



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Volume 33, Number 18



■ **OU students can enjoy "A Taste of Africa" — A3**

■ **Student's favorite condoms put to the test — A10**



RED CARPET FASHION

Find out what everyone was wearing at this year's Meadow Brook Ball. — A6

Also inside

Campus — A3

Vandenberg chef to share handmade chocolates with students on Valentine's Day

the Mix — A10

MOCAD exhibit, "Meditations in an Emergency," uses trash to explore materialistic culture

Features — B1

Insomnia sufferers can finally get a little sleep by trying out these healthy alternatives to counting

Sports — B4

Women's basketball experiences eight game winning streak with last night's victory



Biting winter weather expected through the week



CHRIS CLARK/AP Photo/The Grand Rapids Press

Motorists wait for assistance after being involved in a 20-vehicle pile-up caused by ice and blowing snow on southbound U.S. 131 near Grand Rapids, Saturday.

— More coverage on A2

Grads forced out of state

By KYLE MAGIN
Special Projects Reporter

At times it is necessary to walk away from a relationship that is no longer beneficial, to stiffen the upper lip and make a decision that best serves you. Parting ways with a person is tough enough, but cutting ties with your home state? Some Oakland students aren't excited about the prospect.

"I would probably exhaust all

options to stay in the state," said senior Julianne Kammer. "I came here because I'm a commuter, and it would be really stressful to leave. If I did have to leave, I wouldn't stay away long."

Given the current economic climate of Michigan, though, Director of Career Services, Robert Thomas, isn't sure that will be an option. "It's not like there are no jobs, but it's not a great market and grads should

consider out of state options."

Kammer's sentiments, according to Thomas, aren't out of the ordinary though. "Oakland students have traditionally stayed within the tri-county area. Being a commuter school, they stay with their families longer and have deep roots in their community."

Freshman Claudia Slater admits that the job market is far

Please see LEAVING/A2

U.S. astronaut charged with attempted murder in bizarre love triangle

By MIKE SCHNEIDER AND ERIN MCCLA
Associated Press Writers

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — She was the RoboChick. He was Billy-O.

According to police, her obsession with him led her to drive 900 miles from Houston to Orlando, bringing with her a trenchcoat and wig, armed with a BB gun and pepper spray, and wearing a diaper to avoid bathroom breaks on the arduous drive.

Once in Florida, Lisa "RoboChick" Nowak apparently confronted the woman she believed was her rival for the affections of William "Billy-O" Oefelein. And this tawdry love triangle has one

more twist — it involves two astronauts.

Nowak, 43, a married mother of three who flew on a space shuttle in July, was charged with attempted murder, accused of hatching an extraordinary plot to kidnap Colleen Shipman, who she believed was romantically involved with Oefelein, a space shuttle pilot.

Specifically, police said Nowak confronted Shipman, who was in her car at the Orlando airport, and sprayed something at her, possibly pepper spray.

At first the astronaut was charged with attempt-

Please see ASTRONAUT/A2

Panel discusses diversity

By KELLY KOZLOWSKI
Campus News Editor

It's been done before. We hear speeches about it. We write papers about it. We designate months to celebrate it. It has the power to dictate admissions policies and determine what is politically correct and what is particularly offensive.

It is the issue of racial diversity and acceptance, and it's hovering over the Oakland University community. Like it or not, it's there.

In the heart of African American Celebration month, OU students find themselves the audience of an ongoing discussion. We are welcome to participate, but our involvement is not forced.

"It's a success when you can get people to sit down and discuss frankly issues of race," said Honors College Director and English Professor, Jude Nixon. "It's something that we don't often do because it becomes very uncomfortable."

Nixon moderated a panel discussion entitled "African-American students in a White Culture" in Kresge Library Thursday. The panel included two students, three faculty members and a Detroit Free Press columnist.

Please see PANEL/A2

The panel

- Desiree Cooper, Free Press columnist
- Nerissa Brown, student, KOD award winner
- Jameelah Muhammad, student, KOD award winner
- Glenn McIntosh, Asst. VP student affairs and Dean of student life
- Dr. Abdi Kusow, Professor of sociology and anthropology
- Dr. Erica Ruegg, Professor of education

Local woman makes it to Hollywood on 'American Idol'

By ELIZABETH PERALES
Local News Editor/Copy Editor

For many adoring fans and aspiring vocalists, making it to the "American Idol" auditions, surviving Simon Cowell and receiving that golden ticket to Hollywood is a dream that seems impossible to achieve. However, for one Auburn Hills woman that dream has become a reality.

After making a last minute decision to take a "road trip," 25-year-old Abbey Rondo traveled with a friend to the Birmingham, Ala.

Please see IDOL/A6

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INDEX

Campus News	A3	World News	A8
Classifieds	A2	Perspectives	A5
Features	B1	Sports	B4

News tip? Call (248) 370-4268



■ If the 2008 presidential elections were held today, who would you vote for?

—A2

Arctic weather hits Michigan, Midwest

By **ROGER PETERSON**
Associated Press Writer

(AP) - A bone-chilling cold wave with temperatures as low as 42 below zero shut down schools for thousands of youngsters Monday, sent homeless people into shelters and put car batteries on the disabled list from the northern Plains across the Great Lakes. At least five deaths were linked to the cold weather.

The cold was accompanied by snow that was measured in feet in parts of upstate New York.

"Anybody in their right mind wouldn't want to be out in weather like this," Lawrence Wiley, 57, said at Cincinnati's crowded Drop Inn Center homeless shelter, where he has been living. Monday lows were in the single digits.

With temperatures near zero and a wind chill of 25 below, school districts across Ohio canceled classes. "We have a lot of kids that walk to school. We didn't think it was worth the risk," said Sandusky City Schools Superintendent Bill Pahl.

It was so cold that Toledo, Ohio — 5 above zero at noon, up from 4 below

— even closed its outdoor ice rink. "The irony is not lost on us," said city spokesman Brian Schwartz.

With a temperature of 12 below zero and wind chill of 31 below, Wisconsin's largest school district, Milwaukee Public Schools, also shut down, idling some 90,000 children. In upstate New York, 34,000 kids got the day off in Rochester because of temperatures near zero. Schools also closed in parts of Michigan and Illinois. A few schools closed even in Minnesota, where February cold is the norm and people are accustomed to coping.

Temperatures dropped below zero in Minnesota on Saturday morning and were expected to remain there until sometime Tuesday, the weather service said. Subzero temperatures blanketed the Minneapolis-St. Paul area for 63 straight hours — the longest stretch since 2004 — ending Monday afternoon.

In northern Minnesota, the temperature crashed to 42 below Monday morning at Embarrass, 38 below at Hallock and 30 below at International Falls, the weather service said.

Veterinarian Wade Himes wasn't too concerned as he ate breakfast at the

Shorelunch Cafe in International Falls.

"We get up and go to work, and people come and see us. I don't think anything changes that much. (You) just dress warm," said Himes, 69.

Temperatures in Grand Forks, N.D., dipped to 31 below zero early Monday at the airport, 3 degrees lower than the records set in 1982 and 1967, the National Weather Service said. Meteorologist Bill Barrett described the record as "relatively mild."

"It's only 31 below," said Randy Hjelmstad, owner of Randy's Refuge in Grand Forks. "It's not that bad out."

PANEL Cont. from A1

Information Services and Outreach Librarian, Anne Switzer specifically chose the all-black panel.

Switzer said she originally suggested the concept behind the event out of curiosity. "Part of college is exposure to different ideas and different people," said Switzer. "Here, it seems the campus is more homogenous."

An interesting observation, considering the fact that Oakland County is one of Detroit's neighbors to the north, and according to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau, 81.6 percent of Detroit's population is black.

Combine that with the overwhelming Caucasian demographic coming from the surrounding suburbs, and it would seem that OU's stu-

dent body should guarantee diversity.

Despite implied guarantees, the reality is that only eight percent of the student body is black, according to the Association of Black Students Web site.

"I'm sure (diversity) is important to Oakland," said Nixon. "I don't see it as a priority though."

Although enrollment numbers may seem unbalanced, Nixon said now is the time to pursue a better understanding of other cultures. "The university is prime for it."

Recognizing the challenges posed by OU's status as a commuter school,

Nixon said, "It's the university's role in educating its students to create opportunities. These things must be deliberate; it doesn't happen naturally."

Students share the responsibility though. "You have to begin to ask questions about your own beliefs," Nixon said. Switzer agreed with Nixon's claim that a college

experience is incomplete if it doesn't involve exposure to other cultures.

"You're selling yourself short by not having friends of other races," said Switzer.

While the panel promoted integration of cultures on campus, some members also recognized the need for community within segregated groups. Students aren't necessarily racist — they just gravitate toward what is comfortable, what is familiar.

Sometimes, that means sitting with a group of your black friends in the Oakland Center or hanging out with your white roommate.

That logic raises the question: Why aren't we comfortable with each other? Is it enough to maintain a social setting where cultures mix superficially but never in a way that has lasting effects on individuals?

The answer may not involve transforming social groups, but the question can be a starting point for deeper thinking.

Nixon said it's not about reaching a quota of black friends or white friends. "We're not talking about a tabulation," said Nixon. "And we're not trying to make everybody lovey-dovey — that would be pie-in-the-sky and ideal."

The problem occurs when we stop looking for opportunities to integrate with other groups.

"We take the lazy way out," Nixon said. "One of the problems with racism is that it's so lazy. It doesn't cause us to think."

LEAVING Cont. from A1

off, "I'm not really concerned with it yet, I would come back if there was a job but right out of school I'll probably want to move out for a change of scenery."

Some students are taking notice of the local slump and don't intend to stick around.

"I would like to stay, but I'll probably have to relocate; it will be nice to have a change of scenery," said senior Kim Miller.

"There isn't a bright future here," said sophomore T.J. Wiethorn.

"There are better places, and I plan on going to a more happening area depending on my career, but staying in Michigan isn't in my plans."

Wiethorn's friend, sophomore Bram Lipman, agreed with his statement. "I'd be willing to relocate for a job," said Lipman. "It's important enough for me to stay local, for my family, but if there is a decent job in a decent location that would pay well, I could live there without a problem."

"The rest of America has a sweet

economy and Michigan has been left behind," said Wiethorn.

Thomas disagrees, to a point. "This state is still vital, but we need to adapt. The auto industry sells a product that is the second biggest investment most people make in their lives, after their homes, and they make it repeatedly over the years. It leaves a huge hole in the economy when that sort of investment isn't coming in, and it affects everything from mechanical engineers to teachers."

Look outside the state, says Thomas. "Why not look in a Chicago or possibly Texas right out of school, do it in your twenties when you don't have any commitments. I would also encourage kids to check out job openings on the internet in a large city and then follow up in person; get out and do the legwork to get a job."

Pinpointing emerging sectors and areas where the job market is strong in your field of study is another important step, says Thomas. "Do it before you graduate, go to career fairs and develop your portfolio. Research the cities and regions where your diploma will be worth something," said Thomas.

Topic of conversation Four questions posed to the panel

1. Is Metro-Detroit obsessed with race?
2. How much does race matter to students today?
3. Discuss community and race on campus.
4. Can positive stereotypes be hurtful?

ASTRONAUT Cont. from A1

ed kidnapping and other counts, and a judge had permitted her release on bail. Then, in a surprise move, prosecutors upped the charge to attempted murder, basing it on the weapons and other items they said they had found with Nowak or in her car: a pepper spray package, an unused BB-gun cartridge, a new steel mallet, knife, rubber tubing and large garbage bags.

Nowak's lawyer, Donald Lykkebak, disputed that upgraded charge, which allowed police to keep the astronaut in jail. "In the imaginations of the police officers, they extend these facts out into areas where the facts can't be supported," said Lykkebak.

As the hearings on charges and bail played out on TV, the astonishing details about the case were repeatedly broadcast and quickly made the rounds of office e-mails and Internet blogs.

The details of the relationships of all three were unclear. Nowak and Oefelein, who both live in the Houston area, had trained together as astronauts, but never flew into space together. Shipman, 30, works at Patrick Air Force Base near Kennedy Space Center.

Earlier, Nowak was quoted by police as saying she and Oefelein had something "more than a working relationship but less than a romantic relationship."

Neither Oefelein nor Shipman could be reached for comment Tuesday, nor could Nowak's husband

be found.

But police found a letter in Nowak's car that "indicated how much Mrs. Nowak loved Mr. Oefelein," the arrest affidavit said. And Nowak had copies of e-mails between Shipman and Oefelein.

Police said Nowak, believing Shipman was romantically involved with Oefelein, had driven 900 miles from Houston — wearing diapers in the car so she would not have to make bathroom stops — to confront Shipman as she arrived in Orlando on a flight from Houston.

There, police said, Nowak donned a wig and trench coat, boarded an airport shuttle bus with Shipman and followed her to her car. Then, crying, Nowak sprayed a chemical into the car.

Shipman drove to a parking lot booth and sought help.

Inside Nowak's car, which was parked at a nearby motel, authorities found copies of e-mails between Shipman and Oefelein, along with the BB-gun cartridge and other items.

A police affidavit made public Tuesday noted Nowak had "urinated in a diaper so that she did not need to stop," and "stealthily followed the victim while in disguise and possessed multiple deadly weapons."

