Oakland faculty fights lack of literacy

By Roger Opipari

Does this sound familiar?
"It is obviously absurd
that the college--the institution of higher education--should be called upon
to turn aside from its proper functions and devote
its means and the time of
its instructors to the task
of imparting elementary instruction which should be
given out in (grade)
schools."

This was a concern expressed in a report by the Board of Overseer's Visiting Committee on Composition and Rhetoric at Harvard University.

The year of the report was 1892 so the current image of the ill-prepared college



freshman is nothing new.
It's just the same old
wine in a brand new bottle.
Barbara Hamilton, acting
administrative head of the

Learning Skills Department, feels that the media are some of the enemies in the current battle to help students achieve college level writing proficiency.

According to Hamilton, students today get "entertainment and information passively" through the popular forms of movies and television. "Books are not really regarded as sources of information."

Jean Rosen, associate professor of English and an instructor in the Learning Skills program, feels that active participation in the writing process is an absolute necessity if a student is to become a proficient writer.

Rosen said that she tries to get students "to learn to think and to use their minds actively...and to participate in the act of writing." Too often, Rosen said, stu-(continued on page 2)

the Oakland Sail

Oakland University/Rochester, Michigan/Vol. II, No. 14/Feb. 28, 1977



FATHER TIME-- (Jon Palmitier), a tree (Dara Thompson),
Mrs. Beaver (Barbara Lambert) and an elf (Laura Lambert)
rehearsed for "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" in
the Abstention last week, Photos by Aaron Rubin.

Students portray 60's commune life

By Mark Clausen

The Student Enterprise
Theatre (SET) is currently
preparing for their performance of Michael Weller's
play, "Moonchildren," which
will open March 18. The
play, written in 1966, is a
character study of seven
college students living in a
commune during the 60's.

"Weller skillfully uses the technique of manifesting a conflict between illusion and reality. This technique is very effective concerning the 60's, because people then really did have a hard time discerning between reality and illusion," said SET director Thomas Aston.

This playwrighting technique, according to Aston, was developed by an Italian, Luigi Pirandello, at the turn of the century and makes the audience wonder which objects and actions in the play are real and which are figments of the imagination.

"Each character represents a type of personality prevalent during the 60's,"
Aston said. "We have one guy who sets himself on fire as a protest to the Vietnam War and a spaced out girl who goes with him to watch him do it.

"But basically," Aston continued, "it is a funny play with a somewhat serious message. The characters are humorous--a couple are real goofballs. One guy drinks a lot of milk, and at the beginning of the play, there (continued on page 4)

Literacy fight--

(continued from page 1)
dents approach writing with
a dread and tend to look at
it as something they must do
for an instructor rather
than for themselves.

Students must be aware of everything that is going on around them and must be questioning and critical about it, said Rosen. "Passivity toward a subject tends to bog down the writing and make it cumbersome."



Karen Sue Hermes editor-in-chief

> Beth Isenberg news editor

Bob Massey features editor

John Schroder sports editor

Dave Ross political writer & columnist

> Aaron Rubin Jon Leon photographers

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The Oakland Sail is a nonprofit student publication serving the Oakland University
community on a weekly basis.
The Sail is not an official
publication of Oakland
University, and the views and
opinions expressed are not
those of the university, but it
is assisted by university services in accordance with university policy.

The Oakland Sail 36 O.C. Oakland University Rochester, Michigan 48063 (313) 377-4265 She said that writing then becomes a chore rather than a written exposition of one's thoughts and feelings.

Rosen feels that there is no real mystery to achieving proficiency in writing. She offered a formula that equates good writing with reading: reading actively, reading critically and reading a lot.

The lack of oral reading in the elementary and high schools may also be a factor that contributes to current problems in writing, according to Jane Eberwein, associate professor in the English Department. Eberwein, also an instructor in Learning Skills, feels that because of this students don't become familiar with inflections and cadences and natural pauses. Writing then becomes too compartmentalized and students fail to see it as an extension of the communication process.

Eberwein felt that the lack of a foreign language requirement at Oakland contributes to student difficulties in effectively understanding syntax. Although students may take their own language for granted, the study of a foreign language "makes students aware of sentence elements" in a way that causes them to use those elements more efficiently in their own language, said Eberwein.

