



Thursday, February 26, 2004

OU to celebrate Women's History Month

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

In recognition of the accomplishments women make to society, Oakland University will celebrate **Women's History Month** throughout March under the theme "Phenomenal Women...making phenomenal choices." This year's celebration features an expanded event list including panel discussions, films, seminars, lectures, debates, workshops and more.

"The Women's History Month Committee came up with many ideas for themes," said Jean Ann Miller, committee member and director of the Center for Student Activities. "So much is happening with the roles women play in today's society. Many of our events deal with the changes women are going through and the choices they're making. We also wanted to schedule events that reflect the contributions of women both on and off Oakland's campus."

Events begin Monday, March 1, with Vagina Spirit Week, during which students from the Women's Issues Forum will promote the month's events, including the "Vagina Monologues," a series of vignettes performed by OU students and faculty depicting various women's issues. The Women's Herstory Month Opening Celebration, to be held Wednesday, March 3, will introduce the month's events and activities. Other highlights are the Women's Studies Film Festival; OU Women's Fair; a lecture by former Detroit Pistons player and current Detroit Shock coach Bill Laimbeer; and the annual Take Back the Night rally, march and speak out. The month's events conclude Thursday, April 1, with "The Drag Show," presented by the Gay/Straight Alliance and Women's Issues Forum.

A community service project held throughout the month will benefit domestic violence and social service agencies. Used cell phones may be dropped off at any Women's History Month event or through the end of March at the Center for Student Activities, 49 Oakland Center, for recycled use at the agencies.

The celebrations also include an essay contest and community service project. All students are invited to submit a paper from any OU course that addresses how gender influences or is influenced by art, literature, politics, history, music, health care, theatre, science, business or society. Prizes of \$50, \$75 and \$150 will be awarded. The submission deadline is Friday, March 5. For more information, contact Mille Merz at (248) 370-2457 or merz@oakland.edu.

For a complete list of the month's activities, see the **Women's History Month schedule**. For more information, contact Suzanne Spencer-Wood, director of Women's Studies, at (248) 370-3221 or spencerw@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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