The affidavit said the circumstances of the case "create a well-founded fear" and gave investigators "probable cause to believe that Mrs. Nowak intended to murder Ms. Shipman."

The judge initially had set bail at \$15,500 and ordered Nowak to stay away from Shipman and wear an electronic monitoring device upon returning to her home in Houston.

"I guess they didn't like the ruling in the court this morning, did they?"

Lykkebak said.

He said that Nowak only wanted to talk to Shipman. Asked about the weapons, he said, "You can sit and speculate all day."

Saying he was surprised by the case, NASA spokesman John Ira Petty at Johnson Space Center in Houston said he was concerned about the people involved and their families. But, he added, "We try not to concern ourselves with our employees' personal lives."

A vague profile began to emerge of Nowak, who was graduated from high school in Maryland in 1981 and the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985. She has won various Navy service awards.

In a September interview with Ladies' Home Journal, Nowak said her husband, Richard, "works in Mission Control, so he's part of the whole space business, too. And supportive also."

On Tuesday, a Houston neighbor, Bryan Lam, told The Associated Press that in November he heard the sounds of dishes being thrown inside the house and the police came.

"I've seen them arguing before," he said.

Nowak, in a NASA interview last year, before her mission aboard Discovery, as well as in an interview with ABC News, spoke about the strain her career placed on her family. She has twin 5-year-old girls and a son who is 14 or 15.

"It's a sacrifice for our own personal time and our families and the people around us," she said in the NASA interview. "But I do think it's worth it because if you don't explore and take risks and go do all these things they everything will stay the same."

Giuliani moves closer to full-fledged presidential run

By **LIZ SIDOTI**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor whose popularity soared after his response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, moved closer to a full-fledged campaign for the Republican presidential nomination on Monday.

In a sign that he's serious about running for the White House, the two-term mayor was filing a so-called "statement of candidacy" with the Federal Election Commission. In the process, he was eliminating the phrase "testing the waters" from earlier paperwork establishing his exploratory committee, said an official close to Giuliani's campaign.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid pre-empting any disclosure by Giuliani.

Unlike chief GOP rivals Sen. John McCain and Mitt Romney, Giuliani has been somewhat ambiguous about whether or not he would ultimately pursue the Republican nomination.

He took the initial step in November of creating a committee to explore a candidacy but added the caveat that he was simply "testing the waters" — a provision that allows truly uncertain candidates to move forward without any commitment to seek a top spot on the ticket or the need to identify donors. At the time, Giuliani also did not file

an official statement declaring that he was a presidential candidate.

The steps Monday put Giuliani on the same level legally as McCain and Romney, the other top-tier GOP candidates who have formed regular exploratory committees and filed statements of candidacy.

Giuliani's cautious and noncommittal attitude has caused some critics to question whether he would abandon his bid even before formally entering the race, as he did in 2000 when he was considering a Senate campaign against Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Fighting back in recent weeks, Giuliani has started to sound and act like a strong contender, traveling to the early primary states of New Hampshire and South Carolina, and arguing that his vision for the future and performance in the past would make him a formidable GOP nominee.

Still, he has stopped short of committing to a run, insisting that he has to decide whether he can make a "unique contribution" to help strengthen the country — his barometer for whether to run.

"There's a real good chance," Giuliani said Saturday, another coy response to what has been a constant question on the campaign trail.

The shift in campaign organization, however slight, is an indication that Giuliani likes the response he's received as he gauges support while traveling the country.

Enter for a chance to win \$25!!!

Circle the correct answer for each question. Completed forms should be placed inside the box located outside The Oakland Post in the basement of the Oakland Center, office 61, no later than 5 p.m. Monday.

Last week's winner: Bill Keteller

1. What is the art on A10 made of?

1. Discarded items
2. Donated items
3. Stolen items
4. Broken items

2. What is "Warm Sensations"?

1. A new type of space heater.
2. Something included in a Trojan Condom.
3. A tropical vacation package.
4. A new energy drink.

3. Where can you get free chocolate on Valentine's Day?

1. Vandenberg Hall
2. The Oakland Center
3. North Foundation Hall
4. Elliot Hall

4. Who is the Director of Career Services?

1. Robert Thomas
2. Gary Russi
3. Paul Gully
4. Greg Kampe

5. Hockey coach Sean Hogan once ran for State Representative?

1. True
2. False

6. What did Abbey Rondo sing at her American Idol Audition?

1. "Do I Make You Proud" by Taylor Hicks
2. "Jesus Take the Wheel" by Carrie Underwood
3. "You Don't Know Me" by Ray Charles
4. "Nice 'N' Easy" by Frank Sinatra

If the 2008 presidential elections were held today, who would you vote for? Why? E-mail editor@oakpostonline.com with your response to be part of our special "2008 Election" section next week.

Gimmie chocolates

By JESSE DUNSMORE
Senior Reporter

This Valentine's Day, Vandenberg Dining Hall Menutainment Chef Jeffrey Palmer will be serving his usual blend of freshly-made cuisines. But in keeping with the holiday, diners will also be treated to a sweet sampling of another edible prepared by Palmer.

Palmer, who describes chocolate-making as a part-time business and hobby, said he'll be preparing four types of chocolate treats for students to enjoy on Feb. 14, between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"It's something I like doing for the students — a little something extra," Palmer said. "I've loved candy since I was a kid."

Palmer has produced chocolates for his business, Jeff's Chocolates, for about five years.

After studying at Johnson and Wales University in Charleston, S. C. and Oakland Community College, he said he just wanted to experiment with something outside the things he'd learned.

"I went to culinary school; I wanted to try chocolate," he said.

Last December, he was asked to make a video for Madonna University in Livonia, demonstrating his candy-making technique. The video was also broadcast on public access television in the area.

All of Palmer's Valentine's snacks will be made with European dark or milk chocolate. Strawberries will also be served, and Palmer will further set the mood with complimentary carnations.

"Guys [can] bring their chicks in, get her a carnation and a piece of chocolate," Palmer said.



A delicious sampling of Chef Jeff's holiday confections, which will be available in the Vandenberg Dining Hall.

Jeff's box of chocolates...

- Chocolate truffles, filled with ganache & Kahlua
- Solid chocolate hearts
- Chocolate-covered peanut clusters
- Chocolate-covered caramel & pecan turtles

*Allergenic students should note that some of the snacks will include nuts and, of course, chocolate.

News In Brief

Da Vinci discussed

Professor Craig Martin highlighted the life and achievements of Leonardo da Vinci during a lecture in Wilson Hall Tuesday. Specific attention was given to the roles da Vinci played in the fields of philosophy, science and art. "He wanted to elevate his craft so that it would be a kind of philosophy," Martin said.

Chinese New Year

Celebrate the Chinese New Year with dumplings, children's books and cultural artifacts Monday, Feb. 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Education Resources Lab in 350 Pawley Hall. A video tour of China will play during Monday's event. Tuesday's event will feature bilingual storytelling and pizza. Both events are free. RSVP at (248) 370-4877.

Make PB&J day!

The Golden Key International Honor Society will meet in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms Wednesday, Feb. 14, from noon to 1 p.m. to make over 1,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for various local charities, including St. Dennis Warming Center and Salvation Army Pontiac Citadel.

OC commissions art

Designer Hugh J. Benning, from Touching Technology, is compiling photos to be used in a mural that will be showcased in the lower level of the Oakland Center. The artwork will start near the bathrooms and extend to Bumper's Game Room. The mural is the product of a meeting of several student leaders, including representatives from WXOU-FM, the Oakland Post, OUSC and the Student Program Board. Funding for the project has yet to be decided.

ESPN at OU

ESPN Producer Julie McGlone, an Oakland University graduate, returned to OU to speak to students as a part of the Student Video Productions' "Visiting Professionals Series." McGlone discussed her career path that began at OU and eventually led to ESPN. She also covered topics such as proper interviewing skills, what it's like dealing with professional athletes and her experiences working for the "worldwide leader in sports." Her presentation was interlaced with Q & A from students. The production will be on airing on OUTV in the near future.

POLICEFILES

— Two officers were dispatched to Dodge Hall on Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. to investigate a "burnt rubber" odor reported by a faculty member. The officers determined the source of the odor to be a malfunctioning oven in the Optical Laboratory. Auburn Hills fire department was notified, arrived and immediately cleared.

— An officer responded to a report of two stolen laptops in Pawley Hall at about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30. The complainant said that the computers were last seen Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. by a trusted graduate student. Two power cords and a mouse were also taken. The complainant said she noticed the missing computers Monday but waited to report it in case the property was returned.

— A resident reported Monday, Jan. 29 at about 5 p.m. that someone used her ATM card to withdraw \$420 from her account. She said she gave her roommate her card and PIN on Jan. 23 to withdraw \$20. When the complainant was denied a withdrawal due to insufficient funds Jan. 28, she called the bank, who told her \$420 had been withdrawn Jan. 26 from an OU ATM. Police planned to continue investigation.

— An officer responded Jan. 30 to a possible sexual assault. The victim said she had been assaulted in her apartment by a former boyfriend. The alleged assault occurred either late night Jan. 28 or in the morning Jan. 29. Police interviewed her roommate and contacted the suspect, who agreed to come to the station to give a statement.

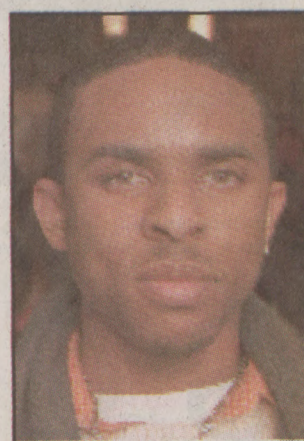
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Q: Who is your favorite artist and why?



A: Lee Miller, a surrealist from the 30s, because he portrayed World War II in an interesting way.

Savannah Gignac
Freshman
Music



A: Leonardo da Vinci. His work is relaxing and entreats imaginations to wander.

Tony Rutland
Junior
Elementary Education



A: Dali. Surrealism is very provocative. Plus, he was one of the first to use creative special effects in film.

Martin Mittner
Senior
Business



Students enjoy complimentary green and chai tea as part of Asian Celebration Week.

African culture spices up OU cuisine

'Taste of Africa Gala' serves up traditional menu

By CHARLES GRASKI
Contributing Reporter

The flavors of African culture will meet the students of Oakland University Friday, Feb. 9 at the "Taste of Africa Gala." The African-American Celebration Committee will be hosting their fifth annual "Taste of Africa Gala" next Friday. For the fifth year in a row, the African American Celebration Committee will be hosting the event. Dress casually for this event, as you will be dancing and dining to music that will get you moving.

"We hold the event to commemorate and celebrate African American history," said Anita Mitchell, chair of the Taste of Africa sub-committee, a branch of AACC. Continuing in the tradition of family-centered fun, the

"Taste of Africa Gala" will feature a wide range of food and entertainment. This year, there will be authentic African food vendors. Jamaican fare will be provided by Jamaica Restaurant of Detroit and Soul Food will be provided by L & J Restaurant of Pontiac. "The variety of food we will offer will allow our guests to experience other cultures," said Mitchell.

Vendors will also be attending the event, selling African artifacts, such as fertility shells, kinte clawcloths, soaps, body washes and other items relevant to Africa.

To further set the scene, there will be a variety of musical performances. Mark Stone, an instructor in the Music, Theatre and Dance department will be performing a few African drum routines, which originated in Ghana. This

year, Sulley Imoro, a native of Ghana and faculty member of Bowling Green State University, will accompany Stone.

Members from the AACC gospel choir will also be performing.

"It's very exciting," said Mitchell. "This year, seven-year-old singer, Jamie Miller, will be performing a song that she wrote herself entitled 'Never.' This song is from her new album that will be released soon."

The event will be held in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms. Admission is free, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For those who will be bringing their children, Golden Key National Honor Society will be providing a host of activities for them, including face painting and crafts.

Fireside tea party brings culture to OU

By KARA O'CONNELL
The Mix Editor

Students paused in Fireside Lounge to warm up for a few moments. Sipping traditional Asian tea in the strong afternoon sun while listening to Haiku translations, the "tea party" was an opportune place to thaw out on one of the coldest days to date.

Tony Onica, a sophomore English major has been changed by the experiences in his Japanese translation course and hoped to share his discoveries through the tea party, held Feb. 2 as part of Asian Celebration Week.

"It's meant to be a celebration of a way of thought — a more natural-

ist way of looking at the world," Onica said.

He and other Japanese translation students shared their favorite poems both translated and in their original language, as patrons enjoyed almond cookies and their choice of chai or green teas. Those who had a moment to reflect on these nature-focused poems sat among abandoned paper swans that scattered table tops as origami paper and instructions were distributed among the tables set up.

David Taylor, who described himself as a transitional student, said he enjoyed the event. "I love tea. It's so good for you. Yes, this is very nice," he said, sipping his free cup of green tea.

THE MENU

Main Course

Ribs
Catfish
Chicken
Jamaican Jerk Chicken
Curry Chicken

Sides

Macaroni & Cheese
Collard Greens
Yams
Beans & Rice
Curry Vegetables
Stir Fry Cabbage

Dessert

Pineapple Upside Down Cake
German Chocolate Cake
Sweet Potato Pie
Pound Cake

Akwaaba brings the rhythm



CHARLES GRASKI/The Oakland Post
A member of the African drum and xylophone ensemble, Akwaaba, plays for an audience in the Varner Recital Hall Tuesday. Akwaaba uses instruments from Ghana, a country in West Africa, in their musical performances. The recital added a unique element to the festivities celebrating Black History Month.

