

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

April 6, 2011

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Volume 37 // Issue 29

COUNTING THE CAMPUS

A snapshot of Oakland's busiest hour of the day

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SPORTS

OU's Dance Team competed in the National Championship at Walt Disney World

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FEATURES

University President Gary Russi abides by a structured schedule, but enjoys his job

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THE SCENE

Varner's latest student production, an 8-hour medieval play, spans 6,000 years of history

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this week

April 6 — April 12, 2011

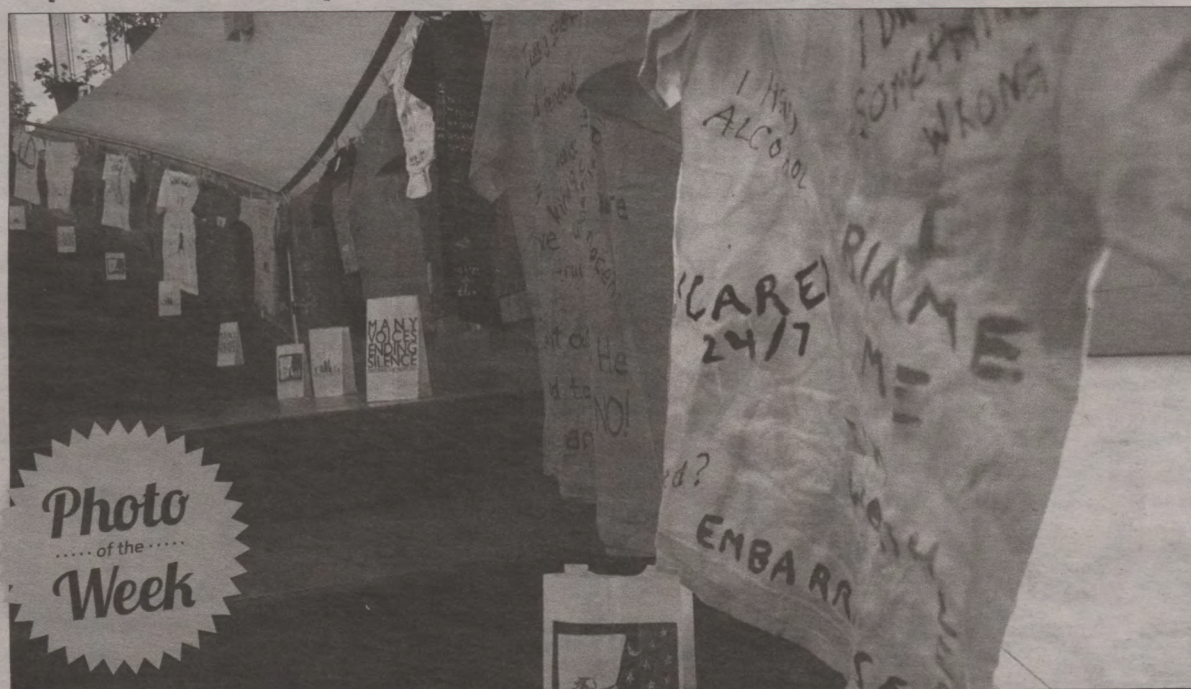


Photo
..... of the
Week

'Many voices ending silence' // Tuesday, April 5

KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post

On Tuesday, the Oakland Center played host to Take Back the Night, an event organized by HAVEN to raise awareness of sexual assault and empower survivors and bystanders to speak out against it. Oakland's Center for Student Activities and Gender and Sexuality Center co-sponsored the event, which featured several victims of rape sharing their stories.



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CAMPUS // Ben Eveslage and Elisa Malile were announced as the new student body president and vice president, respectively, on Friday.



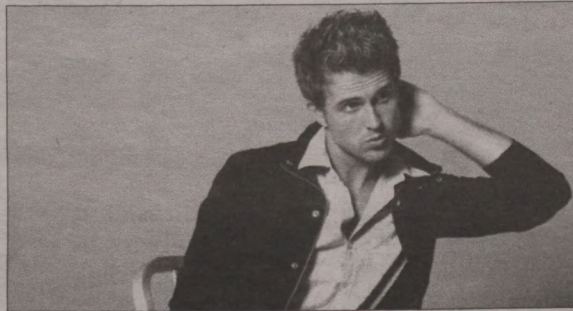
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LOCAL // On April 17, Detroit will have a fully renovated and operating 20-bed hostel for the first time in 15 years.



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FEATURES // OU student Lisa Jacques was selected to sing a duet of the national anthem at Charlie Sheen's Detroit performance last week.



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THE SCENE // Recent graduate Pato Margetic, who honed his skills in OU classrooms, is making a name for himself in the music industry.



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we're missing.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

editorial & media

Kay Nguyen

Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-4268

Dan Fenner

Senior Editor
web@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-2537

Mike Sandula

Managing Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-2537

Jason Willis

Design Editor
graphics@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-4266

section editors

Rhiannon Zielinski
Campus Editor
campus@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-4263

Jake Thielen

Sports Editor
sports@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

Jen Bucciarelli

Local Editor
local@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

Nichole Seguin

Features Editor
features@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

Kaitlyn Chornoby

Scene Editor
scene@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

Mouthing Off Editor

mouthingoff@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-2848

copy editors

Katie Jacob
Shawn Minnix

web

editor@oaklandpostonline.com

photographer

Sinead Cronin

senior reporters

Ryan Hegedus
Sarah Wojcik

staff reporters

Laurn Andrews
Ali Armstrong
Emma Claucherty
Andrew Craig
Kevin Romanchik
Megan Semeraz
Annie Stodola

staff interns

Kevin Graham

advisors

Holly Gilbert
Don Ritenburgh
(248) 370-4263

cartoonist

John O'Neill

distribution manager

Sylvia Marburger

advertising & marketing

Tanner Kruse

Lead Ads Manager
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
(248) 370-4269

Krystal Harris

Jacqueline Lee
Dan Offenbacher
Ads Managers
ads@oaklandpostonline.com

Cover design by JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

STAFF EDITORIAL

How do students rate?

On trend with a 17 percent decrease in state higher education funding over the past decade, Oakland University is once again facing cuts that beg for budget realignments.

Students, staff and faculty have a chance to influence the budget and changes made to it during an open budget forum on Wednesday, April 13 at 3:30 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms.

Russi sent an email to faculty Monday that said sacrifices made by faculty and other campus community members "have been much needed and greatly appreciated" and that OU has to "face yet another year of imminent sacrifices."

He assured faculty members that the reopening of the contract negotiated in 2009 following a work stoppage will not be considered.

Oakland University President Gary Russi makes \$350,000 a year, good enough to place him at No. 57 in the Chronicle of Higher Education's latest study of the pay of 185 public college presidents.

Russi's salary was \$250,000 a few years ago before receiving a \$100,000 raise in 2009 to bring his salary more in line with School of Medicine Dean Robert Folberg, who makes \$380,000 a year.

But as you can read in this week's Day of the Life feature, Russi is up at 5 a.m. every day and takes only a 15-minute break throughout a jam-packed day that doesn't end until 11 p.m. We should, of course, note that he also receives a car and a house, pushing his total cost of employment to \$436,650, according to the Chronicle.

Students don't mind sharing the sacrifice — provided others do, too.

That might seem like too much or too little, depending on who you ask, but we want readers to focus on something besides Russi's pay.

The Chronicle reports that taxpayers have put the pressure on college presidents with high salaries. In fall 2009, Russi made a "personal and a family decision" to donate \$100,000 of his pay to the university. It was announced during a faculty open forum during a contentious time for professors, who had just taken salary freezes for the year.

The sacrifices made by Russi and the faculty will probably be noted by the board of trustees when the budget is discussed, but

what about the silent majority?

Governor Rick Snyder's proposed budget strongly discourages OU from raising tuition more than 7.1 percent. The American Association of University Professors says a 5.8 percent increase would be enough to recoup any losses in state funding.

It's not a good sign that tuition is becoming the main revenue stream for most public universities. Other avenues should be considered before jumping to the conclusion of raising tuition.

While we understand every group on campus has made sacrifices, students should not be the ones making the most of them.

Every time tuition is raised, it affects thousands of students who are currently or about to be matriculated. In comparison, there are about 1,000 faculty members and 14 people on the President's Council and Division.

Students have almost no choice but to absorb the consequences of whatever cost increases are thrown their way because 62 percent of Michigan's jobs in 2018 will require postsecondary training.

We encourage everyone to attend next Wednesday's budget forum to represent their interests.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Kay Nguyen and Mike Sandula

editor@oaklandpostonline.com



CONTACT US

In person:

61 Oakland Center, in the basement

By e-mail:

managing@oaklandpostonline.com

By phone:

248-370-4268

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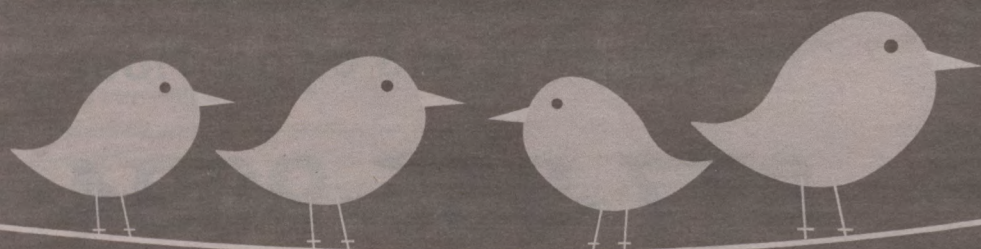
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CORRECTIONS CORNER

— In last week's cover feature, "Building dedications tell a story," Meadow Brook Hall is incorrectly referred to as Meadowbrook Hall.

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.

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.4268.

The 'Kill Team' story should embarrass U.S.

There are stories and articles that when you read them you get that feeling in your chest, whether of disgust or anger, and it sits with you for quite a while.

"The Kill Team" article featured in the most recent issue of the Rolling Stone is one of those stories.

I warn you, the story and its accompanying photos and videos are extremely graphic, but I think regardless of their nature everyone should read it.

"The Kill Team" chronicles some of the repulsive exploits of Cpl. Jeremy Morlock and Pfc. Andrew Holmes, among many others in Bravo Company's Third Platoon stationed in Afghanistan.

One of the accounts involves the execution of Afghan boy Gul Mudin, a farmer.

Mudin, 15, was alone, with no one around to witness the murder. He would be the first victim in a string of gruesome deaths.

