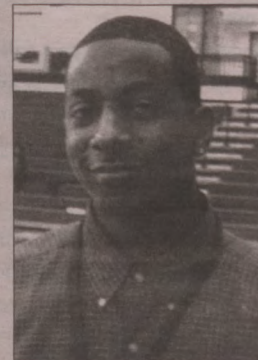
Kevin Beers,  
O'rena public address  
announcer

26-20 Steelers



Brandon Gustafson,  
Student Body President

17-14 Packers



Montez Allen,  
WXOU basketball  
commentator

26-20 Steelers



# Avoiding the sophomore slump

By **DAN FENNER**  
Senior Editor

There was a point this season when it appeared Drew Valentine had fallen victim to a classic case of the sophomore slump. Turnovers and mental lapses made it difficult for Oakland University men's basketball coach Greg Kampe to keep Valentine on the court, despite his conviction that he'd eventually become a star.

Kampe thought Valentine was trying too hard to make his presence known on the court and needed to let the game come to him rather than pressing to make an impact.

"I was really disappointed with him in the preseason because I expected him to fight for a starting position right out of the gate based on how much I liked his freshman year," Kampe said. "Lately Drew has gone through a maturation process where he's had to grow and learn."

Fast forward to February and it's difficult to imagine the Golden Grizzlies still being undefeated in the Summit League without Valentine's emergence as a dynamic all-around contributor.

Valentine's primary role was born out of necessity when junior Blake Cushingberry suffered a season-ending knee injury just days before the season started. The plan was for Cushingberry to step into the defensive stopper role that Derick Nelson occupied last season, but the injury quickly gave the team an early adversity to overcome.

On the eve of the exhibition opener, Kampe admitted that the biggest question mark facing the team was whether a consistent lockdown defender would emerge.

Enter Valentine.

Challenged with the task of guarding the premier perimeter players in the conference, Valentine has steadily risen to the occasion and quieted some of the defensive concerns the coaching staff had.

"Being in the starting lineup, the coaches put me out there to defend against (Dominique) Morrison, (Michael) Tveidt, and a lot of other good players," Valentine said. "There's a extra little pres-

sure, but I thrive off it and embrace it. It's easy for me to go out there now knowing that the coaches have a lot of confidence in me."

With a sense of security in the starting five, Valentine has had an opportunity to relax knowing that a single error won't shake Kampe's confidence and earn him another trip to the bench.

"I'm not as tentative and I'm more comfortable with going out there and making plays," he said. "If I make a mistake I'm not insecure anymore about going back out there and being aggressive to make the next play."

Despite his knack for defense, Valentine said he finds greater satisfaction in another aspect of his game.

"I take the most pride in rebounding because of the effort involved," Valentine said. "It's all about effort, heart and hustle, and rebounding is not something that everybody does, especially from a perimeter position. You don't see too many guys going out there getting double-doubles, so I like that."

With an average of 7.6 rebounds in 11 Summit League games this season, Valentine has given Oakland a third player that's adept on the boards.

"There's so much emphasis by the other teams put on Benson and Hudson that there's some avenues to the basket to rebound and he's taken advantage of that," Kampe said.

Kampe describes Valentine as a prototypical garbage player, using it in a positive sense.

"Those are the types of players you win games with. Every facet of his game is pretty good and the thing that makes him so good is his work ethic. He's tremendous with that, being in the gym all the time," Kampe said.

And if defense and rebounding can be considered skills 1a and 1b, then Valentine's 3-point shooting follows as a close third.

Prior to having his streak snapped against Centenary on Saturday, Valentine had reached double-digit points in eight consecutive games, with three double-doubles during that span.

Connecting on over 56 percent (18-of-32) of his 3-point attempts in conference play, he ranks sec-



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Through 24 games this season, sophomore Drew Valentine is averaging 7.3 points and 5.5 rebounds per game, but has seen a significant uptick in those statistics since solidifying a role in the starting lineup.

ond on the team overall and among the leaders in the Summit League.

Last season, however, he finished with the lowest percentage from behind the arc on the team, which begs the question of how he managed such a dramatic turnaround.

"When I was in high school and when I first got here I wasn't a very

good 3-point shooter," Valentine said. "James Hellekjaer, our video (coordinator), said when I got here that we have to make this happen so I can become a great shooter. So I've been working really hard on that shot."

Oakland's recruitment of Valentine two years ago was made possible by a knee injury he suffered while playing football at Sexton

High School in Lansing. Many of the universities that were interested in signing Valentine backed off due to the injury, allowing OU to swoop in.

"Drew was a kid that when we got him last year, we liked him and thought he'd be good for us," Kampe said. "But once we got him here he's been even better than we expected."



# Oakland sweeps Michigan State on Senior Day

By **TOM BARRY**  
Staff Reporter

In the midst of Homecoming weekend, the present and future of Oakland swimming and diving came together for an important win.

The Golden Grizzly men beat Michigan State, 172-126, while the Oakland women defeated the Spartans, 199-99, Saturday at the OU Aquatics Center on Senior Day.

"I've been here 32 years and I can't remember the atmosphere (being like this), with the tailgating and all of the events that are going on," Oakland coach Pete Hovland said. "I think Oakland really did themselves proud so far this weekend. I'm really proud to be a part of it, of our kids' performance and of the way they sent the seniors out."

On a day that celebrated the accomplishments of the seniors, freshman Amr el Sayed shone as he won the men's 1,000-yard free-style with a school record time of 9:21.81.

El Sayed also helped the Grizzlies (6-2) complete a 1-2-3 sweep of the Spartans (5-3) in the 500 free, finishing first in 4:32.29. Nick Evans (4:35.34) came in second, followed by Tim Montague (4:37.21).