According to Hamilton, education may now be emerging from a period, begun in the late 60's, whereby educators tried to make everything seem fun and relevant for the student.

She said that the current mood at all levels of instruction seems to be moving toward the establishment of guidelines and standards for written and oral competency. Much of this change in mood is based on students feelings and needs about the level of writing proficiency they must attain in order to compete in the dwindling job market after graduation.

One of the biggest obstacles that the Learning Skills program must face is the criticism among students that even after completing the courses, they graduate with insufficient competency in writing.

According to Hamilton, this is not really the fault of Learning Skills. She said that very little writing is demanded of students throughout their

Back Talk

Dear Editor,

Regarding Ms. Shaila Simmons' letter in the Feb. 21 issue of the Oakland Sail, I would like to respond by paragraph:

(1) Yes

(2) That just goes to show you what administrators know.

(3) Stop in my office for a bottle of anti-cringe shampoo.

-- Jack Wilson Dean for Student Life

EDITOR'S NOTE-- For our readers who missed last week's issue of the <u>Oakland Sail</u>, we have re-printed Shaila Simmons' letter.

Dear Editor:

Does Jack Wilson expect anyone to take his proposed name-change seriously?

Back in '67 when OU split with Michigan State University, several names were put forward as possible permament titles for the university and Meadowbrook University was one of them. It was rejected because, as one administrator said, it was a dumb name for an institution of higher education.

I can live with people confusing OU and Oakland Community College. The thought of receiving my degree from Meadowbrook University, however, makes me cringe.

--Shaila Simmons class of 77' Dear Editor,

As an alumnus of Oakland, I was dismayed at the efforts to change the name of the university. I read of these intentions in the Oakland Sail's Feb. 14, 1977 issue.

The true and full meaning of the "considerable confusion" that Dean Jack Wilson ascribes to our name would be realized with an attempted name change. Alumni and students alike would lose the one link between their undergraduate education and the professional world—the school's name.

I agree that "a name is very important in establishing individual identity," as we all identify with and are identified by our own individual names. But Oakland would be like a young child traumatized by such a name change -- confused and losing all identity for the length of the transition period. Such trauma could greatly impair the growth and maturation of both the child and the school during a very important part of their lives. The individual identity so far established would be lost.

Let us establish an individual identity through our achievements and quality education rather than changing our name every 15 years. This is the type of tribute that Mrs. Matilda Wilson would be pleased to receive, not the re-naming of our university after her place of residence. Let us put the many dollars that a name change would cost into quality educational programs.

- - Gerald T. Donnelly

All signed letters to the editor of appropriate content and length will be considered for publication by the <u>Oakland Sail</u>. However, the <u>Sail</u> reserves the right to deny publication of any letter submitted.

years at Oakland. Therefore, the skills that were acquired may be lost through lack of reinforcement.

Currently at Oakland, a student who tests into Learning Skills 100 or 101 may take those classes anytime before graduation, including the last semester of the senior year.

The Academic Policy Committee of the University Senate is currently considering a proposal to change that.

Dan Fullmer, committee chairman, said that the change would require students to demonstrate writing proficiency before they can register for a 300 or 400 level course.

Magnetic field test may replace x-rays

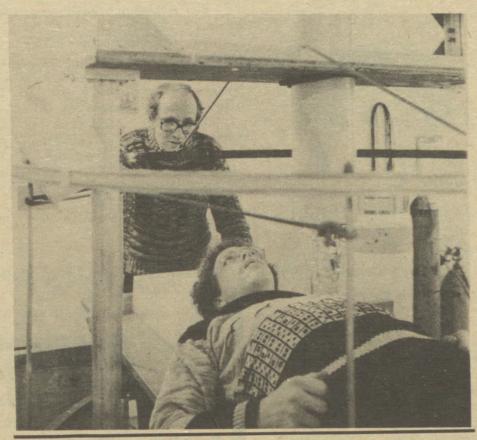
By Ed Martell

Thanks to a new development by OU physics professor Norman Tepley, there may now be a diagnostic alternative to the potentially dangerous

Following the lead of several other scientists, Tepley began monitoring magnetic fields emitted from the heart with the help of a device called SQUID. (Super Convertive Quantum Interference Device).