The boy wasn't in possession of anything that could be perceived as a weapon at the time. In fact, he had a welcoming appearance. Morlock would later confess, "He was not a threat."



Kevin Romanchik
Staff Reporter

Morlock and Holmes ordered the boy forward, and he obeyed. Morlock then tossed a grenade towards Mudin and Holmes opened fired.

To add to the despicable act, they took pictures with the body, smiling, as they stripped the body and planted weapons to make it seem like the innocent lives were actual threats (the photos can be viewed on the Rolling Stone website, along with other videos from Bravo Company).

The two soldiers then cut off the boy's pinky for Holmes, a prize for killing his first Afghan.

As the article states: "In many of the photos it is unclear whether the bodies are civilians or Taliban, and it is possible that the unidentified deaths involved no illegal acts by U.S. soldiers. But it is a violation of Army standards to take such photos of the dead, let alone share them with others."

Whether it was the "enemy" or not, the fact that these photos were passed around as trophies represents a sadistic mindset that truly makes the line between "us" and "them" that much more blurry.

What both frightens and disappoints me is the possibility that this is probably not the first time that something like this has happened. The chances that the events described in "The Kill Team" in Afghanistan with the Bravo Company aren't isolated are quite high.

Don't get me wrong: The Kill Team is a poor representation of what the armed forces truly represent, but it's an unfortunate reality of what the scum of society are capable of.

A common response from readers included concerns regarding negative opin-

ions of the U.S. and its international roles from others outside the country, but that is not all I am concerned about. I am also concerned what people within our borders think about the military, and the fact that these allegations were not addressed and brought to the forefront by the people in the government.

The chances that the events described in "The Kill Team" aren't isolated are quite high.

Where do we go from here? Do we change the interview process to weed out the potentially dangerous? Should the military place more emphasis on the psychological state of our soldiers during their extended tours?

I'm not sure what should be done, but anything is better than a lack of accountability and showing the world that maybe the people on the other side of the enemy lines are not the truly evil ones.

Students should take evaluations seriously

By **JASON WILLIS**

Design Editor

Think of it as your chance to vote — unless you don't do that either, but then you don't get to complain when things don't go your way.

Teacher evaluations are the closest thing to student congress elections here on campus. Departments and professors take these very seriously — you should, too.

We pay over \$1,000 for a class, spend over 50 hours there and maybe just as many doing homework, so taking an extra 15 minutes to let someone know they are doing a good, or bad job, isn't going to take away from your day.

I'm a fifth-year senior at Oakland and have have taken 38 classes so far. I've also filled out 38 teacher evaluations. In every class, student's express opinions, whether positive or negative, about the professor and the course, but when it comes to filling out evaluations, most people call it quits after the effortless multiple choice section.

I'm not afraid to admit that I'm always one of the last to finish. If I think a profes-

sor has done a great job, I'd like to let their superiors know. On the other side, if a professor hasn't, I feel someone needs to know.

If you would like to see changes made, or think future courses could benefit from something, speak up. Don't just let a website like RateMyProfessor know what you think — write it on the evaluation where your opinion can make an actual difference.

Simply filling in multiple choice bubbles doesn't give any reasoning behind your answers. If people don't speak up, departments won't know how to change a course or how to reward somebody for doing a great job.

Professors also shouldn't feel obligated to give extra credit to get students to participate in these. If they don't think it's important enough without it, then perhaps students' opinions aren't either.

When this semester ends in a couple of weeks, take an extra 5-10 minutes and let the university know what you think.

Your opinion does matter. It doesn't if you don't write anything.



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Evolving OU: Part II

Leaders convene in Rochester for mega brainstorming session

By KAY NGUYEN
Editor-in-Chief

Almost 400 community and campus leaders gathered Friday at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester for the Creating the Future II Summit. An idea first implemented in 1997 for strategic planning, the event was intended to generate ideas for building Oakland University and its brand.

OU President Gary Russi said during his State of the Campus address earlier this year that he hoped those involved with the summit would provide OU with ideas on ways it can support the community with the resources it has.

The morning session began with presentations from Russi; Jeff Williams, the CEO of the Public Sector Consultants research firm; associates from Tecker Consultants and Vice President for University Relations Susan Davies.

"I cannot thank you enough for helping us figure out how to interact with the community to make the community better and Oakland University better," Russi said to those in attendance. "We're here for one purpose: To have a broad dialogue about how OU can play a pivotal role in rebuilding Michigan's economy."

Williams educated conference-goers on the "environmental scan" his firm completed for the school and board of trustees last fall.

"There is incredibly intense competition for ... everything you do," Williams said of the effect Michigan's economic climate has on higher education. "Competition will be at a level unlike anything you have ever seen before."

Williams and Russi agreed that competitive advantage was the key to attracting students, as tuition becomes the dominant earned income stream due to a 17 percent decline in state spending of higher education in the last decade.

Creating the Future participants were then asked to come up with solutions to answering questions about Oakland's compet-



KAY NGUYEN/The Oakland Post

President Gary Russi addresses the attendees of the Creating the Future II event at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester on Friday.

itive advantages and outlining what they would like to see the university do over the next decade.

"I'd want the university to be identifiable in the educational community because I want to live in a vibrant community," said Barbara Fornasiero, who has lived in Rochester Hills for 18 years. "We've really watched the school evolve."

Attendees provided a cross-section of the community and included alumni, business and industry leaders, elected officials, university administrators, deans, faculty members, university trustees and currently matriculated students.

Audience reactions were gauged through the usage of electronic voting devices that gave instantaneous feedback and put responses up on large presentation screens in a similar way to the "Who Wants to be a

Millionaire?" game show.

A pre-survey was sent to hundreds of people invited to the event. Those who could not attend were invited to complete the survey and results gathered during the summit were compared to pre-survey answers.

Russi first introduced the idea of this second summit at the June 29, 2010 board of trustees meeting. Facilitators were assigned three tables to oversee and organize. Each table was instructed on the organization of the event and how to use the technology available to them.

"It's all hands on deck with an event like this," said Chad Thompson, the coordinator of athletics annual giving and facilitator for the day.

Seating was strategically organized to allow for a variety of people to engage in

conversation with those not in their field. Organizers tried to place at least one student and an "insider" — someone involved internally with OU — at each table in order to give insight to those who may not be as familiar with university operations.

Students and alumni made up 42 percent of those in attendance.

In comparison, the first Creating the Future initiative in 1997 involved over 300 people who were organized into nine task forces. The report was given to the board of trustees in June of 1998. It was designed to aid the university in setting goals for 2010. The recommendations gave the board a basis for its work the following year and the goal of this year's summit is to produce similar results for its 2020 campaign.

Continued on page 6

EVOLVING OU

continued from page 5

Summit attendees were asked to come up with a metaphor for Oakland's status as a higher learning institution in the form of a mode of transportation.

"There have been a fair amount of diverse views," Fornasiero said. "There's a very open and trusting dialogue and we could all say how we felt."

Answers ranged from describing OU as an elevator or hot air balloon to a minivan or mid-size car. Russi came up with the metaphor of a jet plane.

Each group also had to figure out what implements they would add to their "vehicle."

The exercise was designed to gather ideas and figure out ways to elevate the profile of the university.

Williams advised those coming up with ideas to "find a market niche and own it."

The activity also served as a branding exercise.

"Brand will be the result in the success of implementing our strategy: A brand is not something an organization defines and declares," Glenn Tecker said. "It is the promises you make and keep — brand is more than a logo."

When it comes to one specific logo, though, 16 percent of the conference room wished that OU had stayed with its nickname of "The Pioneers."

Another topic of perpetual consideration is the idea of creating a Div. I football program. Director of Athletics Tracy Huth said he is asked constantly about the possibility, but the issue was not considered a key topic by guests.

Attendees were asked to consider all the information they heard to create unique strategies for the bettering of the school during the second half of the summit. Each group was asked to explore a different topic area and to explore outside their usual areas of knowledge.

The top three themes zeroed in on were energy, the changing economy and demographics and healthcare. Many groups wanted to see OU become a resource for businesses, achieve prominence and stray away from being perceived as a commuter school.

Tecker provided a list of 10 areas gathered from the re-



KAY NGUYEN/The Oakland Post

The event was the second of its kind. The first Creating the Future took place in 1997. Attendees were asked various questions throughout the day, like if they wished that OU had stayed with its nickname of "The Pioneers."

sults of pre-summit survey results, though one table created the topic of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Optimism was displayed by guests, most of who believed the general business and economic climate will be growing in 2020 and that Oakland will become a prominent national public university.

Williams said it was likely that it would be true because of the schools "blank slate" for branding.

"We are a new, young university," Russi said. It is a theme he has spoken of since his January State of the Campus ad-

dress.

Packets were collected by the Tecker team, which will be compiling the ideas brainstormed at the meeting.

"This is only the first step in refining Vision 2020," Leigh Wintz said of Russi's strategic plan for the decade.

The event lasted seven hours and university leadership commended those who participated for their help in bettering the university and community.

"It means we all want to make a difference in Michigan," Davies said.

Creative writing major passes through BOT

By MIKE SANDULA

Managing Editor

The Oakland University Board of Trustees unanimously passed last week the English department's proposed Bachelor of Arts program in creative writing.

The March 30 meeting in the Elliott Hall Auditorium was attended by a group of students in support of the proposal. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ronald Sudol, who opposes the program, was present at the beginning of the meeting, but walked out before the proposal was brought before the

board.

"I would like to thank our students who have been waiting patiently and very eagerly for this day, which we hope will be a happy outcome," Susan Hawkins, chair and associate professor of English, said at the beginning of her presentation.

English professor Ed Haworth Hoeppner said creative writing began as a formal discipline at the University of Iowa in the 1930s and has seen an uptick in popularity across the nation in recent years.

"In 2004, there were 80 institutions of higher education who offered a BA or a BFA

in creative writing. In the last seven years that number has doubled, so now there are currently 160 programs nationwide who offer undergraduate majors in creative writing," Hoeppner said. "Oakland's program would be only the third in the state."

Hawkins said the program would be ready to launch in the fall "without major expenses or any major outlay in terms of funds."

The first two tracks would be fiction and poetry. The English department would hope to add television and screenwriting by the second year, but trustees Jacqueline

Long and Henry Baskin said the program shouldn't depend too heavily on Michigan's film industry in light of the uncertainty of its tax incentive program.

"However, there are corporations who do their own film work, in-house film work, such as Ford," Baskin, who serves as chair of the board, said. "General Motors is coming online with it. So there is a need for people who are creative, creatively thinking and writing for the medium."