Tips to beat your test-taking blues

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY
Contributing Reporter

You're sitting in class, ready to take an exam and you're sweating profusely. You get jittery and nervous as the teacher hands out the tests. You stare at it blankly, unable to remember anything you spent hours studying the night before.

If this sounds like you, then you probably have test anxiety.

Close your eyes, take a deep breath and clear your thoughts. It's not as bad as you think.

Beth DeVerna, the Supplemental Instruction/Tutor Coordinator at the Academic Skills Center, provided students with tips to overcome test anxiety at the T.E.S.T. (Terrific Exam Success Tips) transition workshop Monday.

The workshop was one of many in a series of transition workshops open to students.

According to DeVerna, when preparing for a test, the most important thing is to keep up with the assignments and review your notes.

"If you don't look at your notes 24 to 48 hours after taking them, you'll lose 80 percent of what you learned," DeVerna said.

Making flash cards or forming study groups will also help before you take the test.

Students enrolled in math classes at Oakland University can stop by the ASC and look through tests that their professors gave in previous semesters to get an idea of what to expect.

When you get the test in front of you, make sure you go through and get an

idea of what the test covers and read all directions carefully.

It might seem like a no-brainer, but answer the questions you know first, then come back to any you didn't know off the top of your head.

"Just because it has a number one next to it, doesn't mean you have to answer it first," DeVerna said.

If you're taking an essay exam, make sure to proofread what you've written before handing it in. Proofreading helps catch errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling, which could give you some extra points.

After the exam, look over the graded test, as well as a key if the professor provides one. If you have questions, make use of the professor's office hours. Not only does it give you a better understanding of what you did wrong or how you could improve, but developing a relationship with a professor could help you down the road when you need references for job applications or resumes.

Freshman Lacesha Graham said she has developed her own system for studying. "I study two days before the exam. Then the day of the exam, I go over my notes and make sure I remember everything."

Students in search of more tips to boost their grades can visit the Academic Skills Center in 103 North Foundation Hall.

The next workshop, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 8, will highlight notetaking strategies.

For a full schedule of sessions, visit the workshop enrollment calendar at www.oakland.edu.

O U S C

By OWEN SEXTON
Senior Reporter

Student Congress passed new legislation that will significantly change how it operates.

Legislator Joshua Miller presented the bill in front of a full gallery at this Monday's meeting. The legislation will add a judiciary committee to Congress.

"This is a really good opportunity to expand Congress," said Student

Body President Madalyn Miller.

Congress members debated the importance of having a judicial branch of government before voting. Legislators Samir Hanna and J.L. Ricks were opposed to the addition of a judiciary committee.

"Our purpose is to serve the students," said Hanna. "[This could] divide us further."

Other members of Congress are excited that the

new branch will bring more students into Congress.

Legislator Danielle Fallis echoed the opinions of those in favor of the addition to Congress. She is hopeful that the new committee will bring more interest in OUSC.

Despite protest from Hanna and Ricks, the legislation passed by an 8-2 margin.

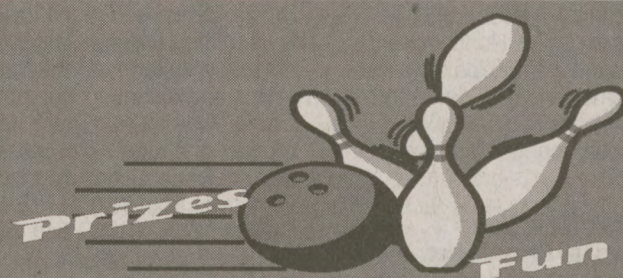
Oakland students will vote whether or not to amend the constitution to add the judiciary committee during the student election in March.

The judiciary committee will be made up of one chief justice and four associate justices.

The justices will hear and decide on all challenges to the constitutionality of Student Congress operations, including all legislation. The judiciary committee will also mediate any disputes that arise between members of Congress.

If this amendment is passed, Oakland will join other Michigan universities that have similar policy. Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Northern Michigan University have independent judiciary systems within their constitutional framework.

Department of Campus Recreation
Intramural Sports



WHEN:

Friday, February 16, 2006
9:30p.m. - Midnight

WHERE:

Avon North Hill Lanes
150 W. Tienken Rd.
Rochester, MI

WHO'S INVITED:

*Free to all currently enrolled
OU Students w/proper ID



*Participation is limited to the first 200 registered bowlers. All bowlers must sign-up by February 15, 2007 in order to participate in this event. Participants may sign-up to bowl at the Recreation Center, Welcome Desk during normal business hours.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS ONLY.



EDITORIAL

Sad when we put blinders on ourselves

The shot callers in the White House must love American pop culture — especially in recent times. It seems like all they have to do before they execute major policy — now that both the public and Congress are in opposition of the latest strategy for Iraq — is wait for everyone to get distracted by some giant media event.

The largest unofficial (maybe largest by any standard) national holiday, the Super Bowl, together with the announcement of Oscar nominations and various other relatively insignificant happenings, provided the Bush administration with the perfect opportunity to engage in some heavy saber rattling with the Iranian government.

Though many say it's more than saber rattling.

Several newspaper columnists and military experts have said that the latest maneuver in the Gulf region is nothing less than a clear indication that the war is going to expand eastward from Iraq.

Many others would disagree, but, nevertheless, the occasion warranted much greater attention from

us, the American public.

President Bush neatly deployed another carrier battle group to the Gulf — a group of ships that reportedly has an air wing poised to strike Iranian nuclear sites. He then appointed a new admiral to run Central Command in the Middle East region, one whose specialty is naval air combat.

If that wasn't enough, the president also said that he would deploy batteries of Patriot missiles to the region, which experts say would be used solely for shooting down Iranian missiles.

What many people probably have heard about was the president's issue of a military directive for U.S. troops to kill Iranian agents discovered in Iraq. Bush even went so far to say that Iranians would be held "accountable" for interfering in Iraq's not-so-straight road to democracy.

One can probably assume he was referring to Iranian's who are found guilty of supporting the insurgency and promoting an agenda that opposes democracy in Iraq — but why not just say it plainly

like that?

Isn't it assumed and generally accepted that any individuals contributing to the civil unrest in Iraq, no matter where they come from, are the enemy?

Is there really a need for such antagonizing rhetoric? America has done enough already to play the role of the brute that goes it alone then looks like a fool when he underestimates his opponent and gets slapped in the face.

Who knows? Maybe the Bush administration has it all under control; only time will tell.

What is known is that this whole situation seems ripe for getting completely out of control. It would behoove all of us to pay closer attention — and not allow our tendency to be more interested in football games to distract us from what really matters.

Decisions of that magnitude should always be challenged by those who are going to be affected.

— The Oakland Post

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The president of the United States has lied to the American people about why we went into Iraq and started this four-year war. The president claimed they had "weapons of mass destruction," however the United States did not find any. Israel also has "weapons of mass destruction", why don't we go into Israel and rid them of their weapons? The simple answer to that question is that they run there country on our ideals and Iraq does not. In Iraq's 30+ years with the heinous dictator Saddam Hussein in rule were

not linked to Al-Qaeda the people who attacked us!!! Why should we send more troops to Iraq to fight against the Shites and Sunnis rather than sending the troops to Afghanistan and Pakistan where Al-Qaeda the people who we trained attacked us.

I urge people to wake up and speak out against this president's failed policies.

— Eric Sturgis
Junior

Secondary Education/History

Super Bowl ads in desperate need of more candor and fewer chuckles

By MARIA VITALE
Senior Reporter

This year was no exception to the Super Bowl ritual of side splitting commercials that aired during the game. Companies that advertised during the Super Bowl dished out up to \$2.6 million for a 30 second piece of

airtime. I know I'm not the only one who watches the Super Bowl for the commercials; I like to see the catchy taglines and scenarios that are produced to cater to us entertainment-hungry consumers.

However, while watching the commercials this year, a sadness came over me as I realized that in order for us to deem an ad "Super Bowl worthy," it has to feature some sort of comedic or provocative situation that entertains more than it informs.

Why, as an audience of consumers, do we need to be entertained more than informed?

We can pride ourselves all we want for being informed consumers, yet when it comes down to going to the store to buy a six-pack of beer, the one thing that comes to mind is a picture of

computer-animated crabs bowing down to battles of Budweiser.

If an ad ran during the Super Bowl that told us the facts about a product without a humorous story line, it would probably be considered lame and a waste of advertising money.

Although it is quite sad that we need commercials dumbed down to a level that they are only good for a laugh, I guess the advertising agencies have accomplished their mission to make us think of their product in an abstract way.

commentary

"Vista" looks a bit foggy through new Windows OS

Guest Column

Chuck Kanouse
IT / Web site Director
WKOU Radio



Microsoft Windows Vista, the Microsoft Corp.'s latest operating system upgrade and replacement for the long-standing Windows XP, initially sounded surprisingly promising — but it has since been plagued by constant setbacks and other technological problems.

When Vista was in the early devel-

opmental stages Microsoft promised a host of features like a new type of file system and a built-in scripting language. Sadly, these and other features were removed so that Vista could be launched earlier. According to "The Register," some of these features will be added in the first service pack due out late 2007.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks for people who want to upgrade is that most current computers do not have the technological capability to run Vista, initially called "Longhorn."

Microsoft recommends at least two gigabytes of memory to run Vista, but most computers now only have, on average, one or one-half of a gigabyte. Most graphics cards will also not

have the power to run the Aero glass interface, the new visual scheme that Vista uses. The Aero interface will use large amounts of memory and processing power, but it serves no real purpose besides making Vista look nice.

And while Vista does look good, the pleasing aesthetic does not justify the cost of memory and processing power. Microsoft also promised enhanced security and better authentication for genuine copies of Vista.

People in the hacker community

have already found two ways to get around the authentication process. There are also a couple of other glitches that were found in Vista that will allow an attacker to delete files from the targets computer.

Microsoft has increased security to a certain extent — but no security scheme will ever be perfect.

Every time someone builds a better lock, another person will build a better lock pick.

Vista has a new protection scheme that annoys people by repeatedly asking their password for certain access

features, which is in actuality a great way to protect certain features but is likely to turn casual users away from Vista.

These are only a couple of problems that any new operating system could face. The only way Vista will continue to thrive is to constantly evolve to what the users demand.

This is a seemingly impossible demand but it can be done, and it will be the only way Vista will be the operating system of the future.

tech analysis

— Look for Chuck's tech column to now appear every other week on Perspectives

Working hard to make OU a S.A.F.E. place

Guest Column

Joann Bauti-Roche
President of GSC



As we strive to make Oakland University a place that honors, respects and encourages diversity, we need to examine what diversity means.

Some might say that it means having a college campus filled with men and women of many colors and ethnic backgrounds.

But what about people of different sexual orientations and gender identities? Is there a place in our definition

of diversity that includes the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community? If we are going to call ourselves a university that honors diversity, the LGBTQ community must be included.

One of the programs the Gender & Sexuality Center offers is S.A.F.E. On Campus. You may have seen a placard or button with this logo and a rainbow and wondered what it meant.

S.A.F.E. stands for Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality. This program provides an avenue through which all people can actively show their support of LGBTQ people. Individuals who have gone through S.A.F.E. training are considered "Allies."

When you see the S.A.F.E. placard

or button, you know that person is committed to providing a safe haven, a listening ear and support for anyone dealing with issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity. OU has more than 200 Allies and the GSC will continue to offer S.A.F.E. training to increase this number.

Another way we can make OU a safe place to be is to offer resources for people experiencing domestic violence, whether as married partners, domestic partners or in student relationships.

The Gender & Sexuality Center has formed a collaborative relationship with Cooley Law School that will allow us to offer some innovative services to OU students. We are excited to announce that Professor Ashley Lowe from Cooley Law School will be

discussing family law and domestic violence Friday, Feb. 16 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Lake Huron room of the Oakland Center.

Lowe joined Cooley in February 2006, coming from the Women's Survival Center of Oakland County, where she was Director of Legal Services. Currently, Lowe heads the Family Law Assistance Project (FLAP), which is collaboration between Cooley Law School and Lakeshore Legal Aid. Volunteer attorneys, staff attorneys and students in Cooley Law School's Domestic Violence Clinic provide legal advice and representation to low-income people with family matters in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Lastly, tolerance and acceptance often result when we understand one

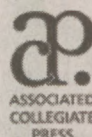
another and take the time to learn and grow. The GSC is offering an avenue to do just that Wednesday, Feb. 7, as Professors Jo Reger and Tim Larrabee facilitate a discussion on the connection of LGBTQ and women's issues. Join us once again in the Lake Huron room from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for this open discussion which will help clarify what the Gender & Sexuality Center is all about.

— The Gender and Sexuality Center is located at 49 Oakland Center. Stop by during their posted office hours to receive more information about upcoming events.