Making his last appearance for the Grizzlies in a dual meet, Marcin Unold wrapped

up his record-setting Oakland career with four wins. He took first in the 200 medley relay with Scott Yarbrough, Alex Aceino and Matyas Keresztes, the 100 back, the 100 free and the 400 free relay with Keresztes, Grant Harding and Evans.

"I'm proud of what I did here, and I survived 4 1/2 years here," Unold said. "This is a huge accomplishment. It ends next semester, so I got to let go and switch places. But here, I'm starting to feel like I am at home. It's more like leaving home again."

Marcella Barretta was instrumental in Oakland's (8-1) win over Michigan State (3-8) as she won the women's 3-meter diving with a school record of 315.75, breaking senior Chelsea Oates' record of 310.05.

The Grizzly women took one relay victory as Alyssa Busch, Johanna Gustafsson, Sandra Czerska and Alyssa Vela won the 200 medley relay (1:44.91).

Before Oakland goes to The Summit League Championships, they will host the Michigan USA Open from Feb. 11-13.

"We still have 10-12 kids competing for a spot on our conference team," Hovland said. "The Michigan Open is a big meet, but our focus now, starting on Monday, will be getting ourselves rested and winning our 12th conference championship."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

On Senior Day at the OU Aquatics Center on Saturday, the Oakland men's swim team topped Michigan State University, 172-126, while the OU women defeated MSU, 199-99. Senior Marcin Unold won four events for the Grizzlies in his last dual meet at Oakland.



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JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Following Saturday's tailgating event, fans of the Oakland University men's and women's basketball teams moved indoors to the O'rena. Each facing off against Centenary, the Grizzlies' women's team captured an impressive 100-36 victory, while the men came away with a 100-70 win.

# Homecoming hits OU



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

ABOVE: Attendance for the men's game, a reported 3,675 fans, marked one of the largest crowds in O'rena history.

TOP RIGHT: Following the games, the Oakland Center hosted the annual Casino Night, where students could play various games, sample food and win a variety of prizes.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Current and former students gathered Friday at Meadow Brook Hall for the Alumni Mixer.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Prior to the basketball games, Oakland University hosted its first-ever officially sanctioned tailgate. Attendees barbecued and cooked everything from hot dogs to pancakes to chili.



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post



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## Activism drives café

By SARAH WOJCIK  
Senior Reporter

People call her Nana. In many languages, it means grandma.

Carol Kaplan, the first person to graduate from Oakland University's biology program, is truly a grandmotherly figure. She is the driving force behind the enterprise known as Nana's Gourmet Comfort World Co.

Located merely minutes from campus, Nana's Gourmet Comfort World Co. sits on the corner of Squirrel and Auburn roads.

The interior of the café is welcoming and colorful.

Kaplan is also interested in showcasing the artwork of Oakland students.

"I decided what people want is comfort," Kaplan said. "Because of all the horrors that are happening in the world, we need a place where we can go and mingle with each other where we know peace and love exists."

The mission behind the company is spreading multiethnic faith.

"Our whole point is multiethnic education, particularly peace in the Middle East by bringing Jews and Muslims and Christians together because there is a lot of Islamophobia since 9/11," Kaplan said.

The café is unique in that it celebrates the holidays of many faiths — Ramadan, Hanukkah, Christmas, Easter and Passover — and Kaplan is gearing up for a very special Chinese New Year (Feb. 3) and Valentine's Day.

Among the many causes and campaigns the café supports is Pennies for Peace. They are trying to raise \$50,000 to build a school for girls in north Pakistan or Afghanistan.

Pennies for Peace was established by Greg Martinson, the author of "Three Cups of Tea," after he was saved from a remote mountain in north Pakistan by villagers.

So far, he has built 136 schools, mainly by collecting pennies from schools.

"The Taliban does not allow girls to go to school. They have to have secret schools," Kaplan said.

Kaplan also spearheads Nana's Planet, a nonprofit organization.

The café features a Muslim prayer area — one of the very few places, including Dearborn, that does — and call to prayer five times a day.

Nana's Gourmet Comfort World Co. is halal and kosher certified by more than one worldwide-certified organization and is the largest producer of halal and kosher marshmallows in the world.

"We're under the strict rabbinical su-



Carol Kaplan, the driving force of Nana's Gourmet Comfort World Co. in downtown Auburn Hills, stands with Imam Salie at the business's grand opening.

pervision of the CRC (Chicago Rabbinical Council). Our supervisor is from Michigan State and he comes every two weeks to inspect us," Kaplan said. "We are also inspected by Islamic Services of America. We follow Malaysian halal standards, which are the strictest."

Kaplan invented the Pillowmallow herself because she tried other products available and saw a void in the market. They are now being sold nationally and internationally.

"I did all of the invention work during treatment for cancer," Kaplan said. "I literally propped myself up with pillows around me, because I could barely sit up, so Pillowmallow."

In 2007, Kaplan was diagnosed with lymphoma, most likely caused by exposure to radioactive isotopes and other carcinogens during her career as a researcher at Wayne State University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. As technical director for pediatric research immunology, she experienced exposure to isotopes and other carcinogens.

"My dog saved my life," Kaplan said. "I said (to him), 'I think you're a pet scan, a literal PET scan.'"

Kaplan had been seeing doctors, who

said that she was fine, but Bosco kept sniffing and crying at her abdomen. After two weeks, she had a PET scan and found out she had a tumor.

Bankrupt from cancer with her idea, long-time friend and current business partner Ken Young came to Kaplan's rescue.