The SQUID system was initially used to measure small magnetic fields as tiny as one-billionth of the earth's magnetic field. Other scientists at Stanford University and Massachusett's Institute of Technology have utilized the SQUID system to detect the presence of magnetic dust particles, such as asbestos, in the lungs and the origins of magnetic signals emitted by the brain.

"Our notion was that if we took a subject and placed him in a known weak magnetic



PROFESSOR TEPLEY- - demonstrates his new process on the This process may eventually replace X-rays.

field, we could then detect the magnetic signal being Tepley.

Tepley observed that med-

ically there is currently no technique, outside of surgiinjected by the heart," said cal implantation, to measure the stroke-volume or blood pumped per heartbeat.

ing from grants from the Michigan Heart Association and OU, Tepley has devoted his research efforts to monitoring blood-flow through the heart with the SQUID device.

"I suppose what a physician could do (with the technique) is to try various strategems for treating the disease. He could measure directly the effect of each treatment and cardiac bloodflow rather than measuring the indirect indicators, such as how the patient felt," Tepley said.

Such a sophisticated diagnostic process, however, will require perfecting the technique now nearing it's second year of experimentation in the Kettering Magnetic Laboratory. The technique is far from perfection. The body, says Tepley, was not designed for easy measurements. Problems have arisen in measuring certain magnetic fields due to the close proximity of the main arteries and the heart. (continued on page 5)

Student gov't names staff

By Dave Ross

The newly elected University Congress approved several important staff positions and passed the majority of its bylaws at a four hour long marathon session Feb. 23.

Aaron Burnette, chairing his first meeting as Congress President, succeeded in gaining Congressional approval of his nominations for Executive Assistant (EA) Student Activities Board (SAB) Chairperson and Concert Lecture Board (CLB) Chairperson.

Anderson Gilmore was approved as Executive Assis-Gilmore is a pre-law student and says he has always had a great deal of interest in Congress.

Burnette said his previous choice for EA, Daryl Barnes, majority of its bylaws. was unable to accept the po- Congress had to call several sition because of personal problems that might interfere with his work as EA. Burnette said Gilmore was one of the first people he approached with the position ing next week.

of EA and says he is certain Gilmore will do a fine job.

Burnette's choices of Deb Bolton as SAB Chairperson and Cindy Miller as CLB Chairperson were approved by large margins and took their places on the executive staff.

Kurt Cox was selected by Congress to chair the OU Research Committee on Student Tuition (OURCOST). Cox has served as OURCOST Chairperson since the committee was formed last fall.

Congressman Steve Cunnings was elected to the very important post of Steering Committee Chairperson.

Congressman Jeff Mond was tant by an 11 to six margin. selected to head the Student Rights Committee (SRC). The SRC will be reviewing state legislation affecting col-

> Congress waded through the short recesses in order to pull itself together and work out compromises. Congress will take up the remaining bylaws at its meet

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Commuter & Viviane Ellsworth in the Spotlight

Karen Depper is a petite, studious young lady and a dynamite sportswoman all wrapped into one.

Ms. Depper, the smallest on the women's basketball team, is a junior majoring in secondary education-biology. She has been on the team for three years, holding a 37 to 40 per cent shooting average and a 3.0 grade point average (GPA).

Ms. Depper likes to boast how the whole team has a 3.0 GPA or better. According to Ms. Depper, their philosophy is "academics before athletics." Her secret is she studies four to six hours a day, works closely with professors and studies when at away games.

An active sportswoman, Ms. Depper received four trophies while attending Utica High School for most athletic, most valuable player, most outstanding offense in basketball and volleyball. Her coach then, Marci Jodway, is now her assistant coach.

(This is an unedited feature sponsored by Commuter Serv-ices.)



Her aggressive attitude on the court coincides with her ability to strive hard for academic achievements at Oakland. Depper's being a commuter doesn't stop her from putting on a good show when it comes to basketball.