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



The Oakland Post is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

Kelly L. Reynolds
Editor in Chief
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Mark Goethals
Lead Ads Manager
advertising@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4269

Erin Mallard
Features Editor
features@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4267

Kelly Kozlowski
Campus News Editor
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Jillian Field
Assistant Ads Manager
ads@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4269

Jeff Kranitz
Managing Editor
managing@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-2537

Crystal Nelson
Ads Manager
advertising@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4269

Samantha Franz
Sports Editor
sports@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-2849

Elizabeth Perales
Local News/Copy Editor
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Celeste Filiatrault
Assistant Photo Editor
photo@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4266

Andrew Smith
Web master
web@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Kevin Alford
Photo Editor
photo@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4266

Kara O'Connell
Special Projects Editor
local@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

Paul Gully
Assistant News Editor
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Chris Goeth
Distribution Manager
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Senior Reporters
Maria Vitale
Rob Tate
Jesse Dunsmore
Owen Sexton

Holly Gilbert
Advisor
editor@oakpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

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By e-mail: editor@oakpostonline.com

By mail: Letter to the Editor
The Oakland Post
61 Oakland Center
Rochester, MI 48309

Letter Policy: Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less, and submit them the Friday before publication. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail editor@oakpostonline.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

On The Red Carpet ...

A6

www.theoaklandpost.com

February 7, 2007



Clockwise from upper left: Andrea Ghiurau, a sophomore Finance major looks like a princess in her dress from Group USA. Her date, Ben Muresan attends University of Windsor. Kirbionne Fletcher, a senior Finance major wears a black halter from Group USA, her date Adrian Parish is a MIS major. Sergey Rozov, a senior CSE major sports matching smiles with his date, Juliya Shoshiyeva a Human Resource Management sophomore, who shines in a gold dress from Windsor.

Meadowbrook Ball

Couples light up the red carpet as they enter the ball.
Photo essay by Kevin Alford/The Oakland Post



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The Top 10 Reasons to visit In Vogue Salon and Spa in 2007....

Number 10.3 We can get rid of unwanted hair and make what's left look fabulous.

Number 9.3 We offer nearly a dozen types of flavored coffee soaps as French Vanilla, Camel, Hazelnut, Irish Cream and even German Chocolate Caramel.

Number 8.3 Sure the dry cleaners next door can get the wrinkles out of your shirt, but not your face.

Number 7.3 We understand the difference between getting a hair cut and having a salon experience.

Number 6.3 We'll make your head, turn heads.

Number 5.3 No flukes, no strays, no split ends...our employees aren't any different than our hair.

Number 4.3 Of course you can get nails at the hardware store a few doors down, but not ones with French tips.

Number 3.3 Unlike other hair salons, our messages don't stop at the scalp.

Number 2.3 Seasonal treats and candles are offered year round.

and the number one reason is....
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Granholt could sell tax hikes to some, polls show

By KATHY BARKS
HOFFMAN
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Gov. Jennifer Granholm on Tuesday said Michigan was at a turning point, one that demands bold action.

Few dispute that. The question is whether the Democratic governor will follow her own advice when it comes to taking on her critics and shaking up the status quo in Lansing.

Granholm apparently has an opening to sell the mix of tax cuts and tax increases she wants to use — along with some government restructuring — to balance the state's budget this year and next.

In a poll conducted Wednesday through Sunday by Lansing-based EPIC-MRA, 67 percent of the 600 people surveyed said they'd support using both budget cuts and higher taxes to balance the budget.

A second poll conducted Jan. 28-31 poll for the Detroit Free Press and Detroit TV station WDIV showed only about 20 percent supported a tax increase. But even though 64 percent of the 803 people polled by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, thought the deficit should be erased all or in part through spending cuts, a mere 14 percent said spending cuts should be the only recourse for balancing the budget.

Granholm didn't provide any details on what her tax increase or increases will look like, leaving that until Thursday when state budget director Bob Emerson lays out her plan.

The Selzer poll showed vot-

ers might be slightly more amenable to moving to a graduated income tax than they would be to increasing the income tax rate or extending the sales tax to services, while the EPIC-MRA poll showed voters might not mind taxing specific services such as arts and entertainment.

Regardless, it will be an uphill fight to get a tax increase passed, given the opposition lined up against the idea.

To be successful she must persuade taxpayers that she intends to cut spending, in part by commuting prison sentences for elderly and infirm inmates to bring down prison population levels and by requiring consolidation in school districts and local governments.

"There is a general sense, believe it or not, that government isn't as efficient as it could be," Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, said Tuesday. "I really do believe the general public believes that government could be operated in a more efficient manner."

Granholm also has to make a convincing case that only a tax increase will save schools, universities, human services and public safety officers from devastating decreases.

And she has to show she's willing to take on some of the restructuring suggested by a bipartisan panel.

Even her opponents agree Granholm has the speaking skills, personality and political capital to do it.

The Democratic incumbent trounced GOP opponent Dick DeVos in November by insisting the state can't fix its problems simply by cutting taxes.

"I think the citizens would accept a narrowly structured tax increase if there's structural reform" such as reducing Michigan's prison incarceration rate to be more in line with other states and tackling teacher benefits, said East Lansing economist Patrick Anderson, who has criticized Granholm in the past.

Coit Cook Ford III, a Detroit political and public policy consultant who considers himself a Republican, said tax hikes are always a difficult sell when people are worried about the economy and their livelihoods.

Granholm can persuade voters to back her plan if she can show she was fiscally prudent in her first term, when she cut \$3 billion out of previous budgets; that the deficit is structural; and that the present mix of taxes won't let the state generate the revenue it needs for adequate funding of state programs.

"Leadership style matters here," Ford said. "Sometimes she's so cautious that she undermines herself."

Ed Sarpolus of EPIC-MRA said Granholm will have to be bold if she's going to follow her own State of the State mantra to "act with urgency, urgency, urgency."

"The public needs to hear it from her," not from others, he said. "She needs to lead by example."

That means Granholm's address Tuesday must be just the beginning of her campaign to get the state on sounder financial footing. She'll have to take her message state-wide in coming weeks, telling people directly what's at stake and why her plan is reasonable.

Local woman makes it to Hollywood



Photo courtesy of Abbey Rondo
Auburn Hills resident Abbey Rondo, 25, sings at Kensington Community Church in Troy where she is also a youth minister. Rondo auditioned for "American Idol" in Birmingham, Ala. where she received a ticket to Hollywood.

IDOL

Cont. from A1

auditions for the hit television show "American Idol."

"The fourth- and fifth-graders that I teach at church said 'Miss Abbey, you have to try out for American Idol,'" Rondo said. "I had some time off during the Birmingham auditions and it was just a spontaneous thing. I thought I'd get cut and that would be the end of it."

However, just the opposite happened. After arriving at the arena where auditions are held, each and every hopeful contestant is given the opportunity to perform for about 20 seconds before the show's producers. It's at this stage that around 90 percent of the possible candidates get cut, Rondo said.

During the second season, auditions were held here in Detroit and Rondo attended those try-outs. However, she did not make it through the first round.

Only those who make it through are given the chance to sing before the judges.

"[The producers] know what they're looking for," Rondo said. "I thought that I got cut, and I started to walk away. They were like 'Where are you going? Get back here!'"

After some encouraging words from the producers, Rondo waited for her turn to serenade the judges. Standing before Randy Jackson and Cowell — Paula Abdul wasn't there for some of the auditions — she belted out "You Don't Know Me," by Ray Charles.

For a series that typically showcases pop stars, this may seem like an interesting choice. However, Rondo had specific reasons for choosing this as her audition song.

"I love to sing anything with soul, whether it's R&B, blues, rock or whatever," Rondo said. "It has to be vocally challenging and full of emotion. [This song] hooks you from the first line and softens the heart of anyone listening."

Then came the time for the judges' response, and the question on everybody's mind: What did Simon say? Rondo said that Jackson complimented her on various things such as tone and breathing, then he said "I loved it," and Cowell said, "I agree. That was very good."

Although Cowell didn't have anything bad to say about her voice, Rondo said that he did tease her a little bit about her age saying she was kind of old and that she didn't know how to party anymore. However, Rondo assured that it was all in fun.

Despite the fact that she did receive a ticket to go to Hollywood, Rondo had to sign a man-

datory 12-page contract and was not allowed to tell anyone until the Birmingham auditions aired Jan. 30.

Similarly, the Hollywood episodes have already been taped, but Rondo is not allowed to comment on them or release information about her standing until they air in upcoming weeks.

Rondo explained that at each different level there is another contract to sign. Some have commented that the "American Idol" contracts were excessive and too exclusive. However, Rondo said that they are "fair and necessary."

"The contracts maintain the integrity of the show and protect the individuals," Rondo said. "Without them the press would be going crazy. It's actually comforting to just say, 'I can't talk about it,' rather than having to tell the story over and over."

Since the information of her success in Birmingham was released, Rondo has been through a whirlwind of media attention. She has been featured on local television news, 95.5 WKQI, WWJ Newsradio 950, 96.3 WDVN and 103.5 WMUZ as well as in The Oakland Press, the Daily Tribune and various other newspapers and blogs.

However, Rondo has not let the attention get to her head and has a bigger message that she is trying to spread in all of her interviews: God.

A youth minister at Kensington Community Church in Troy, Rondo credits her success to God.

"Through the whole thing, I want to keep the focus on God," Rondo said. "He's given me a lot of opportunity to get the word out that Christianity doesn't have to be legalistic and judgmental. It can be full of grace and love and acceptance."

And that is the message that Rondo has been sharing with the media and has even brought to the Oakland University campus with the group QuarterLife which meets every Tuesday at 7:45 p.m. at the Shotwell Gustafson Pavilion.

No matter how far she gets, Rondo says she's "still an average person" and wants to enjoy the journey.

"The entire process is an unexpected gift," Rondo said. "My dad reminded me that not many people are given the opportunity to speak out for God. [God] has given me the chance to use my voice as a platform, and people love 'American Idol' so they'll listen."

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Mom charged in killing kids

By SVEN GUSTAFSON
Associated Press Writer

SHELBY TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — A suburban Detroit woman was charged Monday in the stabbing deaths of her young daughters inside their mobile home.

Jennifer Kukla, 30, was arraigned on two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Alexandria, 8, and Ashley, 5. If convicted as charged, she faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Police say Kukla acknowledged killing her daughters and that alcohol may have been a factor.

Police, who were called to the home by Kukla's sister around 6 p.m. Sunday, also found three dead Pomeranian dogs stacked atop one another inside a cage, as well as a dead pet mouse.

They have no motive for the deaths, which they say occurred around 7 a.m. Sunday.

According to a 911 tape, a younger sister of Kukla called asking for officers to be sent to her sister's home.

The dispatcher asked her whether she feared that someone would be harmed.

"It's already been done," the woman replied. "She says that she killed her kids, and I'm not going into the house with her because she stabbed her arm ... and she's bleeding all over the place."

"She killed them, she told me five times," the woman said. "She said she's going into the deep ends of Hell. ... She said that last night, she was hypnotized. ... She said, 'I think I kidnapped them. I think I ate people.' ... She said, 'You've got to save me, you've got to save me.'"

Kukla was ordered held without bond.

The magistrate at the Shelby Township district court where Kukla was arraigned Monday afternoon initially set a date of Feb. 20 for her next court appearance.

However, Kukla and another sister, Elizabeth Lawrie, both shouted out, saying that date was Ashley's birthday.

The magistrate switched the date to Feb. 15, and Kukla thanked him. Kukla was not represented by an attorney at the hearing.

According to police, the scene inside the mobile home was gruesome. It was there that they recovered four large, bloodied kitchen knives, as well as the bodies.

Authorities said they contacted the girls' fathers, one of whom is in prison, but neither had much contact with the girls.

'I'm going to be sick,' U.S. pilot says after friendly fire incident

By PAISLEY DODDS
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) - A leaked cockpit video published Tuesday captures a dramatic exchange between two American pilots whose voices choke up when they learn they have killed a British soldier in Iraq. "I'm going to be sick," one pilot says, later adding "we're in jail, dude."

Ever since the friendly fire incident nearly four years ago, the Pentagon has said the video was classified. That meant the footage could not be presented in open court during a British inquest into the death of Lance Cpl. Matty Hull, who was killed when at least one U.S. jet fired on his convoy in the southern city of Basra.

But after excerpts of the video were published in The Sun newspaper and the footage was widely broadcast, U.S. authorities agreed to release it for the inquest.

Neither pilot from the Boise, Idaho-based 190th Fighter Squadron was disciplined in the U.S. military's own investigation, which concluded the pilots "followed the procedures and processes for engaging targets," Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Tuesday.

The leaking of the tape strained relations between the Department of Defense and their British counterparts, who were previously given a DVD of the classified video.

The dramatic cockpit video and recording begins with two pilots identifying a target and checking with ground control that there are no coalition troops in the area, to which ground control says, "That is an affirm. You are well clear of friendlies," according to the transcript released by The Sun.

Tempers flare between the two pilots, with one saying it looks like the prospective targets are carrying orange rockets. Coalition troops are

often equipped with bright orange markers to identify them as friendly forces.

"I know what you're talking about!" the first pilot says, after asking about the location of the prospective targets.

"OK, well they got orange rockets on them," the second pilot says.

