

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 9, 2011

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Golden Grizzlies win Summit League Tournament,
earn second-consecutive March Madness bid

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM
COMES UP SHORT IN CONFERENCE FINAL

PAGES 14-15

this week

March 9 — March 15, 2011



Photo
...of the...
Week

So OUSC thinks it can dance // Monday, March 7 NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Oakland University Student Congress elections officially kicked off Monday with a candidate meet-and-greet and dance-off in Fireside Lounge. Presidential candidate Benjamin Eveslage and his running mate Elisa Malile show off their dance moves, though they lost to Tom Cruz and Brett McIsaac, who brought in two students who did front flips.



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CAMPUS // Multiple student organizations unite to assemble a night of European celebration that featured international cuisine and customs.



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LOCAL // The city of Pontiac, which was settled in 1818, begins a yearlong celebration of its 150th anniversary on March 15.



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FEATURES // A new organization working to help student organizations learn important leadership skills is explored in a series on university jobs.



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THE SCENE // Oakland University Art Gallery's exhibition "Borders and Frontiers" focuses on collage, appropriation and image-making.

Op

Look for comprehensive coverage of the upcoming Oakland University Student Congress elections on our website.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Taking time out for students

Oakland University is asking professors to use their own time and resources to accommodate students who need more time to take tests.

Professors assert that the Office of Disabilities Support Services used to hold this responsibility and should continue to do so because of federal mandates.

Students, meanwhile, seem to be getting lost in the shuffle.

DSS continues to offer test-taking accommodations for students who need more support than additional time. That includes students who may need a reader, interpreter or alternative test format.

The Oakland Chapter of the American Association of University Professors has filed a grievance with the school because the organization believes that this breaches the collective bargaining agreement it reached with OU.

We understand the inconveniences this may cause professors but are confident they can overcome this roadblock.

Recently, College of Arts and Sciences dean Ron Sudol sent an e-mail to the college's department chairs instructing them to require faculty to arrange for the extended exams, which require 50 percent more time.

Scott Barnes, executive director of AAUP, addressed the matter in a letter sent to all faculty members on Feb. 11. In the letter, Barnes expressed his disapproval in finding out about the new requirements unofficially before receiving Sudol's correspondence.

The end goal should remain providing excellent service to all students.

AAUP is challenging the mandate. Barnes said this request is too much and that "Oakland cannot substantially change working conditions without bargaining the terms and conditions of the change."

Sudol said instructors are required to carry out their job of administering classes to Oakland students.

The DSS office could not be reached for comment on these changes.

Professors like AAUP vice president and history professor Karen Miller are worried about the privacy of students who need additional time. If the DSS office proctored every test for students in need, wouldn't classes already notice an absent classmate during an exam?

A valid concern for professors is the difficulty in arranging a time and place to make up the remainder of the test time. A central location for students who need additional time to complete examinations is the most practical answer. Eastern Michigan University, for instance, has one learning center that is always available for use. That could alleviate concerns Oakland professors have while allowing the DSS office to retain what little space they do have.

The DSS office should be offering the entire scope of services to students with disabilities. There is no doubt about that.

At the same time professors, who in most cases have earned doctoral degrees, should be creative enough to develop innovative solutions.

We understand there are limited resources because the office only has two staffers. But Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder said there are a growing number of students being admitted who require special accommodations. The DSS staff should grow in turn.

It's time to reevaluate the needs of OU's growing student body and adjust the amount of student services accordingly.

Readers can turn to page 5 to read the accompanying story.

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MEET THE POST

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Good decision defends bad rhetoric

The Supreme Court's recent decision to protect protesting Westboro Baptist Church members and their right to free speech meant good things for the sanctity of the First Amendment.

But it doesn't say that those members are good people.

The 8-1 decision that ruled in favor of Westboro members and its pastor and leader, Fred Phelps, was monumental because of the uniquely emotional nature of the situation at hand.

In 2006, Marine Matthew Snyder died while serving in Iraq. Members of the church, which is based in Topeka, Kan., came to protest at Snyder's funeral in Westminster, Md.

While the particular situation — protesters were holding signs emblazoned with phrases like "God Hates Fags" and other irreverent, hateful things — was definitely a case in which protesters were in the wrong morally, they were not legally wrong.

It saddens me to think that Snyder died while fighting to uphold the very rights that protect the controversial Westboro



Kay Nguyen
Editor-in-Chief

protesters and their speech.

I believe freedom of speech is a very important right because I am a journalist. There's always the old adage about the First Amendment being the first on the Bill of Rights for a reason.

It's unfortunate that it took a scenario like this to bring a landmark First Amendment case before the Supreme Court, but the landslide decision the justices made affirmed what I believe in.

Time, place and manner restrictions are rarely enacted because the manner of restriction is very subjective.

It is hard to defend what the protesters

display on their signs.

If the justices had drawn a line when it came to speech during funerals, where would the line have stopped with regard to free speech?

What Phelps and his cohorts do is completely legal. Justice Samuel Alito wrote in his dissenting opinion that "most if not all jurisdictions permit recovery in tort for the intentional infliction of emotional distress," but also admitted it was "a very narrow tort with requirements that are rigorous, and difficult to satisfy."

The Westboro case is a win for the First Amendment and the rights it provides, but not for humanity.

The court decided those requirements were not met. The group stands in public areas that happen to be outside military funerals and has a right to assemble.

They have done so at over 600 funerals. While the speech they utter is defamatory in nature, they are not directly slandering.

They are following the law and eight justices agreed with that. When he delivered the court's opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts said, "such speech cannot be restricted simply because it is upsetting or arouses contempt."

He also said the language "may fall short of refined social or political commentary, the issues they highlight ... are matters of public import."

I echo those sentiments and the seven other concurring opinions from the judges of the high court do too.

Events like this — the story of the 1979 American Nazi Party march in Skokie, Ill., also comes to mind — show the most negative side of human nature.

However, it comes with the luxury of having a public forum of ideas available. Positive things, like the camaraderie of the Patriot Guard that goes to protect military funerals from the Westboro protesters, can come out of witnessing evils.

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248-370-2400

Center for Student Activities

CSA

www.oakland.edu/csa

Women's History Month 2011
Women and Sexuality: Express Yourself

Wednesday, March 9

"Sex, Desire and Responsibility"
Dr. Sylvie Lombardo and Melissa Pope
Noon - 1:00pm Fireside Lounge, OC

Saturday, March 12

Women and Gender Studies Film Festival
"From Hysteria to Disorder:
Manufacturing Disorders of Female Desire"
Noon - 5:30pm 156 North Foundation Hall

Tuesday, March 15

"Declaration of Desire" Open Mic
5:00pm - 7:00pm Pioneer Food Court

See the Calender on the Gender & Sexuality Website at
"www.oakland.edu/gsc" for the full list of events.

Poll
- of the -
Week

3.9.11

Last Week's Poll

How do you feel about the proposed elimination of the Michigan Film Incentive?

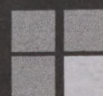
It's a huge loss / 37 votes / 70%
I'm glad to see it go / 10 votes / 19%
I'm indifferent / 6 votes / 11%

This Week's Poll

Who should have the responsibility of accommodating test takers with special needs?

• Classroom Instructors • Disability Support Services • Other

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com



CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact.

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

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

AAUP disputes policy

Professors must facilitate extended exams themselves

By RHIANNON ZIELINSKI

Campus Editor

The American Association of University Professors at OU has filed a grievance against the university regarding a letter sent to faculty in the fall by Disability Student Support services, addressing a recent change in their policy.

Until the policy was changed, students with disabilities requiring an additional 50 percent of time to complete their exams were allowed to take their exams in the DSS office in North Foundation Hall.

"This is a service that is provided at most universities because it allows the university to comply with federal law in a way that was convenient to the student and his or her professors," said Karen Miller, an associate professor and chapter vice president of the AAUP.

The letter explained that professors are now responsible for finding a location for these longer exams and administering the exams themselves. The AAUP disagrees with these changes and has begun the process of filing a grievance with the university.

The reason for the changes

Mary Beth Snyder, the vice president of student affairs, said that these changes regarding the administering of tests were made, in part, due to an increase in the number of disabled students admitted to OU.

"With that has come an increase in alternative testing accommodations," Snyder said. "DSS, with only two employees, has begun to focus on those accommodations that require more than just extra time on tests."

The additional accommodations include students who require readers, interpreters and scribes to assist them with exams. According to Snyder, DSS will continue to administer exams for those students. Under this new policy, professors will only be responsible for students requiring additional time for the exams, and nothing else.

The AAUP said they have been given conflicting information.

"The position of the DSS office is that they have to cut their service because they no longer have the resources to provide them," Miller said. "However, this has been disputed by representatives of the university who have told us that, because of the federal mandate to provide these services, the DSS office is given any resources that it needs."

The referenced federal law is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which applies to federally funded programs like the university and states that students who have voluntarily disclosed that they have a disability and provide proper documentation are entitled to receive appropriate academic adjustments that enable them to participate in all educational programs.

DSS declined to comment regarding these changes.

The causes for concern

The AAUP has expressed concern over the new policy for many reasons. The first concern is maintaining the privacy of the student requiring extra time for their exam. The Rehabilitation Act stipulates that students be accommodated in ways that protect their privacy.

"They cannot simply take an examination with the rest of the class and continue to work 50 percent longer, since it will be possible for anyone to identify them as receiving special accommodations," AAUP Executive Director Scott Barns said in an e-mail to OU faculty.

The AAUP also noted that the location of these extended exams can pose a problem, because many departments do not have common rooms that can serve as test facilities.

"Most of our part-time faculty either do not have offices or must share them, limiting their ability to use faculty office space for testing," Miller said. "Moreover, faculty offices are not necessarily quiet test facilities. In many cases, test takers would be interrupted by telephone calls and people knocking on the door."

She said that student needs are better met in a quiet, monitored, independent test-

ing facility, like the type of facility that was previously offered by DSS.

Despite these concerns, Snyder said that many professors have not had any difficulties administering these exams. Ron Sudol, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that he has not yet had any feedback from professors and does not expect any.

"When you're a faculty member, you take the students you are given," Sudol said. "It's a little bit of extra work ... but I can't imagine that there would ever be any faculty member who wouldn't be willing to do that."

Filing a grievance

In addition to concerns for the students, the AAUP has stated that these changes have affected the faculty's working conditions, which is a mandatory issue for collective bargaining.

