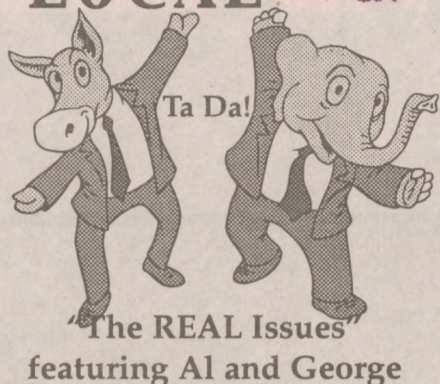




Spence Abraham spoke at the Congress meeting last Monday



Midnight Madness features slam dunk contest

Local artist banned from DIA, opens exhibit



Partly Cloudy High 64



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NEWS edge

•Stanley Crouch's "How Racial Issues Should Be Approached in the 21st Century" has been rescheduled to 8 p.m., Monday in Meadow Brook Theatre. FREE.

•Alpha Delta Pi's Annual 5K walk for the Ronald McDonald House starts at 9 a.m. (registration is at 8:30 a.m.) this Saturday, outside South Foundation.

•This week is "Kappa Week 2000" hosted by Kappa Alpha Psi. Monica Durrett Blue will speak about "Defining Yourself: A True Tale of Self-actualization" from 2-3 p.m., today in the Fireside Lounge. Their will be a "Relationship Forum" from 7-9 p.m., tonight in Lake Superior Room B, OC. Tomorrow is "Kappa Kontraceptive Day." Join them for an informational from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Oakland Center.

•Need scantrons for midterms? Get them free at the Student Congress office, 62 OC. Limit three per student please.

•Ryan Schooley, Melissa Curtis, Erica Oestman and Kristin Forzley are back from the Republican and Democratic Conventions and ready to share their experiences. The Honors College hosts the event from noon-1 p.m., Oct. 30 in rooms 126-7, OC.

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Students more at risk

By Leslie Winkworth
THE OAKLAND POST

The recent rash of meningitis cases in the Metro-Detroit area has concerned many people, especially teachers, students, and parents. Area hospitals are setting up hotlines to answer the concerned public's questions. Parents are ripping their kids out of the schools that have reported meningitis cases.

Joanne Talarek, nurse practitioner coordinator at OU's Graham Health Center, said students should not panic, but should be aware of the risk factors,

symptoms, and prevention of the disease.

Talarek said that there are an average of 100-125 cases of bacterial meningitis on college campuses yearly. She also said that freshmen living in dorms are at a greater risk for contracting the disease, although all students are at risk.

A vaccine is available. It is 85-100 percent effective against four of the five strains of meningitis.

Talarek stated, "There's not a current recommendation that everyone should get the [meningitis] vaccine, as opposed to the Hepatitis C vaccine, which the CDC recommends all stu-

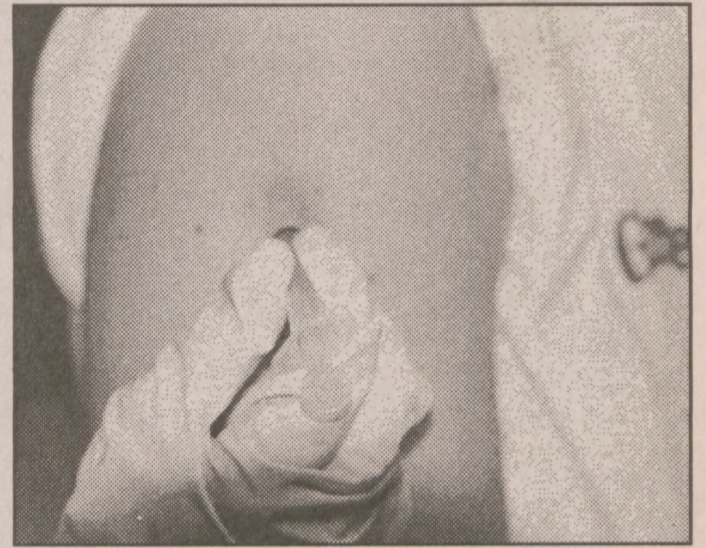
dents get."

The CDC Advisory Committee recommends "college students, especially freshmen living in dormitories and residence halls, get educated on meningitis and the benefits of the vaccine."

The Graham Health Center offers information on meningitis, and the vaccine, by appointment only, for \$65.

Meningitis is an infection of the spinal cord and the fluid surrounding the brain. There are two types of meningitis: viral and bacterial.