The proposal will now be sent to the President's Council, which next meets in June.

Physics professor honored with distinguished education award

By MEGAN SEMERAZ
Staff Reporter

OU physics professor Dr. Gopalan Srinivasan has been named one of Michigan's Distinguished Professors by The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan.

Srinivasan began teaching in the OU physics department in 1988 and he has taught classes at every level.

"My philosophy is to make the learning easy, interesting and enjoyable," Srinivasan said.

According to Andrei N. Slavin, chair of the physics department, Srinivasan is pioneering work in the area of magnetoelectric heterostructures, and he is known for his work across the globe.

"Dr. Srinivasan is an outstanding researcher ... (he) is one of the world leaders in his research field," Slavin said.

Srinivasan was nominated for the award

"My philosophy is to make the learning easy, interesting and enjoyable."

— Dr. Gopalan Srinivasan,
Physics Professor

by Virinder Moudgil, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. When he found out he had won, he thanked Moudgil.

"I was away on travel when I received the information," Srinivasan said. "I thanked our provost, Dr. Moudgil, for nominating me and shared the news with my family and friends."

Undergraduate research also played a large role in the nomination. Srinivasan has completed 38 projects and 32 co-authored publications, all with the help of his students.

"The award is for involving undergraduates in research in the physics of materials,"

Srinivasan said. "It is appreciation of my efforts to train the next generation of scientists and engineers."

Early in his career, Srinivasan knew he wanted to use research as a part of his method of teaching.

"I believe in the philosophy that true understanding of physics can be achieved only when one learns to ask critical questions and tries to answer them with hands-on-research," Srinivasan said.

Receiving the award is something Srinivasan is glad to be sharing with his student researchers.

"I was happy (to receive the award) and share this honor with all those student researchers who worked with me for the past 23 years here at OU," Srinivasan said.

An award ceremony will be held in Lansing on May 12, where each winner will be presented with a plaque and a check for \$3,000.

police files

Fire alarm leads to discovery of persona non-grata

On Friday, April 1, OUPD responded to a fire alarm at the 5000 building of the University Student Apartments. Upon arrival, residents were observed outside the building. Officers investigated where the possible fire would be taking place. No fire was found in progress but the remnants of a kitchen fire in a third floor residence were confirmed.

When filing the report, it was discovered that the current occupant of the room, where the fire had taken place, was not a legal resident of the apartment and was in fact on the university's personas non-grata list. The student had provided a fake name when OUPD took information the day of the fire and when later investigating the student's information, were not able to locate the name through a university search program. The student was later arrested for trespassing and informed to never return to campus.

The Dean of Students informed OUPD that the student had never actually received his PNG letter.

Vehicle tampering at Hamlin

On Sunday, April 3, OUPD received a report regarding a student's vehicle that had been tampered with. It was reported that the student's vehicle had profane wording on the hood of the car written in an unidentified yellow substance. The rain and snow mix had removed most of the substance and there was no damage to the vehicle. The student stated she believed the tampering was not done as a violent act and there are no suspects at this time.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Local Editor

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Campus Briefs

By **KEVIN GRAHAM**
and **RHIANNON ZIELINSKI**
Staff Intern and Campus Editor

Financial planning program

The School of Business Administration will be taking registrations through Thursday, April 14 for a summer certificate program in certified financial planning. Upon completion, students will be able to take a certification exam. For more information, call 248-370-3537.

Careers get personal

The Career Services office and Advising Resource Center are co-sponsoring a career exploration event on Thursday, April 7 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room of the Oakland Center. The event is designed to help you find a career that fits your personality and to learn interview skills. For more information, contact Lindsay Zeig at 248-370-3227.

Poetry slam

A poetry slam will be held on the fourth floor of Kresge Library from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 7. Poets are asked to bring two poems and prizes are available for the best poetry. For more information, contact Anne Switzer at 248-370-2475.

OUCARES Family Fun Day

Oakland University Center for Autism Research, Education and Support is host its 6th Annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 9 at the Recreation and Athletics Center from noon to 4 p.m. There will be swimming, arts and crafts, moonwalks and caricatures. Families will be able to meet with representatives from more than 20 organizations. There is no cost to attend this event.

MaTilDa Awards

The Music, Theatre and Dance department is holding its 12th annual MaTilDa Awards on Monday, April 11 from 6-10 p.m. at The Royal Park Hotel. Tickets are \$20 for students. For more information, call 248-370-2030.

Vocal jazz and jazz combos

On Tuesday, April 12 from 8-10 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall there will be a performance of vocal jazz and jazz combos. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$11 for general admission.

Harp concert

Georges Lambert and Jung Wha Lee will be holding a duo harp and flute concert from 8-10 p.m. on Monday, April 18 in Varner Recital Hall. Tickets will be \$7 for students. Contact Gillian Ellis at 248-370-3321 for more information.

Senior thesis in studio art

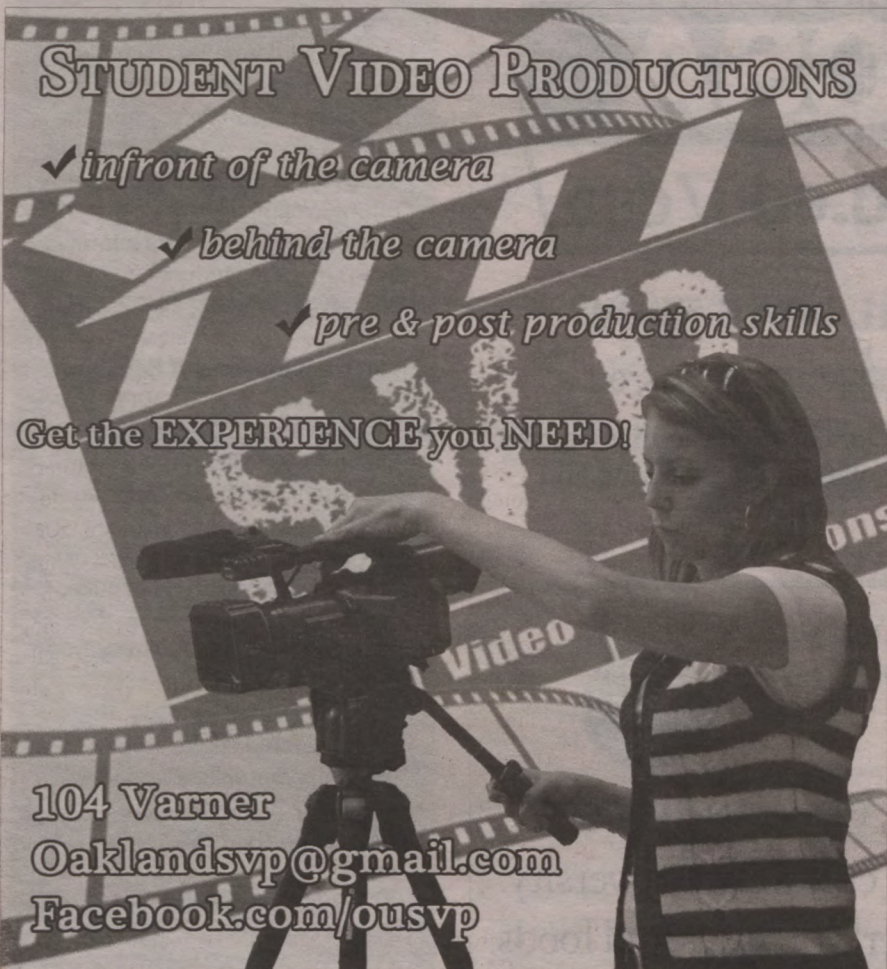
The work from 18 studio art students will be featured at the Oakland University Art Gallery beginning on Friday, April 15. The gallery is open Tuesday-Sundays until 5 p.m. All events are without charge and open to the public.

International Night 2011

Students can learn about the traditions of different countries and cultures at International Night on Friday, April 15 from 5-8 p.m. in the Pioneer food court. There will be live performances, samples of different foods from around the world, international crafts for sale and the opportunity to meet international OU students. This event is free for OU students and staff.

Guitar Day

OU faculty member Bret Hoag will provide a guitar experience focusing on basic improvisational skills, music reading, sight reading and guitar repertoire on Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$70 and pre-registration is required.

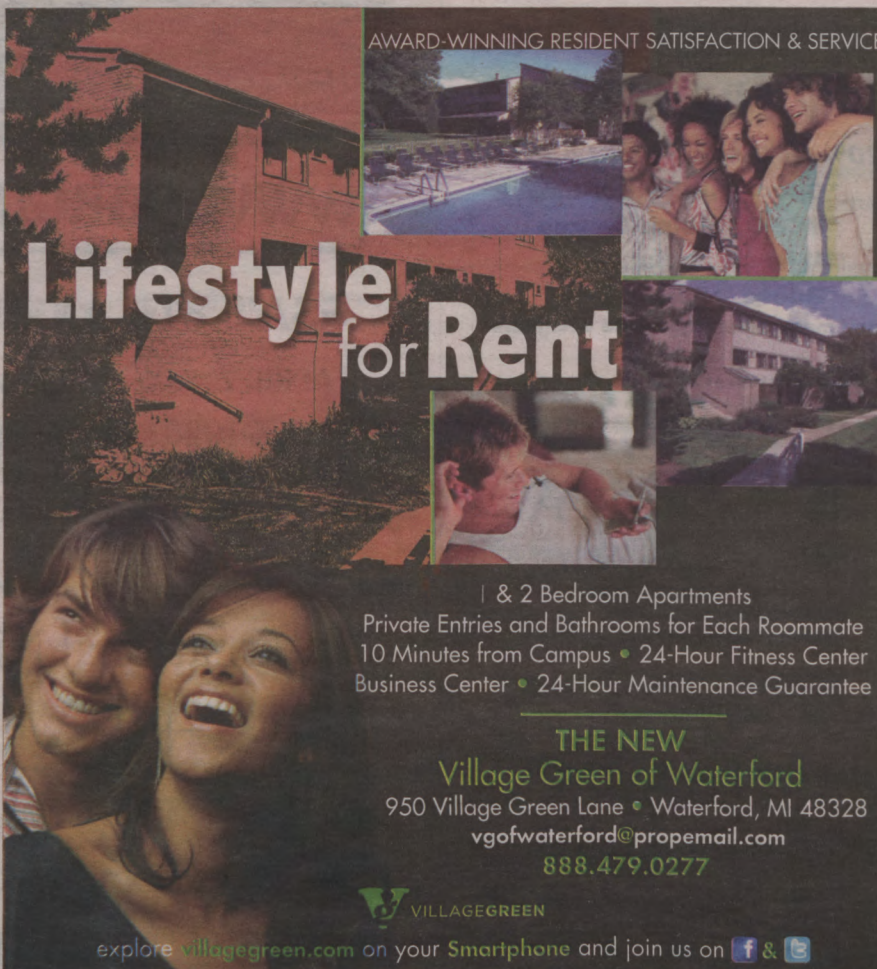


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Eveslage/Malile elected to OUSC

By ALI ARMSTRONG

Staff Reporter

Freshman international relations major Ben Eveslage and junior sociology major Elisa Malile were announced OUSC president and vice president on Friday afternoon at the Pioneer Food Court. They spoke with The Oakland Post about their reaction and plans for the upcoming year.