"Orange rockets?" the first pilot asks again, telling the other pilot they need to get back to base soon.

"I think killing these damn rocket launchers, it would be great," the second pilot says.

At least one of the U.S. A-10 jets opened fire on Hull's tank, which was part of a five-vehicle convoy engaged in combat outside Basra on March 28, 2003. Four other soldiers were wounded, including the convoy's leader, Capt. Alexander MacEwen.

Gunfire is heard. Minutes later they learn there are friendly forces in the area and that one person is dead and another is wounded.

Pilot 1: "I'm going to be sick."

Pilot 2: "Ah f---."

Pilot 1: "Did you hear?"

Pilot 2: "Yeah, this sucks."

Pilot 1: "We're in jail, dude."

The pilots communicate with ground control again. "They did say there were no friendlies," the first pilot says.

"Yeah, I know that thing with the orange panels is going to screw us. They look like orange rockets on top," the second pilot says.

The first pilot then asks if his tape is still on. Seconds later, there is silence.

A publicly releasable version of the U.S. investigation report, which found the pilots followed procedures and practices for engaging targets, was given to the British Defense Ministry in November 2003, said Lt. Col. Teresa Connor, a spokeswoman at U.S. Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Florida.

It was unclear why neither the Defense Ministry nor U.S. authorities

released the findings.

On Tuesday, after the leaking of the tape, Connor said Central Command authorized Britain to display the video to the coroner and family in the presence of the Defense Ministry. It is up to the ministry to decide whether and when to do so, she said.

The U.S. military has no plan to release the names of the pilot or their unit, Connor said.

The U.S. Embassy's deputy chief of mission, David Johnson, said he thought the coroner had already viewed the video.

"Our focus is really on finding out where our procedures fell down and allowed information that was classified to be provided to individuals who did not have appropriate access to it," Johnson told the AP, saying that U.S. and British exchanges had been "military to military."

— Associated Press Writer Pauline Jelinek in Washington contributed to this report.



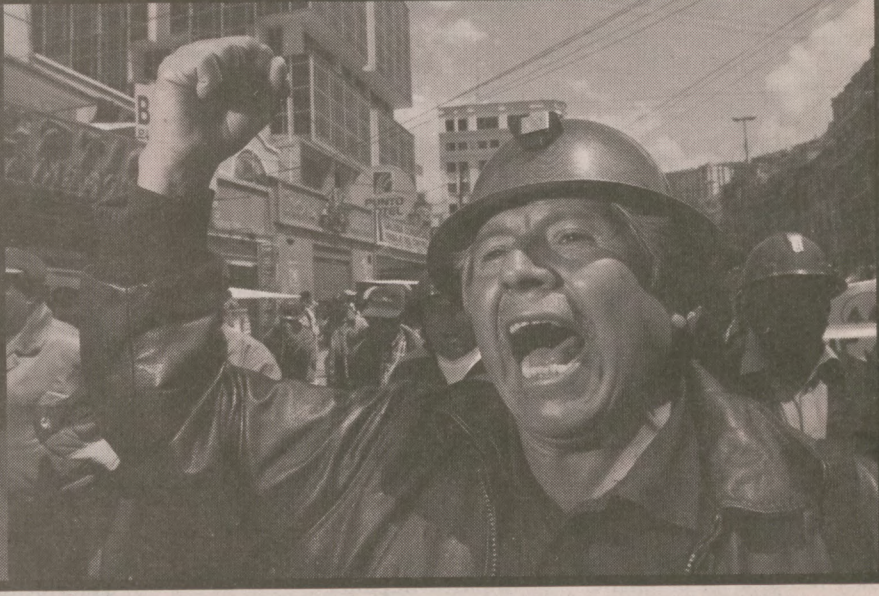
REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP Photo

Moise Diatta of the Senegalese navy stands aboard a Spanish patrol boat after visually inspecting a fishing boat for illegal migrants off the coast of Senegal last Thursday. A unit of Spain's Guardia Civil, accompanied by representatives of Senegal's navy has been doing daily runs along Senegal's coast for months now in an attempt to stem the tide of illegal migrants risking dangerous ocean voyages to the Canary Islands.



ADAM ROUNTREE/AP Photo

Suzy Walsham, of Singapore, winner of the womens category of the 30th Annual Empire State Building Run-up, speaks to the media after completing the 1576 step run-up from the lobby to the observatory deck of the Empire State Building in New York, Tuesday.



DADO GALDIERI/AP Photo

Over 20,000 miners from across Bolivia marched into La Paz on Tuesday to protest against President Evo Morales' plans for a steep hike in mining taxes, worried that the increase could unfairly burden the largely poor members of the country's independent miners' cooperatives.

Nation in Brief

Appeals court sends Wal-Mart women bias case to trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest private employer, must face a class-action lawsuit alleging female employees were discriminated against in pay and promotions. The ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholds a 2004 federal

judge's decision to let the nation's largest class-action employment discrimination lawsuit go to trial. The suit claims that as many as 1.5 million current and former female employees earned less than men and were bypassed for promotions. The lawsuit exposes the Bentonville, Ark.-based retailing powerhouse to the possibility of billions of dollars in damages. Wal-Mart claimed that the conventional rules of class actions

should not apply in the case because its 3,400 stores, including Sam's Club warehouse outlets, operate like independent businesses, and that the company did not have a policy of discriminating against women. But the court, in a 2-1 decision, disagreed.

Libby repeatedly told grand jury he couldn't recall

discussions on Wilson's wife WASHINGTON (AP) — Prosecutors in the CIA leak trial Tuesday zeroed in on I. Lewis Libby's alleged lies to a grand jury, playing audiotapes of Libby saying repeatedly that he could not recall conversations about the CIA employment of the wife of Bush administration critic Joe Wilson. The eight hours of grand jury testimony conflict with testimony earlier in the trial by former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer and other witnesses who said Libby indeed had discussed the CIA employment of Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame. Libby's defense to charges

of perjury, obstruction and lying to the FBI is constructed on assertions that he was immersed in national security issues for Vice President Dick Cheney, that his memory may be faulty and that the recollections of the witnesses against him also are faulty. In the grand jury audiotapes, Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald focused on a going-away lunch Libby had with Fleischer that Libby seemed able to recall in some detail. Libby and Fleischer were friends, Fleischer told the grand jury, and the two discussed the Miami Dolphins and Fleischer's future plans. In the recording, Fitzgerald asked Libby if he recalled telling Fleischer about the CIA employment of Wilson's wife and that it was "hush-hush." "I don't recall that," replied Libby, speaking softly.

Gates: Troop buildup not last chance for Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Robert Gates held out hope Tuesday that U.S. forces might be able

to start leaving Iraq before the end of the year, if daunting conditions including subdued violence and political reconciliation are met. Gates told lawmakers the current buildup of forces by 21,500 troops is "not the last chance" to succeed in Iraq and conceded that he's considering what steps to take if it doesn't work. "I would be irresponsible if I weren't thinking about what the alternatives might be," Gates told the Senate Armed Services Committee. But he asserted, "We at this point are planning for success," and he described in sketchy form what could bring about the beginning of a withdrawal. "It seems to me that if the plan to quiet Baghdad is successful and the Iraqis step up" by providing promised forces of their own and move toward resolving the country's bitter political disputes, Gates said, "I would hope that we would be able to begin drawing down our troops later this year." Gates said last month that the troop increase seems likely to last months, not years. The outgoing top general in Iraq, George Casey, has said he hoped some of the extra troops could start returning home by late summer.

World News

Nearly 60 nations — but not U.S. — sign treaty to ban forced disappearances

PARIS (AP) — Nearly 60 countries signed a treaty on Tuesday that bans governments from holding people in secret detention, but the United States and some of its key European allies were not among them.

The signing capped a quarter-century of efforts by families of people who have vanished at the hands of governments.

"Our American friends were naturally invited to this ceremony; unfortunately, they weren't able to join us," French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy told reporters after 57 nations signed the treaty at his ministry in Paris.

"That won't prevent them from one day signing on in New York at U.N. headquarters, and I hope they will."

The U.S. Embassy in Paris declined immediate comment. President Bush acknowledged in September that terrorism suspects have been held in CIA-run prisons overseas, but did not specify where.

Many other Western nations, including Germany, Spain, Britain and Italy, also did not sign the

treaty. France introduced the convention at the U.N. General Assembly in November and it was adopted in December.

Many delegates expressed hope that other nations will sign by year-end. Some European nations have expressed support for the treaty, but face constitutional hurdles or require a full Cabinet debate before signing, French and U.N. officials said.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour called the treaty an important step both in preventing injustices common years ago and barring newer abuses that often fall through regulatory loopholes.

Arbour said the United States had expressed "reservations" about parts of the text, but declined to elaborate, and she urged U.S. officials to sign and ratify it. She noted that America often backs activities of the UNHCR without formally signing on to them.

She called the treaty "a message to all modern-day authorities committed to the fight against terrorism" that some past tactics are now "not

acceptable, in a very explicit way."

The convention defines forced disappearances as the arrest, detention, kidnapping or "any other form of deprivation of freedom" by state agents or affiliates, followed by denials or cover-ups about the detention and location of the person gone missing.

Nations that eventually ratify the text would enshrine victims' rights, and would require states to penalize any forced disappearances in their countries and enact preventative and monitoring measures.

French officials, who led the effort, counted more than 51,000 people who were disappeared by their governments in over 90 countries since 1980, Douste-Blazy said. Some 41,000 of those cases remain unsolved.

"Men and women disappear every day on every continent, for defending human rights, for just opposing their governments' policies or simply because they want justice," Douste-Blazy said. "The situation could not continue to go unpunished. It required a strong response from the international community."

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Bill Hall stretches to brush a layer of snow off a line of new snowblowers outside Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse Tuesday morning, Feb. 6, 2007, in Fargo, N.D., after the region received several inches overnight. Heavy snows covered the area and presented a challenge for road crews.

Multiple deaths have been reported from various states as a result of the recent dangerous drop in temperatures
AP PHOTO/DAVE WALLIS

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Apple CEO pressures record label to drop anti-piracy technology

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Apple Inc. indicated it would open its iTunes store to other portable players besides its ubiquitous iPod if the world's major record labels abandoned the anti-piracy technology that serves as the industry's security blanket. Steve Jobs, Apple's chief executive, made the case for abolishing the protections known as "Digital Rights Management," or DRM, in an open letter posted Tuesday on the Cupertino-based company's Web site. Supporters hailed Jobs for leveraging Apple's growing clout as one of the world's largest music sellers in an attempt to remove restrictions that annoy many consumers. Critics, though, derided the message as a disingenuous maneuver designed to soften a recent backlash in Europe, where iTunes' incompatibility with other portable music devices besides the iPod has been branded as anticompetitive.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

-25

Degrees, fahrenheit - the wind chill factor in Minneapolis forecasted for today

1000

Approximate number of "foot soldiers" recruited and trained by Al Gore to spread the message contained in "An Inconvenient Truth"

10

Minimum number of "Inconvenient" public presentations Gore's foot soldiers must deliver every year

93. MILLION

Estimated number of viewers for Super Bowl XLI

to say
the
LEAST

**"You can run, but you
can't hide."**

— SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID
promising further Iraq debate after Republicans in the Senate refused to consider a resolution opposing President Bush's planned troop surge.

Oakland University Eye Research Program

Summer Undergraduate Program in Eye Research

May 14 – August 3, 2007

Ideal S.U.P.E.R. candidates will be Oakland University sophomores or juniors who are pursuing careers in biomedical research or teaching. Up to six students will be assigned to one of six research laboratories, working directly with ERI faculty. This training program includes: lab safety, sound research design, vision sciences seminar series, a \$3,000 scholarship, independent research, and audio-visual presentation of work. ERI scientists explore the biochemical, physiological and molecular aspects of eye function and development. ERI research expands the understanding of ocular diseases such as cataract, retinal degenerations, and glaucoma. Application packages may be obtained from Ms. Paulette Realy, 416 Dodge Hall. (248) 370-2390, or on line at <http://www.oakland.edu/eri>.
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THE CONTENDERS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Just a funny feeling

A Postie saves you some trouble and explores the wide world of condoms

By KAYLA JEROME - Contributing Reporter

Trojan Her Pleasure : Spermicidal Lubricant

Prices: Box of 12, \$9.37 at www.drugstore.com, \$11.99 at CVS drugstores.

Facts: Ribbed and thinner for more sensation. Spermicidal lubricant is a plus, a gel that immobilizes sperm cells or kills them, further protecting against pregnancy.

Personal Response: It says "ribbed," but I can't tell a difference from a basic condom. The thinness does provide a more natural feeling. "Her Pleasure" seems like they are made for the pleasure of women and not for men — sex is a shared experience, the condom should be for both people using it!

Trojan Shared Pleasure: Warm Sensations Lubricant

Prices: Box of 12, \$9.52 at www.drugstore.com \$11.99 at CVS drugstores.

Facts: Thinner condom for a more natural feeling and ribbed for extra sensation, warming lubricant for added stimulation.

Personal Response: Nothing too different in comparison to a regular ribbed condom. No extra features to make them an enticing purchase. Almost exactly like the "Her Pleasure" Trojan condoms. The only difference is the "Warm Sensations" lubricant, which aren't that noticeable anyway.