Young, a business professor for 30 years, with a MBA from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Purdue in economics, liked the concept of Pillowmallows, and the two launched the company.

"I started out just to help her get through the radiation, but then I got involved with the company," he said. "One of the things that has been a continual surprise is the new products (Nana) comes up with."

Nana's Gourmet Comfort World Co. offers over 40 flavors of Pillowmallows and counting as well as a variety of halal and kosher bark, vegan cupcakes, homemade Paninis, soups and homemade salads and organic coffees and teas.

All of the products are available at surprisingly affordable prices.

"I love the idea of the company, I love the mission, the coffee is amazing," said Christine Burns, one of the managers. "I just love everything about it and I don't want it to close."

## local briefs

### Wearing red for heart health

Before giving your heart to someone on Valentine's Day, the American Heart Association advises everyone to measure his or her personal risk of heart disease. Since heart disease is the number one killer of women, this Friday is National Wear Red Day to kick off Go Red for Women month.

According to [examhealth.com](http://examhealth.com), the American Heart Association created Go Red For Women in 2004 to educate the public about the disease. Heart disease kills more women each year than breast cancer and nearly one in every three women dies from cardiovascular disease annually.

"By wearing red on National Wear Red Day you can show solidarity against the loss of so many women's lives to heart disease. Take it further and speak up to your co-workers, tell them about the signs of heart disease," according to the site.

For more information, visit [www.goredforwomen.org](http://www.goredforwomen.org)

### Birmingham Restaurant Week

Beginning last week, the city of Birmingham is in the midst of celebrating its several savored dining spots around town. Participating Birmingham restaurants will offer three-course lunches for \$15 and three-course dinners for \$30. Restaurant-goers can expect to find delicacies from the area's top chefs throughout the event, as the chefs will create special menu items specifically for this culinary extravaganza, according to a recent press release. Some of the restaurants include Big Rock Chop & Brew House, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar and South Bar among many others. For the complete listing of restaurants, visit [www.bhamrestaurantweek.com](http://www.bhamrestaurantweek.com). Birmingham Restaurant Week runs from Jan. 31-Feb. 4 and Feb. 7-11.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,  
Local Editor



# police blotter

## Rochester

### DOWNTOWN DISORDERLY CONDUCT:

On Sunday, Jan. 23, Rochester police were dispatched to Main Street Billiards in downtown Rochester, on a report of a disorderly female refusing to leave the bar.

Upon arrival officers observed a 22-year-old female from Rochester Hills, to be acting disorderly by yelling obscenities to the security staff. Officers arrested the subject after she failed to comply with the requests to leave peacefully. She was transported to the Rochester police station, and then later to the hospital for alcohol detoxification.

### OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED:

On Sunday, Jan. 23, Rochester police observed a vehicle running a stop sign at Fourth Street and Walnut Boulevard. A traffic stop was conducted and through investigation it was learned that the driver from Rochester Hills was operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. The subject was arrested, transported to the police station and released pending a court date for operating while intoxicated.

## Troy

### BREAKING AND ENTERING:

On Thursday, Jan. 27, Troy Police responded to a breaking and entering call at Defiance Engineering, located on Northwood Drive. The complainant's report stated that suspects used a landscaping rock to shatter an office window to gain entry. Three interior doors were damaged and it was reported that one laptop was stolen.

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, a break-in was reported at Pro Car Wash, located on Rochester Road. The suspect stole several cigarette packages and instant lottery tickets. Witnesses described that the suspect exited through a shattered glass entry door and fled the area in a blue SUV.

### DRUGS AND NARCOTICS:

On Saturday, Jan. 29, Troy officers responded to a report of a traffic altercation at the intersection of Crooks Road and South Boulevard, where the occupants of a vehicle were throwing things at the complainant's vehicle.

It was reported that the vehicle was swerving between traffic lanes.

Officers located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. An investigation determined that the driver was operating the vehicle under the influence of drugs and was arrested. The 20-year-old male resident of Sterling Heights was charged with operating under the influence of drugs, possession of marijuana and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

### EMBEZZLERS:

On Friday, Jan. 29, it was reported that three suspects had stolen register drawer cash from The Edge, located on W. 14 Mile Road. Two of the subjects distracted the complainant by asking questions while the third subject walked toward the cash register.

While speaking with the first two subjects, the complainant heard the cash register bell and he went to investigate. He observed that cash was missing from the register and then saw the third subject standing outside of the store. He questioned the subject about the cash, but the subject fled.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

