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THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 15, 2006

www.theoaklandpost.com

50 cents

WINTER OLYMPICS 2006, TORINO, ITALY



Ligety wins gold in men's combined

By BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

SESTRIERE, Italy — Young Ted Ligety gave the United States the Olympic gold medal that Bode Miller couldn't deliver Tuesday night, uncorking two dynamic slalom runs to win the men's combined and break the Americans' bad luck in Alpine skiing.

The 21-year-old skier from Park City, Utah, in his first Olympics, had a combined time of 3 minutes, 9.35 seconds for the downhill and two slalom runs.

"It's incredible," Ligety said. "I can't believe it (happened) in combined because I'm not very good in downhill."

U.S. skiers Steven Nyman and Scott Macartney tackled Ligety, and the three teammates rolled in the snow

together. They rose, and Ligety waved an American flag while he was propped on the others' shoulders.

"I'm not surprised he's on the podium," U.S. men's coach Phil McNichol said. "I'm a bit surprised he won gold."

It was only the fourth Olympic Alpine gold medal ever for U.S. men.

It couldn't have come at a better time for the frustrated Americans.

"It's a great day, especially with Bode skiing out," Macartney said. "Ted stepped up."

"You've just got to get in the starting gate and throw down whatever you've got," Ligety said.

For more information, The Post's all-inclusive Olympic games guide:

- Find out how Michigan athletes fared in the games
 - Upcoming events
 - Torino medal count
- Please see A2



Above: Joey Cheek, of the United States, throws a bouquet of flowers as he celebrates his gold medal during the medal ceremony for the Men's Speedskating 500 meters at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy Tuesday.

Top left: Ted Ligety of the United States skis to the gold medal during the second slalom run of the Men's Combined at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Sestriere Colle, Italy, Tuesday.

STATE OF THE STUDENT BODY ADDRESS

It's wrong for higher ed not to be 'right'

By JEFF KRANITZ
Senior Reporter

Watching fellow students drop out of school because of the inability to afford rising tuition costs is one of the most difficult parts of being a student leader, said Student Body President Michael McGuinness during his State of the Student Body Address last Thursday.

"It's happening all too frequently these days, unfortunately," he said. "Higher education is shifting from a right to a privilege, which is dangerous for the long term future of our state and our nation."

McGuinness said that OUSC has been trying diligently to reverse that trend.

He pointed out that Legislative and Multicultural

Affairs Director Saman Waquad has been leading the early stages of a letter-writing campaign to state legislators, asking for a redirected focus upon higher education in Michigan.

According to McGuinness, the letters are specifically advocating for increased appropriations from the state for higher education.

This initiative is being carried out in accordance with other student governments at higher education institutions in Michigan, McGuinness said.

The venue for this cooperation is the Association of Michigan Universities, which is made up of the student governments from all of Michigan's 15 public

Please see **STATE** on A2



Granholm

Granholm proposes higher spending on university funding

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Oakland University would receive a 2-percent budget increase under Gov. Jennifer Granholm's new budget plan.

The state's three main research universities — the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Michigan State University — would receive a straight 2 percent budget increase.

But OU, along with the state's other 11 public universities, would get varying increases, ranging from 1.55 percent for Western Michigan University to 3.86 percent for Lake Superior State University.

The proposal would guarantee each at least 1 percent and then base additional increases on factors such as affordability and the number of students who complete degrees.

All community colleges also

would get 2 percent increases under the proposed plan.

State budget director Mary Lannoye presented the governor's \$42.6 billion spending proposal to lawmakers Thursday.

It's 2.5 percent higher than this year's spending plan and divides up state and federal dollars for everything from prisons to social programs and roads for the budget year that starts Oct. 1.

There is no tuition cap in the proposal that would take away money from schools that did not keep their 2006-07 tuition increases below a set amount. But Granholm said she hopes the higher funding and the incentives for keeping tuition low will encourage universities to make tuition increases reasonable.

Please see **FUNDING** on A2

YOUR CAREER

How to get a glowing recommendation

By GEORGE DAVIS III
Contributing Reporter

Flooding the desks of employers and educational administrators are letters of recommendation.

As many Oakland University students prepare to seek employment or apply for graduate school, they will be asked to submit a letter of

recommendation with their application.

These letters provide an account of a person's academic or professional history via an employer, professional or someone who can attest to one's character and performance.

Not to be confused with references, a recommendation can be a generic letter that

you have on file or formatted for a specific endeavor.

References are simply the listings of names and contact information of people who are familiar with you.

Director of Career Services at Oakland University, Bob Thomas knows a lot about recommendations.

Please see **LETTER** on A2

What to think of when requesting a recommendation

- Ask someone who knows you and your capabilities well.
- Make your intentions and goals clear, so they know what to focus on in the letter.
- Remember to thank them for writing the letter so they are more apt to write another.

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