She is currently undecided with her career plans after graduation. "There's one thing that I'm sure of. I'd like to spend time coaching athletics," she said.

60's portrayal--

(continued from page 1) are 843 milk bottles on stage."

However, the characters gradually leave the commune throughout the course of the show. By the end of the play, all the characters, virtually all of the furniture and the milk bottles have disappeared from the commune.

The apartment commune is located in a mid-west college town. The playwright

attempts to show, through the interaction of the characters, the frustrations involved in idealism--specifically the kind of idealism students possessed in the 60's.

"Moonchildren" will be performed March 18-20, 25-27 and April 1-3 at the Barn Theatre. All curtain times are at 8:30. Tickets are \$3 for general admission and \$2 for students. For ticket information, call 377-2245.

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Magnetic field test--

(continued from page 3) A refined technique would be a tremendous diagnostic advancement, according to

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assitieds

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measure circulation in other parts of the body."

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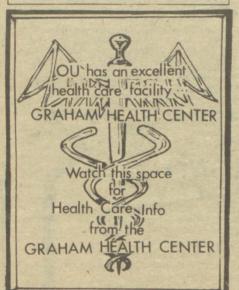
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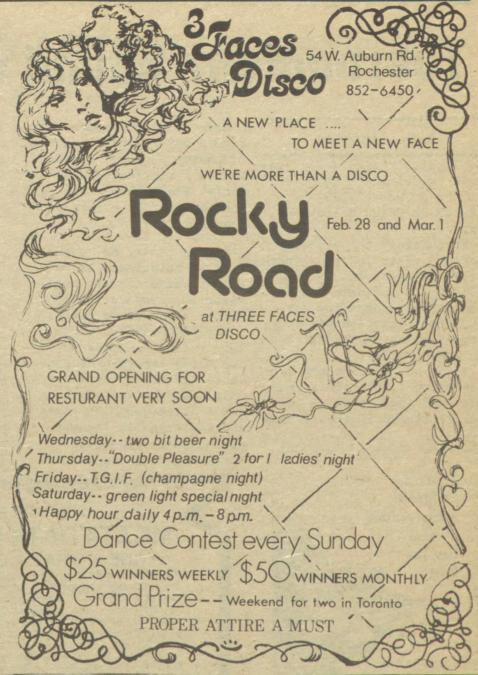
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371 (write-in)

279 (write-in)

254 (write-in)

190 (write-in)

351

277

260

163

Raymond Torongeau, Waymon Guillebeaux, John Shacklett, Greg Flynn, and the rest of University Congress wish to congratulate the

members of the 1977 University Congress

President: **AARON BURNETT**

Congressmembers in order of votes received:

DARYL BARNES DAVE BERNARD MIKE PEEPLES 874 **BILL TWIETMEYER** RICARDO JORDON 860 **BILL HARRIES** STEVE CUNNINGS ERIC BAAR MAUREEN FLYNN 634 PAUL GROSSMAN KURT COX 601 MIKE MCCLORY GREG FLYNN 549 LESLIE DUNN STEVE WARD 424 EMIL ROBERT KNOSKA108(write-in) JEFF MOND 383 MIKE QUICK

GOOD LUCK in serving the students of Oakland

Tournament-bound women lose, 70-55

By Dave Stockman

"We didn't play well," was Rose Swidzinska's reaction to the OU women's 70-55 crunch at Grand Valley Feb.

Fortunately the Pioneer defeat, their fourth setback against seven wins in the GLIAC, did not dampen their chances of contending for the state championship tournament which begins March 2 at Grand Valley.

Although the Pioneers finish third in the conference, they will put up a 14-4 overall record in the 11 team field.

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Meanwhile, the women must find a way to hold back the offensive punch of Grand Valley's Kim Hansen and Cheryl Vandebunte. The pair combined for 51 points with Hansen netting 30.

OU was led by Helen Shereda's 27 points and 12 rebounds while forward Lori Klerekoper was next with 16 points and a dozen boards.

The tournament picture for OU can be summed up in two words -- anything's possible. OU has played rivals Grand Valley, Wayne and Saginaw tough at times and could go all the way with an effective fast break and a continuence of

its tight defense.