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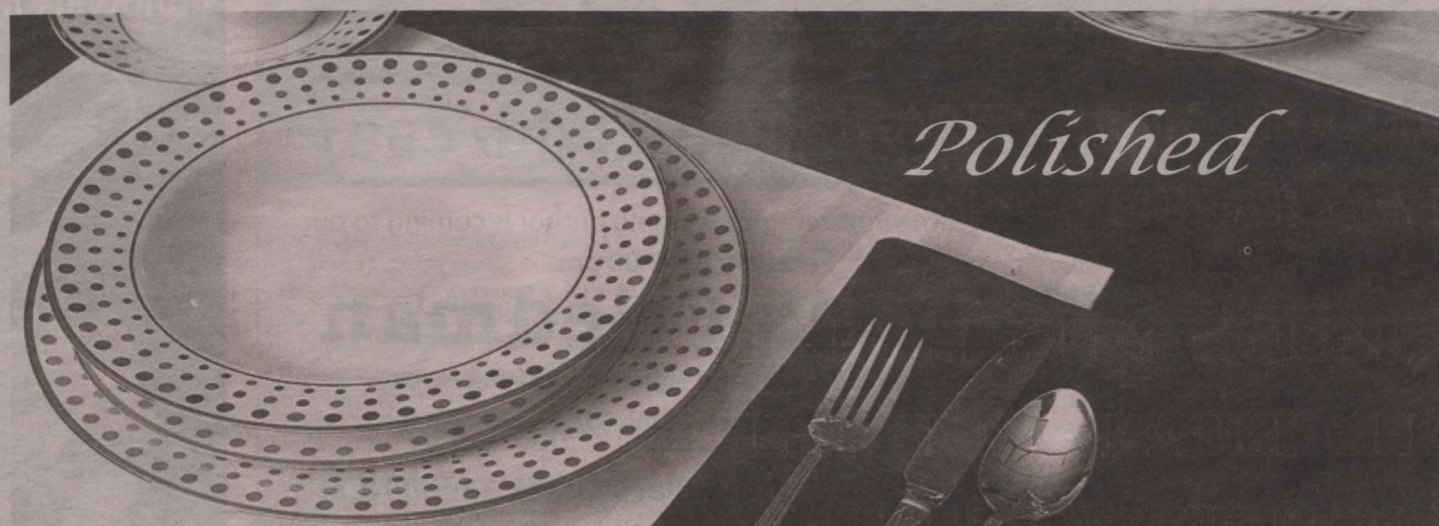
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## NEWS BRIEFS

A look at significant current news events from around the globe:

### 1. Somalia

Pirates in Somalia are using increasingly violent tactics against other ships occupying the same waters. They are holding 31 ships and more than 700 sailors hostage. Their treatment of the hostages has become torturous: tying hostages upside down and dragging them in the sea, locking them in freezers, beating them and using plastic ties around their genitals, according to Maj. Gen. Buster Howes of the European Union Naval Force on Tuesday.

### 2. Iran

The government of Iraq reported Tuesday that Iran returned the remains of 38 soldiers discovered



in a grave in Basra. The soldiers were killed during the eight-year war between the two countries in the 1980s. Five of the men have been identified and returned to their families so far, according to Iraqi Human Rights Ministry officer Hussein Eidi Hassan. In Oc-

tober 2008, the two nations signed an agreement to find tens of thousands of soldiers missing after the war.

### 3. Canada

After overestimating a surge in business after the Winter 2010

Olympics, a Canadian dogsleding business had to put down 100 dogs. In the name of being cost effective, one employee shot each dog. Many died instantly, but one female ran away, her "face blown off and an eye hanging out." The act violates every slaughterhouse

rule, according to the general manager of cruelty investigations for the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The man is receiving workers' compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder.

### 4. United States

The nation was hit Tuesday with a history-making snowstorm. From Texas to Maine, hazardous conditions from dangerous ice to whiteout snow to high frigid winds plagued the country's heartland. Multiple cities are closing down in anticipation of the freeze, including schools, colleges and government offices. An estimated 9,000 flights have also been canceled across the nation. Even Oakland University closed its doors.

— Compiled from AP Reports by Sarah Wojcik, Senior Editor

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## Thomas Friedman

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Wednesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm - 9:00pm

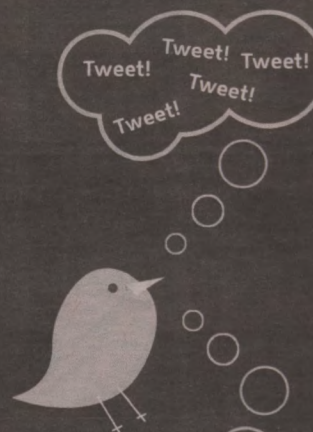
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Speaker: Rasheed Ali Cromwell, Esq.



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## Tuned into Fireside Lounge

By KATIE EVANS  
and MIKE SANDULA

Staff Intern and Managing Editor

The majority of students at Oakland University have walked by it at some point or another. Some have sat near it. A few have even gone right up to it and played it.

The piano in Fireside Lounge in the Oakland Center has long been a staple to the heavily trafficked area, providing some students with study music and others with an audience.

Matt Gartshore is there for the latter.

Gartshore, a junior majoring in music, can be found behind the Kawai grand piano a few times a week. On Monday, he was in Fireside Lounge practicing Alexander Scriabin's "Sonata No. 3 in F-sharp minor."

As a music major, Gartshore has access to practice rooms in Varner Hall, but likes Fireside because it's bigger and the nearby distractions of students help prepare him for a real concert.

"Sometimes it's nice to come practice here," Gartshore said.

Gartshore, a classical music aficionado, said he's most fond of Baroque and the 20th century romantic period.

He started playing about 15 years ago, partly because he wanted to and partly because his mother is a piano instructor. After graduation, Gartshore, who also plays violin, said he hopes to get a job performing or conducting.

### Moving out into the open

When Richard Fekel came to OU 15 years ago, he discovered that there was a piano tucked away in a large back room.

Fekel, director of the OC, said an OU alum donated the Steinway piano to the university in 1994.

"I thought it would be nice if we could bring it out to Fireside Lounge where people could see it and maybe great musicians would play it," Fekel said.

However, the piano was very old and needed a lot of work. Instead of trying to fix it, they sold it and purchased a K. Kawai, which has remained in Fireside Lounge since 2007.

Fekel has since seen many "fun" and "im-promptu" performances, including a duet.

"At the beginning of fall, I saw a saxophonist accompanying the piano," Fekel said.

### A welcome neighbor

Only a brick wall separates the ID card office from the Fireside piano, meaning



Matt Gartshore often utilizes the grand piano located in the Fireside Lounge to practice as if he were preparing for a real concert. The K. Kawai piano has resided in the Fireside Lounge of the Oakland Center since it was purchased in 2007.

those working inside the office don't have to strain to hear the music.

