

THE OAKLAND POST

JANUARY

14

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER — 2015 —

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New opera opens

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IN THE CARDS

Grizzlies hold 'em, fold 'em and cash in at Circus Casino Night PAGE 10

Photo by Erika Barker/The Oakland Post



Think campus is boring on the weekends? Think again. Friday Night Live is bringing the entertainment to OU, hosting comedians and entertainers in the residents halls each and every week. Read more at www.oaklandpostonline.com.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

THE COLD NEVER BOTHERED US ANYWAY // As the second week of the year approached, so did the cold weather. The temperature dropped to below freezing. Snow covered the grounds and rooftops and frost covered the windows. Classes were still held despite the cold weather, although some professors opted to cancel.

Photo by Nowshin Chowdhury/ The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

When do you purchase books for the semester?

- A** The semester in advance. Gotta buy 'em all!
- B** Not until the teacher says we actually need to.
- C** Mid-semester. I like to live dangerously.
- D** Most expensive ice scrapers ever!

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Did you make any New Year's resolutions for 2015?

A) Heck yes! New year, new me, baby.

20%

B) No. Who keeps them, anyway?

50%

C) I'm still thinking about it.

20%

D) It's 2015?!

10%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

January 15, 1979

The Oakland University administration approved funding for what would become Meadowbrook Road, with the entrance off of Adams Road. Prior to that, students had only the entrances off of Squirrel and Walton to get onto campus.

January 16, 2002

The front page headline of The Oakland Post reads "Parking headaches continue for winter 2002", proving that some things really do never change.

January 18, 1963

Formal hearings began on campus to officially change the name of MSU-Oakland to Oakland University. A name change was not deemed necessary at the time, however.

-Compiled by Jackson Gilbert, sports editor



8

BLOWING SMOKE?

It's been over a year since Oakland officially announced its "Clean Air" policy to ban smoking on campus, yet students are still lighting up.



14

IT'S GROWING

No, your pockets are not just becoming smaller. Blog Editor Selah Fischer explores the trend behind the ever-growing cell phone.



19

SHOOT AND MISS

The Golden Grizzlies were forced to grin and bear it as the U of D Titans trumped 74-54 in Detroit.

BY THE NUMBERS
Community college edition

770,797

associate degrees were awarded by community colleges in 2011-2012

36%

students attending a community college are the first generation in their family to attend a college

1,132

community colleges nationwide

58%

students receive some sort of financial aid from a community college

26.6

average annual tuition and fees for community colleges for 2013-2014

#FreeCommunityCollege: Send us your thoughts

By **Oona Goodin-Smith**
Editor-in-Chief

Tuition: as winter semester bills come due, we're all sick of hearing about it, talking about it. *The Wall Street Journal* affectionately referred to the graduating class of 2014 as the "Most Indebted Class Ever", with the average student receiving a diploma alongside \$33,000 in debt.

Children of the recession, the War on Terror, inflation and the ever-expanding poverty gap in America, to name a few, debt - namely college - is simply the burden we bear, no new news to us.

Then, on Friday in a speech in Tennessee, President Obama said "let there be free college", and the internet ignited, sparking a heated debate, the hashtag "#FreeCommunityCollege" trending on Twitter.

Now, before you put your wallet away and rejoice, realize that this proposal is just that: a proposal.

Nothing is concrete, and for those of you - most of you - reading this who currently attend Oakland University, America's College Promise, if enacted, most likely will not directly im-

pact your next tuition bill nor your four-year stay at Oakland University.

It may, however, have an impact on your alma mater and the Grizzlies of tomorrow.

To clarify, the proposal does not guarantee anything completely free. Rather, for "students willing to work for it", according to the President - that is to maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA and "make steady process toward completing their program", according to a fact sheet distributed by the White House, 75 percent of the tuition for community college will be funded by the federal government.

The extra 25 percent will be expected to be contributions from the state in which the bill is passed and enacted.

According to the White House, the policy shift has the ability to affect 9 million young Americans.

Oakland University is in a unique position compared to most universities of its size as it is 84 percent commuter-based and often attractive to students based on affordability, similar features which draw students to an often cheaper community college.

In fact, OU attracts many transfer students

from community colleges who have completed their two-year degrees at a local community college before enrolling in the university: the core demographic target for those impacted by this potential "America's College Promise".

So how will this proposal shake out? Will it be passed or passed over?

Unfortunately, we at *The Oakland Post* have misplaced our crystal balls, making the future unpredictable.

We do know, however, that it is students like you and us who factor into the impact of this program.

If given the chance for a free two years of community college, would you take it or would you instead opt for four or more years at a university institution?

What do you think of the possibility of free community college for those "willing to work for it"?

The Post wants to know.