An obstacle to the Pioneer's pursuit of the state crown is defending champion Western Michigan.

The Broncos are near the top of the Mid-America Athletic Conference (MAC) but haven't faced the young Pioneers.

Six matmen head to lowa

get their first taste of Na- Waldrup. tional competition during the NCAA Division II Championships at Northern Iowa University on March 4-5.

Qualifying Pioneers include freshmen Phil Lieblang, Mark Christiansen, Don Maskill, and sophomores John Whitfield, Richie Huf-

Six Pioneer grapplers will nagel, and co-captain Dean

Coach Max Hasse takes his largest national contingent. In 1976, OU's first year of collegiate wrestling, the Pioneers had one qualifyer.

Tankers seek title

The Pioneer tankers will defend their Motor City Swim Title at Wayne State on March 3-4-5.

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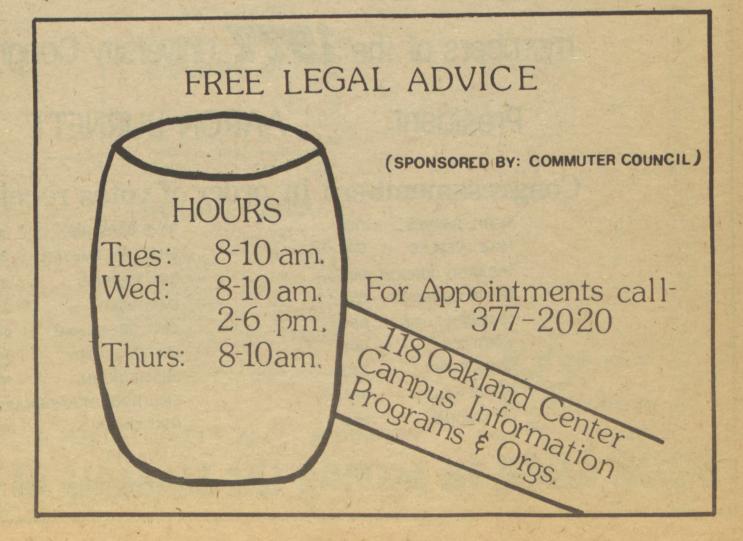
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Pioneer cagers walk over conference 'doormats'

By Stuart Alderman

The OU cagers did it again, win that is. The cagers won two of their last three games with the latest victim being Hillsdale College, 85-77 on Feb. 21.

Hillsdale led early in the game, but OU rampaged to score 11 straight points

near the end of the half to lead 41-33 at intermission.

Hillsdale's leading scorer on the year, Ray Papach, fouled out with 5:37 left and was held to only seven points. OU's guard Bill Scott fouled out with 4:30 to go and the Pioneers leading by one, 68-67.

Guards Brent Robinson and

Andre Brewster came off the bench to help guide the Pioneers down the homestretch. A key play in OU's victory came with only 2:50 remain-

Tom Schramski won a jump ball in Hillsdale's end of the court. The ball was heading out of bounds when Eulis Stephens saved the expected turnover.

Stephens tossed the ball up court to Brewster who had an easy layup which put Oakland ahead by five, 74-69.

The Pioneer defense prevailed for Oakland's fourth win against 10 defeats in GLIAC action. Their overall record rose to 8-19.

OU placed four players in double figures. "That's the way team scoring should be," said coach Jim Mitchell.

Senior Jeff Grimes led the OU scoring attack netting 18 points. Tim Kramer and Stephens added 16 points each and Scott poured in 15.

The Chargers Tim Fox 1ed all scorers by pumping in 20 points.

The Pioneers dominated the boards pulling down 53 rebounds to Hillsdale's 32.

Stephens had 20 of OU's rebounds.

On Feb. 16, the Pioneers snapped a five game losing streak by stomping Northwood Institute, 99-83.

Kramer led a five man scoring assault on the Northmen as he made 9 of 14 floor shots while tossing in 27 points and pulling down 20 rebounds.

James added 18 points and Stephens 17 for OU. Guards Scott and freshman Robinson contributed 12 points each. Northwood's Reggie Franks scored a game high 34 points.