"Simply put, Oakland cannot substantially change your working conditions without bargaining the terms of conditions of the change," Barns said. "If the AAUP Executive Committee waives this off, the change will set an unwanted precedent and there would be little that can be done about the next unilateral change in working conditions that Oakland attempts."

It was these numerous concerns that led the AAUP to initiate the first step of the formal grievance process with the university administration.

"The AAUP would like to return to the previous policy," Miller said. "Special-needs students who require time and a half to complete examinations should have the opportunity to take their exams in facilities managed by the DSS office in North Foundation Hall."

Although the outcome of the grievance will not be known for some time, Snyder emphasized that the university is addressing the issue.

"I am committed to seeing that our students with disabilities have a positive experience at Oakland," Snyder said.

— Mike Sandula contributed to this report

campus briefs

ALS Exercise-A-Thon

A group exercise event is being held at the Recreation and Athletics Center on Wednesday, March 9 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. to benefit ALS of Michigan. A \$5 donation will get you into all activities. For more information, contact Rebecca Lewis at 248-370-4910.

Education career fair

The Career Guidance Center is holding an education career fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9 in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms. For more information, e-mail careers@oakland.edu.

Health career exploration

On Friday, March 11, the Career Guidance Center will be holding an event from noon to 3 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center for those interested in a career in the health care field.

Clarinet meets dance

Clarinetist George Stoffan will join members of the OU Dance Company on Saturday, March 12 in Varner Recital Hall from 8-10 p.m. for a concert with dance accompaniment. For more information, contact Gillian Ellis at 248-370-3321.

Government career mixer

The Career Guidance Center is holding an event in the Gold rooms of the Oakland Center on Tuesday, March 15 from noon to 1 p.m. for those interested in a career in government. For more information, e-mail careers@oakland.edu.

— Compiled by Kevin Graham, Staff Intern

Students get taste of Europe at event

By **ANDREW CRAIG**

Staff Reporter

Students gathered Friday night for a literal taste of foreign culture as European Night commenced in the Oakland Center. The evening was sponsored by more than a dozen student organizations.

Free and open to all OU students, faculty and staff, European Night was met by a crowd of visitors. The bustling activity lasted from 4-7 p.m., while guests met and then exceeded the seating capacity of the OC Gold Rooms.

With an extra credit incentive for his German 215 class, junior Mark Seefried sampled the international flavor.

"I was surprised to see every chair filled," Seefried said. "People were actually standing. The room really filled up quickly."

However, freshman Benjamin Eveslage, president of International Allies, wasn't surprised with the turnout.

"We (International Allies) expected this number of people," he said. "This is one of the biggest events that we sponsor."

Eveslage contributed the event's popularity largely to the diverse collection of people that helped make it happen.

"Numerous organizations put this event together," he said. "Cooperative events like this are the most effective. European Night combined different aspects of cultural festivals together, and it's worked really well."

Dikka Berven, special instructor of French, is the faculty advisor to OU's French Club. According to Berven, French Club always looks forward to European Night. This year, club members served as masters of ceremony for the multicultural entertainment.

"International events offer the opportunity to get to know students from other cultures, to have fun together, and to get a glimpse of how people do things in other countries," Berven said.

The cultural stage was set for precisely that, as European traditions were showcased through live performances and a buffet of international cuisine. Many elaborate presentations illustrated cultural variety through dance, featuring performers dressed in traditional attire and intricate routines.

Appetites were satisfied with native dishes from many of the host cultures. From Greek baklava to Polish stuffed cabbage, from Spanish paella to Scottish stovies, guests sampled plates for all palates.

The event's appetizers, prepared by Chartwells, offered a distinctive taste with each delicacy.

Like the assortment of food, the variety of sponsors helped make the celebration successful.

"People aren't just getting food and leaving, they're staying around," Eveslage said. "There's great food to eat and the performers have done a really good job."

Junior Stephanie Simone agreed with Eveslage's thoughts on the turnout.

"A lot of people came to see what's going on and to ask questions," she said. "It's a fun event. The whole evening celebrates all the different multicultural organizations on



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

More than a dozen student organizations sponsored European Night on Friday, March 4. Attendees were treated to presentations, cultural dancers and performers, intricate dance routines and a variety of cultural foods.

campus. The turnout has been great."

Outside of the Gold Rooms, Simone answered questions from curious students about International Village, one of the event sponsors.

International Village offers local and international students the opportunity to live in a multicultural community on campus. In the 7000 block of the Ann V. Nicholson Student Apartment complex, students from around the world are immersed in a multicultural environment. Like European Night, International Village promotes awareness and appreciation of other cultures.

Involvement in international events on campus provides students opportunities to learn outside of the norm. European Night delivered that type of opportunity to students on Friday.

Berven suggests a significant benefit to broadening cultural exposure.

"When you see the dancing and listen to the music, you can get a whole new experience and understanding of a foreign culture," she said. "I think if people knew more about other cultures, they would have more respect for what makes people tick."

European Night was a small example of how diverse peoples can work cooperatively. Differences, when appreciated, can promote understanding.

According to Berven, the evening can serve as a model for welcoming diversity. The contributions of individual cultures in Europe, for example, work in complementary fashion and have enhanced intercultural relations.

"The European Union is a huge geographic entity in which people are learning to live and work successfully



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

Some of the food at European night included crepes (above) and strawberries served with gelato (below).

together in spite of different histories, economic situations, languages and cultures," Berven said. "That's an amazing accomplishment. The process has not been smooth or easy, but it is working."

For more information about the organizations involved in European Night, visit oakland.edu/csa

OUSC candidates meet, greet students

By **ALI ARMSTRONG**

Staff Reporter

Students talked politics and dancing on Monday at the OUSC Candidate Meet and Greet.

All eight candidates were there to mingle with students and discuss their campaign platforms for the upcoming elections, followed by a dance-off where the candidates showed off their best dance moves.

Four tickets are running in this year's election: Juniors Shakita Billy and Eric Sturgis, juniors Tyler Glen and Ryan Rott, junior Elisa Malile and freshman Benjamin Eveslage, and juniors Tom Cruz and Brett McIsaac.

The increase in the number of candidates running has created more competition for the title than in previous years.

Each candidate has prior OUSC experience and has proposed different platforms in regards to their campaign.

Billy and Sturgis are proposing the lowering of food prices in the Pioneer Food Court and tackling the infamous parking issue at OU.

"We're not making any promises. We're realistic and understand that the only thing we can promise is that we are going to work hard entirely for students," Sturgis said. "A couple of our key issues are lowering food prices here ... second thing is parking. I don't have an answer; I want the student's opinion. I want to survey the students, find out what they want and go to the administration ... the third issue is, we want to see the library open longer and the recreation center open longer and we want to put the pressure on both of those areas to do that."

Both Billy and Sturgis have served as legislators for OUSC. Billy has served as a member on the legislative affairs, multicultural affairs and student services committees. She is also a member of the International Ally Program and the Student Alumni Association, and was elected as OU's Employee of the Year in 2010. Sturgis has served as congressional archivist, club tennis vice president and College Democrat treasurer.

"I am aware of all of the resources I can get as a student and I also understand how important it is for me as a student to connect with faculty, staff and administration to create networks," Billy said. "When I realized that the average student didn't know that information, I realized it's my turn and



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Candidates running for OUSC president and vice president gather in the Fireside Lounge for a meet-and-greet. **Top:** Tyler Glen, Benjamin Eveslage, Tom Cruz and Shakita Billy. **Bottom:** Ryan Rott, Elisa Malile, Brett McIsaac and Eric Sturgis.

my responsibility to help the average student out and by running for student body president, I could help them do that."

Eveslage and Malile are proposing giving all students the college experience they deserve. Their campaign platform is based around proposing events that are coordinated to and available for all students.

"The platform is based around that college experience. To be able to have events for all different types of areas around campus and cumulative weekend events so that students stay on campus, and want to stay on campus," Eveslage said. "I want everyone to know what's going on at OU. I want to have easy ways to get involved and be able to have that experience easily and readily available."

Eveslage is the president of International Allies and the Legislative Affairs Director for OUSC. He has helped put on multicultural events on campus, including Not For Sale and OU Day at the Capitol. Malile is a member and Fundraising Chair of Phi Sigma Sigma, as well as a member of the Albanian-American student organization.

"I want to take OU to the next level in the form that I want to make sure that students have a college experience and make sure that everyone who walks through our

doors can experience that no matter what they're looking for," Malile said. "They can take a piece of OU with them when they walk across on graduation and they're proud to say that they went to OU and say that they had that experience."

Cruz and McIsaac have built their campaign around giving students more different options for campus issues and concerns.

"One of the main things we want to talk about is having feasible options for solutions," Cruz said. "Some people can talk about having cheaper prices for food, some people can talk about better parking and some people can talk about better utilities. But what people might forget is that, with all of those things, is something else that goes with it, like higher tuition rates and other things that the university and the students themselves have to bear."

Cruz and McIsaac are want to implement an increase of security on campus, thorough security response training and a revised student handbook that would feature a list of student organizations and other campus activities available for students.

"It's the knowledge of being in the legislative and executive board that lets us know what's possible and what's not. We know how to go around campus, talk to the ad-

ministration and get things done," McIsaac said. "It was my job this past year as the student services director to go around and talk to the administration and get results ... I don't feel that there are any other candidates that are as experienced as we are. We are the only candidates who both have executive board experience."

Cruz and McIsaac are both members of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and have both served on the legislative and executive board at OUSC. Cruz is also the multicultural affairs director for OUSC and McIsaac is the student services director.

Glen and Rott, who could not be reached for comment, are proposing more student involvement on campus through more funding provided for student organizations.

Glen is a member of the Honors College and the Financial Management Association. He is a member and the social chair and special events chair of Sigma Pi Fraternity International. Rott is also a member of the Honors College and Sigma Pi Fraternity.

The vice presidential debate will be held March 18 at noon in the Fireside Lounge, followed by the presidential debate March 23 at noon in the Fireside Lounge. Voting days are March 28-30. To learn more, visit oakland.edu/ousc/elections

Stranger than fiction: Dept. holds contest

By LAURYN ANDREWS
Staff Reporter

Submit a piece of poetry or an original work of fiction and you may find yourself a winner.

Oakland University's English Department is currently sponsoring two writing contests, the 12th Annual Flash Fiction Contest and the 2011 Poetry Contest.

Each contest has a grand prize of \$100.

The Flash Fiction Contest is open to all Oakland University undergraduate students.