Don Ritenburgh, manager of ID card operations, said he's subconsciously tuned the music out over his 13 years in office. He said the piano playing usually hits its peak during the noon hour.

"Sometimes it's nice to have music in the background," Ritenburgh said.

In the summer when very few people are around to play the piano, Ritenburgh said they'll often play music to ease the nervousness of students who are having their picture taken for their ID cards.

"We want people to feel relaxed in here," Ritenburgh said.

According to Ritenburgh, the Oakland Center has someone regularly come in to tune the piano and the students take good care of it, recalling only one bizarre incident where someone dropped a cell phone inside the piano and several students had to help retrieve it.

Ritenburgh added that he's never had to yell at a student or ask anyone to stop.

He is, however, waiting to hear one song in particular.

"I keep waiting for someone to play Guns 'N' Roses' 'November Rain,' but I haven't had that yet," Ritenburgh said.

Though technically further from the piano, where junior Carmen Dreim stands behind the ID card office desk is closer to the door, which is typically open.

It's her second semester as a student employee at the office and she said she hears the piano throughout most of her 12-hour workweek.

"Usually I enjoy it, but sometimes people play the same songs over and over," Dreim said.

Dreim, who used to play piano but no longer does, said she likes classical music, specifically Claude Debussy's "Clair de Lune."

### Study companion

Carly Zacharias, a sophomore majoring in English, visits Fireside Lounge about two to three times a week. Much to her enjoy-

ment, someone is almost always playing, she said.

"It helps me (study), actually. (It's) pretty calming," Zacharias said. "People talking distracts me, but the music, not at all."

Sheereen Syed, a sophomore majoring in health sciences, also enjoys listening to the piano. Syed visits Fireside for long periods of time and appreciates the talent of those who perform.

"I wish I could (play)," she said. "I really want to learn."

Marcus Chaney, a senior majoring in political science, taught himself how to play piano about 15 years ago. He said his favorite types of songs to play are classical, gospel and jazz.

Without hesitation, he sits down to play the Fireside piano about four to five times a week, though he tries not to disturb those nearby.

"I try to play when there's not too many people around," Chaney said.

The piano is open for anyone to use, as long as they continue to take care of it.



# Swiping with a big smile

## Longtime diner cashier celebrates 15 years of service

By EMMA CLAUCHERTY  
Staff Reporter

Every weekday morning, Vandenberg cashier Patricia Wiseman assumes her position at the front door of Vandenberg Dining Center. She spends her shifts swiping a vast amount of student IDs, but she always manages to have a warm smile on her face every day. Without fail, Wiseman looks up at every student who walks in with her large round glasses and wide grin.

"Hi, how are ya doin' today?" she says.

Wiseman has been working at Oakland University for 15 years.

"I live just down the road so it's nice and close to home," Wiseman said. "And I enjoy the children, I call (them) all children."

Her past jobs include working at Hudson's, the Avondale and Rochester schools cafeterias and other well-known places in the area.

"I worked at the Silverdome for years," Wiseman said. "I would cook and do whatever else they needed done."

Wiseman has been working in the food industry since 1971. She spent some time cooking for a convent just off Adams Road.

"It was interesting," she said. "I cooked with a lot of garlic and onions. The poor sisters hadn't had seasoned food in years. The sister superior told the doctor 'the lady is cooking with too much garlic and onions,' and the doctor said 'It's good for you.'"

Wiseman was born in 1936 and grew up in West Detroit. She attended Mackenzie High School and the Pontiac Business Institute after. Her husband, Richard Wiseman, was her high school sweetheart.

"We were together sophomore, junior and senior year. He was a year ahead of me in school," Wiseman said. "(Right out of high school) I got married. Back then, you either got married or went off to school. I was 18."

Wiseman and Richard were married for 13 years until they divorced. They had four kids: Theresa, John, Catherine and Elizabeth. Wiseman raised her four children by herself in Rochester, where they attended Avondale high school.

When her children were young, she baked a lot, which made her kitchen a popular place in the neighborhood.

"I used to bake things and freeze them," Wiseman said. "The neighborhood kids finally figured out my freezer didn't have a lock on it and they would come and take cookies, muffins and whatever I had in there that was sweet. They enjoyed it."



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Patricia Wiseman works every Monday through Friday morning in the dining center in Vandenberg Hall.

Wiseman's children now range in ages from 48-53.

"I have four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren," Wiseman said.

She said she loves being a grandma.

"Oh, they're fun," she said. "You can spoil them and then they go home."

In 1999, Wiseman went to India, which triggered a deep fascination with the Indian and Bengali culture.

"I worked with two gentlemen from India and their older sister went with me to India," Wiseman said. "I went with the family and stayed with the family."

Wiseman took classes in Bengali and can still speak and read it a little.

"The family I went to India with spoke (the language) and I wanted to understand it a little," Wiseman said. "I sang Bengali in Toronto at the Bengali convention for the North American continent in '98."

Even though her trip to India was over a decade ago, Wiseman still holds an interest in the Bengali culture.

"Sometimes I go to the Hindu temple down the road," Wiseman said. "I listen and sometimes I sing."

Every Monday through Friday, Wiseman perches behind the cash register from 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. swiping card after card of college students, yet she hopes never to retire.

"I'm just used to working," Wiseman said.

Vandenberg Dining Center doesn't have to worry about losing its smiling grandmotherly greeter anytime soon.

"I don't know if I will retire yet. I'm thinking about it. I might never if I don't have to."