On Feb. 19, the Pioneers knew they would have their hands full with Grand Valley State, as they were smothered, 84-60, at Grand Val-

The victory was the Lakers 20th in a row and also clinched its third straight GLIAC title. The game was over at halftime with GV leading 41-25.

Stephens and Grand Valley's Sid Bruinsma were high scorers carding 22 points each. Kramer added 16 points in the loss.

Feb 16-Feb 22

Pioneer of the Week

Kramer

The men's cage season has been very dismal recordwise, but very exciting despite the losing ways.

However, the young man who has carried the scoring load throughout most of the season rose to the occasion again last week.

Scoring 60 points and hauling down 35 rebounds in three games, Tim Kramer is the Oakland Sail's Pioneer of the Week.

The 6-5 sophomore from Grosse Pointe produced 27 points and 20 rebounds against Northwood on Feb. 16.

Tim pumped in 16 points and grabbed 8 rebounds against league-leader Grand Valley and repeated his 16 point effort, adding 7 rebounds, against Hillsdale at home on Feb. 21.



Kramer currently leads the team in both scoring and rebounding departments.

He carries a 16.7 scoring average and 7.4 rebounds per game average for the Pioneers.

Bits & Pieces by John K. Schroder

It took double overtime for Duquesne to end U of D's problem has hit the Great long winning streak, but, how much PR did OU get for starting U of D's terror in December.

Ray Scott and his EMU Hurons finally came up with a Big M.A.C. attack to edge ence win.

Is it true that Helen Shereda, the women's wizard, got into an argument. carries a 10.8 scoring aver-9.6 average with the right?

Lakes Conference. Up at Saginaw Valley a few weeks ago, the official score I figured there must have been 350-400 no-shows.

The way cagers Kathy Hew-Ohio U for its first confer- elt and Beth Kamp jaw at the opposition on the court, I'd hate to be around if they

The Meadowbrook Pioneers? age with the left hand and a I don't think I could handle that name change.

I guess the "no-shows" sheet read: attendance 500.

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"ART IN ARCHITECTURE" - presently showing in the Meadow Brook Art Gallery across from the Meadow Brook Theatre is one of many contemporary art exhibitions presented by the Gallery. The show will be presented through March 9.













films

Feb. 28 "Cooley High" Hamlin Hall Lounge 7 p.m.

Mar. 2 "Zachariah" Varner Recital Hall 7:30 p.m.

\$1 admission.

drama

Thru "The Merchant of Venice," by William Shakes-Mar. 20 peare Meadow Brook Theatre

sports

- Mar. 2 Women's basketball MAIAW Championship Away.
- Mar. 4
- Mar. 3 Men's swimming Motor City GLIAC Championship thru Detroit 10 a.m.
- Mar. 5
- Mar. 4 Wrestling NCAA II Championship Cedar Springs,
 - 5 Iowa.

happenings

- Feb. 28 Poetry reading by Anne Waldman Oakland Room, O.C. 12 noon.
- Feb. 28 Lecturer on Rhodesia Fireside Lounge, O.C.
- Mar. 1 Fundamentals of Christianity: exploring faith issues St. John Fisher Chapel 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 6 TV-4 Weatherman Sonny Eliot will guest host tours through Meadow Brook Hall 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$3.50 general admission, \$2 for children under 12, senior citizens over 65 and OU students.
- Mar. 9 Kathy Foster from the Golden Heddle in Royal
 Oak will demonstrate on-loom wearing, using a
 variety of fibers from raw to refined. Exhibition Lounge, O.C. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free.

music

- Feb. 28 Student Recital Varner Recital Hall 8 p.m.
- Mar. 3 "New Bay" Danny Spencer--drums; Ron Brooks--bass; Richard Ames--piano; Pete Kahn--saxo-phone; and David Kothar--percussion Abstention, O.C. 9 p.m.
- Mar. 6 Oakland Youth Symphony concert Varner Recital
 Hall 4 p.m.
- Mar. 8 Jazz Ensemble concert Varner Recital Hall 8 p.m.
- Mar. 9 Karnatic South Indian music Varner Recital Hall 8 p.m.