

Students line up to pay tuition and fees



IQVC
Electronics Fashion
QVC Privacy

Shoppers turn to the Internet

"Dude, Holiday movies rock!"



Men's b-ball 3-1 in Mid-Con

Sunny High 40°
INSIDE

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NEWS edge

Welcome Back OU!!

The Board of Trustees will meet for a working session today at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Business and Information Technology building. The Board agenda includes discussions of a Web Student Services Report, the Vice President for University Relations, adoption of Academic Calendars, Part One of planning for the student apartment building and the budget for the OU Golf and Learning Center.

January is African-American History Month. Monday will kick off OU's celebration and is also Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. See A3 for the full story.

The OU Blood Drive will be Jan. 29-31 in the Gold Rooms, OC. To register to give blood, visit www.givelife.redcross.org online (access code is oublood) or call 248-370-2400.

Psi Chi needs your help raising money and collecting books for the Whitmer Human Resource Center. The center, located in Pontiac, is in desperate need of book cash donations to better allow more children the opportunity to use their school library. To make a donation, drop by 111 Pryale Hall by Jan. 15.

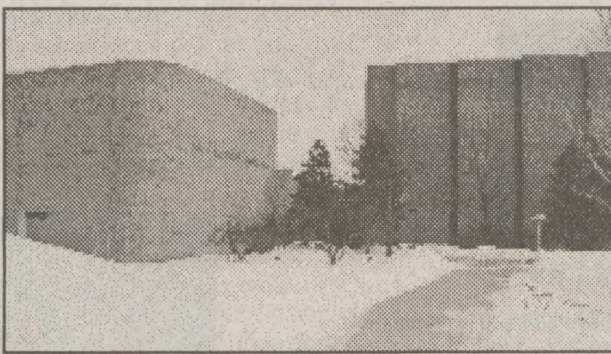
OU will be closed this Monday to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

THE OAKLAND POST

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Varner bumped by auto facility

MTD: The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance has seen a 33 percent increase in enrollment since 1993. Varner Hall renovations were moved to priority number two at the recent BOT meeting. Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post



By Cara Plowman EDITOR IN CHIEF

At the Board of Trustees meeting last month, the final draft of the Fiscal Year 2002 Capital Outlay Budget Request was voted on with renovations and additions to Varner Hall changed from priority one to priority two. The BOT's decided that the con-

struction of a \$45 million (estimation) Automotive Technology Facility should take precedence over the \$50 million Varner project.

Ted Montgomery, Director of Media Relations said, "I know the board views both of these as top priorities. We're going to do everything we can to get both of these done."

Plans for the Automotive

Technology Facility would house research and instructional facilities for programs that support the automotive industry.

"I think the board made a decision that they believe is in the best interest of the university," said Louis Esposito, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. "Both of those priorities are key

BOT continues on A6

Provost forces SECS dean to resign

By Cara Plowman EDITOR IN CHIEF

Michael Polis was asked to resign as Dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science at the start of the winter semester 2001.

"My leadership style and that of the Provost were incompatible," said Polis. "He asked for my resignation."

Late last week, Louis Esposito, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, announced the resignation

decision in an email to the deans.

As of right now, Polis said that he plans to accept the offer to remain a professor in the department and will most likely begin teaching again in August 2001. He is currently on a paid administrative leave.

"Right now I have no other plans," said Polis. "This (decision) came rather suddenly."

In the email message to the deans, Esposito named Associate Dean Bhushan L. Bhatt as Acting Dean of the school until an Interim Dean is named.

Esposito said that he hopes to search to fill the position this August, and he hopes to have a new dean named by August 2002.

Sources told The Post that there had been a number of disagreements between Polis and Esposito over the past year. The breaking point reportedly came when Polis sent a memo critical of a Provost office decision that affected the engineering school and the department of mathematics and

DEAN continues on A2

GOIN' NOWHERE: Yesterday, in front of the Oakland Center parking lot, a semi truck became lodged in the driveway because of the snow. Many motorists experienced similar problems because of heavy snow and inadequate removal systems. Dan McDuffee/The Oakland Post



'Snow U': Disability Support Services addresses dangerous unplowed parking lots, sidewalks

By Tracy Minnis MANAGING EDITOR

The recent overabundance of snowfall, combined with freezing temperatures, has turned OU into Snow U, and, for most students trying to navigate their way across campus, it is no winter wonderland.

"This is unbelievable," said Eric Orive, senior, Theatre. "There are places on campus where the snow is piled up so high, you can't even see beyond it. And parking is an even bigger nightmare than it was before the snow hit."