Annette Gilson, associate professor of English and creative writing, will be one of the judges for this year's Flash Fiction Contest.

Gilson encourages students to use their own imagination.

We are looking for "fresh, punchy, exciting and delicious fiction," Gilson said.

Her best advice for students: "Don't try to come up with a bow-tied ending. That kind of resolution often feels false."

Submissions for the 12th Annual Flash Fiction Contest are due on Friday, March 11.

If fiction is not your style, try submitting a poem to The 2011 Ekphrasis Poetry Contest.

According to the English Department's website, "The Ekphrasis Poetry Contest challenges writers to create an evocative poetic description of an art object."

The contest is open to all Oakland University students, faculty, alumni and staff members. However, Oakland University creative writing faculty are ineligible.

Entries for the 2011 Poetry Contest must be received by Friday, April 1.

English Professor Amy Spearman has her own advice for all participants in the competition.

"I'd urge those interested to carefully follow submission rules and to take advantage of the opportunity to submit up to three pieces per contest. No particular style or mode should be favored over any other," Spearman said.

For more information and requirements for the flash fiction or poetry contests, visit the English department's website at oakland.edu/english

Student Writers Group returns

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Staff Reporter

OU's Student Writers Group is revamped and back this year.

The organization is a venue open for students interested in writing or photography to receive writing tips, as well as giving them an opportunity to have their work published in the group's annual journal, "Swallow The Moon."

"Student writers is a venue for people to come and express concerns they've had about writing and show their work so we can get input ... we're hoping to get a journal, which will showcase writers at OU which otherwise may not have been published at this stage," Student Writers Group vice president, Kathleen Bochenek said. "It's a really good thing if you're hoping to become a writer ... it's a really good place to make new friends, show your writing and get creative."

The Student Writers Group released journals in 2005 and 2006, but was on an unofficial hiatus since 2006 when members of the group graduated.

The group started after students collaborated to bring a writing and rhetoric organization on campus. Prior to the Student Writers Group, there were no other writing and rhetoric groups on campus.

"There was no writing or rhetoric club when the organization got started, so they started this group instead ... I just wanted it where it's not just mainly a writing or English major kind of thing, so I asked them to re-do it and re-up it," Student Writers Group president, Ashley Cerku said.

The journals published by the group feature student writing, everything from short fiction to plays, as well as photography,

poems and art.

No journals have been released this year, but the group is planning on having a journal published and released sometime in April.

"I think this is a really good thing. It helps people become published at the college level, it looks really good on resumes ... and it helps to get your name out there in any way that you can," freshman Brittany Forth said.

The group is hoping to incorporate their journal into the curriculum and required reading of the writing and rhetoric classes on campus.

"With most of those classes, you have to produce something that can eventually be published, so we're thinking of putting this into those classes to kind of represent that students can get published," Cerku said.

Students can submit writing, photographic or art pieces to be published in the journal until March at the organizations mailbox in the CSA.

A contest will be held for students to submit artwork to be used for the journal's cover. Details are yet to be determined.

"If you like to write poetry or if you like to write songs ... basically anything and everything is accepted," said Cerku.

The group holds weekly meetings every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the CSA and open workshops every Friday from 2-6 p.m. in Room 328 of Kresge Library, where students can receive assistance with their writing.

"A lot of prominent authors today were originally first published in their school's journals, so that's something to look forward to as our club continues and gets a reputation that maybe 10 years from now you'll look back and realize you got your start in the Oakland Writers Club," Bochenek said.

Campus to host history conference

By ANNIE STODOLA
Staff Reporter

This month, history buffs from across the region will flock to Oakland University.

Phi Alpha Theta, a national honor society for history students, is holding their regional conference at OU on March 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At the conference, OU's Alpha Zeta Upsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta will host students from 18 different schools in four states, as well as Canada.

The conference is also free and open to all OU students.

Because both breakfast and lunch are provided, the group requests interested parties notify them so the group may get an accurate count. More information is available on the OU History Department website.

Phi Alpha Theta President Dylan Tanner said the conference offers an opportunity to learn more about careers in history and what can be done with a history degree.

"It's a great way to learn what goes on when you're actually a historian and what you'll be learning and writing in that position," Tanner said.

The conference will feature keynote speaker Jan Bulman, who is a history professor at Auburn Montgomery University in Alabama. Bulman specializes in medieval history and is an OU alum. Her speech will focus on the historical profession in general, as well as on what it's like to teach history at the university level.

Aside from Bulman's keynote speech, Tanner said much of the conference will focus on student research that members of Phi Alpha Theta have done.

During the conference, 58 papers of original student research will be presented, in-

cluding 18 that were developed by OU students.

Many of the topics focus on metro Detroit and Michigan history specifically, including the disappearance of Detroit Street Cars in the 1940s, two influential African-American ministers during the Detroit civil rights movement and environmental activism in Alpena in the 1950-70s.

"It's a good chance for people to learn more about the history of their neighborhood, state, country and world," Tanner said. "It's also a great chance to see what we're doing at OU."

Tanner also hopes the event will remind people that important research is being done in history departments across the country, particularly at OU.

To learn more about this program and others offered by the history department, visit their website at www.oakland.edu/history

Professor writes poems in 'Blood'

By MIKE SANDULA

Managing Editor

Normally, a bulk of his poetry is written outside. But after 9/11, he couldn't keep certain thoughts from entering his head.

"It's odd to be a sort of landscape or nature poet and all of a sudden have the world intrude upon the imagination," Ed Haworth Hoepfner, an English professor at Oakland University, said.

Haworth Hoepfner's newest collection of poems, "Blood Prism," is the winner of the 2010 Ohio State University Press Award in Poetry and centers on three themes, including politics, which Haworth Hoepfner said he'd never explored before poetically. The award comes with the publication of his manuscript by The Ohio State University Press and a \$3,000 prize.

"It's really a way of ... trying to bring that sort of news into the world, into the daily life of the person who's walking around 1,000 miles from that kind of stuff, and see how it enters into the imagination and changes reality a little bit," Haworth Hoepfner said.

Memory and age make up the other two sections of the book, with the former section featuring poems about the death of Haworth Hoepfner's parents. The three themes are connected through the concept of "blood" — the blood of family, the often-violent nature of politics, and age resembling the coming of the end of one story in a bloodline.

"I've always been surprised previously to see what my domi-

nant mood was for this period of time. One time, I did a book and I thought, 'Wow, a lot of these poems are about being a father for the first time,'" Haworth Hoepfner said.

Haworth Hoepfner, who's taught at OU since 1988, has published about 300 poems since the 1970s. "Blood Prism" contains about 65 poems that were written over the last several years. In addition to exploring new topics, he said he also experimented with various technical forms, such as prose, internal rhyme and staggered lines.

With such a small audience for poetry, Susan Hawkins, chair and associate professor of English, said it's a rare feat for poets to have their work published.

"What the general public doesn't understand is just how difficult it is to get poetry published in America," Hawkins said. "Almost all of it is done by really small presses and/or academic presses like Ohio State. And even there this is a contest, so over 700 submissions, all these people are sending in manuscripts, and Ed's manuscript gets it out of 700."

Haworth Hoepfner said books of poetry usually sell between 1,000-5,000 copies, and that often poets will be paid in copies in lieu of money, which he has no objection to.

"It's not a money game at all for 99.9 percent of poets; it's something else," Haworth Hoepfner said.

"Blood Prism" will be published later this year, and will be available through The Ohio State University Press and at major book-sellers.

police files

Possible suicide attempt

On Tuesday, March 1, the OUPD received a transferred call from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department regarding a possible suicide attempt. A friend of the individual, who lives out of state, made a call to the Sheriff's Department informing them of the student's suicidal comments earlier that day.

The individual was confirmed as a non-OU student and contact information was retrieved and transferred to the Troy Police Department. The Troy Police Department contacted the individual's mother, who said she would attempt to get a hold of her son. There is no further information at this time.

Dodge Hall false alarm

On Wednesday, March 2, OUPD responded to a fire alarm on the second floor of Dodge Hall. The Auburn Hills Fire Department responded and the building was evacuated. After further investigation, it appeared that no fire alarm had been pulled and there was no sign of smoke. Everyone was allowed back into the building and the scene was cleared.

Dodge Hall leak

On Sunday, March 6, OUPD responded to a report regarding a water leak in Dodge Hall. An HVAC unit had leaked, causing pooled water to seep through every floor, including the basement. Lab faculty and other staff were informed of the situation and the possible damage of their equipment. All cleaning crew personnel were notified to assist in the cleanup.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Local Editor

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Making steady progress

By JAKE THIELEN

Sports Editor

Oakland University's Division I club hockey team capped a successful season with an appearance in the American Collegiate Hockey Association National Tournament, held March 5-9 in Newark, Del.

The Grizzlies entered the National Tournament as the No. 11 seed, following a season in which the team compiled a 24-11-5 record in their second season under head coach Jeremy Bachusz.

In the first round, OU earned its first National Tournament win since 2007 with a 3-2 overtime win over No. 6 Minot State.

The Grizzlies lost in the first round of the 2010 National Tournament to the Beavers by the same 3-2 score in overtime.

"We were able to play them last year, so we knew what to expect," Bachusz said. "That overtime loss really motivated the team. They wanted revenge."

Oakland assistant coach Nick Tomczyk said the key to the victory was that the Grizzlies never felt they were the underdog.

"We always knew we had the team to win the National Championship," Tomczyk said. "The difference in winning a National Championship and being knocked out is the ability for a team to play a full 60 minutes of hockey for four straight games."

The Grizzlies' National Tournament run came to an end in its next game — a 6-2 loss to No. 3 seed Ohio University.

Oakland faced an early deficit after it gave up three first-period goals to the Bobcats. The Grizzlies scored two goals in the second period to make it 3-2, but Ohio added three more goals in the third period and held on for the victory.

"We got down early, and it's tough to dig yourself out of a hole," Oakland assistant coach Gordie Schaeffler said. "We left it all on the ice."

Tomczyk gave credit to Ohio for outworking the Grizzlies in the opening period.

"You can't go down 3-0 in the first period to the No. 3 team in the country," Tomczyk said. "Playing catch-up with a team like that certainly limits your chances of winning."

Despite the loss, Oakland still had a successful regular season that was capped off with a conference championship. The Grizzlies captured the first Great Lakes Collegiate Hockey League championship with a 4-0 win over Adrian College Feb. 20.