Viral meningitis is the most common form of meningitis and is cured with

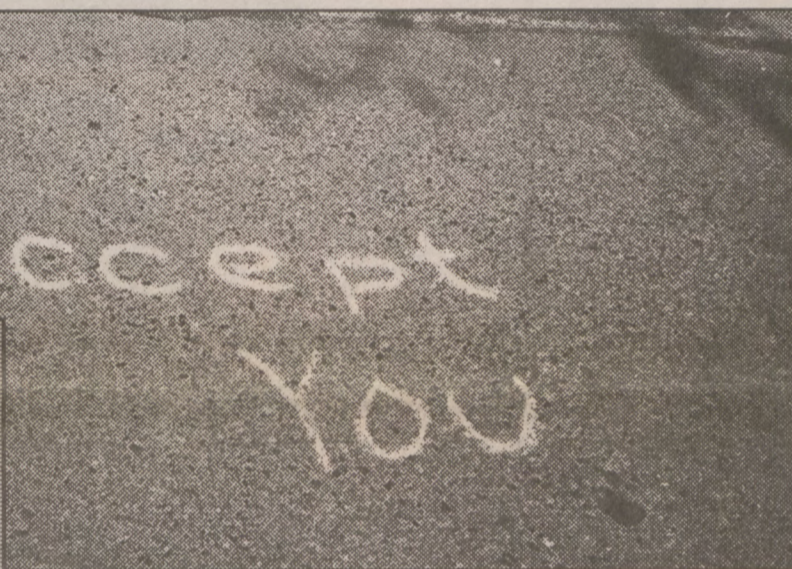
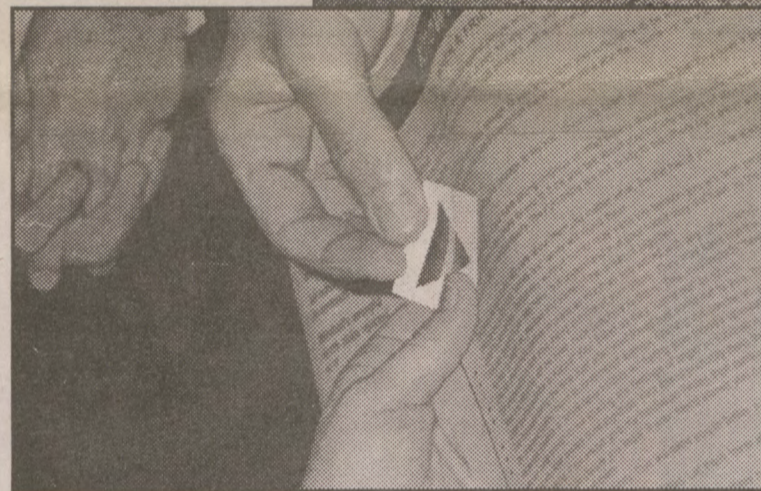


Jeremy Barber/The Oakland Post

A SHOT IN THE ARM: Although Graham Health Center doesn't recommend everyone to get a meningitis shot, they do say that students are more at risk for infection and should be careful.

MENINGITIS continues on A5

PRIDE FORUM



Rachel Rybicki/The Oakland Post

RAINBOWS OF ACCEPTANCE: The Pride Forum of OU celebrated National Coming Out Day by writing with chalk on sidewalks around campus. The organization also set up an informational table last Wednesday in the OC to celebrate the day. The triangular rainbow is the national symbol designated to homosexuals and those who support them. The Pride Forum hung flyers around campus urging people who support the movement to wear denim jeans.

Pride Form chalks it up for National Coming Out Day

By Rachel Rybicki
ASSISTANT LIFE EDITOR

National Coming Out Day was Oct. 11 and The Pride Forum at OU painted the rock and chalked the sidewalks around the OC and towards the academic buildings the night before.

"They painted the rock outside the OC and before noon on 'our' day, Theta Chi had already painted over it," a sophomore, undecided said. He was not part of the Pride Forum but said he

found encouragement in the national day designated for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transsexuals to be more open about their own sexuality.

On the table in the OC, The Pride Forum, set out literature and stickers for students to wear in order to show their support of National Coming Out Day.

Rick Herron, senior, english literature/ art history, is also not part of The Pride Forum, but said that he came out in his own way on campus this year.

"On national Coming Out Day, The Pride Forum had a table inside the OC and they were giving out stickers and literature about being gay and it was the first day that I wore anything pride on my body," Herron said. "Even though it was only a sticker, it felt different, and it was a good experience I think for both me and the people surrounding me. I just didn't know what to expect."

Adam Cadd, The Pride Forum vice president, said some reac-

tion was given regarding the flyers that were hung encouraging students to wear jeans if they supported the gay community.