Trojan Magnum with "Twister"

Prices: Box of 12, \$9.09 at www.drugstore.com, \$11.99 at CVS drugstores.

Facts: Made for a larger penis (7 or more inches), it's a durable and thicker.

Personal Response: It's a pretty basic condom, only bigger. There are no fancy features for either partner to be excited about.

Trojan Her Pleasure with "Warm Sensations"

Prices: Box of 12, \$9.74 at www.drugstore.com, \$11.99 at CVS drugstores.

Facts: Ribbed and the lubricant warms on contact.

Personal Response: "Warm Sensations" lubricant makes the experience more pleasurable for both partners but it's still a basic condom overall. Just buy warming lube and match it with your favorite condom instead.

Trojan Twisted Pleasure: Lubricated

Prices: Box of 12, \$9.52 at www.drugstore.com, \$11.99 at CVS drugstores

Facts: Large ribs for extra pleasure, light lubrication, thin condom for natural feeling.

Personal Response: Ribs on condom add a little extra "something." Says ribs are twisted down in a spiral — it's a lie. All the condoms that are ribbed make a big deal about how much added pleasure it brings into the experience, but honestly, you can barely even feel them, sometimes not even at all.

Trojan Mint Tingle : Lubricated

Prices: Box of 12, \$8.54 at www.drugstore.com, \$11.99 at CVS drugstores

Facts: Green colored condom, mint scent and taste, thin condom, ribbed all the way down.

Personal Response: A cool tingle is good for both partners. It says using a green condom enhances the experience — it doesn't. I personally don't think using a mint scented condom would be exciting, but it's actually kind of gross.

Kayla Jerome is in a committed relationship with her fiancé and volunteered to do the necessary research for this story.



WHAT WOULD MATT HARRIS DO? photo by Kevin Alford, photo illustration by Celeste Filiatrault

Dear self, be mine?

Sometimes, it's okay to be alone

By MATT HARRIS - Contributing Reporter

If you're anything like me, you view the coming Valentine's Day with a feeling of impending doom.

Due to the overflow of pink hearts and disgustingly-cute stuffed animals everywhere you look, all you see is a very prominent reminder that you are single on a day that was invented to celebrate those in love, despite your one-bedroom apartment in Singlesville.

It's enough to make you want to stuff your face with a whole box of Russell Stover's chocolate, isn't it?

"It depends on what side of the [Valentine's Day] spectrum you're on," says junior Bonnie Johnson, a communications major who, despite her single status, has been dating on and off for a year and a half since her last serious relationship.

"I think it's over celebrated. No stuffed animals for me; I'm not five."

While you may agree, single senior Shannon Christy has a more optimistic opinion.

"It all depends on what an individual thinks of it as," she says. "I'm lucky to share it if I have someone special."

Any big plans? "I have to work," Christy said.

Work or not, love it or hate it, do not fear my single college peers. Just because you're sans significant other doesn't mean you can't have a worthwhile V-Day.

Why not try these guaranteed suggestions to take your mind off your singledom and help you celebrate your romantic independence:

- **Take a friend out to dinner.** There's no reason why you should both have to stay home, so pick a restaurant, put on your finest duds and enjoy a good meal while enjoying some of your favorite company.

- **Take a "You" Day.** Forget about love, life and work, and celebrate what you really enjoy. Read a good book, go to a museum (why not Oakland's own University Art Gallery?), take a trip to the mall and spend that Christmas money burning a hole in your pocket, or maybe make yourself your favorite dinner. Make the day about you - who knows you better anyway?

- **Avoid tears.** Who needs romantic chick-flicks on an already overly-romantic day? Get a group of friends, make up some of your favorite snacks, and rent your favorite non-romantic movies. Little Miss Sunshine and Freddy Kruger need love too, don't they?

- **Go crazy!** Eat as much candy as your stomach and blood sugar can handle. It's on sale; you love it; so why not enjoy it? No one says you need to be dating to enjoy a chocolate truffle.

- **Worst-case scenario:** Screw it. Admit defeat, call it a night and go to bed early. No use in fighting a losing battle. There's always next year, right?

Nothing peaking your interest as a way to forget your Love Day woes? Then take solace in this. It's a new year, and a new year could mean new love. Buck up and look on the bright side — you never know who may be watching.



WHAT YOU NEVER EXPECTED, photos by Charles Graski

Something you should see

It's bunch of junk. Seriously.

By CHARLES GRASKI - Contributing Reporter

If we piled up every material want that was at one time fulfilled, and then thrown away, could we reach the moon? What would all of this wanton materialism and rubbish look like cluttered in one massive heap? MOCAD's exhibit, "Meditations in an Emergency" explores the many facets of this hypothetical pile of cultural, spiritual and material excretion.

Though the inspiration for this exhibit is tragic, eight artists coalesce this ravaged mass into something quite surreal. Individually finding their own way to remake environmental and social catastrophes such as garbage dumps, factories and colonialism into something strangely beautiful.

A village of abandoned and mutilated plush animals reminds us that simply because we may

no longer consider what we have thrown away, that these elements do nevertheless thrive. Look closely, because you might find something you once held dearly to your chest as you slept in a bed shaped like a racecar.

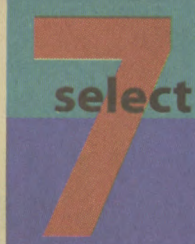
The faint incandescent lights and alarmist exhibit encourage all to stand and reflect, indulge in nostalgia and most importantly — to be rocked from complacency. This exhibit is yet another example of how amazing and talented Detroit's art community really is.

"Meditations in an Emergency" runs through April 29, and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit MOCAD's Web site at

www.mocadetroit.org.

Mia Evans, student body Vice President and President of the Association of Black Students, shares seven of her favorite black artists (in no particular order, it's tough to pick just seven).

1. Marvin Gaye
2. Jackie Wilson
3. Michael Jackson
4. James Brown
5. Aretha Franklin
6. Prince
7. Luther Vandross



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Make this your move

Fitness tips from Rec Center Pros



Stand with legs apart, feet pointed out. Position arms so that the weights are juxtaposed and resting in front of pelvis. Squat, while lifting weights up to your chest. Remember to keep bent knees behind toes while squatting and also to keep weights level as you are lifting.

— Charles Graski, Contributing Reporter

Sweet dreams, insomniacs

Healthy alternatives to counting sheep

By CHARLES GRASKI
Contributing Reporter

Through the mist of lethargy and discomfort, you look at the time to find that the clock reads 4 a.m. Your mind is still racing, your body pleading with you to satisfy its need for sleep. But sleep simply will not come. Either you are pulling an all-nighter or you may be suffering from a sleeping disorder, most likely a form of insomnia.

"Insomnia refers to difficulty falling or staying asleep for a month or more. It is one of the 'sleep disorders,'" said Dr. Lynn Neely, professor of psychology and clinical psychologist at Oakland University.

Other types of sleeping disorders include sleep apnea, narcolepsy and restless leg syndrome. However, the majority of Americans that experience a sleeping disorder suffer from insomnia.

Two types of insomnia exist: secondary insomnia and primary insomnia. Secondary insomnia is the most common form and is likely a side effect of some other issue such as anxiety, certain illnesses, taking substances that delay sleep, other sleeping disorders or a fluctuating sleep routine.

The National Heart Lung

and Blood Institute estimated that approximately eight out of ten people may be suffering from secondary insomnia.

Primary insomnia occurs over a period of 12 months or longer.

A multitude of factors can cause insomnia. Psychological or behavioral causes of insomnia may include worrisome thoughts, depression, nightmares, too much alcohol or caffeine or an inconsistent sleep pattern.

"Anxiety is often a problem. People are often up at night thinking about the problems of the day," said Neely.

Differentiating between the different types of insomnia is relatively simple. If you find that you are experiencing one or a combination of the common behavioral and environmental symptoms, which mildly inhibits your functionality in daily life, you are likely experiencing secondary insomnia.

If you experience significant distress over a chronic lack of sufficient sleep, with a noticeable drop of productivity at school or work, there is a possibility that you are suffering from primary insomnia.

Regardless of the severity of any type of insomnia, treatments are the same.

"I would recommend people first talk with their primary care physician. They can provide a complete medical check-up to see whether there might be a problem that needs medical attention. If you are interested in the psychological causes of sleep problems and behavioral treatment of sleep disorders then I would recommend you also talk with a clinical psychologist," Neely recommended.

Sleep disorder clinics are also available to those with problems that don't respond to these approaches. Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit offers this type of clinic. A physician or clinical psychologist can help you find a sleep medicine specialist if needed.

Many solutions for secondary insomnia are simple and involve basic lifestyle changes.

"Exercising regularly is definitely a step in the right direction," said Lisa Nelson, a personal trainer at OU's Department of Campus Recreation.

Other treatments for insomnia and other sleep disorders include keeping a consistent bedtime and waking schedule, limiting alcohol and caffeine consumption around bedtime, listening to soothing music, monitoring sleep habits with

a journal and relaxation training.

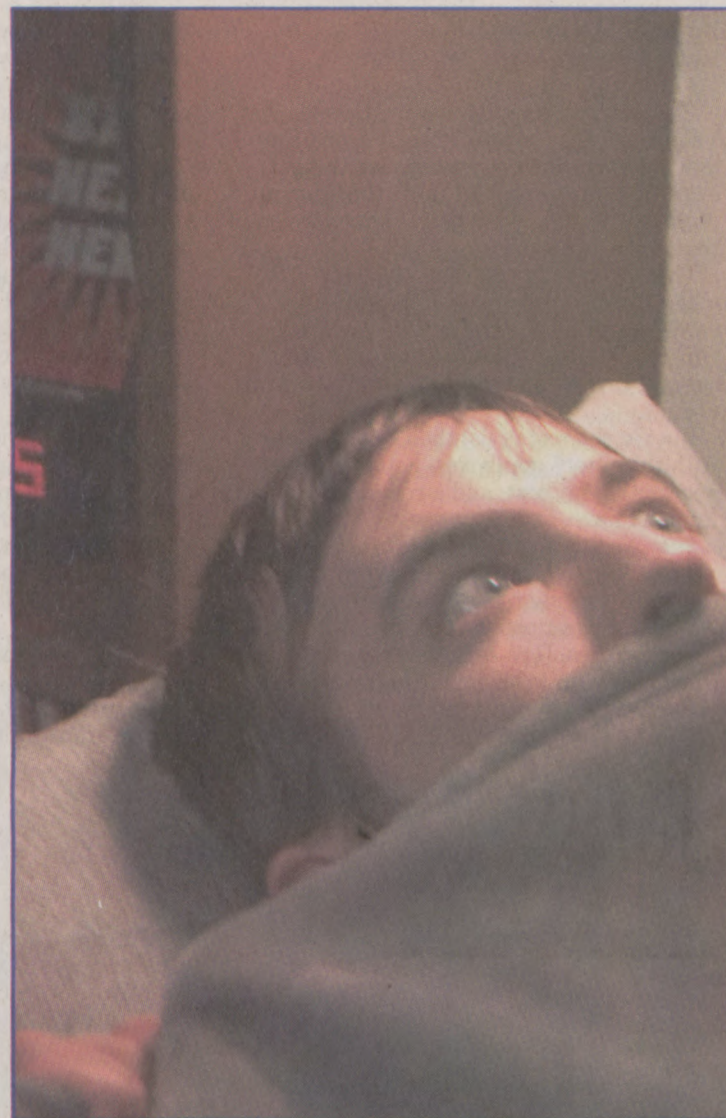
Additional strategies suggested by OU students around campus include using a sound machine, counting while visualizing the numbers, drinking chamomile and lavender teas, watching infomercials, ambient noise such as an oscillating fan or wearing noise-canceling headphones.

"Sometimes I make a play list of my favorite songs on Limewire or Ruckus. This usually does the trick," said Eric Rodman, a junior human resources management major.

The most dangerous approach to dealing with a sleep disorder is simply to ignore it. Many resources are available for those that suffer from them.

In addition to consulting with your primary care physician, you can contact St. Joseph Mercy Oakland's Sleep Disorder Center at (248) 371-1726 or Graham Health Center at (248) 370-2341.

Online resources include The American Psychological Association's sleep Web site at www.apa.org/topics/topicsleep and The National Center on Sleep Disorders Research at www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/ncsdr/index.htm.



CHARLES GRASKI/ The Oakland Post
Can't sleep? A number of solutions are available for those suffering from insomnia, including medical treatment and basic lifestyle changes.

ENVIRONMENT

Michigan recycling in a rut

By KRISTIN SIMOVSKI
Contributing Reporter

The Michigan Beverage Containers Initiated Law of 1976, aka the Bottle Bill, gave penny-pinching college students across the state a reason to save their bottles.

It's a new century though, and lawmakers are seeking to expand the bill to add deposits to other bottled drinks.

According to the Ecology Center (www.ecocenter.org), Michigan recycles 95 percent of refundable bottles.

Sophomore business economics major Ashley Manns said that she would rather recycle what she can than throw anything away.

"I live by myself, so every 10 cents helps," said Manns.

While the Bottle Bill appears to be a successful piece of legislation, its effect on the overall state recycling rate has been miniscule.