The conditions caused by the weather have made it extremely difficult for students, especially those with disabilities, to get around campus. Some students think that the way the parking lots were plowed and the sidewalks were cleared actually may have done more harm.

Alan Miller, Director of Campus Facilities and Operations, sympathizes with student navigational concerns, and is working in conjunction with Disability Support Services to address the issues, particularly those

involving disabled students and faculty.

"We've experienced quite a bit of snowfall this season, and we might be in for more. We do our best to deal with it as it comes down," said Miller. "This is my 14th winter here and this is the first time we've had this much back-to-back snowfall. This is the winter of our discontent."

Many students may think that snow removal is a simple process and many do not understand what is causing the delayed clearing of parking lot snow piles and icy walks.

"Salt seems to be the simple answer, and we have used it in appropriate areas," said Miller. "But there is no salt formula that is completely environmentally friendly, to say nothing of the corrosive affect salt has on sidewalks and other concrete surfaces."

While interest in campus environment is certainly important, it is of little consolation to students who are struggling, slipping and sliding across campus to get to classes.

Student Body President Adam Kochenderfer addressed

SNOW continues on A2

Bookstore better off?

By Mike Murphy THE OAKLAND POST

More students than ever stormed the OU Bookstore this week, and this time, the store was ready.

More than 40-50 students at any given time waited in the line in that wrapped back to the information desk. But with a team of 10 cashiers working, the line moved quickly.

"The line's longer that I've seen it, but it's faster," said Jason Stanyer, senior, M.I.S.

Stanyer also noticed an increase in staff.

"They have tons of workers," he said, "and there's a sign outside asking for more."

"I guess when one cashier drops from exhaustion, a new one takes their place," he joked.

Stanyer's assessment may not be far from the truth.

One bookstore employee said that the Bookstore hired a temp agency to bring in 20-30 more employees for the first few weeks of the

semester, mostly to shelve new books as they were received from publishers.

He also said that Bookstore employees have been working around the clock to get books off the shelves.

The bookstore will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. today through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday.

One way students avoid waiting is to show up early. At 9 a.m. Tuesday, the

Jason Stanyer Bookstore had Senior, M.I.S. two registers open and no lines.

Ryan Bean, junior, physical therapy, took a break from his morning show at WXOU to shop early.

"I'm glad I beat the rush," he said.

Stanyer went to Textbook Outlet, on the corner of Walton and Adams Rd. for most of his books, but he said that price wasn't an issue.

BOOKS continues on A2

Expenditures for internal, outside counsel less than expected last year

By Sara McDowell LIFE EDITOR

During the fiscal year 1999-2000, OU spent \$173,000 on internal general counsel \$38,091 on outside counsel and did not spend any money on settlements.

For fiscal year 1999-2000, staff attorney Diana Fernando earned \$45,230, Victor Zambardi, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees, received \$88,590 and Robert Bunker, part time assistant general counsel member was paid \$49,280.

According to Pat Nicosia, Director of Budget and Financial Planning at OU, the budget line item for outside general

counsel is set up as an open-ended account. Funds are transferred into the line item when needed and the budget is increased accordingly.

"The (outside counsel) total was actually less than I expected last year," said Nicosia.

Rhonda Saunders, Administrative Assistant said the amount was "pretty common" compared to other universities.

The main reason for the open-ended line item is due to the uncertainty of how much outside counsel will be needed during the year.

"We look at it on a case by case basis and see what we have and how much time we have when deciding what cases

to handle internally," said Zambardi. "Time constraints are sometimes a factor, and, in some cases, outside counsel may be cheaper or better, time-wise."

According to Zambardi, both internal and external counsel members can litigate cases, but there is not always enough time for internal counsel members to do so.

"More than not, the reason (for outside counsel) is expertise," said Zambardi. "It is more efficient and better for us to use experts in certain areas. Certain areas of the law are very specific. It comes down to what's in the best interest of the university. We're looking for cost efficiency."

Outside counsel also help to evaluate

the cost of settlements against the cost of legal fees a case could create.

"I can't think of a case that was actually settled during the 1999-2000 fiscal year," said Zambardi. "OU typically pays much more proportionally on legal fees rather than settlements because cases are usually dismissed."

Many cases are dismissed by a judge before they ever go to trial, according to Zambardi.

Not every case involves a person seeking money.

"Every case is unique. Every case has different demands," said Zambardi who

COUNSEL continues on A8

Number of Internal Counsel Members at Neighboring Universities

Central Michigan University	2
Eastern Michigan University	1
Ferris State University	3
Michigan State University	7
Northern Michigan University	0*
U-M (Ann Arbor)	22
Wayne State University	5
Western Michigan University	2

*only outside counsel is used