

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 5, 2008

Volume 33, Number 52



AIDS

**Are we in touch
or tuning out?**

story on page 22

Photo by Dustin Alexander

PLUS:

Kristine LeMieux,
OU junior, wins big on

DEAL OR **NO DEAL**

Read about her experience on page 20



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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Staff editorial: Allowing concealed weapons on college or university grounds shouldn't be viewed as a solution to campus shootings.



Campus page 6

A recap of the rescheduled Board of Trustee meeting that took place over Spring Break. Plus, OU's African American Celebration Month comes to a close.



Local page 13

The Detroit City Council decides to postpone the "no confidence" vote on Mayor Kilpatrick. Plus, Gov. Granholm is not in favor of medical marijuana proposal.



The Mix page 14

What would you do if you had \$1 million? Find out who would burn most of it, and why. Plus, what's more important to two students, money or free time?



Sports page 16

OU basketball is headed to Tulsa, Okla. Check out our Summit League tournament previews. Plus, swimming and diving win ninth straight conference title.



you page 20

OU junior Kristine LeMieux shares her experience on "Deal Or No Deal." Plus, a group of students spend their Spring Break doing community service in NYC.



the Scene page 24

Check out a few local spots to grab a drink that may not be on your radar. Plus, a review of "Be Kind Rewind," starring Jack Black and Mos Def.



MOUTHING OFF page 26

True activism goes beyond the click of a Facebook group. Plus, find out why Ralph Nader represents both the best and the worst of American democracy.



Nation | World page 28

John McCain takes the GOP nomination, while Democrats remain close. Plus, hundreds of Venezuelan troops are moved to the Colombian border amid heightening tensions.



Cover story

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Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 5, 2008

STAFF EDITORIAL

Concealed weapons won't stop campus shootings

"Why don't we form a circle, pilgrim, so we can do some geometry."

Welcome to WWWU: Wild, Wild West University.

Starring professor Johnson, with a Derringer, and Mary, the cheerleading captain, with a semi-automatic.

This is real-life kindergarten cop. And there are no cops in this equation.

According to ConcealedCampus.com, the doctrine of allowing "concealed handgun license holders to carry concealed handguns on college campuses" has substantial support.

It is unfortunate that this is the reaction from so many. While it is difficult to cope with such horrors in humanity, inviting guns on campus is missing the point.

Many times school shootings stem from angst and mental issues. Emphasis should be placed on improvements that can be made in these areas.

Concealed handguns on campus are an issue independent of campus safety.

Issues of safety and security are the job of the campus police. It is not the responsibility of students and faculty to fend for their own — once again, this is not the Wild West. It is a civilized community, not a Hobbsian state of nature.

The Web site accounts that "over 19,000 college students, college faculty members, parents of college students and concerned citizens" have agreed with the stance.

Who wants to take a course from professor Ted Nugent?

The mindset of these citizens is that an armed student body will be able to "mitigate" campus gun violence. School shootings would diminish if state legislature enforced the allowance of guns on campus.

This is the same allowance, under Michigan law, for movie theatres, office buildings and shopping malls.

Of course, there are still shootings in these areas as well.

So, we must think beyond weapon legality — we must look at the root of the problem. Efforts should be made to reach out to those in need so these individuals do not feel alienated.

Locations where concealed guns are not legal include sports arenas, places of worship, hospi-

tals and "a dining room, lounge, or bar area of a premises licensed under the liquor control code of 1998," as stated in section 50 of Public Act 381. Schools and universities are also included in this act as "gun free zones."

Regardless of the laws, bringing more guns on campus does not stop the problem at hand. A concealed handgun would not be a guarantee against a deranged gunman. Concealed weapons on campus may not solve the disgruntled mindset and anger of a shooter. Other factors should be used to combat this.

Nonetheless, some of the arguments for concealed weapons are consistent. Those with concealed weapons permits are trained in gun safety, and have met certain requirements. Arguments against guns must face this reality — a concealed weapon is present in most other nonviolent and civil environments, and we do not classify these environments as "the Wild West."

However, the college campus and classroom are not places for guns, in the same way that hospitals and churches are not. Rules on campus exist, as do prohibitions on other behaviors, due to the nature of the environment. We trust the campus to be secure, and extra guns may not provide this security.

Statistics show that even police officers lose control of guns. Even a highly trained concealed weapon owner is prone to mistakes. College students and professors would hardly be sharpshooters.