Of its Great Lakes neighbors, Michigan recycles the least—only 20 percent of its municipal solid waste, according to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

To add insult to injury, the Environmental Protection Agency ranked Michigan 28th in the U.S. in terms of its recycling rate.

Over the past several years, Michigan's government has debated expanding the Bottle Bill to include non-carbonated beverage containers like milk, tea, water and sports drinks in its list of refundable containers as a method of boosting recycling.

"I approve of making more things recyclable, especially water bottles, since so many people use them," said junior Carly Willis.

"Unfortunately, people will complain about a 10-cent increase in price but avoid tak-

ing the time to get those 10 cents back by turning them in."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm expressed her support of expanding the Bottle Bill hoping that such a measure would increase Michigan's recycling rate to a soaring 40 percent early on in her office.

Action was taken in 2003 when Senate Republican Leader Kenneth Sikkema initially organized the Michigan Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force to not only explore Michigan's then-current state of recycling but the expansion of the Bottle Bill or any other methods that would increase recycling.

In March of that year, the Task Force held a public hearing on Oakland University's campus debating the very same issues regarding expansion that are being discussed today.

According to a study done on behalf of the Michigan

Recycling Partnership, whose members were in attendance at the meeting in 2003 and characterized Michigan's recycling efforts as "woefully behind," an expansion of the bill would only increase the recycling rate by .07 percent.

"Expanding the Bottle Deposit Law is not only less effective than funding a comprehensive recycling program but also more costly for consumers and retailers," said Michigan Grocers Association President Linda Goble.

But the study also indicated that if Michigan gradually increased its recycling rate to 30 percent, matching that of its neighboring states, between 6,810 and 12,986 jobs would be created in the processing and remanufacturing of recycled items, generating an income between \$155 and \$320 million.

Expansion of the Bottle Bill is not Michigan's last option

for increasing recycling, however.

House Bill 5163, the "Recycling Makes Cents" or "Penny Plan," would attribute a small recycling fee of a penny to any retail transaction of at least two dollars if implemented.

The accumulated pennies, estimated to generate approximately \$40 million yearly, would fund more comprehensive curb-side programs in an effort to increase the state's recycling rate.

The Penny Plan's supporters, like Representative Geoff Hansen, say that it would effectively deal with the majority of Michigan's waste stream.

While both options are being weighed, Michigan's landfills are filling up with more garbage and the recycling rate is at a standstill.

For more information on Michigan's Bottle Bill visit www.bottlebill.org.

"Hold still ..."



Play Cupid!
Submit a Valentine's Day message for your secret admiree to be published in The Post.

E-mail messages to editor@oakpostonline.com 20 words or less.

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Celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day 2007:

PB & J Day!

Wednesday, February 14
Noon – 1PM
Oakland Center
Gold Rooms

Help make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for local shelters! Volunteers are also needed to deliver the sandwiches and create Valentine's Day cards.

Sponsored by Golden Key International Honour Society.

Have a question?

Email us at
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'And Still We Rise'
Guided Tour of the

Charles H. Wright Museum

TODAY
12:30PM
Charles H. Wright Museum

Join CSA & Vandenberg Hall in visiting the Charles H. Wright Museum.

Tickets must be picked up in advance from the CSA Service window, 49 Oakland Center (lower level).

CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS

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

- Rent
- Color-ography
- Riverdance
- Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy
- The Rat Pack Is Back
- I Can't Stop Loving You
- Turnanot
- Sweet Charity
- Swan Lake
- Camelot
- Abduction From Seraglio
- Romeo and Juliet

Student & Greek Organization

RECOGNITION NIGHT

Wednesday, April 11th
Stay tuned for more information!

Awards Nomination Packets are available in the CSA Office, 49 OC.

Gender & Sexuality Center (GSC) Presents:

That Time of the Week

TODAY
12:30PM – 1:30PM
Lake Huron Room, OC

Professors Jo Reger & Tim Larrabee will host a discussion on the connection between Women's & LGBTQ issues!

SPB Presents:

Oceans Eleven

Thursday, February 8th
9PM
Fireside Lounge, OC

Food, Fun & Prizes.
Everyone is welcome!

Mouthing Off

February 7, 2007

www.theoaklandpost.com

QUOTE OF THE WEEK ...

"This has been a tradition since 900 AD when St. Valentine started manufacturing cards, angering the Hallmark Corporation, which condemned him to have his heart cut out, covered in chocolate and filled with nougat."

— Jesse Dunsmore

B2

Tell your sandwich you love her

By JESSE DUNSMORE
Senior Reporter

For plenty of happily attached people, Valentine's Day is an excuse to spend the day together, buy each other nice things, eat a fine dinner and all that other romantic stuff that would be too hard to do more often than once a year.

This has been a tradition since 900 AD when St. Valentine started manufacturing cards, angering the Hallmark Corporation, which condemned him to have his heart cut out, covered in chocolate and filled with nougat.

But for the rest of us, the Charlie Browns with the empty mailboxes, Feb. 14 is just another day at best, and a reminder of what we don't have, at worst.

I say we find something else to celebrate.

According to holidaysforeveryday.com, there are already a few observances. I offer my own suggestions for festivities:

Ferris Wheel Day — Go ride a ferris wheel! In February! In Michigan! It's a good way to express your self-loathing, I guess.

Feb. 14 is also the end of National

Pancake Week, which coincidentally is also Heart Failure Awareness Week. Eat lots of pancakes, but be aware that your heart is probably going to stop working (so take it easy with the maple syrup).

It's also National Crime Prevention Week and National Hero Week. Don a cape and tight clothing and start yelling at people to buckle their seatbelts.

Apparently people like us have already started to claim February, as it is both International Friendship Month and International Boost Your Self-Esteem Month. The irony hurts to think about, so I'll move on.

A friend of a friend invented National Sandwich Appreciation Day (NSAD). The gist of it is, you make a bunch of sandwiches on NSAD eve, carry them around with you all day, and eat a sandwich whenever you feel like it. It's about truly appreciating the convenient and delicious comfort food that is the sandwich.

In addition to alternative holidays, here are some Feb. 14 birthdays to celebrate:

Teller (Penn's buddy) — Don't talk to anyone all day. Speaking of which, how in

the world did anyone figure out this was his birthday?

Jimmy Hoffa — Just go off and relax someplace. You know, disappear for awhile.

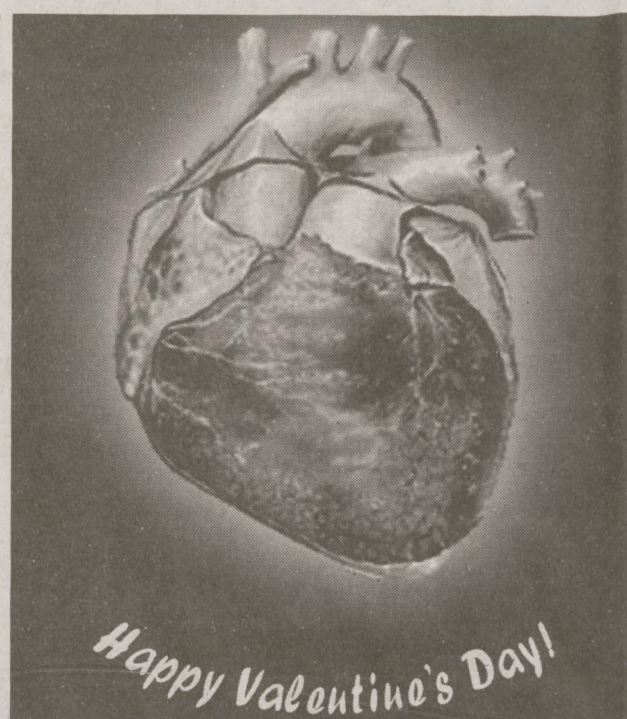
Freddie Highmore — He's the kid who played Charlie in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" so just eat tons of chocolate like you were already planning to.

Birthday of the telephone — Call all your single friends and commiserate! Alternatively, drink heavily while waiting by your phone for someone to call you, and then randomly start drunk-dialing your exes.

And in 1946, ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer), the world's first general-purpose computer, was unveiled at the University of Pennsylvania. Commemorate this by spending the entire day playing World of Warcraft — the one place you'll never have to worry about friends abandoning you to go on dates.

So this Feb. 14, don't just sit there and mope over your singleness — *do* something while you mope over your singleness!

I'll be at IHOP, growing increasingly aware of my failing heart.



Happy Valentine's Day!

Photo Illustration by Celeste Filiatrault

Not just puppy love

By ERIN MALLARD
Features Editor

I'm 20 years old. I'm a junior journalism major and the features editor at The Oakland Post. I'm also a receptionist at a real estate office. My aspirations include using my writing to create awareness for the need for humanitarian aid. And in five months, I'll be married.

Let me say that again. I'm 20, and on June 23, months before my 21st birthday, I'm getting married.

If you were sitting together and talking, you would probably reply, "Oh, really?" and then congratulate me politely. But since you're just reading, you're free to say whatever you want about me. Most likely, it will be something along the lines of "Wow, this chick's crazy! She must be a religious fanatic; she must be desperate; he's probably her cousin."

"What is that girl doing, throwing her life away so young? She should be partying, flirting, and pursuing a career! Certainly not settling down, giving up, giving in, starting a family."

I've heard versions of most of these before. When I came back to work after the camping trip where my fiancé proposed, my co-workers said to my face (most of them middle-aged women with a failed marriage or two...or four), "You're too young to get married."

Personally, I've begun to wonder who sets these seemingly arbitrary age limits for decision making in our society. I'm old enough to move out. I'm old enough to have sex. I'm old enough to join the military. I'm old enough to choose a career. Old enough to invest my money, write a book, backpack across Europe.

But I'm not old enough to commit to being with one person for the rest of my life (oops! I just said the "C" word).

You laugh, but think about it. What else in our society do we have to commit to? You can change your mind about where you want to live, what political party you support, whether or not you want to have kids (even after you're pregnant), even what gender you're attracted to. And as Americans are proving in increasing numbers, marriage doesn't even require commitment anymore.

But I intend to be different. I've found something

worth committing a lifetime—someone who shares my interests, my faith, my goals, and makes me happier than anyone else. There's nothing I want to do in life — finish college, pursue a career, see the world — that I can't do with him in my life. What is it that I am losing by getting married "so young," that people feel the need to advise me against? The "freedom" of singleness?

I have been fortunate enough to have examples in my life of marriages that started young and have persevered for a very long time, marriages that gave the people in them more freedom, not less. Freedom from facing the "real world" alone, from the cruelty of the 20-something dating scene, from fear of the consequences of unprotected sex.

I know that statistically, your chances of having examples of marriages like these are getting much smaller. Hollywood certainly doesn't make them any easier to see. So let me tell you: they do still exist.

In a few years, I hope to be one of those examples.

I also hope that you'll never let anyone tell you you're too young to be happy.



Save Time, Save



Electronic banking services now available at OU

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

NEW Student Account Refunds

OU now offers direct deposit for:

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

Student Paychecks

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

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

Student Bills

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

Stay Tuned

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



OU Makes Waves in National Rankings

Category	Statistic	Rank	National Leader
Free-throw percentage	76.1 percent	10th	California-78.6 percent
Three-point FG percentage	38.9 percent	36th	N. Arizona-44.1 percent
Rebound Margin	5.1	43rd	N. Carolina-10.0 percent

Erik Kangas is also riding high in the rankings. He is 10th place in three-point FG percentage and 11th in three-point field goals per game.

Sweep! Sweep!

Kangas nails six 3-pointers in win over Jags

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

Let Saturday be a lesson to us all: in the wild kingdom, a Grizzly can conquer a Jaguar any day.

Led by the hot hand of sophomore Erik Kangas, the Golden Grizzlies rolled over lowly IUPUI with a 70-60 decision in Indiana Saturday.

This completed Oakland's season sweep of the Jaguars.

IUPUI never led in the contest, and no matter how close they got, the Golden Grizzlies would always come up with points to keep the Jags at bay.

"The Big Man" Shawn Hopes got the ball rolling for the Grizzlies putting up the first two points on the scoreboard.

That shot set the tone for the remainder of the game, as the Golden Grizzlies hit the ground running with a 14-5 run.

IUPUI did crawl within six points in the second half, but a three-point play from Hopes

and a jump shot from Kangas put OU back in double digits, and after the 11:38 mark, their lead never once dropped below 10 points.

Kangas led Oakland with 23 points off of six three-point bombs, followed by Hopes with 13 points and freshman point guard Jonathon Jones with 10. Senior Vova Severovas recorded a career high of seven assists.

Another key stat for OU was rebounding. Sophomore Derick Nelson and Jones each pulled down five boards, leading Oakland University in that category.

This also marks the Golden Grizzlies' eighth win in 10 outings.

The Grizzlies will finally come home this week with two games on the schedule.

Thursday, the Grizzlies should easily overtake the Western Illinois Leathernecks, who have only won five games the entire season.

Then Feb. 10, the Valparaiso Crusaders come into town for their final game against OU has a Mid-Con conference rival. Fox Sports Detroit will be there to call the game, with a 1 p.m. tip-off time.

OU downed by Panthers

Grizzlies go 0-4 in Davenport series

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY
Contributing Reporter

Another game, another heartbreaking loss. Another step closer to Nationals where the winners advance and the losers go home empty-handed.