"Anytime you can win a conference championship it's a big deal, especially since this was the first one for this league," Tomczyk said.

The six-team GLCHL began play this season, and its members include Adrian and OU rival Davenport University. In the semi-finals, Oakland beat Davenport 5-4 in overtime on a power-play goal from junior forward Jon Connors.

"Beating Davenport was a big step," Schaeffler said. "Davenport beat us at home and at their place in the regular season. Then we played an almost flawless game against Adrian, which gave us a lot of confidence."

Davenport and Adrian each won more than 30 games during the regular season, and each school earned a top-4 seed in the National Tournament.

"We played (Adrian and Davenport) four times during the regular season, but they had a better record," Bachusz said. "Beating them gave us confidence going into the National Tournament."



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Oakland University's Division I club hockey team earned its first win in the National Tournament since 2007 against Minot State on March 5. The Grizzlies lost 6-2 to Ohio University in the next round.

Still, despite the loss in the National Tournament, Bachusz said he considered the season a success.

"The team bought into the system and finished the year strong," Bachusz said. "I'm happy with the results. We hadn't been past the first round since 2007 when we won the whole thing."

Oakland's strong season was propelled by a balanced scoring attack and solid goaltending from junior Alex Pikunas. The team featured seven players who reached double figures in goals and five players recorded at least 30 points.

The Grizzlies were led in scoring this season by junior forward Jordan McDonald, who finished with 24 goals and 24 assists.

"Jordan has been one of our go-to players all season," Tomczyk said. "He has tremendous hands, and he has the ability to score with any shot. He has been a great asset defensively as well."

Schaeffler said McDonald has developed into a quiet leader.

"He stepped up and put the team on his shoulders," Schaeffler said. "Hopefully he steps into a leadership role next year, although I think he already has, and continues to work hard and get better."

Senior forward Kevin Kranker was second on the team with 39 points in just 30 games.

Bachusz said he has been recruiting offensive players to help offset the loss of Kranker and fellow senior forwards Jesse Worrell

and Ross Lane.

Still, Bachusz said he hopes the team's underclassmen, like McDonald, will be able to improve and ease the transition.

"We have other guys on the roster that could potentially step into Kevin's role," Bachusz said. "(McDonald) stepped up his play this year. He's very gifted offensively, and it helps that he played on the same line with Kevin."

With the team only losing five seniors, the coaching staff feels optimistic heading into next year.

"The core group of guys returning have learned a lot," Schaeffler said. "Getting out of the first round was huge for the team, but the end goal is still to win a National Championship."

THE SPORTING BLITZ

By **TOM BARRY**
Staff Reporter

Unold makes seventh NCAA swim cut

Oakland's Marcin Unold captured his seventh NCAA 'B' swimming cut Sunday at the Ohio State Last Ditch Men's NCAA Qualifier in Columbus, Ohio.

Unold qualified for the NCAA Championships after swimming the 100-yard backstroke in 47.51 seconds during the preliminaries, more than a full second better than the 'B' cut time. Additionally, Unold finished first in the event, recording a time of 47.56 seconds in the final.

Unold also made the NCAA 'B' cut for six other events during The Summit League Championships: the 800 free relay, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, 200 back, 400 medley relay and 400 free relay.

The Oakland men's swimming and diving team will resume competition with the women's team Friday through Saturday at the NCAA Diving Zones in Athens, Ga.

Baseball team splits doubleheader with Butler

Oakland University's baseball team earned its first win of the season as it split a doubleheader with Butler University, winning Game 1 on Sunday, 15-3, before losing Game 2, 3-0.

With the Golden Grizzlies (1-4) up 6-3 after seven innings, infielder/outfielder Todd Dunham cleared the bases in the eighth with a three-run double, part of a seven-run inning that put the game out of reach for the Bulldogs (3-4).

The Grizzlies had 22 hits in Game 1 as Dunham went 4-for-5 and infielder Tommy Jablonski was 4-for-4 with three runs.

Pitcher Greg Welke picked up the win to improve to 1-1. He struck out six Bulldogs in five innings and allowed just one earned run.

Pitcher Kevin Korkate earned the first save for the Grizzlies this year and the second of his career, recording three strikeouts

and giving up one hit during the final 3 1/3 innings.

In the second game, Oakland was held to five hits and left seven runners on base. Infielder/outfielder Mike Carson led the Grizzlies' offense by going 2-for-4. Pitcher Aaron Wick (0-2) got the loss despite six strikeouts in six innings pitched.

Oakland goes back to the diamond with four games in three days this weekend in Dayton, Ohio. The Grizzlies begin with a Friday game at Dayton, two games Saturday at Wright State and a neutral site game Sunday against Canisius.

The team's first home game is scheduled for March 29 against Western Michigan University.

Tennis drops match to CSU

Amanda Pettey won a singles match for Oakland's women's tennis team, but the Grizzlies were defeated by Cleveland State, 6-1, Sunday in Cleveland.

In a challenging No. 6 singles match, Pettey took the first set from the Vikings' Sanda Bjelan. Bjelan responded with a second-set victory before Pettey made a rally in the third and final set to win the match, 6-2, 2-6, 10-8.

The meet saw great improvements from the Golden Grizzlies (1-4) compared to last year's meet with Cleveland State (4-8). Oakland won 28 games and avoided being shut out in singles this year, as opposed to winning 16 games and being shut out four times last season.

Oakland has until March 16 to prepare for a neutral site meet against Long Island in Las Vegas.

Softball rained out

The Oakland University softball team had its scheduled appearance in the Morehead State Tournament on Sunday canceled due to rain.

The Grizzlies (4-10) will begin Summit League play on March 11, when they travel to Western Illinois for a three-game series.

The team's first home game will be March 23 against the University of Toledo.

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BACK TO THE BIG L

Grizzlies continue domination of Summit League, receive automatic N

Written by Dan Fenner | Designed by Jason Willis

With a second-consecutive Summit League championship, it's safe to declare Oakland University the best team the conference has ever seen.

The numbers are superlative. The Golden Grizzlies' 90-76 victory over long-time rival Oral Roberts in Tuesday night's conference title game caps off a stretch in which the team won 49 of 52 games against Summit League opponents.

The win grants Oakland (25-9) a coveted automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament later this month, marking the third trip to March Madness in the program's young Division I history.

"I think Oral Roberts gave us a great shot," Grizzlies coach Greg Kampe said of Tuesday's game. "They came at us in the first half after we got a double-digit lead and they tied it. And then in the second half they came back and took the lead ... Tonight was a war and we knew it'd be a war. We were good when we had to be."

Oakland's offensive dominance through this week's conference tournament was a sight to be seen, as the team held a 20-point lead in each game and blitzed opposing defenses to the tune of 282 points en route to a repeat.

"Every team is different," Kampe said. "Four of our top seven players from last year aren't here. I think

this team is more of an offensive juggernaut than last year when we made our living on defending and rebounding."

A rare occurrence during the second halves of conference games this season, Oakland briefly trailed after the Golden Eagles made a run, only to recover within minutes and pull away for good.

"I think we all felt the pressure when they started to make their run," senior Keith Benson said. "I just knew we had to stay strong and keep playing our game to withstand their run and make one of our own."

Benson finished as the game's leading scorer with 28 points, and turned in a performance not unlike one of his teammates in last season's finals.

"Last year I think Derick Nelson had a really big role in the championship game (scoring 36 points), and he took us to another level. I've always had that in the back of my mind, so I just tried to do that again this year for my team," Benson said.

After falling behind 57-56, the Grizzlies promptly went on a 26-7 run to secure the victory.

To compliment Benson's scoring output, junior Reggie Hamilton turned in his third 20-point performance of the tournament by recording 26 points. A 3-pointer with 7:40 remaining served as the final dagger in

GAME 3

3.8.11

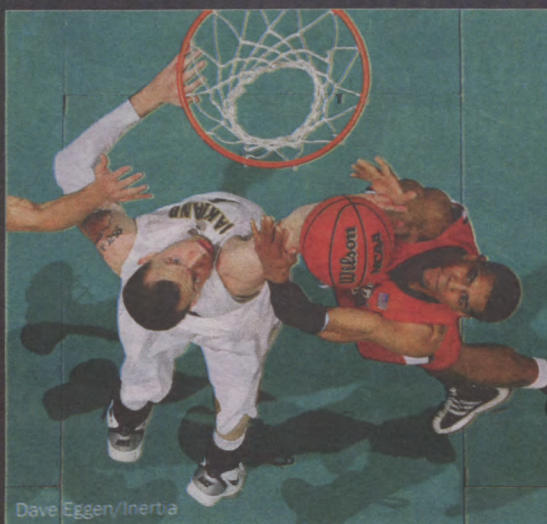
vs. #2 ORU

90-76

Oral Roberts' hopes for a comeback. Hamilton delivered his patented salute to the crowd when his shot fell to put Oakland up by 17.

"We wouldn't be sitting here if Reggie hadn't shown up on our campus," Kampe said. "Reggie is the hardest-working, wants-to-win kid. He (came) to a program that's used to winning and he conformed to us and now he's our leader. All of those great seniors we have, he's still the leader and he meant the world to our team."

Benson and Hamilton received All-Tournament honors for their performances over the course of the week, with the Grizzlies' center earning the Most Valuable Player award.



Dave Eggen/Inertia

GAME 1 82-66

vs. #8 Southern Utah University

3.5.11

In the quarterfinals, the Golden Grizzlies disposed of eighth-seeded Southern Utah with relative ease as junior guard Reggie Hamilton scored 23 points in his first Summit League Tournament game in three years.

Nine-straight points by Hamilton late in the first half helped give Oakland breathing room heading into the break. The Grizzlies led by as

many as 25 points in the second half, but head coach Greg Kampe said he never felt fully comfortable with the way his team was playing.

"We played extremely well, we really did. We played great defense," Kampe said. "But I never felt we were in control. The key was Reggie Hamilton making big plays. Great players make plays."

Keith Benson, Larry Wright and Travis Bader also reached double figures for the Black and Gold.

With a day off on Sunday, OU's players and coaches were afforded an opportunity to rest up, practice, and watch the South Dakota State — IPFW game, knowing they would face the winner in the second round.

DANCE

ic NCAA Tournament bid

"I don't want to sit here and say Keith Benson is the greatest player to ever play in the Summit League because that wouldn't be fair to (some past players)," Kampe said. "But I'm going to say this: He's the most dominant player that ever played in this league and the numbers prove that with what we've done."