40

## professor profiles

Weekly spotlight on OU professors

### Grant Yocom Special Lecturer, Philosophy

If you take introduction to philosophy or introduction to ethics at Oakland University, it is possible lecturer Grant Yocom will be standing at the front of the classroom.

Once he makes it over the border from his home in Windsor, Canada, that is.

The tattooed and curly-haired young professor instructs each class with the same coffee mug within reach, plenty of hasty scribbling on the chalk board and steadily morphs the word "alright" into an unrecognizable series of vowels.



But these are the quirks students remember and recognize him by.

Yocom, 35, has been traveling across the border for seven years to teach at OU. In lectures, he makes sure students understand what can be very confusing material with diagrams, videos and even lectures on YouTube.

Mostly used in his courses taught online, he is the only philosophy lecturer at OU to use blackboard paint and turns a room at home into a virtual classroom and uses online video lectures.

"I didn't realize how visual my teaching style actually was, so it is all a matter of how do I translate this to an online form," Yocom said. "I am basically able to import my in-class teaching style into an online form."

Yocom tries to teach year-round and in the summer he teaches at both OU and the University of Windsor.

Outside of teaching, he is now working on a project in which his self-proclaimed "different sort of philosophy" takes him to Detroit.

The existential social theory uses Nietzsche and examines marginalized and underserved communities in the larger society — of which Detroit is an example.

Part of the uniqueness to this project is the way Yocom approaches his research.

"Largely I'm focusing on starting with examples and then I insert the theory, which is sort of an inversion of the way normally theorists approach a problem from the top," Yocom said. "They come thinking they already understand it, and they just try to map examples into a general, theoretical, categorical structure. I'm starting the other way."

He also likes to paint, sketch and go to museums and jazz shows. He likes to read science fiction for older societies' views on what the future would look like, as well as gardening.

— Tiffany Sood, Staff Reporter



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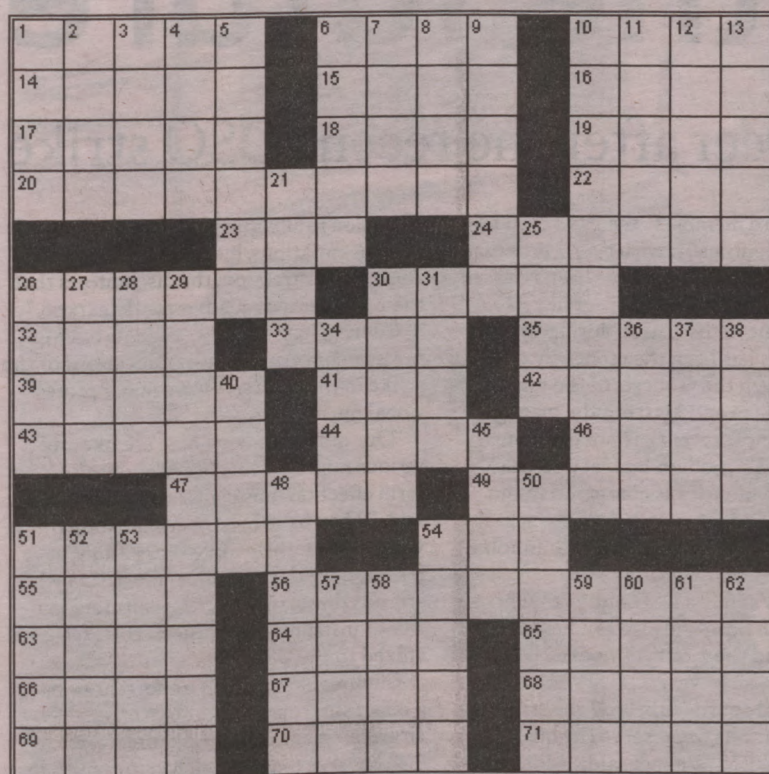




# WEEKLY CROSSWORD

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Answers are available online at  
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## ACROSS

1. Back tooth
6. Information
10. Sail holder
14. Maxim
15. Goddess of discord (Greek mythology)
16. Reflected sound
17. Supposedly, a cat has nine
18. Tab
19. A natural satellite
20. Lacking the requisite qualities
22. Boast
23. Carry with difficulty
24. Things that happen
26. African antelope
30. Animal with a snout
32. Require
33. 3 feet
35. An analytic literary composition
39. Muscle spasm
41. Cover
42. Complain in a plaintive way
43. Any habitation at a high altitude
44. Where the sun rises
46. False god
47. Famous
49. Urgent request
51. A fine coating of oxide
54. One thousandth of an inch
55. Matures
56. Atheist
63. Breathe hard
64. Cog
65. Banish
66. Basilica area
67. Suspend in the air
68. Shampoo and \_\_\_\_\_
69. Lascivious look
70. Tall woody plant
71. A strong metal alloy

## DOWN

1. Anagram of "Lima"
2. Chief Norse god
3. Magma
4. Matured
5. Sell again
6. Remove errors from
7. Operatic solo
8. Slant
9. Napping
10. Belonging to a team or group
11. Fruit of the oak tree
12. Young hog
13. Grasping tools
21. Jetty
25. Scene
26. Ancient Peruvian
27. No more than
28. Brandy flavor
29. Manage
30. Threesome
31. Tallies
34. Sheltered, nautically
36. Pro or con
37. Dwarf buffalo
38. Scream
40. Unskilled laborer
45. A dog wags this
48. Instructed
50. A gripping hand tool
51. Ordered by the pope
52. Open-mouthed
53. Anxious
54. Combine
57. Close
58. Curse
59. Not the entrance
60. Tarzan swung on this
61. Ultimatum ender
62. Whirl



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Monday, February 7, 1:00pm—2:30pm, 200C Elliott Hall  
Tuesday, February 8, 9:00am—10:30am, 223 Elliott Hall  
Friday, February 11, 2:00pm—3:30pm, 200C Elliott Hall  
Thursday, February 17, 10:00am—11:30am, 223 Elliott Hall



# The sound of the future

## OU music students contemplate their career after the recent DSO strike

By ANNIE STODOLA  
Staff Reporter

At the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the show has been stopped since early October.