It was a hard-fought game by the Golden Grizzlies, and it came down to the wire, but Oakland found itself at the mercy of rival Davenport University once again, as the Panthers escaped from the Onyx last Thursday with a 6-5 shootout victory.

Jonah Rogowski's goal was all it took for the Panthers to sweep the four-game series out from underneath the Grizzlies.

Adam Thomas also beat Collin Chase while the Grizzlies were unable to get a single shot past Davenport goalie Chris Jozwiak.

"There was a lot of pressure on Will McMahon to go in there and score first," said Head Coach Sean Hogan. "Everyone in the world expected him to go in there and score. He probably would have, but he fanned on the puck. He did all he could do."

McMahon found the back of the net three times in regulation after being held without a point in back-to-back games the weekend before.

He gave the Grizzlies an early 2-0 lead in the first period, while Nick Ranck recorded his first goal of the season.

Adam Charnoby added another goal for the Grizzlies to put his team up 4-1 early in the second, but the Panthers responded with two

more goals to tighten the score heading into the third period.

Up by only a goal in the final period, McMahon beat Jozwiak with a backhand shot to create a little breathing room for Oakland.

Davenport fired back 20 seconds later to pull within a goal once again.

The Grizzlies had an opportunity to finish off the Panthers on a power play late in regulation but ended up surrendering a short-handed goal to send the game into overtime.

Chase held the Panthers off in overtime to take the game to the shootout, where he stopped two of four shooters.

"It was a tough ending, but I think we played pretty good," said Chase. "We've just got to put together a win streak, and, after that, hopefully to Nationals. That's pretty much the goal of the whole season, to get as far as we can in that."

And despite only coming up with two wins this ranking period, the Grizzlies moved up a spot and are sitting comfortably in 10th place.

"I think the win over Liberty was the biggest factor being that they are eighth overall and a lot of people think they're better than that," said Hogan. "Any time you lose in overtime, they look at it as a tie. So to the ranking committee, we were 2-1-2."

The next ranking will be released on Feb. 16 and will determine the teams competing in the national tournament in March.

"We have four games left before Nationals," said Charnoby. "Every game from here on out is a playoff game."



BOB KNOSKA/
The Oakland
Post

Goaltender Collin Chase prepares to make a save against Davenport on Thursday night. The Grizzlies lost hold of a 4-1 lead and lost on their home ice.

In Case You Missed It:

Track competes at Akron Open

Last Saturday, the men's track and field team participated in the Akron Open. Freshman Ross Solanskey was Oakland's top finisher when he crossed the line at 15:18.00 in the 5000 meter run, good for second place. Sophomore Kenny Wassus finished fourth in the 3000 meter run with a time of 8:51.47, and Jason Bigelow placed fifth in the 1-mile run clocking in at 4:19.99

Tennis starts out rough in spring opener

The women's tennis team got its season off to a slow start, dropping matches to Eastern Illinois (6-1) and IPFW (4-3) in Fort Wayne, Ind. last Sunday. Senior Jessica Erickson had three wins for Oakland. Erickson beat EIU's Sam Lininger 6-0, 6-1, then teamed up with doubles partner Gabrielle Gogas to defeat Lininger and Stephanie Harmazy 9-8 and Hanna Hager and Lisa Bartelheim, of IPFW, 8-5.

Swim sweeps Mid-Con honors

Last week, two members of Oakland's swimming and diving teams were named Athlete of the Week by the Mid-Con. For the men, it was sophomore Mike Templeton who placed second in the 200 backstroke and sixth in the 100 back. For the second time this season, sophomore Sophia Gustafsson earned the honors for the women.

—Compiled by Brittany Ochtinsky
Contributing Reporter

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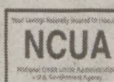
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Crazy Eights

By ROB TATE
Senior Reporter

The weather outside might be frigid, but it isn't bothering the Oakland University women's basketball team at all. Cold and flu season is in full swing, but the Golden Grizzlies haven't caught either one of those.

They have, however, caught a strong case of the crazy eights. Eight straight wins that is, a winning streak that has lasted since Jan. 8 victory over IUPUI.

The streak is Oakland's second longest since joining Division I in 1998.

OU continued rolling along last Saturday with a solid victory over IUPUI, 58-45. Oakland got some sweet revenge, as their last loss came at the hands of the Jaguars almost a month ago.

Sophomore guard Jessica Pike posted a career high 24 points and hauled in eight boards against the Jaguars. OU shot a well below average 35 percent on the game but made up for by protecting the ball.

Oakland committed just 13 turnovers which was much better than their first meeting with IUPUI where they coughed up the ball 18 times in a 50-46 loss at home.

Last night, the Golden Grizzlies got off to a great start against non-conference foe Youngstown State Penguins in the first half.

Freshman Hanna Reising hit her first two jumpers to get things started.

Pike was lights-out in the first half, shooting six for eight for 14 points before leaving the game in the first half with two fouls.

Pike may have played more in the first half but she got into some foul trouble early.

"We have a policy where if you get two fouls in the first half, we sit you because we don't want you to get into foul trouble in the second half," Head Coach Becki Francis said.

OU took a 40-33 advantage into the locker room at halftime. Leading at halftime was great news for the Golden Grizzlies.

Coming into the game, Youngstown State was 0-13 when trailing at halftime this season.

Oakland froze the Penguins in the second half, outscoring them 41-16 and running them ragged up and down the court.

Oakland easily went on to victory with an 81-57 win to wrap up the non-conference schedule. Oakland was 5-9 in non-conference action this season.

Pike kept her momentum up in the second half, adding six more points for a game high of 20, her third 20-point effort in as many games, all while just logging 22 minutes on the night.

Pike has really taken the leadership role offensively as of late. Along with her Mid-Con Player of the Week accolade for the week of Jan. 30, Pike has averaged 20 points per game in her last four outings.

"It's so quiet for me, I had no idea Pike had 20 points," Francis said. "Our players are doing such a nice job of delivering the ball to her and feeding her and we work on that really a lot in practice."



Senior Nicole Piggott drives the lane against Youngstown State defenders Tuesday. The Golden Grizzlies came away with an easy 81-57 victory.

The Golden Grizzlies hit the boards hard, dominating Youngstown State 48-17 including 19 offensive rebounds. Sophomore April Kidd corralled a season high nine rebounds to lead the team.

Reising tied a career high with eight rebounds and nailed four three-pointers to tally 16 points on the night.

"We knew that this wasn't a league game but it was still just as important to us," said senior forward Nicole Piggott. Piggott contributed nine points on the night.

Oakland has run the gauntlet of Mid-Con teams having defeated all seven of them in a row.

Up next might be Oakland's biggest game of the regular season against Valparaiso who is 7-2 in the Mid-Con. Piggott doesn't feel that way though.

"I think that pretty much every game is a huge game to me. It is a huge game because it's a league game, they're always one of the toughest teams in the conference, it's a home game and we are on a winning streak," Piggott added. Oakland defeated the Crusaders on Jan. 15 by a score of 63-57.

The Valpo game is this Saturday, Feb. 10 at the O'Rena at Oakland University following the men's 1 p.m. game at 3:30 p.m.

Upcoming Schedule

Feb. 10

VS.

Valparaiso

Feb. 12

VS.

Western Illinois

Feb. 17

at

Southern Utah

Feb. 19

at

UMKC

SUPER BOWL RATINGS SET RECORD ...

The Colts and Bears showdown Sunday drew in 93 million viewers, the third-largest TV audience in U.S. history. The 1983 series finale of "M*A*S*H" still holds the all-time record, with 106 million viewers. The Super Bowl in 1996 holds the second place spot, with the Cowboys and Steelers game averaging 94.8 million viewers.

COLUMN

Hey you!

Why haven't you been to an OU game yet?

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Sports Editor

It's a Michigan winter at its finest. Temperatures have dropped well below double digits, making the commute from anywhere on campus, even the mere feet from the OC to South Foundation Hall, an epic journey.

Want a suggestion of how to warm up your sub-zero February? Put down that over-priced latte and thaw out in the O'Rena for a few hours.

Oakland University basketball has entered the final portion of the regular season, and the Golden Grizzlies have come out swinging.

At press time, the men's team is locked in dead heat battle for first place honors in the Mid-Con conference with Oral Roberts, sparking a rivalry with potential to become as fierce as the Bulls and Pistons of the early 90s.

Riding even higher are the OU women's team, whose seven game win-streak has propelled them to the top of the Mid-Con leader board.

Up until you read that last paragraph, were you even aware of that?

Since that cold winter day in 1986 when I came into this world, I've been a sports fan. Some parents will play classical music while pregnant, in hopes their baby will become the next Mozart.

Others will read to their unborn child every night, so they will graduate at the top of their class.

My parents like to joke that when my mom was in the hospital waiting to bring me into the world, the fifth seeded Michigan State Spartans were on television during March Madness, thus introducing me to one of my favorite things in my life: sports.

And as a pure-blooded sports fan, there is nothing more painful to see than a bandwagon fan.

We all know at least one in our lives. The girl in your Modern Literature class, who up until September 2006, could not name a single player on the Detroit Tigers roster. Or your brother, who suddenly likes Ohio State football for no other reason than, "every one else is cheering for them."

Even at OU we are guilty of it. When the men's basketball team made it to the NCAA tournament in 2005, many students weren't even aware that we had won the Mid-Con tournament.

The same story came up last year, when it was the women's team's turn to put on their dancing shoes.

When OU held a celebration for when the Golden Grizzlies anxiously found out who they would be playing the first round of play, the room was full of media, family, and the pep band. Members of the OU student body were scarce.

It seems unless there is a national TV camera to capture the action, there is no cause to get excited about Oakland University.

Well, I say jump on the bus now, because things around the O'Rena haven't been this exciting in a while. Don't wait until March to cheer for the Golden Grizzlies. There are eight home games left for the men's and women's teams. What are you waiting for?

Merely a sophomore, Jessica Pike is having a career season for OU and is a major factor in why they are sitting pretty at the number one spot.

Likewise, the men's team is red-hot after a rough non-conference schedule, which hasn't broken their spirit. In fact, sophomore Erik Kangas is ranked tenth in the nation with a 46.8 three-point percentage, and 11th in three-pointers per game, with 3.3.

This Saturday, Feb. 10, Fox Sports Detroit will broadcast the men's basketball game against Valparaiso, the last time they will play them in a regular conference season before the Crusaders switch conferences.

Who will win the final smackdown? Come out and find out for yourself, live.

Go nuts for the FSN cameras, try to get the attention of Mario Impemba and Greg Kelsner, and most importantly, get your Grizz on.

That way, when March Madness time rolls around, you can smile and shake your head at the students who are suddenly crazy about OU basketball.

You knew about NCAA basketball's best kept secret way before they did.

Head coach goes against the norm



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

Head Coach Sean Hogan watched his Grizzlies take on the Davenport Panthers Thursday.

By BRITTANY OCHTINSKY
Contributing Reporter

Sean Hogan is not what you'd expect a typical college hockey coach to be.

You're probably thinking of a middle-aged, washed up former player, trying to relive the glory days. Maybe he has a kid or two on the team. He's probably slightly overweight and balding, or at the very least, going gray. He smiles at you and you notice half a dozen teeth missing and his nose is crooked from getting hit in the face with a puck one too many times.

Hogan's got the broken nose all right, but other than that, he's nothing like that coach. At 28, Hogan has a whole head of hair and all his real teeth. And, not to make him sound like a "meathead," but he works out every day. Washed up? Hardly.

Hogan hung up his skates at age 22 after a career that began playing with his dad when he was four, taking him through high school and college, all the way to the minor leagues. When he realized his dream of playing in the NHL wouldn't come true, he shifted his focus from playing to coaching.

"Sometimes I miss playing, but I don't regret quitting the minors," said Hogan. "I knew my time had passed and I was fortunate enough to get that opportunity. Most players don't even get to play in college, let alone move on from there."

Prior to coming to Oakland in 2003, Hogan played in senior leagues, but missed the games-that-matter attitude, which sparked his interest in coaching.

"I just like the whole team atmosphere. It's not so much winning and losing as it is being involved and being at the rink," he said.

And as far as coaches go, Hogan might be one of the most level-headed guys behind the bench. He attributes his ability to keep his cool to the fact that he's not that far removed from the game and remembers what it was like as a player.

"I was never motivated by a guy screaming at me," said

Hogan. "When it comes down to it, I can't play the game for them. Basically, you have to prepare them the best you can and give them the tools that are needed, and we do."

So how do you distinguish Hogan from his three assistant coaches at the games? Well, for starters, he doesn't wear a tie. As most hockey players are superstitious, so are their coaches. When the team broke out of a slump earlier this season, Hogan wasn't wearing a tie. Thinking it was good luck, he ditched the tie for the next five games, all of which the team won. After that, it just kind of stuck.

But don't expect him to shave his head anytime soon to fit in with his assistants.

"When I start losing my hair, then I would consider it," said Hogan. "Until then, I'm keeping the hair!"

Did You Know?...

- Hogan was a Golden Gloves Boxer
- Like many Detroiters, Hogan was a Steve Yzerman fan growing up
- Hogan ran for State Representative at age 23, because he was interested in politics and claimed "he really didn't have anything better to do."