How do you feel about being the new student body president and vice president?

Elisa Malile: "I'm very excited. It's almost like an overwhelming feeling. When I drove up to school, it just made me smile to know that I can impact the students and make changes in the school, and just be a positive image for the school."

Ben Eveslage: "It's a lot of excitement. We know there's a big journey ahead of us, but I feel like we've already got ground work, that we set up through the campaign though my time with OUSC and Elisa's time in the meetings, to get that feeling as to what to do to get our platform implemented. It's very exciting."

What are some of the first things you would like to implement from your platform?

Eveslage: "Something I am looking to do in the very beginning of the summer is to come out with a good marketing plan to whip OUSC into shape for the following year. That involves a lot of brainstorming, there is a lot of things that OUSC has never done before so it's a lot of testing to make sure that OUSC can do these things."

Malile: "I've already started working on a big part of our platform, the athletes and the Greeks. I've been in communication with the Greek Council president and all the presidents of the sororities, to sit down with them and see where they are going with recruitment. We'll be meeting with SAC next week to discuss what the athletes are looking for, so were going to be discussing how we can execute our ideas. It's really exciting, it's only day two and I feel like we've already got the ball rolling on what we promised."

What is your relationship with each other and why did you decide to run together?

Malile: "I consider Ben a really good



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

Elisa Malile and Ben Eveslage react to the news that they won the election for OUSC president and vice president for 2011-12.

friend. He's really loyal and trustworthy, and we just clicked. I think he was just someone that I needed to get to know. We hung out a little bit, and then we just decided to run together. I think we're the perfect match, we just get each other really well."

Of all of the other candidates, you two had one of the most significant campaigns. What pushed you to create such a large campaign?

Eveslage: "We started thinking of what people feel when they see something, and that's when we thought of 'Express Yourself.' It translated very well into 'Let your voice be heard,' OUSC's old tagline. We just thought that this is what people want ... and we thought if we could hit that well enough, we would be able to attract a majority of the population here."

How did you feel about dancing to Lady Gaga in front of an audience at the meet and greet event?

Malile: "I loved it. I love dancing. When we were there, I was just like this is who I am and I love to dance. That is who we are, and I really wanted to give that off to people. We didn't want to give the students something that was an act. This is who we

are."

Eveslage: "I was very excited for the dance-off. When they played that song, it was funny because I love that song. It was really fun. It was almost like you could just be yourself for a moment and that is what the students want to see. Being a politician of any sort you put up a front that doesn't allow people to see who you really are, and I think people were able to see through that barrier and see who we really are."

How do you plan to decorate your office?

Malile: "I really want to make it comfortable. I can't have something plain, I really want to be inspired. I am definitely going to have photos of my family, friends and some drawings that really inspire me. I also want to have a little Buddha on my desk ... I think that when I am going to be stressed out or angry, it will be a good reminder of peace of mind."

Eveslage: "I'm the total opposite. I like to have everything plain, and have a huge desk so I can cover it in papers. I couldn't handle those extra things on my desk."

As a freshman at OU, were you nervous about running against candidates

that have had more experience at OU?

Eveslage: "I don't think I was ever nervous about that. I've never underestimated myself. I knew that if I was confident in myself and I had the experiences that I've had before, I'd do fine. I think when other people may have used that as a case against me, I always had a good response. I've had experience in the working field and I've always proven myself. This is for the benefits of the students, so I am constantly making sure that I am doing the best that I can."

With all of the new OU commercials that have been released lately, do you have any ideas to help promote OU?

Eveslage: "We were actually thinking about doing a music video for 'Born This Way,' by Lady Gaga. We were going to have students choreograph it, do the dance and have aspects in there where it shows OU students expressing themselves."

If you could have your choice of any celebrity or singer to bring to campus for a show, who would you choose?

Malile: "Britney Spears. I've loved her since I was eight years old. I love her music."

Eveslage: "Lady Gaga. I love Lady Gaga, I can't get much more in-depth than that."

Dance team returns to Disney

By EMMA CLAUCHERTY
Staff Reporter

They can be seen courtside at every Oakland University basketball game, but the OU dance team does more than just perform a routine at halftime.

This year, the OU dance team competed at the Universal Dance Association College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships, which were held in January at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando.

"Nationals were something we wanted to do to prove to the university and to people at the university that we are here because this is what we want to do," senior Melissa Sochacki said. "We're representing our school in the best way we know how, and that is to dance."

The team finished sixth in the 2011 Division I pom competition, which was its best finish since 2002.

"It's amazing being able to compete at a national level, especially when you are in the finals," senior captain Amy Shaw said. "The pressure is really tough, but it's so much fun. Being a senior captain, it was an amazing experience for my last year, and I was very proud of the team and how we represented our school."

While the team is used to performing in front of large crowds, a few members found the National Championships to be a unique experience.

"It's in Disney World and on ESPN — there are people everywhere," Sochacki said. "It's like the O'rena times 10. You get off the floor and you just feel like you left it all out there. To come back from that with a trophy is really cool."

In addition to dancing, the team's community involvement was another factor in its success.

"This year we did 'Dancing in the Streets' in Rochester, we attend the pep rallies and the Grizz kids club and we do a lot of stuff around campus as well," Sochacki said. "Community involvement is part of your score at Nationals. There is a spirit tape where you send in a tape of your game-day performances, community involvement, pumping up the crowds and things like that."

When not performing in competitions, the 19-member dance team has the responsibility of boosting the spirit of the fans attending each home basketball game.

"We are focused on being the spirit squad and on being there for the basketball team," Sochacki said. "That's our number one priority, always."

Sochacki said one of the most exciting experiences for the OU dance team this year was cheering on the men's basketball team as it captured the Summit League championship.

"That was a really big thing, and just to see the success the basketball team had, it's cool to be a part of it," Sochacki said. "The crowds are always really kind and compliment us. They love having us there, so we love being there."

Performing at the last home game was also an exciting moment, especially for the four seniors on the team.

"The team is like my family and they mean the world to me," Shaw said. "Even though the last men's home game was pretty emotional, I don't know how to explain it besides that it was an amazing feeling being out on that floor performing one last time."

Sochacki said an important goal for the team this year was to create clean and professional looking routines in preparation for the competition.

"Our technique was a lot about



Photo courtesy of Melissa Sochacki

The Oakland University dance team finished in sixth place in the pom competition at the 2011 Universal Dance Association College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando.

turns. This year we really wanted to amp up those as well as our leaps and jumps," Sochacki said. "Everything just needed to be bigger and better. We wanted people to look at us and say 'wow, they're not a joke.' We want to keep that performance quality out there."

The team did not go to the National Championships in either of the last two years, and it used the desire to return as motivation heading into this year.

"Our big strength was we all had the dedication and drive to make ourselves better," Sochacki said. "We wanted to prove to people by going to Nationals that we are a part of the athletic community at Oakland."

The team channeled its motivation into improving both dance style and technique.

"Our team is really good at hip-hop and multiple aspects of technique," Shaw said. "I can say that we are all extremely hard workers, all of us just love to dance and perform. It's our passion — there's no feeling like it."

While basketball season only lasts from November until March, the dance team has nearly a year-round schedule.

The team begins practice in the summer and continues until the basketball season concludes. The team practices twice each week for three or four hours, and the dancers are also expected to do in-

dividual conditioning.

"As soon as Nationals hit we will go four hours a day, five days a week," Sochacki said. "It gets pretty intense."

In the past, the team has held auditions in April, however this year they have been delayed indefinitely.

"We don't know when auditions will be held yet," Sochacki said. "We just lost our coach, so they had a meeting with the athletic department regarding the future of the dance team."

More information on the OU dance team can be found at www.ougrizzlies.com/dance/oakland-dance.html or on the team's Facebook page.

Grizzlies brave the cold to earn split with WMU

By **TOM BARRY**
Staff Intern

The official matchup for Tuesday's softball doubleheader was Western Michigan at Oakland, but it felt more like the Broncos and Golden Grizzlies were forced to battle the elements together.

Despite the unpredictable nature of the weather, Oakland pulled off a late rally in the second game to win, 2-1, at the OU Softball Field. Western Michigan (8-21) captured the first game, 13-0, in five innings.

"Each team battled with the weather today," Oakland coach LaDonia Hughes said. "Wind blowing, flurries, sun, flurries, sun — it was definitely a fun day."

Despite the cool temperatures, pitcher Marissa Everitt (3-3) pitched well in the second game, throwing a complete seven-inning game and striking out two while giving up six hits, an unearned run and three walks.

The Grizzlies (8-17) remained

scoreless until the fifth inning when shortstop Alyssa Shriver walked and leftfielder Shelby Gott hit an RBI triple to left.

Oakland took the lead an inning later when centerfielder Kelsey Krych tripled to right center and second baseman Erin Galloway hit an RBI sacrifice fly to left. Krych and Gott each had two hits in the game.

The Broncos rallied in the top of the seventh with two on and two out, but Everitt got WMU right-fielder Lexi Jager to harmlessly fly out to center to end the game.

"(Everitt) is a very important player to this team, like every other player," Hughes said. "She went out and got the job done. The defense took care of the ball, and that's how we got the (win)."

Game one was colder than the second game, and even saw snow flurries early on, but the Broncos' bats were hot from the start.

Western Michigan took control in the third inning with six runs, and Oakland errors led to six

more Broncos' runs over the final two frames. The Grizzlies committed six errors in the game.

"We tend to rush from time-to-time," Hughes said of the errors. "We're trying to (field) the ball before we get it, which is something we're working on in practice. Our girls are rushing because they doubt themselves, they forget the mechanics and they don't get the job done. But in the second game, we battled back, held it to two errors and went to seven innings."