Senior Will Hudson was as steady as ever by turning in a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore Drew Valentine also reached double-digits in scoring, and played a significant defensive role in shutting down ORU's Dominique Morrison, a First Team All-Conference player.

Smug and satisfied in his decision to attend Oakland, Valentine said he felt lucky to have been a part of two championship teams so early in his career.

"I've seen all of the hard work the older guys have put in and all of their leadership, so I'm just going to try and keep repeating that in the coming years," Valentine said.

Knowing now that the coda of their season will be a trip to the NCAA Tournament, the Grizzlies will wait with qualifying teams across the country to find out where they fit in to the field of 68.

"I think we have a chance to go a lot farther (in the NCAA Tournament) than we did last year," Benson said.



The Grizzlies celebrate following their 90-76 win over No. 2 seed Oral Roberts.



Coach Kampe fields post-game questions.



The Oakland University men's basketball team and coaching staff pose with the Summit League championship trophy.



Dan Fenner/The Oakland Post

GAME 2 110-90 vs. #5 South Dakota State

3.7.11

Facing the unenviable task of playing South Dakota State in front of 6,000 raucous Jackrabbits fans, the Grizzlies turned in arguably its best offensive performance of the season to keep the crowd at bay.

Oakland's 110-point barrage, the second-highest total in the tournament's history, was jump-started by a 25-9 scoring run over the first seven minutes.

Sophomore Drew Valentine was the surprise leading scorer with a game-high 24 points to go along with 11 rebounds.

"I think (SDSU's) focus tonight was not on (Valentine) and we were able to exploit that," coach Greg Kampe said. "He got some good looks and some wide-open 3-pointers. Once he got it going, he really felt good about his game."

Oakland's four other starters reached double-digit scoring. With just four turnovers in the game, the Grizzlies' offensive efficiency was simply too much for even SDSU's powerful offense to keep up with.

"We scored 90 points tonight and got beat by 20," SDSU coach Scott Nagy said. "That's hard for me to swallow."



Dick Carlson/Inertia

GAME 1

3.6.11

The Oakland University women's basketball team had to wait all year to redeem itself after last year's disappointing opening round loss. Following Sunday's quarterfinals victory over Southern Utah, the Grizzlies took a sigh of relief knowing

vs. #5 SUU

65-58

that they played a strong game and advanced. Junior guard Sharise Calhoun scored a game-high 24 points while Oakland's defense managed to limit the Thunderbirds' top scorer, Challis Pascucci, to a single point.

"We just practiced really hard on the things that Pascucci did to hurt us before," head coach Beckie Francis said. "Since we just played them (recently), we watched that film over and over, and I think our team was so sick of watching us lose. We made the adjustments and this is a smart team."

Oakland's lead was reduced to just three points midway through the second half, but the Grizzlies promptly ran off the next eight points and held on to advance to the second round.

SUMMIT SLIPS AWAY

Women upset No. 1 seed Oral Roberts, but fall short of claiming championship

Written by Dan Fenner | Designed by Jason Willis

Facing the two-time defending champions in a hostile road environment, the Oakland University women's basketball team knew the odds were stacked against it in the conference title game.

The Golden Grizzlies' late-game charge against South Dakota State came to an abrupt halt when they failed to secure much-needed defensive stops down the stretch, as Oakland fell 61-54 in the Summit League Tournament finals Tuesday.

The Jackrabbits held their largest lead with 3:43 remaining in the game, but quickly saw it deteriorate. Three consecutive 3-pointers brought Oakland back within four points with 2:06 to play, but the Grizzlies failed to make another basket and lost momentum when a crucial out-of-bounds call went against them.

"We didn't get the (defensive) stop and then we had a turnover and you can't make mistakes like that," head coach Beckie Francis said. "I felt like we didn't have enough energy left. I felt like we just didn't have that one last stop in us."

Unlike in the team's semifinals win over Oral Roberts, the bounces failed

to go Oakland's way against the Jackrabbits, who improved to 9-0 all-time in Summit League Tournament play.

"I warned them because it almost felt like the perfect game (against Oral Roberts), and we were really trying to prepare them that it was going to be a totally different game," Francis said. "I don't want to be pessimistic, but we just (couldn't expect) to match that."

With SDSU leading 33-29 at half-time, the Grizzlies shot under 35.7 percent in the second half and frequently went cold for two- to three-minute stretches.

A critical juncture of the game came with 11:28 remaining in the second half. A 3-pointer by Bethany Watterworth and subsequent defensive stop afforded Oakland an opportunity to recapture the lead after trailing for 20 minutes.

Coming out of a timeout down 42-41, however, OU turned the ball over and set in motion an 8-0 Jackrabbits run.

"We were making runs, and I could tell they were still frustrated even when we were doing well," Francis said. "It's really hard to beat a returning champion that has confidence. I think they draw (momentum) from the crowd."

GAME 3

3.8.11

vs. #3 SDSU

54-61

The Grizzlies were led offensively by sophomore Bethany Watterworth (17 points) and junior Sharise Calhoun (12 points). The two were each named to the All-Tournament team for their efforts in helping the Grizzlies reach the conference title game.

"I was proud of the effort," Watterworth said. "When they made runs, we responded and the game never got away from us. We just unfortunately came up short. It was exciting to be able to get back in (the game) so quickly, but then there was a stop we had to have and we fell short ... We're very disappointed."

Jackrabbits' senior Kristin Rotert



Dick Carlson/Inertia

The Grizzlies were competitive early in the game, but South Dakota State took control in the second half for a 61-54 win.

was named the tournament Most Valuable Player after scoring 17 points and draining three timely 3-pointers to help SDSU top the Grizzlies.

The loss puts OU's record at 2-5 all-time in Summit League finals. Oakland was seeking its first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 2006.

The Grizzlies, who finished with a 20-12 record, can take solace in the fact that nearly the entire team remains intact for another run at a championship next year. The core of OU's team will return next season having gained the experience that perhaps it lacked during its spirited run as the No. 4 seed this season.

"That's one thing that I did remind the team (after the game) is that we have our whole starting lineup back. To have our top seven and a new recruiting class, I'm excited for next year," Francis said.

Calhoun said that with all the adversity the team faced due to persistent injury problems and several devastatingly close losses this season, the team's tournament performance will serve as an invaluable learning experience moving forward.

"I'm really happy to know that we



Dick Carlson/Inertia

OU fans show support during a timeout against South Dakota State during the 2011 Summit League Basketball Championship women's final.

got to experience this year because it puts a lot of fire in us to come back next year with the same motivation and hunger to return to this championship game and win it," Calhoun said.

"It has been an emotional roller

coaster. You come in and you know you have three games, and you have to take them one at a time. I was just really proud of all my teammates and we took each day and gave (as good of) an effort as you could ask for."



Dave Eggen/Inertia

GAME 2

3.7.11

Oakland's trouncing of No. 1 Oral Roberts on Monday was unquestionably the shocker of the entire tournament for several reasons.

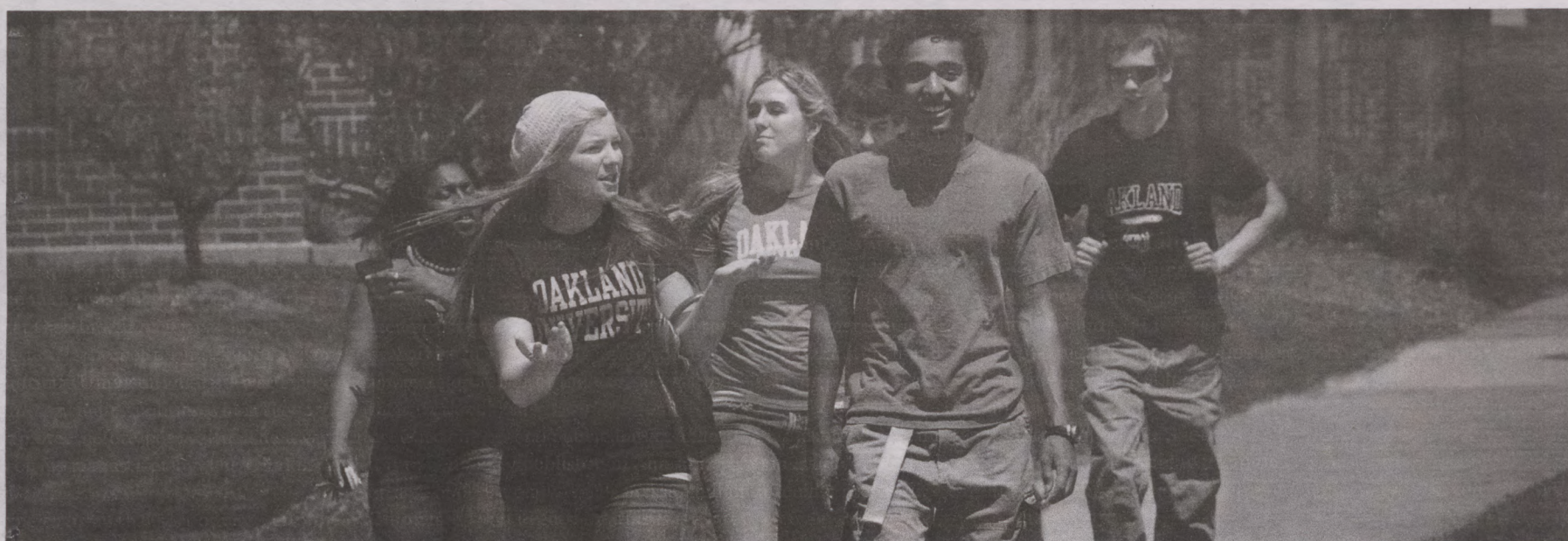
The Golden Eagles were coming off a 108 point victory, which set a tournament record for points in a game, and the Grizzlies

vs. #1 ORU were able to limit ORU to just 62 points.

The 34-point margin of victory for Oakland marked the largest defeat of a top-seeded team in Summit League History.

"This whole game is surreal for me," head coach Beckie Francis said. "I've coached in this tournament for a long time and I've never experienced a semi-finals game like this. When you're in a mid-major conference like this and it's (single elimination), I'd say this is a pretty big win."

Bethany Watterworth led the way with 18 points, while senior Kirstie Malone scored a career-high 16 points. Brittany Carnago, Oakland's center, approached a triple-double performance with 10 points, 15 rebounds and six blocks.