If you are interested in taking part in the free community college discussion, please send your thoughts, questions, and experiences to editor@oaklandpostonline.com for online and potential print publication in our next issue.

Corrections Corner

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

Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

With classes being so expensive, students risk their safety in order to get to school.

Opinion: Bad weather won't get in the way of classes

Matthew Semrau

Communication and Journalism major

Two students were killed driving in Genesee County last week. They weren't Oakland University students, but it's only a matter of time before we see that headline.

"The Sheriff's Department said that weather played a role," reported ABC 12 News in Flint, Michigan.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories across the state for Wednesday night through late Thursday afternoon. Oakland County was not left out.

"If you must venture out..." the warning read, just before explaining frostbite was a very real danger.

If. You. Must.

The weather service has a nifty chart to calculate the danger of frostbite. Early Thursday evening, the weather service reported a temperature of two degrees and a wind speed of 30 mph.

It would have taken about 12 minutes for exposed skin to become frostbitten.

That may seem like a long time until you realize it can take as much as 15 minutes to cross the campus in good weather.

The wind chill advisory was replaced with a winter weather advisory—up to four inches of snow, limited visibility, and slippery roads in the matter of a few hours.

Did the university cancel? Of course not. Despite the nearly 24 hour long begging of students on social media

to close the campus, their pleas were ignored.

But let's forget the opinion of the students for a moment. I've learned in my four years at Oakland University that the opinion of us "college kids" means very little to six-figure earning, doctorate wielding administrators.

Certainly, the administrators would heed the warnings of the National Weather Service, right? You know, the government agency responsible for reporting the weather and looking out for the weather-related safety and well-being of the entire country? Nope.

But, I get it. While students were stiffed with brutal cold and dangerous driving conditions—risking their health and lives to avoid being penalized by the, generally, unconcerned faculty—the school administrators were sitting comfortably in the safety and warmth of their homes.

We're adults. We have the freedom to choose between our safety and class. Unfortunately, few of us can afford our education without hefty loans and government aid (and the university continuing to jack up tuition in spite of that).

With no policies in place to protect students from the retribution of their instructors when choosing to forgo class due to dangerous conditions, many choose to risk life and limb to attend class rather than risk their \$1000-plus investment.

You have our money. Do you demand our lives also?

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Erika Barker / The Oakland Post

Chick-fil-A's presence on campus is both an attraction and a controversy.

Letters to the editor: Chick-fil-A is a disgrace

'Did you know about Chick-fil-A's antagonism to same-sex marriage?'

Alicia Basin
2013 OU Alum

After reading the January 7, 2015 edition of The Oakland Post, I am disgusted by this publication.

As a university publication, I would expect The Oakland Post to make all students feel supported on campus. You have the resources and the ability to speak up for equality and justice for all.

This is why I am extremely disappointed with the article written about Chick-fil-A. I am not sure if your writers are ignorant or just do not care about the discrimination that Chick-fil-A has thrown upon the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community, but highlighting this company as an asset to Oakland University is a huge slap in the face to LGBT students on campus.

Chick-fil-A has donated millions of dollars to anti-gay groups in recent years. Instead of promoting how Oakland University should be replacing Chick-fil-A with another food option, your article promoted the hours of operation of this discriminatory establishment.

To make matters even worse, you made the story the highlight of your printed newspaper, and put the death of Cody Petzold, an openly gay student, on the back of the Chick-fil-A article.

I am not sure if this placement was done intentionally, but either way, as future journalists, I would hope you would research and review your facts.

Annette Gilson

Ph.D. Associate Professor of English

I'm just wondering: Did you know about Chick-fil-A's antagonism to same-sex marriage?

I'm curious why you chose to write this story.

I'm sure they're grateful that you're advertising for them, but it seems to me that your article would have more journalistic appeal if you also researched how people feel about the restaurant's political stance and what its presence here on OU's campus says to LGBTQ members of our community.

There are also issues of factory farming, public obesity--all sorts of subjects you could touch on to make this article more informational and engaging, and less of a plug for Chick-fil-A.

These letters were both written in response to the centerspread feature of last week's issue. The story can be read online at www.oaklandpostonline.com. Previous coverage on Chick-fil-A and the controversies surrounding it can also be found on our website.

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@oaklandpostonline.com with the writer's name, year and major, or position at Oakland University. Letters must be between 200 and 400 words long.

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2015 Wilson and Human Relations Awards

Nominations are now being accepted.

THE ALFRED G. AND MATILDA R. WILSON AWARDS recognize one female senior student and one male senior student who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the OU community. **Nominees must:**

- be graduating seniors in winter 2015 or have graduated in summer or fall 2014
- have a strong academic record of 3.5 or higher GPA

THE HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution in the OU community. **Nominees must:**

- be graduating seniors in winter 2015 or have graduated in summer or fall 2014
- demonstrate service to the community
- have a minimum 2.5 GPA

Nomination forms are available at oakland.edu/dean_awards or in 144 Oakland Center. The deadline for both awards is Monday, February 9, 2015.