Pitcher Brittany Doyle (3-6) surrendered six hits, seven runs (six earned) and a walk in 2.2 innings. Alison Tansel relieved Doyle in the third and allowed six unearned runs in 2.1 innings.

Next for the Grizzlies are five straight road games. Oakland will start with a Friday doubleheader and a game Saturday against North Dakota State at a neutral site in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The Grizzlies will be back in Michigan for a doubleheader April 12 at Eastern Michigan.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Oakland University softball team (8-17) battled the weather and split a doubleheader with Western Michigan University April 5.

THE SPORTING BLITZ

By **RYAN HEGEDUS**
Senior Reporter

Aaron Wick earns multiple weekly honors

After throwing the first nine-inning shutout in Oakland University baseball's Division I history, senior Aaron Wick has been named Summit League Pitcher of the Week as well as OU Student-Athlete of the Week.

In a March 29 contest against Western Michigan, Wick (2-3) gave up eight hits, no runs and tied his career-high with eight strikeouts in a 4-0 win over the Broncos. The victory was the first-ever shutout of WMU by the Grizzlies.

Wick is leading the pitching staff with 24 strikeouts this season and holding opposing batters to a .285 average.

Wick is also producing at the plate with a .321 average in 13 games.

Records fall at Toledo Collegiate Challenge

Several records were broken or set by the Oakland University women's track and field teams at the Toledo Collegiate Challenge on April 2.

Junior Lia Jones won the 5000-meter race with a school-record time of 17:05.80, and senior teammate Kelsey Carmean finished with a time of 17:40.93 to land in second place.

Junior Desiree Pettiford became just the third OU runner to finish the 400-meter dash in under a minute, with a record-tying time of 59.78 seconds.

Besides the track records, Oakland athletes also broke records in the field.

Junior Shannon Getchen set a school record in the hammer throw with a toss of 130 feet and 10 inches; Katelynne Hartman eclipsed the previous shot put mark with a heave of 36 feet and three inches, and Kara Lotan set a record of 103 feet and seven inches in the javelin.

Women's lacrosse splits southwest road trip

The No. 14 Oakland University women's lacrosse team traveled to the Lonestar Showdown in Austin, Texas over the weekend and returned home with a 2-2 record to show for its efforts.

The Grizzlies opened the Showdown with a 10-9 loss to Southern Methodist University — ranked third in all of Division II. It

was the second consecutive year the Grizzlies lost a close game to the Mustangs. Last season, Oakland lost a heartbreaker, 17-16, in the National Championship quarterfinals, and the team had used the loss as motivation for this season.

The Grizzlies rebounded to earn close victories in their next two games, defeating the University of Arizona 8-7 and Texas A&M 12-11.

The final game of the Showdown, however, ended quickly for the Grizzlies, as the University of Texas, ranked No. 11 in Division I, raced out to a 13-0 halftime lead on its way to a 17-1 victory.

OU closes out its regular season with games against Michigan State on April 7 and Grand Valley State on April 10.

Tennis wraps up league play

With a 6-1 loss to UMKC on April 2, the OU women's tennis team finished its regular season conference schedule with a 4-4 record against Summit League opponents.

After falling 4-1 to Southern Utah on March 31, Oakland swept South Dakota St. 4-0 behind freshman Grace Keating's victory in singles play and senior Jackie Dinicu's match-clinching, three-set win over SDSU's Bryna Nasenbeny, the reigning Summit League Player of the Week.

The Grizzlies will finish their regular season schedule with two matches at home against Milwaukee and Valparaiso April 8-9.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Ally Employee Resource Group (LGBTQA ERG)

Invites all staff and faculty dedicated to equity and equality for all members of the OU community (students, staff, faculty and administration) to join.

We meet monthly and have an active listserv.



For more information contact:

Tim Larrabee

Chair

larrabee@oakland.edu, x4614

Scott Crabil

Administrative Liaison

scrabil@oakland.edu, x3229

Joi Cunningham

Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Initiatives

cunning3@oakland.edu, x3496

www.oakland.edu/lgbtqa

CENTER FEATURE // OU BY THE NUMBERS



242

cars in from
the main
entrance

189

cars out of
the main
entrance



38

tickets sold at
the CSA window



25

transactions at
the bookstore

OU

BY THE NUMBERS

One Monday last month, The Oakland Post staff ventured out to see what campus looks like during the busiest hour of the day: **noon to 1 p.m.** This is what we found.

Designed by Jason Willis



48

people entered
the ID Card Office



water bottles filled up
at the Hydration Station



22 students entered
the Financial Aid/
Cashier's Office



637

number of people going in and out of The Oakland Center

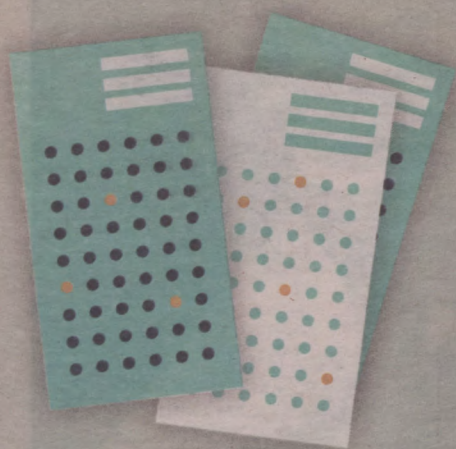


customers at
Cafe O'Bears



27

people entered
Bumper's Game Room



13 scantrons picked up at the Welcome Desk



7 calls into OUPD



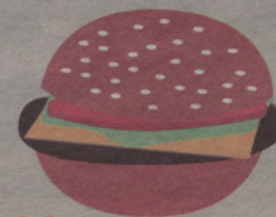
637 logins to Webmail

1053 logins to Moodle

1008 logins to SAIL



147 students entered Vandenberg Cafeteria



36 burgers served at Coyote Jack's



134 number of laps run around track in the Rec Center



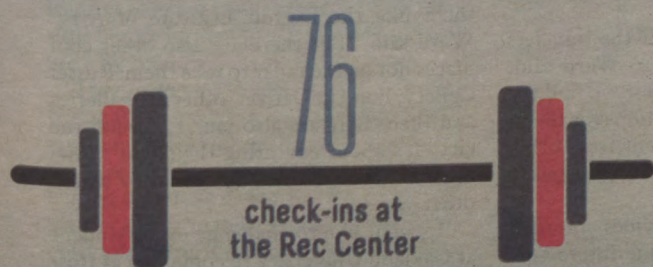
255 students went into the library

210 students went out of the library

19 students checked out books



68 subs served at Subway



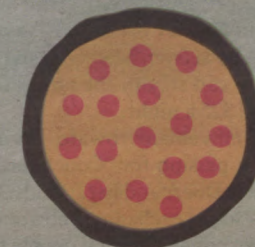
76 check-ins at the Rec Center



1,090 shots taken at the Rec Center



608 shots made (56 percent)



23 pizzas served at Famiglia Pizza



6 people played pool or ping pong



14 streams on WXOU



Watch the OU by the Numbers video online at vimeo.com/theoaklandpost



Photo courtesy of Kevin Ward

Left: A volunteer participates in the renovation of Hostel Detroit by painting interior walls during the winter. Right: Local participants plant a tree to help with landscape renovations for the first hostel to operate in Detroit in 15 years. Hostel Detroit is located in North Corktown near old Tiger Stadium and will open on April 17.

Hostel adds to city's revitalization

By ANNIE STODOLA
Staff Reporter

Detroit has not necessarily had a reputation as a tourism hot spot in recent years, but a group of young professionals are working to pull visitors into the city and show them sights they may not have otherwise experienced.

On April 17, Hostel Detroit will open its doors in North Corktown. Travelers to Detroit — both from Michigan and from other states — can stay in the hostel for between \$20 and \$25 a night.

The movement toward having a hostel out of a passion for "CouchSurfing" shared by Emily Doerr and her friends. CouchSurfing is a social exchange website where travelers can connect to find people to stay with when they visit other cities. The group noticed that an increasingly large number of people were traveling to Detroit and that there was not a cheap option for lodging.

"There's not a current avenue other than couch surfing for younger travelers to have a low cost option to come and explore the city," Kevin Ward, a volunteer at the hostel, said.

After getting encouragement from family and friends, Doerr decided to form a board and a committee to explore the pos-

sibility of starting a hostel in Detroit.

"There were so many visitors to Detroit, I knew that I wanted to make sure that they had a good experience accessing all the different amazing events and points of interest in the city, and I believe that a hostel will do that," Doerr said.

Eventually, the hostel organizers decided on a building at the corner of Vermont and Spruce streets, in the North Corktown neighborhood.

"Some neighborhoods in Detroit like Midtown and Woodbridge have made comebacks already," Ward said. "For North Corktown, it's definitely happening but it's still on the way. We wanted to be a part of making that happen."

Ward credits businesses like Slows BBQ and Sugarhouse Bar with also helping in the area's revitalization, which he considers a collective effort.

"Hostel isn't going to play the biggest role in the area's comeback, but it's something where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts," Ward said. "Our intended impact is that people will come see more of the city than just downtown or midtown."

Doerr ultimately sees the hostel as a medium for travelers to experience the rest of the city.

"There are a lot of different people and

businesses that are playing a role in bringing more density and vibrancy to Detroit and Hostel Detroit merely wants to be a conduit for those things," Doerr said. "We will be an access point for people coming to the city, giving them maps and guides and lists and suggestions about what to do and where to go."

At the hostel, travelers get either a bunk or a private room, as well as access to a kitchen and bathroom. Additionally, the hostel will provide guides to the city and information about a guest's particular interests.

"We make connections for the travelers if they're not from the area," Ward said. "If they have a specific interest we find the people and make the connections for them. That's what makes us different from other places in the city, as well as from hostels in other cities."

One way the hostel provides information to travelers with specific interests is through the use of volunteer ambassadors.

"Volunteer ambassadors are people who love going into the city and talking about the city," Ward said. "If you have a love for Detroit, we'd love for you to be a volunteer ambassador."

Ward said some popular interests for Detroit visitors are urban exploration, the arts,

urban gardening, cycling and volunteering. Recently, the hostel hosted a group of students from North Carolina on their college spring break as they volunteered both at the hostel and around Detroit.

Ambassadors provide information to hostel guests on these areas of interest, as well as taking them around the city to particular locations in some situations. Ultimately, the hostel aims to take its guests off the beaten path.

