

INSIDE:

- New Rochester Hills group meets to discuss environmental issues — A5
- A 'Midsummer Night's Dream' comes to life with a tropical punch — B1
- Read an expert's analysis on workplace violence — B3

The Oakland Post and Buddy's Pizza encourage you, the students of Oakland University, to take part in this year's Student Congress election. If 40 percent or more of the student body votes in the election, The Oakland Post will publish a coupon in the issue following the election for \$4 off any large, eight-square Buddy's pizza. Make sure you vote!



■ Turn to A3 and A8 for complete election coverage



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 22, 2006

www.theoaklandpost.com

50 cents

STUDENT CONGRESS ELECTIONS — 2006

Yes, it's time to cast your ballots

Presidential office candidates:
Incumbent: Student Body President Michael McGuinness
Challenger: Legislator Peter Vitale

By ROQAYA ESHMAWI
Editor in Chief

Vice presidential office candidates:
Madalyn Miller, Student Program Board chair, as McGuinness' running mate
Mark Ewing, legislator, as Vitale's running mate

Oakland University students, it's time for you to make decisions that will affect your college environment for the next year, and, potentially, for longer than that. To help you make an informed decision, The Oakland Post has put together a 2006 Election Guide.

Issues:
Budget management, accountability, unified Student Congress, student involvement on campus

Election Period:
Monday, March 27 — Wednesday, March 29

Legislators:
Sixteen individuals running for 25 open seats

Turn to A8 for your all-inclusive Election Guide

To vote:
Visit <http://www.oakland.edu/voteou> with your Grizzly ID to cast your ballot

TRAVEL

Are you planning a spring or summer trip overseas but unsure of how much to budget for expenses? E-mail editor@oakpostonline.com.

Your dollar will buy...

Rates paid domestically for each dollar changed. These figures are intended only as a guide. Rates may be more favorable abroad.

Argentina (peso)	3.09
Australia (dollar)	1.36
Brazil (real)	2.10
Canada (dollar)	1.15
Chile (peso)	527
Czech Rep. (koruna)	23.5
Egypt (pound)	5.75
European (euro)	0.82
(Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain)	
Great Britain (pound)	0.57
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.76
Hungary (forint)	214
India (rupee)	44.3
Indonesia (rupiah)	9,156
Israel (shekel)	4.69
Japan (yen)	117
Mexico (peso)	10.6
Morocco (dirham)	9.03
New Zealand (dollar)	1.57
Norway (krone)	6.59
Philippines (peso)	51.1
Poland (zloty)	3.17
Russia (ruble)	27.7
Singapore (dollar)	1.62
South Africa (rand)	6.18
South Korea (won)	975
Sweden (krona)	7.70
Switzerland (franc)	1.29
Taiwan (dollar)	32.4
Thailand (baht)	39.1
Venezuela (bolivar)	2,148

— For March 16

SOURCE: Pacific Exchange Rate Service AP

CALLING OUT THE REFEREE



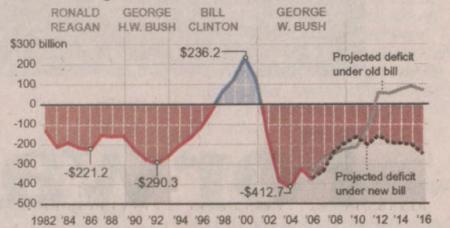
DANTE CIULLO/The Oakland Post

The Grizz calls the referee out after what he feels was a bad penalty against the Grizzlies at the opening round of the NCAA Tournament in West Lafayette, Ind. Turn to B4 to read about the game.

New bill creates deeper deficit

Congress passed a bill giving the government an additional \$781 billion, increasing the federal deficit.

Federal budget deficits, 1982-2016



SOURCES: Office of Management and Budget, Congressional Budget Office AP

Senate approves \$2.8 trillion budget for 2007

By ANDREW TAYLOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A \$2.8 trillion election-year budget blueprint that narrowly passed the Senate forsakes President Bush's tax cuts and Medicare curbs and smashes his cap on spending, disappointing GOP loyalists anxious to see their party stem the flow of federal red ink.

The Senate last week adopted the spending plan on a 51-49 vote, but with little enthusiasm since it anticipates deficits greater than \$350 billion for both this year and next.

The measure little resembles Bush's proposal last month for the budget year that begins Oct. 1., and its passage sets up a confrontation with the House, which is certain to oppose the Senate's call for additional spending.