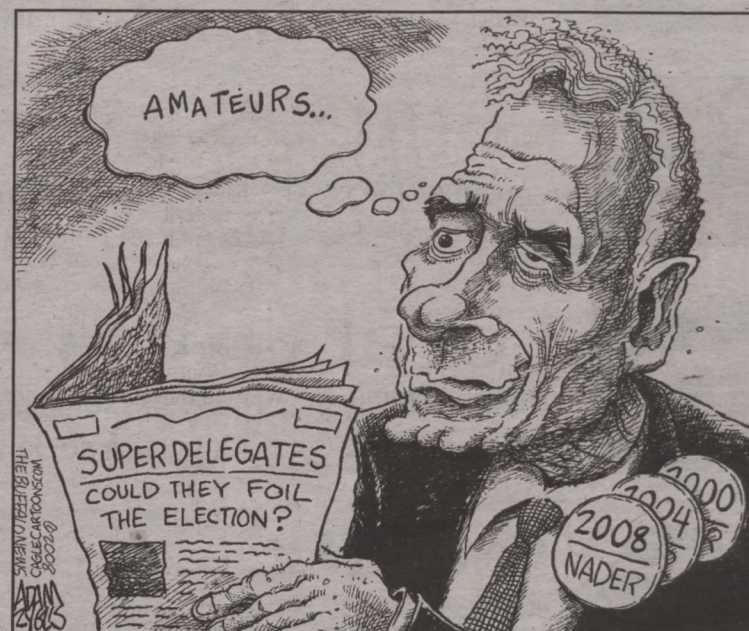
Also, college students are notorious for drinking and rowdy behavior. Firearms and horseplay are not a healthy cocktail. As the law above states, concealed weapons are illegal where this activity is permitted. Guns on campus create too high a risk.

But holistically, this is not even the issue. Improvements in other areas are what will help stop school shootings.

Ultimately, whether Charlton Heston is sitting next to you in class or not, school shootings are still a danger and threat.

Increase the security force, and arm those in need with the tools necessary to help improve their lives.

The admittance of concealed weapons on campus will not solve the problem.



ADAM ZYGLIS, The Buffalo News/Cagle Cartoons

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Letter Policy: 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.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

Corrections from the last edition (Feb. 20, 2008) of The Oakland Post:

■ The quotes and attributions for Janise Larkins and Brittany White were placed under the incorrect photos in the Mix (page 21). They were reversed.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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.

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Recounting Oakland University history: student activism can lead to change

40 years ago war took precedence at OU; will it happen again?

Guest Column

Michael Westphal
Member of Students for
a democratic Society



In the last issue of The Oakland Post (Feb. 23), "This week in OU history" recounted events from the corresponding week five, 15 and 25 years ago. Not to belittle those times, but something much more relevant to the current times occurred 40 years ago at Oakland University.

Let's imagine it's March 1968. The Vietnam War is escalating. The Tet Offensive causes a Pentagon demand for more funding and, more importantly, more troops for the U.S. military.

Meanwhile, many OU seniors, as well as countless students from across the country, are anticipating graduation. However, they were about to get a rude awakening.

In March 8, 1968, the official OU newspaper at the time, The Oakland Observer, featured a headline that read: "150,000 Graduate Students To Leave For Vietnam." This was a sharp increase over the 14,000 graduate students drafted the year before.

This expansion of the draft to graduate students meant that some of the country's intellectual elite would be joining the fighting in Vietnam.

And yet, there was no panic at OU. According to one Oakland student at the

time, "a majority of draftable students are apparently unconcerned."

But OU might have been an exception. Teach-ins were organized by students at other universities across the country, most notably at Columbia and the University of Michigan. The Oakland Observer reported.

At OU, over 80 percent of Oakland's faculty organized and cancelled their own classes on Monday, March 18, 1968 to discuss the Vietnam War.

Why did they do so?

When asked this question, professor Henry Rosemont answered, "Oakland University has an excellent tradition of being strongly committed to its students." He continued, saying that the teach-in was consistent with this tradition by "providing a vehicle whereby students will be assisted in making their own independent decisions concerning this most crucial issue of our times."

Sadly, the Vietnam War continued to escalate, even while the pro-peace movement prospered.

However, the efforts of the students during that time should not be overlooked or minimized, for they accomplished much.

Every attempt to escalate the Vietnam War was met with fierce resistance in the late-60s and early-70s.