"For example, if someone is interested in the arts, there are obvious places to take them like the Detroit Institute of Arts," Ward said. "But there are also other cool places not on the radar to take them: Russel Gallery, Pop Up Detroit, other art galleries and then there are also murals around the city. It's about educating them and showing them more of the city than they would otherwise see."

"I would like to challenge every student at Oakland University to come stay at Hostel Detroit for at least one weekend this year," Doerr said. "It will be inexpensive, you can rent a bike, there will be a ton of stuff to do and it will be safe and secure ... come explore this city."

To make a reservation or get information about Hostel Detroit, visit www.hosteldetroit.com

Dictated by rigorous schedule

OU President:
'I enjoy being
busy'

By NICHOLE SEGUIN
Features Editor

At 5 o'clock every morning, Oakland University President Gary Russi starts his day with a workout at the Recreation Center, sometimes before it's open for general use.

By 6:30, he is done exercising and begins to chisel away at his busy schedule, planned months in advance.

From 6:30-7:45 a.m., Russi, who has been president since 1996, is using his time to prepare for the upcoming day. He'll review names of people, trying to remember as many as possible.

His days consist of donor lunches and dinners, an average of 250 emails — most get a response — advocate and legislative events, golfing when time permits and lots of interaction and handshakes.

"Those donor events are really important," he said. "It's all about personal relationships."

Every day, he consumes locally-produced Robin's Nest prickly pear protein bars and Light Muscle Milk. At events, he tries not to fill up on food in preparation for the other events he has scheduled for the day.

"I can't eat all of it," he said. "Plus I've been a vegetarian for 15 years, so sometimes the selection is sparse."

At night, Russi has an even stricter plan. He tries to get at least 15 minutes of quiet time before he goes to sleep, which is typically by 11:00.

"I try to do two things," he said. "One is trying to decompress. In other words, no music, no radio and no Internet. If I can get that time, I can collect my thoughts. During that quiet time I also try to stretch. It's just a little part of the day that is very quiet and permits me to reorient myself ... because I'm able to do it, I don't take heavy loads of information when I'm going to sleep, so I sleep good. I try to at least get that 15 minutes to clear my mind and it seems to work for me."

A graduate of Southwest Oklahoma State University, Russi received his undergraduate degree in pharmacology.

From there, he went on to receive his

Ph.D. of philosophy in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Kansas.

"My home is in Ohio," Russi said. "I have family from Canton, Ohio, where I was actually born. My parents then drove me down to Oklahoma to work."

Without a single pair of jeans in his wardrobe, Russi said he owns approximately 16 or 17 suits and twice as many ties.

"If I'm at basketball games or student events, I'm mostly seen in casual clothes, specifically Grizz Gear," Russi said. "I wear sweatshirts and hoodies, but never get the opportunity to wear jeans."

Russi, who is married to Becky Francis, the head coach of the women's basketball team, doesn't get to spend much time with her because of his schedule.

"I'm out all of the time and she's got a lot going on in her own profession," he said.

For him, dinner at home once a week

would be highly unusual.

When he isn't abiding by a rigorous schedule, Russi enjoys mountain biking at local parks and visiting restaurants like the Rochester Chop House, where he said the service is impeccable and they pay great attention to detail.

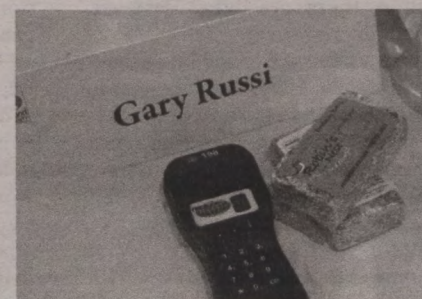
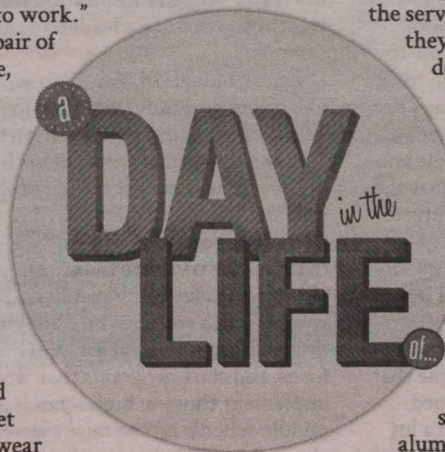
When he's not busy meeting people and attending dinners, he's hosting his own events and gatherings.

This past week, Russi pitched his "Creating the Future II" plan to an audience of 400 business professionals, students, administrators, alumni, government officials and civic leaders. The event focused on creating OU's vision for the year 2020 and how the school can bring prosperity back to Michigan, as well as creating a brand for the university.

"I'm very happy with how things are turning out," Russi said. "There is a lot of participation and people have been coming



Above: OU president Gary Russi's lengthy days are filled with advocate and legislative events, like the Creating the Future II event, where he talked to 1976 alum Anthony Thorton. Below: Every day, he consumes locally-produced protein bars.



up to me frequently, expressing how much they enjoyed it."

Most students don't get the opportunity to formally meet with Russi, but he is available to meet with any students so long as they arrange to do so in advance, according to Ted Montgomery, director of media relations.

"You can always rub elbows with Dr. Russi," Montgomery said. "If you want to talk or see him, you can arrange it. You just have to do it within an adequate amount of time ... we try to give as much access as possible."

Though he hardly ever gets vacation time or weekends off, Russi said he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I enjoy being busy," he said.



KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post

Oakland University student Alexa Van Vliet is involved in a variety of campus activities. A few of her responsibilities include the Gay Straight Alliance, the Gender and Sexuality Center and being a Residence Assistant.

From GSA to Chick-fil-A

One student is involved in many campus activities

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Staff Reporter

She recently made headlines with her protest against the illegality of gay marriage and again as one of the first recipients of the Barbara B. Hamilton Leadership and Service Award, but junior Alexa Van Vliet has been fighting for progressive causes since her sophomore year.

Van Vliet is the president of the Gay Straight Alliance, a volunteer for the Gender and Sexuality Center, on the student panel for S.A.F.E. training, a member of the multi-cultural affairs committee, a member of the Honors College and a resident assistant for West Vandenberg Hall on the Women's Honor's College floor.

When Van Vliet first came to OU in 2008, she was a studio art major who won an award for a painting she submitted to the Global Arts Exhibit. She also won an award in 2009 for a poem she submitted to the Ekphrasis poetry contest.

Now, as a psychology major and president of the GSA, she is constantly working towards raising awareness about the LGBT community on campus; fundraising for a variety of events — from Japan tsunami victims to Corey Jackson's family; and petitioning for a number of political causes.

As the president of the GSA, Van Vliet has been involved in a number of different fundraisers on campus.

She tied fleece blankets in December to benefit World AIDS Day, raised money for Corey Jackson's family with a fundraiser, worked with Japan Club to raise money for flood and tsunami victims in Japan, gathered signatures to protest the stripping of Planned Parenthood's federal funding, participated in the Tunnel of Oppression and put on a benefit concert to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center.

"I'm so impressed by her," said Jo Reger, associate professor of sociology and women's studies director. "When you see someone who has given so much energy beyond their school work because they want to make the place that they live, work or go to school a better place, I am always just so impressed by that. I think she's a very energetic and smart person, and I am just really excited to see what she is going to accomplish in the future."

Van Vliet also personally organized a fundraiser to raise money and awareness about the flood that hit Pakistan in August.

"It was worth it," Van Vliet said. "There were just so many people that didn't know that it had happened, so even though there had been a lot more successful fundraisers than that, I think the most important thing was that people knew."

She is currently working toward arranging a protest against Chick-fil-A, in hopes of removing them from campus, stating they promote an anti-gay agenda. She is also hoping to

raise money to help support the GSC next year.

Van Vliet first got involved with the GSC during her sophomore year and says that adviser Melissa Pope was her inspiration for becoming a leader on campus.

"I was a pretty confused and lonely freshman like most people are, and I just found sophomore year that there had to be more to college ... so the GSC just started off as a place that I liked to hang out at," Van Vliet said. "The GSC adviser, Melissa Pope, she has really been my inspiration for wanting to become a leader on this campus."

After graduation, Van Vliet would like to pursue graduate school in public administration or public health.

"I like the idea of working with nonprofits and maybe one day running for an elected office ... I'd like to be a part of those movements that are just trying to make things better in Michigan," Van Vliet said. "I would like to conduct anti-bullying programs that do have an LGBT focus, and start programs that would implement those in high schools and middle schools just to raise awareness about the LGBT community."

She said she would like to one day petition for changes to be made to Michigan's Elliot-Larsen Act, which allows for someone to be fired because of his or her sexual orientation.

But for now, she is just working toward making OU a better place.



PROFESSOR PROFILE

Jeffrey Zook
Applied Instructor, Music Performance

Jeffrey Zook, instructor of flute at Oakland University and principle piccolo player in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, is a library nerd.

While studying flute performance at the University of Michigan, he took full advantage of the resources available to him.

"If I had a Messiaen piece about birds, I was able to go to the Ornithological library and research birds," Zook said.

In fact, if he could give one piece of advice to students it would be to "seek out and utilize the resources you have on campus."

The desire for his students to research their music, in addition to practicing it, is evident through his teachings.

"He always encourages us to listen, whether it is going to the library and listening to CDs or going on Naxos," Melanie Boose, a senior double majoring in English and flute performance, said. "He also encourages us to read books about or by famous flutists. He always encourages us to go online and become familiar with other teachers' websites and what they have to offer."

As a student at U-M, Zook focused mainly on his studies. After being discovered while practicing during his sophomore year, Zook was hired to teach flute for a high school in the Ypsilanti area. It was his first paid musician job.

In 1992, before he graduated from U-M, Zook earned a full-time position in the DSO as the principle piccolo player.

Zook's position in the DSO has brought students to OU and enhanced their learning experience. In addition to teaching flute lessons, he helps run weekly flute master classes, where students come together to play and draw from the performances of others.

"My favorite part of master class was the wide range of experiences that Mr. Zook was able to draw from and talk about to enhance my performance," Boose said.

In his free time, Zook enjoys going to the gym and working out, taking Zumba classes and spending time on Facebook.

He currently resides in Pleasant Ridge with his partner David, orange tabby cat Basil and miniature pinscher Dexter.