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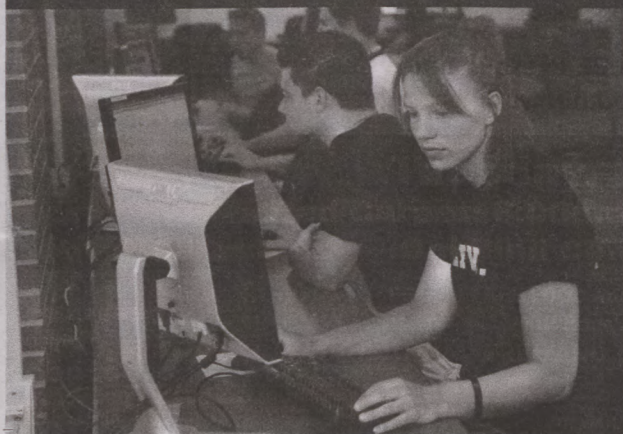
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City celebrates 150 years

By ANNIE STODOLA
Staff Reporter

This year, the city of Pontiac is celebrating 150 years of history. The Pontiac Sesquicentennial Planning Committee has met weekly since April of last year to arrange celebratory events for the sesquicentennial anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Pontiac.

Pontiac was first settled in 1818 and became the county seat (administrative center for the county) in 1820. It was not incorporated as a city, however, until March 15, 1861.

In commemoration of this incorporation, the planning committee is holding a year-long celebration, beginning with the City of Pontiac's 150th Birthday Kick-Off event at the Historic Crofoot in downtown Pontiac on March 15.

Tickets for the kick-off event are available for \$10 to the general public, or for \$150 for the VIP reception. To purchase tickets, visit www.thecrofoot.com

City councilman George Williams said this is an opportunity to celebrate everything that Pontiac has accomplished in the past 150 years.

"Pontiac was the center hub for auto manufacturing," Williams said. "General Motors at one time had three working plants here. There were approximately 27,000 jobs at those three."

Beyond the automobile industry, Williams said the city has always had a large service industry and is home to several prominent people, including professional basketball players and Olympic athletes.

"We have a number of things to celebrate and that's why I feel it necessary for us to participate in the 150 year celebration," Williams said.

Other events throughout the year in conjunction with the anniversary include a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 15 to welcome several new businesses to the downtown area, a carnival during Mother's Day weekend, a vintage outdoor festival on June 18 and Hawk Fest in October.

The Michigan Agricultural State Fair, which was formerly the Michigan State Fair, is being held at the Pontiac Silverdome this year and Williams hopes that may also branch into downtown Pontiac as part of the anniversary celebration.

Williams and Dawnaree Demrose, presi-



Photo courtesy of Ken Martin

Miss Pontiac 1926 poses with the first Pontiac vehicle at the first dealership in the city.

dent of the Pontiac Regional Chamber of Commerce, both hope that the sesquicentennial events bring to light the positive aspects of the city.

"Pontiac has been through a lot, and there are a lot of positive things happening in the

city," Demrose said. "You only hear the bad news, so this will be a chance for the good news to be highlighted. This community is full of passion, hard work and dedication."

Williams agrees that this is an ideal way to call attention to the positives in Pontiac.

police blotter

Rochester

DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE:

On Feb. 22, at approximately 4 p.m., Rochester police stopped a vehicle near the intersection of Oakwood Drive and Helen Avenue. Upon investigation it was learned that the driver, a 26-year-old male from Auburn Hills, was operating the vehicle with a suspended license. The subject was cited on scene and released, pending a court date.

OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED:

On Feb. 20, at approximately 12:10 a.m., Rochester police conducted a traffic stop near Main Street and Olde Towne Road due to a vehicle speeding. After investigation it was determined that the driver, a 36-year-old male from Chesterfield, had been operating the vehicle under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested for OWI and was released when sober.

MARIJUANA INCIDENT:

On Feb. 19, at approximately 10:55 p.m., Rochester police conducted a traffic stop in the area of Main and Second streets. While talking with the driver, a 19-year-old male from Rochester Hills, officers smelled a strong scent of marijuana coming from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle resulted in a small amount of marijuana being recovered. The driver was issued an appearance ticket.

GLUED SHUT:

On Feb. 18, Rochester police were dispatched to the 1000 block of Ironwood Court regarding a malicious destruction of property complaint. The residents stated that when they returned home that day, they found that their front door lock had been intentionally superglued shut preventing entry.

Troy

LARCENIST ON BICYCLE:

On March 6, at 12:30 a.m., Troy officers responded to a larceny call on the 6000 block of Killarney Drive. The complainant reported he returned home and observed a mountain bicycle at the end of his driveway and the passenger door of his 2001 Ford Explorer ajar. The individual then observed an unknown male, dressed in dark clothing, flee on foot through the individual's backyard.

Troy officers followed the track to South Boulevard. Officers later observed a male matching the suspect's description, traveling on a bicycle in the area of South Boulevard and Adams Road. Investigation determined that the 45-year-old male resident of Pontiac was in possession of stolen property. The suspect was arrested by the Auburn Hills Police Department for home invasion and larceny from auto.

NEWS BRIEFS

A look at significant current news events from around the globe:

1. United States

President Barack Obama resumed military trials at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ending a two-year ban on military commissions. The detainees could be at risk for prosecution, including suspected 9/11 conspirator and alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Although he promised to shut the prison down, he said congressional opposition to trying the detainees in the U.S. forced him to reluctantly change his mind.

2. Libya

The oil port of Ras Lanouf is under attack by Libyan warplanes. The Libyan government launched

three air strikes against rebel positions around the key oil port. Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi is orchestrating the attacks in an effort to keep up a counteroffensive to prevent the opposition from advancing toward his stronghold in the capitol, Tripoli. Gadhafi's loyalists also recaptured Zawiyah, the city closest to Tripoli, from the rebels, according to a witness.

3. Pakistan

A hugely destructive car bombing at a gas station in Islamabad, Pakistan's third largest city, was responsible for killing 20 people and wounding more than 100 others on Tuesday. The car bomb caused resultant explosions at the fuel station, according to Faisalabad police chief Aftab Cheema. Although the initial target was not immediately clear, it is common knowledge that Islamist mili-

tants are seeking to overthrow the government and, over the last three years, have bombed hundreds of police, army, commercial and civilian targets in Pakistan.

4. Greece

Authorities in Greece arrested

two women for allegedly preventing hospital staff from distributing food to immigrants who have been on a hunger strike for more than 40 days in an attempt to gain residence permits. Many immigrants have been hospitalized due to the hunger strike. Greece is

the busiest point of transit for illegal immigrants in the European Union. The country is a target destination for tens of thousands of immigrants each year.

— Compiled from AP Reports by Sarah Wojcik, Senior Reporter



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Doctoral & Master's
Ceremony at 1pm

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The Leadership Consultants program is a new organization created to help student organizations build on their leadership skills and develop themes. Students are recruited in the fall and are paid minimum wage.

SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

Lending a helping hand

New organization assists with student organization skills

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Staff Reporter

Oakland University has over 200 student organizations, and the Leadership Consultants program is here to work with every one of them.

The LC program is a new organization created to help student organizations learn important leadership skills and themes. The program was started this semester as a part of the leadership and volunteer center in the center for student activities.

"I think that it's been brainstormed for years, but it never really took off," said Meaghan Walters, graduate assistant for leadership development. "The leadership and volunteer center is relatively new on its own, so we're trying to establish our center more and we feel that the LCs are the best way to do that to get our message out there, that we're here and we want students to have different leadership and volunteer opportunities to make a difference."

The group consists of two advisors and nine student consultants. The student leadership consultants are trained in different areas of leadership and then trained to facilitate their skills to different organizations on campus.

The nine consultants range from freshman to senior. This year among

unique university jobs

the nine LCs is a graduate student and an international student.

"We give them a pre-package deal ... our LCs go out to student orgs, but they tailor it to fit the student org," Walters said. "Before they did team building, they met with the executive board and asked them what they are lacking and the team building reflected that. We try to tailor it to the student organization and make it work for them."

The consultants meet at meetings twice a week where they are taught a new leadership theme, and are then required to teach that skill to an organization on campus. The LCs were first trained in how to break down boundaries in new organizations.

The consultants are required to seek out organizations that they would like to work with and meet with their executive board. Then they must tailor a leadership plan with the skills they learned, crafted to the organization they are working with.

"I love being an LC, it is a lot of fun and a great way to give back to this

amazing campus," said consultant and junior, Kevin O'Bryan. "I believe that by helping to build the leaders of tomorrow, we will foster growth at OU."

Consultants are recruited and selected after a long interview process. The LCs must attend leadership seminars and training sessions throughout the year, and are required to log 10 hours of work every two weeks. They are also required to attend Spring Training, an on-campus leadership seminar in April.

If the organization is successful, new consultants will be recruited in the fall, and current LCs will have the opportunity to re-apply.

"One of the biggest things we are looking for is someone with a positive spirit who can take initiative," Walters said.

Leadership consultants are paid a competitive hourly wage matching other student jobs on campus at around minimum wage.

"I encourage anyone who is involved in an organization of any and all kinds to use this valuable resource," O'Bryan said. "Whether for a department on campus, a student organization, or anything else, we are here to help you become more effective at what you love. It's free and a fun way to improve oneself and their organization."



PROFESSOR PROFILE

Holly Greiner-Hallman Special Lecturer, Biological Sciences

Holly Greiner-Hallman is fascinated by the world around her.

Greiner-Hallman, who became a biology lecturer at OU this past fall, has always been interested in science and nature.

"My appreciation for the natural world in particular probably comes from having spent so much time outdoors as an observer of nature," she said.

Greiner-Hallman herself is always curious to learn about the world, which is why she stays interested in biology.

"If one observes for long enough, undoubtedly one will begin to ask questions," she said. "It seems that the more I learn about biology, the more amazing the natural world seems."

As a graduate student, she spent her time teaching sections of BIO 116, a lab class and studying invasive earthworms in the Great Lakes region.

Greiner-Hallman completed her bachelor's degrees in biology and Spanish at Western Michigan University. She spent a year tutoring K-12 students, and then came to OU to complete her master's degree.

In 2010 she began teaching more sections of biology at OU and said she feels right at home when she's teaching.

In her classroom, Greiner-Hallman uses technology to her advantage. Her lectures include colorful pictures and YouTube videos.

"As instructors, we have great technology at our disposal and it is much more memorable for a student to see the phenomenon than to listen to me ramble on about it," Greiner-Hallman said.