The musicians at the DSO have been on strike against the orchestra's management for 18 weeks now. So far, more than 40 percent of the orchestra's performances this season have been canceled due to the strike.

For several years, Oakland University's Music, Theatre and Dance program has employed DSO musicians as faculty for their music students. Additionally, this past fall, a new partnership was announced between OU and the DSO that aimed to give students a more comprehensive music education through advanced lessons and events.

As the strike continues, music students and faculty alike have expressed concern over the ongoing battle between the DSO musicians and the management.

Freshman music education major Josh Bobek said his first year as a college musician has been affected by the strike in a number of ways, including being unable to attend a number of performances by the DSO due to their cancellation.

While Bobek is unhappy with the strike situation as a whole, he said that he under-

stands the importance of the musicians' fight.

"I am obviously upset over the strike; however, I side with the musicians in their argument rather than the DSO management," Bobek said. "The musicians have agreed several times to meet halfway between the DSO's pay wants and the musicians' pay wants, however the management is persistent on the amount they want to pay the musicians."

Bobek said that he has hopes that the strike will come to a resolution soon so that the quality of the DSO may be preserved.

"I'm not necessarily nervous about losing the orchestra as a whole, however I feel as though quite a few of the talented musicians may decide to leave if this strike continues much longer," Bobek said. "Most musicians want this strike to end as soon as possible. We want to be able to return to Orchestra Hall in Detroit and listen to the world-class music expected from the DSO."

Greg Cunningham, an associate professor of music at OU and the conductor of the Oakland Symphony Orchestra, said that although the strike has no easy answer, he hopes to see a solution soon.

"It's a complicated issue," he said. "I don't know what the final solution is, but I hope that the loss of the orchestra is something that can be avoided."

DSO board members recently voted to present the musicians with a new proposal on Feb. 4, but no details have been released as to what the proposal will entail.

A hot topic of discussion during the negotiations has been the monetary differences between the requests of the musicians and the proposals from the management. The most recent proposal in January suggested a \$32 million budget over the course of 40 months, as compared to the \$36 million budget over 36 months suggested by former Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Senator Carl Levin.

Corbin Wagner, a DSO musician who plays French horn and also teaches at Oakland, said the money is not the largest of the issues, however.

"The whole purpose behind the strike is for the musicians to preserve the quality of the orchestra," Wagner said. "Money is minor in comparison."

Wagner and Cunningham both said that student musicians at OU are impacted by the ongoing strike.

They also acknowledged that the faculty has done as much as possible to ensure the students receive the same quality of music education.

"I believe that the music department has felt very little impact, except that there are no great performances for the students to attend in Detroit," Wagner said. "Students

often don't fully grasp the depth of contract negotiations, but they do notice the angst, the distraction, the discomforts that their teacher may inadvertently expose."

Cunningham said the students have expressed concern for the ramifications of the strike in the future, as have many professional musicians.

"Our music students here are like any serious musician concerned about the long term effect on musicians," Cunningham said. "They have been sharing a similar view most of the people that I know have. It's not only the individual musicians who are amazing artists, but the cultural identity of instrumental music in this area is so affixed to the DSO."

Cunningham said it's important to have a major metropolitan orchestra, since few cities can make claim to that feature.

"We have to have a rich community in which to live, or else it's just not that great of a place," Cunningham said.

Cunningham also said the cost of running an organization like the DSO should not change the way people consider it.

"What the organization costs to run doesn't make it less valuable," Cunningham said. "I want professional sports, I want a strong visual arts community, musical art, dramatic art; I want all of it for our community. That's the community where I want to live. It makes it a better place."

## records & reels



### THE ROOMMATE // 93 min. // PG-13

Freshman college student Sara Matthews (Minka Kelly) finds herself in a dangerous situation during her first year when she is assigned to a dorm room with Rebecca (Leighton Meester), who becomes obsessed with her.

### SANCTUM // 109 min. // R

In this 3D thriller produced by James Cameron, master diver Frank McGuire and his team of underwater cave divers set their sights on the largest but least accessible cave system on the planet. When a tropical storm blocks their exit, they must find their way out before it is too late.



### MATISYAHU // "Live at Stubb's, Vol. II"

It has been over five years since Matisyahu's debut album, "Live At Stubb's," but three full-length records later he's back with another live record at the same club in Austin, Texas. "Live at Stubb's, Vol. II" features 10 tracks from previous releases, along with a new track, "Open the Gates."

### BOB MARLEY // "Live Forever: The Stanley Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA, September 23, 1980"

Few artists have captured the heart of a culture like Bob Marley. With this most recent live album, "Live Forever" is the recording from Marley's final performance. This collection of many of his classics, such as "Jammin'," "Is This Love" and "Get Up, Stand Up," is a must-have for the diehard and new fans.







## Auburn Hills Ice Rink

### Auburn and Squirrel roads

For a free winter activity, the outdoor Auburn Hills Ice Rink is the place to go. The rink is new to Auburn Hills as of this winter and is located in the heart of downtown. It is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, weather permitting. Just be sure to leave hockey sticks and alcoholic beverages at home, since neither item is permitted at the rink. The rink is lit for night skating, and music plays for skaters throughout the evening.