— Sarah Hunton, Contributing Reporter

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Singing for Sheen a 'losing' feat

By **NICHOLE SEGUIN**
Features Editor

Charlie Sheen launched his "My Violent Torpedo of Truth/Defeat is Not an Option" tour at the Fox Theatre in Detroit Saturday night.

Oakland University junior Lisa Jacques was one of two women selected to sing the national anthem at the comedy show.

"I entered the contest because I really love to sing and I thought it would be a really cool experience," Jacques, an operations management major, said.

With the help of radio station Channel 95.5 and Mojo in the Morning, Jacques sang a duet with model and former porn actress, Kelley Jean. Though she had fun singing, Jacques said the event itself was a disaster.

"The night was pretty much a mess from beginning to end," Jacques said. "The mood backstage was chaotic, and it seemed like no one really knew what was going on."

In videos that were submitted online to the radio station, Jacques was selected by Sheen himself.

"The contestants were all narrowed down by Rachel (Channel 95.5 executive

producer) and myself and placed into categories of who was legit good and who was just funny," said Jamie Gasper, a sophomore majoring in communications and intern at Channel 95.5. "We called different contestants to put on air as well ... after the contestants were narrowed down, Charlie actually selected the winners."

"Although my performance wasn't perfect, I am still really happy with it, given it was my first time ever performing."

— Lisa Jacques
Junior, Operations Management

Jacques said she never had any vocal training, and her performance for the former "Two and a Half Men" star was the first time she ever sang on a stage.

"Although my performance wasn't perfect, I'm still really happy with it, given it was my first time ever performing," Jacques

said.

After her performance, Jacques joined friends in the crowd to watch the show.

"Overall, the show was pretty bad. However, the audience never really gave him a chance to get anything going," Jacques said. "From the first two minutes of the opening act, people were continually booing and by the end of the show it only got worse. People bought tickets to a show they knew nothing about so I think there were a lot of really high expectations of someone who isn't a stand up comedian or a live performer of any kind. It was awkward being in the audience because I legitimately felt bad for him."

The night, which involved the crowd booing the actor off the stage, was the first stop of his tour.

"Critics said the anthem was the best part of the night, since the show tanked," Gasper said. "We also have an intern here that was super excited because she loved Charlie and now she's depressed because the show sucked."

Jacques said she would love to perform on stage in front of an audience again, but never again for Charlie Sheen.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Jacques
Kelly Jacques (right) performed the National Anthem for Charlie Sheen in a duet at the Fox Theatre on Saturday.

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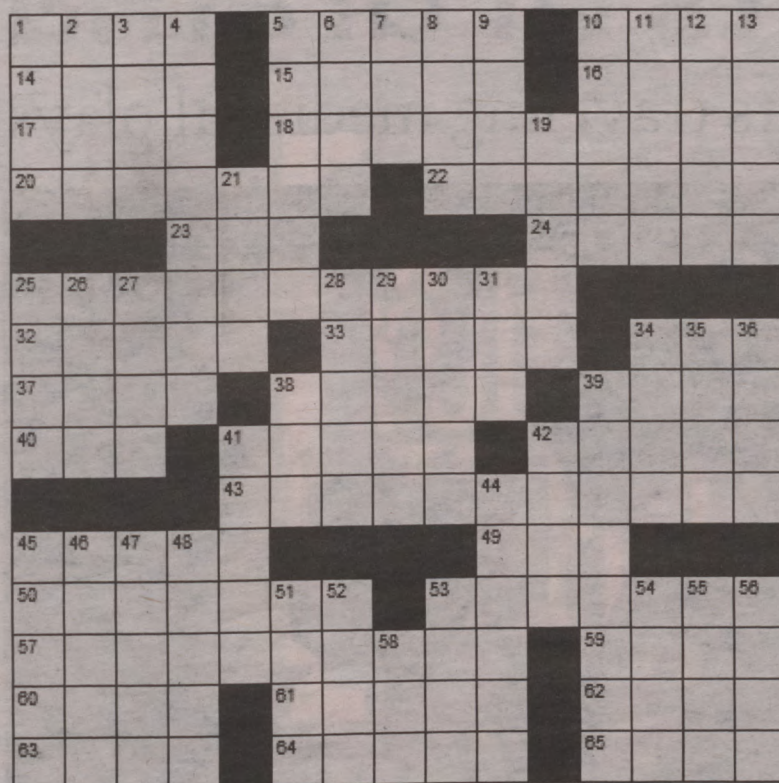




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ACROSS

1. Voting district
5. Conjecture
10. Location
14. Dogfish
15. Permeate
16. Formal school ball
17. Skillful
18. Shorten
20. Hell
22. Spend frivolously
23. Permit
24. Destitute
25. To a degree exceeding normal limits
32. Stop (nautical)
33. Capable of being corrupted
34. Air movement device
37. Transgressions
38. Not clean
39. Blemish
40. "___ the season ..."
41. Fliers in V's
42. Odd-numbered page
43. Booking
45. Impolite look
49. Estimated time of arrival

50. The state of being behind
53. Latticework
57. Restriction
59. Former Italian currency
60. Black, in poetry
61. Papal court
62. Graven image
63. Arid
64. The sound of a bell rung slowly
65. Usually topped with ice cream

DOWN

1. Dry riverbed
2. Ends a prayer
3. Jazz phrase
4. Timeless
5. A New York football team
6. Eardrum
7. Abate
8. Browse
9. Fortuneteller
10. Malice
11. Angered
12. Carried with difficulty
13. Manicurist's board
19. Shiny and flexible plastic

21. Repose
25. Where the sun rises
26. Seventeen in Roman numerals
27. Tins
28. Climbing vines
29. Poem
30. "Come in!"
31. Set down
34. Central points
35. Countertenor
36. A gas found in some lights
38. D
39. Tinny
41. Terrific
42. Charge per unit
44. Spring
45. Periods of discounted prices
46. Clan
47. Knight's "suit"
48. French for "Queen"
51. Framework for holding objects
52. Bowl over
53. Hard work
54. Italian resort
55. Press laundry
56. A period of discounted prices
58. Outrage

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Back to the roots of drama

MTD's 8-hour 'Pageant Play' presents traveling medieval plays

By SARAH WOJCIK
Senior Reporter

Oakland University's department of music, theatre and dance's much-anticipated pageant play has been in the works for nearly a year and involves over 200 Oakland University students and faculty.

On April 9 and 16, MTD will perform their own cycle of medieval English plays in various locations around Varner Hall from 2-10 p.m.

The play is unlike any MTD has undertaken before in that it recreates one of the oldest forms of drama: the pageant play.

The idea of the pageant originated in the churches of Europe where clergy would perform, in Latin, parts of the biblical story as an enhancement to their liturgy. Over time, the plays were taken over by the town's craft guilds, performed in vernacular and became less serious in nature, according to the press release. Back in medieval times, scenes from the play would be staged on wagons, known as pageants, which would rove around the town.

MTD's pageant play will unfold in three installments.

"Part one is the Old Testament. If the weather permits, it will begin outdoors and then come indoors," said Michael Gillespie, artistic director. "Part two involves the birth and life of Christ, and that takes place in several venues in Varner Hall simultaneously so the audience moves around from one event to another. The third (part) is the Passion, and that takes place in the recital hall and then, weather permitting, moves outside for the last judgment."

Coordinators of the play also collaborated with Chartwells to provide a genuine medieval feast available to the audience

during the middle section of the pageant.

Informal performances during the feast encompass a wide variety of styles, including musical theater, medieval plays, African drumming, Croatian dancing, a small opera, farces and comedies, according to Gillespie.

"(It's) a really unique event," he said. "I think you rarely see the whole outline of Old Testament and New Testament performed together. What we're doing is celebrating the artistic creativity of the Middle Ages."

The costume design team of eight, led by Donna Buckley, is working seven days a week to supply the cast with costumes.

"It's crazy, because it starts with the fall of Lucifer and goes all the way to contemporary times, so we literally are costuming for 6,000 years," Buckley said.

The Old Testament stories will be performed in Old Testament clothing, the life of Jesus in Renaissance clothing and the Passion in contemporary clothing.

The costume design team is building things from design, pulling things from stock and purchasing items.

"Right now, the big favorite with everybody is Satan because I put him in a corset with a spine and ribs on it and he's going to be really creepy," Buckley said.

Everybody in the department was required to audition, according to Abigail Alexander, a junior majoring in acting.

"I play a character called the Mistress of the Revels and my job is sort of to guide the audience through the whole thing and make sure everybody knows where to go," Alexander said. "In terms of the actual pageant play section, I play God."

Alexander said the largest challenge for her was to insert a "human-like" dimension into her role.



Photo courtesy of the music, theatre and dance department
Actors Wesley Miles and Abigail Alexander act as narrators to the long performance.

Her favorite thing about her role is the heightened language — the actors will recite their lines in a medieval tongue.

"It's unlike anything I think any of us have ever done," Gillespie said. "It's not like directing a traditional play where you sort of know the boundaries and end product. Here it's going to be a celebration and it will deeply involve the audience and it will have a little bit of an improvisational spirit about it."

Excerpts from the cycle will be performed on Wednesday through Friday, April 13-15 at 8 p.m. in the Varner Lab Theatre and on Wednesday, April 13 and Friday, April 15 in the Varner Studio

Theatre.

General admission tickets for the full-cycle are \$32 for adults, \$24 for students and \$28 for seniors and OU employees. The ticket price includes the medieval buffet. Those planning to attend are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance. Tickets for the weekday evening performances are \$13 or \$7 for students.

Tickets are available at the Varner box office and for one hour before each performance. They can also be purchased by calling 248-370-3013 or at www.starticketsplus.com with no service fee.

For more information, visit www.oakland.edu/mtd or call 248-370-2030.

Wilson Hall hosts finale of professional artist series

By LAURYN ANDREWS
Staff Reporter

Many professors at Oakland University participate in activities outside their role of teaching. This semester, OU is honoring the art professors who have shown magnificent work outside of the classroom.

The department of Art and Art History is sponsoring a Professional Visiting Artist Lecture Series in Wilson Hall.

The lecture series began in January and has featured six professional artists.

Each of the artists featured are professors or lecturers at OU.

Many of the featured artists, such as David Lambert, have also had their work shown at OU's art gallery.

The seventh and final lecture will conclude the series for the winter semester.

Artist Christopher Lee gave the most recent lecture on March 31.

Lee, a special lecturer in art, is a photo and media lab coordinator at Oakland. He teaches courses at OU for photography for non-majors, black-and-white photogra-

phy and web art.