To students, Greiner-Hallman's most powerful teaching tool is her enthusiasm, and she tries to show them that anyone can learn science.

"Bio seems a lot more fun with her ... she gives you the straight facts," said Kayla Graham, a sophomore majoring in elementary education.

In her free time, Greiner-Hallman likes to spend her time outdoors with her two dogs, two cats and husband.

She is currently teaching BIO 110 Life on Earth and BIO 300 Biology and Society.

— Megan Semeraz, Staff Reporter

Maternal figure for Honors students

By **TIFFANY SOOD**

Staff Reporter

Dawn Deitsch does it all. The secretary for the Oakland University Honors College, she is thought of by the its students as "mom." She acts daily as counselor, auditor, advisor and money manager.

In her eight years with the honors college, Deitsch has worked to make sure all of these students are meeting the demands the Honors College, and stay on track — making sure the students create a thesis before they graduate, for example. She currently has around 315 students.

For Deitsch, this means she first has to make sure the students are enrolled in the honors class that is "an introduction to the thesis," a class that helps students through the process of creating their thesis.

She also must make sure they have good standing before they take this class, as well as four semesters of a foreign language and needs to ensure the thesis projects are approved.

The college has recruitment down to a science, so it now just works on retention. This year, the college will graduate about

34 of its 95 students, or about 30 percent.

Deitsch takes pride in the personal relationships she is able to grow with the students because they are constantly coming in and out. This is where the "mom" comes in. If a student is having any kind of problem, she won't hesitate to take them out for a lunch to talk.

Evan Fischer, 19, is a sophomore mechanical engineering student who met Deitsch two summers ago when he entered the honors program. He was just beginning at OU and says she has always helped him with whatever he needed.

"Oh, I love Dawn," Fischer said. "She's like a mother. When I started, she was basically just my academic advisor and confidant. She just does everything."

Deitsch has guided Fischer through the Honors College thus far. Like all the other honors students who complete the pro-

gram, his relationship with her began with an entrance interview and will end with graduation at Meadowbrook Hall.

"At the graduation reception, I always cry," Deitsch said. "I cry every year."

While the students regard her as the honors college "mom," the rest of the school and all of her other responsibilities experience her

self-proclaimed "communication freak" role.

When she finds some time to spare from the phone calls, e-mails, checking up on students and interviewing prospective incoming freshmen, she puts on one of her other hats.

The OU Grizzdance Film Festival is a student-run film festival that is in its seventh year at OU and Deitsch is an advisor for the festival. She is also the treasurer of the Michigan Honors Association, which is a statewide organization of honors colleges that has an annual conference that,

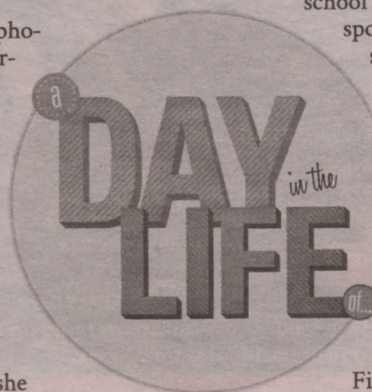
among other things, is one of her duties to attend.

Deitsch has an ever-present smile when she talks about her job. She worked for 23 years as a banker, while her husband Dan worked for General Motors. They moved from their hometown of Midland, to Adrian, N.Y., and eventually ended up in Oakland County.

Her son and daughter are off on their own, living in Midland and New York, respectively, so now it's just Deitsch, her husband and their crazy dog, L.J., or Lightning Jack.

This secretary said she loves her job, and plans on sticking around for as long as she can. The Honors College is currently waiting for a new director after having two different interim directors over the last two years and Deitsch said she cannot wait to see what changes and improvements are in store for the program.

"The best part about my job is the interaction," Deitsch says. "When I'm feeling down they give me just, virtual hugs. They leave me little notes on my computer and stuff, and it's just a really nice atmosphere. I keep telling them they keep me young."



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Center for Student Activities

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Thomas Friedman Lecture

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7:00pm in the O'Rena

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Attendance is FREE for Oakland Students, Faculty, and Staff.

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Applications are due in the Student Affairs Office by March 31, 2011

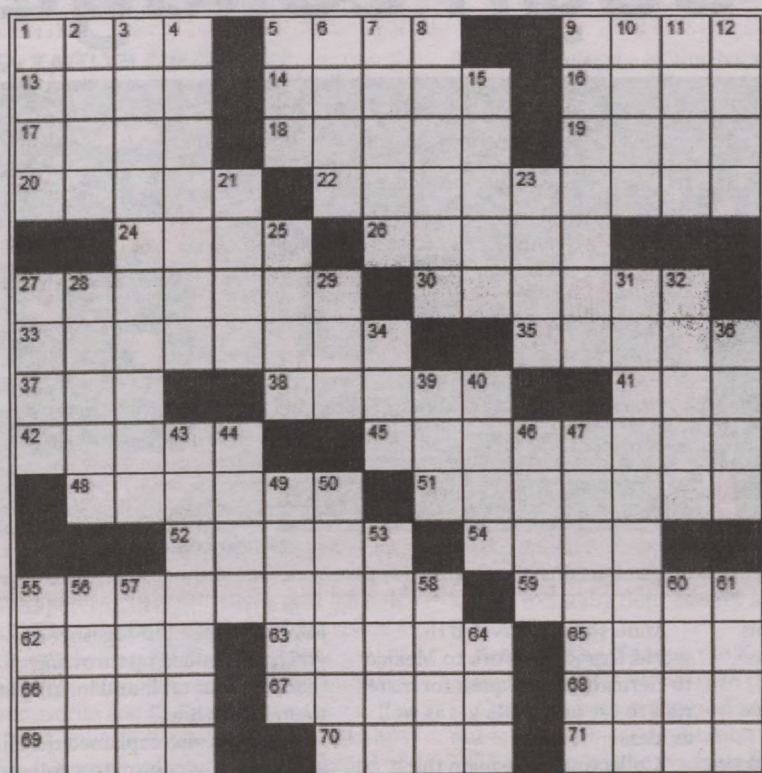
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ACROSS

1. Utilized
5. At the peak of
9. Vesicle
13. A native of Poland
14. Tall structure
16. Expect and wish
17. Lyric poems
18. Leave out
19. Colored part of an eye
20. Appointed
22. The passing of a law
24. Greek god of love
26. Brilliance
27. Home for nuns
30. Helix
33. A type of important road
35. An illusory feat
37. Missing In Action
38. Fairy tale character
41. African antelope
42. Roost
45. Traveler
48. Words to a song
51. Keep from happening
52. Take as one's own
54. Goddess of discord

(Greek mythology)

55. Foodstuffs
59. Kind of spray
62. See
63. Mountain crest
65. An indefinite period
66. Cutting tool
67. Large commercial ship
68. Roasting appliance
69. Elk or caribou
70. Sort
71. Let for money

DOWN

1. Once _____ a time
2. Fizzy drink
3. Rudimentary
4. Be worthy
5. Consumed food
6. Lacquered metalware
7. Being in debt to
8. Foot levers
9. A mythical creature
10. Bygone time
11. Rotate
12. Exam
15. Rundown

21. One who accomplishes
23. Clip
25. Agitated state
27. Live in a tent
28. Bay window
29. A man who serves as a sailor
31. Belligerent
32. Cloth from flax
34. Not high
36. Brusque
39. One circuit around a track
40. Stringed instrument
43. A thin crisp wafer
44. Conceal
46. Nonflowering plant
47. Pilot
49. They form reefs
50. Ghost
53. Minuscule
55. Happy
56. Travelled on a horse
57. Exude
58. Stair
60. Ends a prayer
61. Gave temporarily
64. Before

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Finding clarity through collage

By SARAH WOJCIK
Senior Reporter

The Oakland University Art Gallery is putting on an original exhibition titled "Borders and Frontiers," the College of Arts and Sciences Liberal Arts 2010-11 theme, which runs from March 5 to April 10 daily except Monday from noon to 5 p.m. in 208 Wilson Hall.

The exhibition focuses on collage, appropriation and image-making and features nine artists: five based in New York, one from Texas, two from L.A. and one from Detroit.

"Borders and Frontiers" presents artists with a specialized appetite for the digital and contemporary and with the image bank of the past. In doing so they hope to build a bridge between history, the contextual present and a conjectural tomorrow, according to press release.

Using the notion of borders and frontiers as a metaphor for the democratization of imagery and the collaging of reconfigured pictorial forms in a global context, this exhibition explores the cultural significance of the reproduced and repurposed image.

Stephen Goody, curator of the OUAG, began working on the project 18 months ago.

Hundreds of hours of research,

writing, selection, publication, marketing, funding and lectures all went into the organization of the show.

"I wanted to do an exhibition about contemporary collage, specifically work that had a pictorial bent," Goody said. "I'm in New York frequently and know key artists working in the field. I also met with Pavel Zoubek, the leading collage dealer in New York."

One can divide collage into two kinds of practices, according to Goody, both of which are on display at the exhibit.

The first practice is a sort of mosaic approach where the artist plans out the whole composition in advance, as is the case with Mark Wagner and Matthew Cusick.

The second is a spontaneous approach where the artist puts the collage together in a more improvisational way.

In order to select the featured artists, Goody did studio visits in New York and Detroit.

"Borders and Frontiers" features Jonathan Allen, Michael Anderson, Chambliss Giobbi, David LaChapelle, George Rahme, Holli Schorno, Maritta Tapanainen, along with Wagner and Cusick.

He secured David LaChapelle, the most well-known artist, through Elana Rubinfeld, director of Fred Torres Collaborations in



The exhibit features collages, including mosaic and spontaneous approaches, from nine different artists.

New York. LaChapelle made his huge collage specifically for the exhibition.

Artist Michael Anderson gave an in-exhibit lecture on March 7.

He said that he has been working as a collage artist for about 17 or 18 years.

He said that he thought he was going to be a musician, but ended up taking a figure drawing class when he couldn't get into a music class. In a positive turn of events, his professor, who told many others to quit, told Anderson that he could make a living from art and he began to take it seriously.

"Needless to say, the other art majors didn't like me," he said.

Anderson has traveled the world, from New York to Mexico to Germany, in his quest for materials to use in his collages as well as ideas.

"Collecting is the main thing in collage," he said. "It's not like painting where you can buy as much red or blue paint that you want. In collage, you actually have to go out and find the different things and be able to put them together in some kind of way."