"There was a reason behind it, it wasn't just for fun. I had read on a webpage that a pride forum at another school were tired of the way things were on campus," Cadd said. "So they advertised in the newspaper, for all who were in support of gays to wear jeans, and it wasn't

PRIDE continues on A5

Wireless net implemented in dorms

By Ryann Lenard
THE OAKLAND POST

Wireless internet is on its way. OU will be the first Michigan university to have wireless internet access, and to students living on campus this may be good news.

The wireless access proposal was presented to the Board of Trustees by Trustee Robert Cooper. The Board approved the wireless installation at its Oct. 4 meeting.

Cooper explained what wireless access is.

"Think of it as a cell phone. Many people think (wireless access is) wireless, but they do use wires."

Cooper also said that students will be able to use wireless devices, like a palm pilot. Similar to a cell phone, students would be able to check stocks and further utilize the internet.

The wireless access comes at a time when it is strongly needed according to Stacey Neir, freshman, undecided. Neir is a current resident student, has her own computer and is anticipating the new access.

"I use the internet a lot. The current system is really slow," said Neir.

Eleanor Reynolds, Director of University Housing, has heard the complaints about the current system. Telephone lines are slow and are not equipped to handle newer advances in technology, she said.

"I am very please we can get this done," said Reynolds.

OU is using Avaya Communications to provide the university with the wireless service. Cooper said that the BOT put out bids to about 11 different companies.

"We didn't have a large response. Avaya was formerly Lucent Technologies and they are a very reputable company," said Cooper. "Student want and need access to the internet. We were going to give it to them anyways, but we decided we wanted to use the best technology available."

Upon its completion in January 2001, students living in the Residence Halls and Matthews Court Apartments will have free access to the internet.

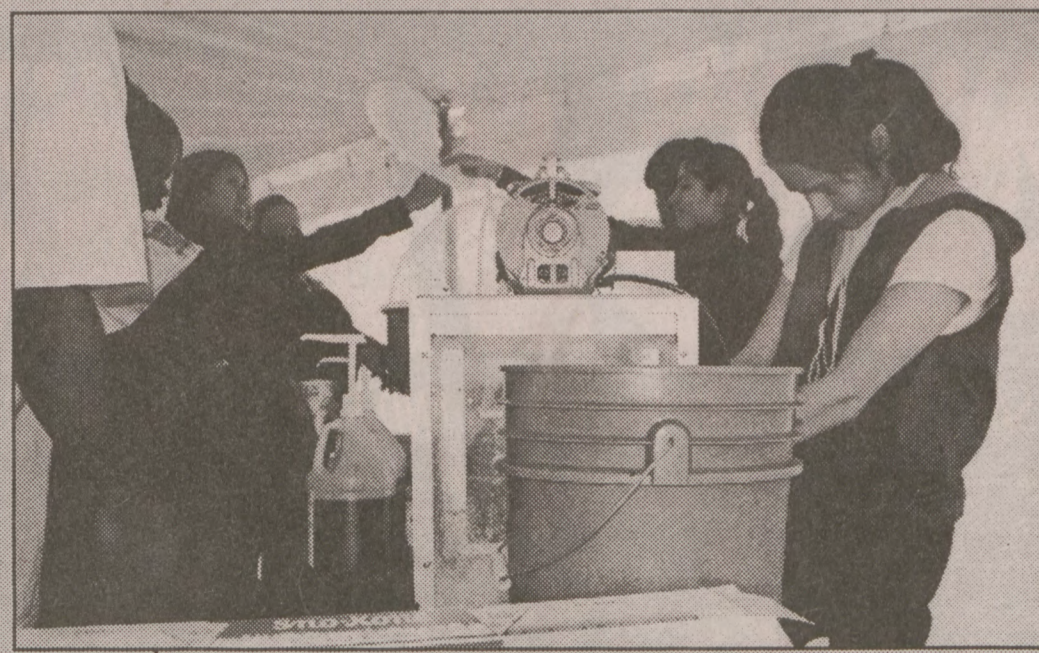
This will give OU a leading edge on technology compared to other universities, according to Cooper. Many think this addition will make OU more attractive to prospective students because it will be the first school to implement the technology.

Neir added, "Kids will look to it as an advantage. It's definitely a contribution."

Reynolds pointed out that the students are already excited.

"I believe that any additional services makes the experience here better."

Champions for a weekend



Celebrate Good Times: OU kicked off its sixth annual homecoming celebration with a variety of festivities, including midway games (R), a University Appreciation Dinner (L), and Midnight Madness. President Russi showed up to celebrate WOCO VI.

Jeremy Barber/The Oakland Post