## Auburn Hills Skate Park

### 202 N. Squirrel Road

The Auburn Hills Skate Park is closed for the winter, but when April rolls around, the park provides free recreational fun. The park allows skateboards, in-line skates and BMX bikes. Beginner skaters needn't worry — the park is open to both newcomers and the more advanced. The park is open from 8 a.m. to dusk beginning in April. The park features quarter pipes, rails and three big ramps.



## Jo'Angela's Pizza & Deli Co.

### 3329 Auburn Road

For those looking for a traditional pizzeria, Jo'Angela's Pizza and Deli Co. may be a new option to consider. In addition to pizza, Jo'Angela's offers a variety of salads, sandwiches, spaghetti dinners and burgers, all priced at around \$10. Jo'Angela's offers a large 16-inch-pizza with one topping for \$7.99 along with other daily specials. Take-out or delivery — even to campus — is also available.



## Stan's Bar and Grill

### 3350 Auburn Road

Since the early 1990s, Stan's Bar and Grill has been serving up "great food, cold drinks and entertainment" to their customers. Stan's features a variety of bar food including burgers, specialty sandwiches and pizza, or for a quick lunch, \$4.99 lunchbox specials are available on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Night entertainment and daily drink specials including, \$1 drafts and \$3 Margaritas, are available after 9 p.m.

# auburn hills downtown city guide

Written by Megan Semeraz ▶ Photos by Sinead Cronin ▶ Designed by Jason Willis



## Happy Hour Party Store

### 3359 Auburn Road

Setting itself apart from the regular party store, Happy Hour Party Store offers an entire menu of hot food in addition to snacks and beverages. Formerly a Buscemi's Party Shoppe, Happy's has its own selection of pizza, salad and subs. Pizza slices are 99 cents a la carte and lunch combinations are available for under \$5. For on-the-go eating, grab a pizza roll filled with cheese, pizza sauce and toppings.

## Toasted Bun

### 3343 Auburn Road

Toasted Bun is a tiny cafe offering a large selection of meals for breakfast and lunch, all for under \$7.25. Daily lunch specials change each month, and breakfast specials are available on weekdays from 6-10 a.m. For lunch, one can enjoy menu items including Coney dogs, Greek salads and burgers. OU students will receive 10 percent off their meal.





## Snowpocalypse obliterates the Midwest

By **BRIAN FIGURSKI**

Guest Columnist / Fearing for his life

This column is not for the faint of heart.

A devastating 2,000-mile stretch of wintery warfare unleashed itself upon the nation from the Great Plains to the East Coast.

Towering walls of snow have barricaded the greater part of the nation, creating endless whiteouts allowing for little to no visibility.

On Tuesday night, the storm dubbed "The Snowpocalypse" assaulted Michigan.

Perhaps you noticed?

Expert and amateur weathermen alike have called it the worst storm ever. It's as if Hurricane Katrina mated with the Edy's Ice Cream factory and their child had a temper tantrum and escaped from the psych ward, holding nothing back and mercilessly dousing us with snow and ice the size of basketballs. And the storm doesn't even feel any shame or remorse for its actions.

Some meteorologists have even predicted that tornadoes will sprout from the sky in this frozen Hell on Earth.

Schools and workplaces were quick to announce closings prior to even seeing a single flake, for the Snowpocalypse was imminent.

Oakland University closed up shop for the evening class-

es on Tuesday and smartly declared the Wednesday commute to be a death trap and canceled classes then too.

TBS announced they would only be airing disaster movie "The Day After Tomorrow" for the rest of the week to give those stuck inside their homes a visual of what is actually happening beyond their four walls.

Picture this: Snow. Ice. Tornadoes. Fire. Vampire-Tiger-Sharks. It's not even March and the madness is being unleashed by the plow full.

Snowpocalypse has arrived, folks!

Reports from areas already hit by the blizzard of death have issued warnings for everyone to stay inside in the wake of this weather catastrophe.

Going outside will result in immediate death. Your blood will freeze in your veins and dogs will use your frozen fruity limbs as popsicles once the storm subsides.

At first I didn't believe all the hype. But I was forced to brave the elements when I got home from work yesterday. Snow was already starting to pile against the front door. I had forgotten some things in my car and when I went to go outside, I swear I heard the door say, "no." Well, I thought it was the door. It may also have been my roommate aggressively wrapping his arms around my waist in fear for his life.

Either way, Snowpocalypse is not going to relent for anybody. Looks like I am cuddling with a sad, lonely man

tonight.

If you are to test the limits of yourself and Mother Nature's wrath to grab a copy of The Oakland Post (which I highly recommend doing in spite of potential death), please be on your top guard.

You should already be aware that residents of Michigan cannot control their car in even a millimeter of snow. So prepare yourself to be stuck in a line of soccer mom-style minivans and Geo Prizms driven by dorky high school kids that have snow days.

Also, do not confuse playful snow men with old men who went outside to get the mail. It's an easy mistake to make and quite a frightening sight.

I wish you all a happy dreaded snow day. Good luck surviving in the aftermath of the 2011 Snowpocalypse, Snownami, Snowmageddon or whatever doomsday title you want to give it.

I am henceforth referring to it simply as "the worst day imaginable." Historians will soon follow suit.

I don't mean to be bleak, but there is no hope in sight. There's actually nothing in sight due to poor visibility.

Be prepared for the most droll days of your life, stuck inside your small living quarters and being forced to listen to your roommates and family members slowly lose their wits.

May Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid save us all.

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