He explained that an interesting aspect of collage is the "unsupposed idea" of finding actual images, and based on those, making decisions and coming up with ideas that "you wouldn't

have otherwise put together if you hadn't ended up throwing them on your table and looking at them for a while."

Anderson also explained the importance of cubism to a collage because it shows movement and "things that happen over time."

The expected attendance for the event is between 4,000-6,000, according to Goody.

"It's an amazing show which you have to see to believe," Goody said. "The works are super-dynamic, huge in scale and painstakingly executed. I guarantee that anyone that sees it will find it an unforgettable experience."

Musician Lupe Fiasco brings new sound to OU campus

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

Lupe Fiasco burst onto the music scene in 2005 when he appeared on Kanye West's song "Touch The Sky." This Friday Fiasco will burst onto the Oakland University campus.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge, Fiasco will be promoting his latest album, "Lasers," as part of a fan appreciation meet-and-greet event.

The album, his first since 2007, experienced several lengthy delays throughout production and only received a release date after over 32,000 fans sent a petition to Atlantic Records, Fiasco's record label.

OU won a chance for the campus visit after winning a statewide contest that took place over two major social media outlets and was won by OU, which totaled 91 fans on Facebook and 572 followers on Twitter.

"I think it's amazing (that he's coming to Oakland)," said senior exercise science major James Borschian. "It's nice to see what Oakland has become, and student involvement has never been better, especially since it's a commuter school for most. This could generate more appearances from others, too."

Oakland is the only school in Michigan to be visited by the Chicago native, beating out the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University

and Eastern Michigan University.

"Through support on Twitter and Facebook, in regards to how much they appreciate Lupe and how excited they are for his upcoming album, he chose Oakland University out of all the schools in Michigan," said senior communications major Thomas Tucker. "As a reward, he's coming to Oakland to have people hear the album and sign autographs and show his appreciation for the students."

Tucker, who is also an intern at Atlantic Records, worked with Atlantic Records regional representative LaRonn Harris and FM 98 WJLB to help set up the contest.

TalkOfDetroit.com, a Detroit-based website that highlights music, fashion,

sports and news in the city, was involved in bringing Fiasco to Oakland's campus.

The site pushed the contest for all of the participating schools, but a large number of people contacted them on behalf of OU.

"Oakland was approached by one of the members of his team and we were told about the contest, so we decided to make a Twitter account and get the contest started," said Student Program Board mainstage chair Kate Rozek. "It feels great to have won this contest because our school is a lot smaller than these other universities and we are just to have Lupe on campus. This (type of event) doesn't happen often."

The event will be targeted towards students, but is open to the public.

Turbulence from the tablet takeover

By **KAITLYN CHORNOBY**
Scene Editor

Tablet computers are dominating the tech scene, the newest installment being Apple's iPad 2, which will release this Friday.

Ultimately, the decision between each tablet rests on the individual — will the tablet be used as a computer or a mobile device? Will a smartphone be used in conjunction with the tablet, and what type?

With each tablet running a different operating system and waving different flags of specs, each competitor is strong in its own way.

iPad 2

The iPad 2 is significantly thinner than both its predecessor and competing models — 33 percent, in fact — sizing in at 8.8 mm.

Although still the same size and resolution as the original iPad, the second generation finds its improvements in additional accessories and an upgraded processor. The iPad 2 proudly displays a front VGA camera and a rear camera, which can record up to 720p videos. There is also an enlarged speaker on the backside.

Thanks to the new 1GHz dual-core Apple A5, the device — including the Safari browser — has increased response time.

The blazing-fast tablet will use this update with new available applications, including PhotoBooth, FaceTime, iMovie and GarageBand, the latter two coming with a \$5 price tag.

The iPad 2 features a proximity sensor, which works in conjunction with a revolutionary cover. The cover, a magnetic flap to protect the front, automatically puts the devices to sleep or wakes it, depending on whether it is open or closed, respectively.

"We designed the case right alongside the product. It's not a case, it's a cover," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO.

The weight of the tablet depends on the model — 601g for WiFi, 607g on Verizon and 613g on AT&T.

The iPad 2 is expected to be available this Friday in 16, 32 and 64 gigabyte models. White and black colors will be available.

Motorola Xoom

Motorola's Honeycomb-powered tablet is the most recent Android beast to plow onto the scene.

Tech-savvy users will be swooned by a 1GHz, NVIDIA Tegra 2-based slate, a gigabyte of DDR2 RAM, 32GB of internal storage and a 1280 x 800 capacitive display. Those who just want a shiny new toy

should consider the 10.1-inch screen (the largest of those featured), 3G connectivity, front and rear facing cameras, HD video capability, and several wireless options.

"With all that's packed inside — and more importantly with what Google has done on the software side — the Xoom could represent the next stage of tablet evolution," said Joshua Topolsky in his review on engadget.com.

The Xoom has a surprising eight hours and 20 minutes worth of battery life, but still takes second place to the iPad's 9:33.

The device's selling point is definitely contributed in most part to the Honeycomb OS. The home screens are scrollable and can be filled with application shortcuts, folders, shortcuts and widgets. However, unlike the mobile Android OS, the status bar is positioned at the bottom of the screen, including time, battery and an area for notifications.

Aesthetically pleasing, the Xoom gives a completely different feel than the iOS.

Gmail has been redesigned and a new music management application introduced.

The Xoom will be available for \$800, \$600 on contract with Verizon and around \$500 for a WiFi-only model.

BlackBerry Playbook

A simplistic tablet, even called "serious" by engadget.com, hinges on the union with BlackBerry mobile devices, allowing tethering via Bluetooth.

The front features a three-megapixel camera and the familiar BlackBerry logo. The top of the device houses the only pushable controls, including volume, play and pause, and a power/lock button. A mini-HDMI, micro-USB and charging ports can be found on the bottom edge. A five-megapixel camera can be found on the back with a prominent, centered BBM seal.

In comparison to the iPad's 132 pixels per inch screen, the PlayBook's resolution is great at 1024 x 600.

RIM's BlackBerry tablet features a unique tablet operating system tagged QNX and stores a dual-core 1GHz ARM Cortex-A9 processor.

The tablet comes in last place with the Galaxy tab in regards to screen size, only offering a 7-inch LCD in comparison to the competition's 9.7 inch and up display. However, it is one of the lightest tablets on the market, clocking in at 425 grams.

The PlayBook is expected to cost around \$500 and will be available mid-April with WiFi connectivity. There are plans to release a WiMAX version through Sprint in the summer.

records & reels



R.E.M. // "Collapse Into Now"

The veteran alternative rock band has reunited with Grammy-winning producer Jackknife Lee, who has worked with artists such as U2, Iggy Pop and David Bowie. "Collapse into Now" brings diversity with special guests including Patti Smith, guitarist Lenny Kaye, Eddie Vedder and The Hidden Cameras' Joel Gibb.

DROPKICK MURPHYS // "Going Out in Style"

Boston's biggest band has released another album, and they are still sticking to their Celtic roots in this punk rock effort. The guest appearance of Bruce Springsteen on "Peg O' My Heart" shows they have fans in many places.



BATTLE: LOS ANGELES // 116 min. // PG-13

There have been UFO sightings all across the world, but during the year 2011, unknown forces attack Earth. As cities begin to fall, Los Angeles becomes the headquarters for the final stand for survival.

RED RIDING HOOD // 102 min. // PG-13

In this adaptation of the classical tale, a medieval village has formed a truce with a werewolf by offering animal sacrifices. When the wolf ups the ante by taking a human life, the village seeks to kill the beast.



— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik, Staff Reporter



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Sex, drugs and tiger blood

By BRIAN FIGURSKI

Guest columnist / Not winning

Adonis DNA. Fastball. Winning. These are the new catchphrases integrated into the daily output on the radio, television and my Facebook, thanks to none other than the latest flavor of the week, the immaculate Charlie Sheen.

All I've heard about for the last week is Sheen euphemism this, Sheen-ism that, and I can't take it anymore. So before I overdose on the Charlie Sheen drug and, as put by the man himself, my face melts off and my children weep over my exploded body, I will dedicate roughly 600 words and usage of my fully-functioning brain to this egomaniac and his twisted way of screwing with the world for the last time.

It was a toss-up to write an article between Sheen and Libya, and after a professional coin-toss debate, I decided to go with the topic that prevents me from making car bomb jokes.

Charlie Sheen is out of his mind. That or he's always had the mentality of a toddler on a rapid influx of stimulants mixed generously with depressants. He claims he is sober, however, and while I believe in innocent until proven guilty, he sure acts like a nutcase.

I will admit this Sheen self-destruction is an entertaining fiasco. Truly, if you are at a bar, whom are you more inclined to pay attention to: The mild-mannered fellow chatting up quietly with some friends, or the raging belligerent fellow screaming inconsistencies while wafting in the odor of his fuming crack pipe?

I am not convinced that the man is remotely under the impression he is winning. Like a guilty child molester may claim he is innocent until he truly believes it, I think Charlie is on the same route.

Sheen is convinced the women in his life, the ones that he has paid thousands of dollars to sleep with him, are goddesses sent from the Heavens to bless his life and

raise his poor suffering children. I often call prostitutes my maidens of the sea to make myself feel better, just as I would call my psychologist my best friend.

Charlie Sheen claims he is sober, but he sure acts like a nutcase.

If you are paying someone for a service, you are just a client. Moreover, if one of my mistresses was a former porn-star, they had better be a sex goddess; otherwise, I might as well use my million dollar bills to put out kitchen fires.

Charlie may have a method to his madness, though. His career is sabotaged with all the trash-talking he's done about "Two and a Half Men" writers, directors, and even Thomas Jefferson, so why not make an ass out of yourself for publicity?

The thing is, his plan is working remark-

ably. One million Twitter followers in just over 25 hours proves that people are interested in his oral subjugation of the English language. I would probably look him up on Twitter if I had an account and didn't have better things to do — say, hit myself in the head with a hammer.

I might act like a fool too if I had the sheer amount of money Sheen has accumulated playing himself on TV: A womanizing lazy schmuck. I doubt I will ever garner \$2.5 million per episode on a television program, and if these are the inflated consequences, I am not interested.

Perhaps Charlie Sheen isn't as crazy as he seems. Maybe he has a grand scheme behind his ramblings. With no feasible career left on the horizon, what else is there to do besides get the world talking about you, no matter what the damage to your reputation? He even has a 23-year-old aspiring writer constructing an article on his activities.

Congratulations Charlie, you win.

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