Rachel Reynolds, who is also a lecturer in art at Oakland, will be the final presenter in the lecture Series.

Reynolds' presentation will be held on Thursday, April 14 at noon in Room 124 in Wilson Hall and will be free of charge.

For more information about the Professional Visiting Artist Lecture Series, visit the Department of Art and Art History's web site at www2.oakland.edu/art-history/visiting.cfm

— Kaitlyn Chornoby contributed to this report

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Op



Photo courtesy of Pato Margetic

Margetic graduated from Oakland with a communication degree, but decided to follow his love for music.

Former Golden Grizzly makes his mark in the music business

By **ANDREW CRAIG**
Staff Reporter

A former Golden Grizzly is making noise on the local music scene.

Pato Margetic is taking passions for sound and the city into his musical endeavors. A 2010 graduate, Margetic has been developing his zeal for music and his playing style for years, even before his time at Oakland University.

"I've always been into music and writing. Even as a kid I'd be jotting things down," he said. "I first picked up a guitar when I was 12, and I haven't put it down."

His style creatively blends flowing acoustic rhythms and smooth vocals to produce the soulful tunes that resonate through his music.

The infatuation has grown into a lifestyle for the former communications major. Margetic recognizes that his formal education has helped improve his extracurricular focus.

"At Oakland, I did independent study classes for recording and writing through the communication department to help further my work," he said. "I performed for presentations and projects whenever I could. I incorporated music into class."

He also said that his multicultural communication class with associate professor Dr. Kellie Hay left a lasting impression.

"I have a multicultural background

myself," Margetic said. "That was one of my favorite classes, and definitely the most inspiring."

Practice in school and out aided his pursuit of a career as a musician.

"I hope that people respect me as an artist. I want people to hear my music and truly enjoy it."

— Pato Margetic,
OU graduate and musician

Instead of performing for a class of 30, however, he now plays live shows. In place of projects for communications classes are music videos.

Margetic explained that some inspiration comes from his surroundings.

"I'm a metro Detroiter, so I like to bring some hometown spots into my videos," he said. "It's about keeping up with the tradition of Detroit musicians, honoring the whole city."

Local landmarks like Belle Isle, the DIA and several of the city's casinos are featured in his videos. One of Margetic's first videos was filmed at Royal Oak's Gusoline Alley, similar to Detroit musicians like Kid Rock, Obie Trice and The White Stripes.

While he appreciates the work and influence of the accomplished musicians before him, Margetic insists

his style is his own. A multitude of influences helped shape his music, including a taste of Spanish guitar. Comparisons have been drawn between his music and that of artists like Jason Mraz and John Mayer.

"I don't mind (the comparisons). I actually take (them) as a compliment," he said. "I've definitely been influenced by other artists, but my music is personal, and I like to remind people of that. I'm my own artist."

As a musician, Margetic has two albums to his credit, with a third in the works. Currently, he is keeping busy between studio sessions and live performances, with an understanding that learning is a product of experimentation and collaboration.

In his limited free time, Margetic has been writing and recording with other musicians and fine-tuning his own sound.

"Right now, I'm working on all aspects of performance," Margetic said. "I'm a freelance recording artist and musician working on all my chops creatively. And I'm really having fun with it. I'm in love with what I'm doing."

Margetic's next gig is Ignite Detroit! 2 inside Motor City Casino on April 14.

"I hope that people respect me as an artist," he said. "I want people to hear my music and truly enjoy it."

For more information about Margetic, visit www.patomusic.com

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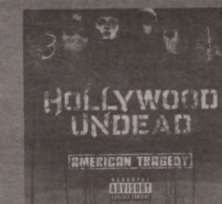
ARTHUR // PG-13 // 109 min.



Arthur (Russell Brand) is an immature heir to a billion dollar empire who finds his life spiralling out of control when his mother insists he marry the unlovable Susan (Jennifer Garner) or be cut off from his inheritance. In love with a restaurant server, Arthur refuses to marry Susan and must redefine his life among the working class.

YOUR HIGHNESS // R // 102 min.

Prince Thadeous (Danny McBride) is forced to step out of his life of luxury when his fearless brother Fabious' fiancée is abducted by Leezar, a powerful wizard. Threatened to be cut off from the family fortune, Thadeous reluctantly agrees to join his brother to stop Leezar from beginning a new age of darkness.



HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD // "American Tragedy"

Since its last release in 2009, Hollywood Undead has been writing material for "American Tragedy."

The name references

the idea that many American youths discover many of their beliefs to be false upon entering adulthood. The rock album includes their hit "Hear Me Now."

THE KILLS // "Blood Pressures"

After a long wait since their 2008 release, The Kills return with a heavier sound and layered instrumentation. "Blood Pressures" marks their fourth album, and the duo of Hince and Mosshart keep their trademark vocal style for returning fans.

**THE KILLS
BLOOD PRESSURES**

— Compiled by Kaitlyn Chornoby, Scene Editor

Horrid disease hits campus community

By IVEE WEST

Guest Columnist / Assumed name

An unfortunate scourge has sprung its roots and reared its indifferent head on our sleepy Rochester campus.

It strikes its victims not physically, like most afflictions, but emotionally, rendering them apathetic toward even the most appealing of events.

The indifference they show toward their chosen place of higher education reflects poorly on themselves and the institution they hope one day will be printed on a piece of paper and handed to them at commencement. If they care enough to attend. We'll see.

Although everyone may not know it by its scientific name (commutis apathetico) or even by its colloquial name (Commuter Apathy Syndrome), all of us here have seen its effects on our campus, have had friends and loved ones affected by it and/or have been afflicted with it ourselves.

"I have always strived to have as little contact with my school (Oakland University) as possible," said one junior business student, who based on this quote seems to be nearing Stage V of Commuter Apathy Syndrome (CAS).

Our field reporter had to violently bang on the window of his 2006 Camry in order to wake him from his between class slumber.

"My goal every semester is to literally spend as little time as possible on campus throughout the semester," this particular CAS victim continued.

Like many disorders the first step to treatment is to admit that there is a problem. When a well involved (or at least non-comatose) person confronts someone believed to be struck with CAS, they are often met with responses that vary from "Why would I care about OU, I'm transferring soon anyway" to "I am too busy working and going to hang out at other schools."

These are the words coming out of the mouth. However, the thoughts behind these words go more along the lines of "Yeah, I would talk to you, but I have to go sleep in my car and think about how much it sucks not having any friends at college because I am too busy not being involved."

One of the misconceptions about Commuter Apathy Syndrome is that one must be annoyingly involved or visible on campus in

order to combat the symptoms, when this is quite obviously not true.

"You do not have to wear OU clothes, be president of six student organizations, and have coffee with your professors everyday in order to be considered CAS-free. From our preliminary studies it seems that victims see better social health after just joining one student organization or quitting their dead end off campus job and getting a job on campus," one expert on Commuter Apathy Syndrome said.

Although everyone may not know it by its scientific name ... all of us here have seen its effects on Oakland's campus.

Generally people are considered to be clean from CAS if they bring something to campus other than just the SUV their parents bought and a negative attitude.

Experts also say that CAS is a spectrum disorder, and that early detection is key.

"Normally if we see a student stay apathetic even during their freshmen year Welcome Week, then there is a high chance they will develop a chronic case of the syndrome."

Cases can range from mild cases of students who may not know the name of every building by the time they graduate, to the severe cases of students who are literally not known by anyone else on campus.

At commencements they can be recognized as the ones walking across the stage with complete indifference toward the institution where they spent the last four phlegmatic years.

"It is sad when you have a student walk across that stage and literally not one other person knows who they are. There was a guy from my psychology class who showed signs of the plague: MSU hoodie, complained a lot about various OU topics, always referred to going to hang at other schools or back home," Mike Longley, a recent Psychology grad and CAS survivor, said.

"Yeah, my first year here I was pretty much a ghost. I had no friends at Oakland, and pretty much looked forward to going home

after class to play Xbox Live. On the weekends I would pretty much work and hang out with my friends from high school. Junior year I quit my job at home and worked on campus. One thing led to another and by my senior year I was going to basketball games, on the e-board of a student organization, and spending as much time on campus as at home. I just wish it had happened sooner."

The disorder is also causing a prejudice commonly held with resident students that commuters are not involved and bring nothing to the campus environment.

This is another debilitating aspect of the syndrome: all commuters are seen as not being involved, when in fact, many of our student leaders and involved students come from the ranks of students who do not call the Residence Halls or student apartments home.

"The fact of the matter is that although CAS is hurting our campus environment, not all commuters are affected. This is blatant misnomer which needs to be addressed," another expert on Commuter Apathy Syndrome said.

Many who are angered at our commuter population for the ravages of CAS may forget the syndrome's just as nasty cousin: Resident Hermit Disorder (RHD). RHD is the equivalent of CAS and forms its epicenter on the residential portion of our campus.

Students afflicted with RHD are rarely seen on weekends, and during the week are in an even sadder state than the victims of CAS, considering their proximity to campus makes it easier to cure their raw passivity.

So what does this mean going forward for the fine campus of Oakland University?

As mentioned earlier the first key is combating the denial of CAS and RHD which is nearly always shown by the afflicted. Early detection and frequent events will also help. Increased student housing and stronger sense of pride and community can be long term goals.

That said, at the end of the day the burden rests with those who have these involvement disorders. We are in charge of our level of involvement, and consequently our happiness during our days here at Oakland.

The choice is to the student: car naps or campus life?

Editor's Note: The writer requested their name be withheld due to their campus involvement.



Things that are more fun than finals week

10. Staring contest with the Grizz statue
9. Enduring another week of OUSC election campaigns. Countless posters and sidewalk chalk aside, filling out three items on a ballot beats 50 bubbles on a Scantron
8. Paying \$5 for a slice of pizza from Famiglia that fell off the substandard paper plate anyway
7. Watching a Steven Seagal movie marathon, including "Ticker" and "Marked For Death"
6. A vasectomy on Monday, reverse vasectomy Tuesday and family horseback riding trip on Wednesday
5. Standing in the Subway line in Pioneer Food Court, dressed as a pioneer
4. Camping out in the P-3 lot for a week and watching construction of the Human Health building — without a tent
3. Counting cars that pass through the main entrance to campus
2. Riding a bike from Pawley to Vandenberg — a bike share bike that has one pedal, bent handlebars and no seat
1. A Charlie Sheen "concert," especially if you paid to attend, and especially if it was a monumental disappointment. Winning

— By Andrew Craig, Staff Reporter

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