For questions, contact:

Dean of Students Office | 144 Oakland Center | (248) 370-3352

War on Terror: incomplete

Student Statesman says maybe the government isn't doing quite as much as is needed to fight terrorism

Nick Walter
Student Statesman

Anyone remember reading how much everyone loved Vietnam?

The unity of the American people, the strength of the political response to North



Vietnam, the ease with which our unrestricted military struck down our cowering foe?

No, nobody remembers these things happening, because they didn't. We were divided, our leaders didn't have a clue and our military was so restricted that they almost may as well have not

been there.

What on earth, Nick, does this have to do with us, college students in 2015?

You did promise to only write about political stuff that mattered, so what are you writing about?

Good question: the answer is terrorism.

What does that have to do with Vietnam?

Bear with me; I'll explain. In the past week (just this week!) ISIS hacked the Twitter and Youtube accounts of CENT.COM (the U.S. military group in charge of the Middle East), gunmen armed with AK-47's murdered 12 employees at a satirical newspaper in the heart of Paris, and the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram gunned down 2000 people in Nigeria.

In response to this spate

"If gunmen can strike the heart of one of the most populous cities in crowded Europe and get away, who's to say that New York City, Chicago or Detroit aren't next?"

Nick Walter
Student Statesman

of heinous and bloodthirsty attacks by Islamic extremists, over 50 world leaders and a million people gathered in France to protest the violence, according to CNN.

The president manfully responded by showing up at the rally, pledging to work with the government of Nigeria to stop the violence of Boko Haram, and declaring he would form a task force to make our cyber networks

stronger.

Except, none of those things happened.

The president did not go to the rally, he did not pledge to stop the violence in Nigeria and he has not formed a cybersecurity task force.

For that matter, Vice President Biden wasn't even there.

Nor was Secretary of State John Kerry.

Curiously enough, nobody senior was representing the United States.

The president scheduled a meeting with the San Antonio Spurs instead.

Now for the Vietnam connection: as you all know, the U.S. has been fighting a war on terrorism for the past decade and a half.

We made some progress in Iraq in the early 2000's, only to see it slip away when we

pulled our troops out.

Now we've had years of half-hearted strikes and weak "sanctions". This past week just highlights the problem.

If we care about terrorism — and my guess is that we college students do care — since we want to live in a safe country, then we will demand that our leaders stamp this threat out.

We lost the war in Vietnam, not because our country was weak, but because we weren't willing to fight an all-out war.

We must not lose this war on terror.

If gunmen can strike in the heart of one of the most populous cities in crowded Europe and get away, who's to say that New York City, Chicago or Detroit aren't next?

Let us take a moment and reflect on the value of our free speech rights

Sean Gardner
Web Editor

In times like this, it is important to reflect on the world and think about the things which makes us special.

Freedom of speech is one of these things, something many may take for granted.

With events such as the Paris terrorist attack, it is important to recognize how important having the first amendment is.

The first amendment says, "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."

It is this amendment that separates us from many nations. Because of the first

amendment, we can speak freely, believe in what we want—all without the fear of punishment.

Imagine a world where you could face punishment for expressing yourself.

A dull world, where everyone thinks the same and looks the same.

A world where the American dream can't be attained.

It is what helped start America, released the Pentagon Papers, solved Watergate and continues to allow the press to inform people across the globe.

Freedom of speech is just as important for those not part the media.

It gives people the power, the power to question their leaders and then peacefully protest against them.

It solves problems and makes us unique, but we must be careful. There is a

"IN TIMES WHERE IT MAY SEEM DISASTROUS AND EVEN DEADLY TO EXPRESS YOURSELF, LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD... THE ONLY THING WE TRULY OWN IS OUR WORDS."

Sean Gardner
Web Editor

certain responsibility when exercising your freedom and this responsibility can lead to threats and even death.

However, these consequences make freedom of speech even more important and our greatest asset.

"If a large enough group of someone is willing to kill you for saying something, then it's something that almost certainly needs to be said,"



Danielle Cojocari / The Oakland Post

Oakland Post's Web Editor, Sean Gardner, is an advocate for freedom, speech rights and all things American.

said Ross Douthat, New York Times columnist.

"A universal belief in freedom of expression, is something that can't be silenced because of the senseless violence of a few," said President Barack Obama.

Freedom of speech is a

right that every free thinking man, woman and child should grasp and abuse.

In times where it may seem disastrous and even deadly to express yourself, let your voice be heard.

In the end, the only thing we truly own is our words.