When President Richard Nixon announced his "inursion" into Cambodia in April 1970, students went on strike. Without such actions, the Vietnam War could have been known as the Asian War, spanning all of Asia. Without such actions, the unimaginable could have happened.

While there is currently no draft, two

major wars are being fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are told by corporate media that the "surge" is working, stealing the root of the word insurgency itself.

We are not told about the miserable conditions in Iraq. We are not told that Afghanistan is becoming increasingly unstable due to the insurgency there.

Most importantly, we are told that Iran is the new, dangerous enemy that our military has conveniently surrounded and must one day attack. Maybe not in those words, but the powers that be are testing the water for a confrontation.

Does anyone remember the Jan. 6, 2008 naval incident with Iran in the Strait of Hormuz? The incident involved five armed Iranian speedboats threatening three U.S. warships by maneuvering near the ships and transmitting radio threats to them.

By now the dust has settled and the facts are a little clearer. According to several reports, it is very possible that a famous maritime prankster known as the Filipino Prankster issued the verbal threats to the U.S. Navy and that several naval personnel have rejected the incident as a threat.

The incident received extensive news coverage when it was completely blown out of proportion by the Pentagon and the sensationalists in corporate media. There has been little coverage of the lack of an investigation into whether details were distorted by the Pentagon.

And yet, why did the Pentagon decide to superimpose the prankster's radio transmission onto the video coverage of the brief incident and release it to the press?

Did it have anything to do with Bush's trip to the Middle East during this time to rally Arab states against Iran?

The sad probability remains that a minor encounter similar to this, which happens often in the busy, narrow strait, could trigger an "accidental war."

Another Gulf of Tonkin could have happened. Another war still can happen in Iran, or elsewhere, that will require more funding and more troops.

Hence, another draft is clearly possible.

Either way, the longer we stay in Iraq, the greater the chances of a broader war and the harder it will be to ever withdraw.

Constantly preparing for war is not working for peace.

For too long we have been good Americans, good students. What will it take for us to resist this war and accept withdrawal as the only viable option in Iraq and Afghanistan?

What will it take for new teach-ins at OU, another draft?

As students, we not only have the responsibility of knowing what else is going on in the world and hearing it from all angles, we also have the ability to effect change in our society and our nation's policies that have endangered peace and prosperity for the restless many throughout the world and for ourselves.

Let me borrow words from an OU student editorialist, Mike Honey, back in 1968 to refresh our terrible historical memories: "The student no longer has a sanctuary from the realities of a strident American foreign policy."

What will it take for our history to come

Campus involvement offers new opportunities, experiences

Sarah Brooks
Guest Columnist



One year ago I was a freshman, in my second semester at Oakland University. People told me all the time how important it was to get involved on campus, but who really falls for that?

I went to half of my classes, and I thought I was passing them — that's what counts right?

The closest I came to participating in an activity on campus was eating

the free food.

However, my final grades came as more than just a wakeup call, they told me I had just spent my last semester at OU and in the fall I would be attending Macomb Community College.

I had let my cumulative GPA fall to a 1.98 and lost over \$5,000 in scholarships because I no longer met the requirements.

I couldn't believe that doing the bare minimum didn't save me. After all, I did the same thing in high school and graduated with a 3.47 GPA.

I didn't even bother to figure out what I did wrong; I just accepted that I was now only going to be able to afford to go to a community college.

Late that summer I got two letters from OU. One said that I needed to make an

appointment with my academic advisor to discuss my academic probation. The other letter was a list of jobs available on campus for students with work study. A position at the Student Technology Center caught my eye.

Motivated by the idea of getting paid to work with computers, I called my advisor to make that appointment. Before I knew it, I was approved for a student loan to make up for the lost scholarships, and I had an interview at the STC.

Fall 2007 was an amazing time in my life, as a student assistant at the beginning of the semester.

Working on campus changed everything for me. I finally made some friends at OU and felt like I actually had a place I fit in.

I also I went from academic probation

one semester to making the Dean's List with a 3.62 GPA the next.

I recently found out that I will be spending my summer living on campus and being an orientation group leader, which is a huge honor for me.

After looking back on my experience, I feel it's my duty to let everyone know that if you're not happy with where you are, then get moving.

You are the only person who can decide what your future will entail; you have to get yourself where you want to be.

Don't settle for what is given to you and don't wait for anything to fall into your lap because while you're waiting for it, someone else is out there chasing it.

My final words of advice: Get involved on campus.