"House conservatives are going to look at this budget and say, 'Whoa, what happened to fiscal conservatism,'" said Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, the Senate Budget Committee's top Democrat.

Action on the budget plan came hours after

Please see BUDGET on A8

PUBLIC HEALTH

Chronic heartburn may be risk for deadly cancer

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chronic heartburn appears to be fueling the nation's fastest-growing cancer, esophageal cancer. Some 3 million Americans are thought to have a type of esophagus damage from severe acid reflux that puts them at

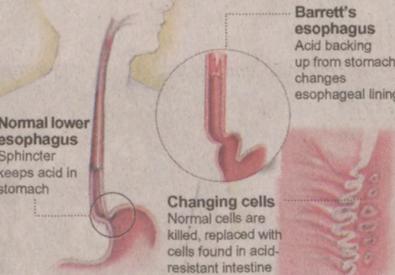
increased risk for the deadly cancer — and new research is exploring whether it's possible to zap away that damage and block the cancer from ever forming.

"The million-dollar question is can we prevent cancer," says Dr. V.K. Sharma of the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Ariz., who is

Please see CANCER on A10

Migrating cells can damage lining

Barrett's esophagus, a condition found in the lower part of the esophagus, is caused by changes in cells due to the presence of stomach acid, which could cause cancer.



SOURCE: Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research AP

Billions uncollected in federal fines for wrongdoing

The amount of unpaid federal fines has risen sharply in the last decade. Individuals and corporations regularly avoid large penalties for wrongdoing. These are conclusions of an Associated Press examination of federal financial penalty enforcement across the nation, which also found:

- The government is currently owed more than \$35 billion in fines and other payments from criminals and in civil cases, according to Justice Department figures.
- In 2004, federal authorities ordered \$7.8 billion in 98,985 fines, penalties and restitution demands in criminal and civil cases, but collected less than half of that.
- White-collar crime cases account for the largest amount of uncollected debt. In a study, Government Accountability Office investigators found that just 7 percent of restitution in such cases is paid.

—The Associated Press

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Enter for a chance to win a \$25 cash prize: Test your knowledge of current events with our quiz on A6



For fresh daily news and exclusive stories, visit our Web site at www.theoaklandpost.com

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News tip? Call (248) 370-4268



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Insuring Student Congress Works
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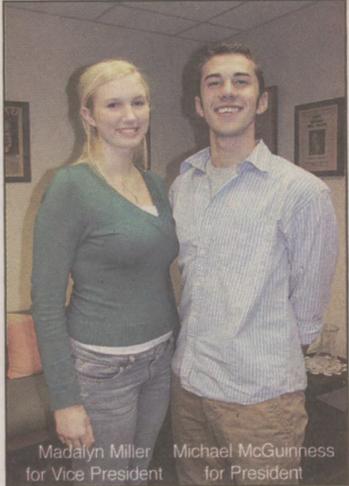
Election Guide

March 22, 2006

www.theoaklandpost.com

A3

As election draws near, The Oakland Post interviewed all balloted candidates. To the right, you will find our questions, and below each of them are the individual responses.



Madalyn Miller for Vice President Michael McGuinness for President

Photos by DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post

What are some strengths of this year's Oakland University Student Congress?

McGuinness: There are too many to list within the word limit: hosted first Association of Michigan Universities conference on campus; started Newspaper Readership Program; skyrocketed use of scantrons, blue books; held Stand Up For Change, Anti-Hate, Student Employee Appreciation weeks; initiated Statements of Student Concern; successfully rallied for lower tuition increase.

Miller: This year OUSC has engaged the student body with both old and new initiatives, including but not limited to: Promoting Active Well Rounded Students, letter writing campaign for higher education appropriations, Technology Advancement Program, Student of the Month Parking Spot, Environmental Awareness Week, and Multicultural Roundtables.

Vitale: One of the biggest strengths of this year's congress is the active legislative body. The current legislative body created and debated several pieces of pertinent legislation including legislation relating to the Financial Aid Office, Chartwells Food Service, and rolling fees into tuition, just to name a few.

Ewing: This year, OUSC has continued and developed many services for the benefit of students. For example, our handout services have been utilized to the point that we were required to allocate additional funding to the program.

What are some of the weaknesses of this year's Student Congress?

Mc: At times internal matters exhausted more than its fair share of time and attention, such as the controversial confirmations of several potential legislators, counterproductive undermining of Executive Board members and infighting over factions. Our energies would be more effectively spent tackling larger student concerns.

M: Unfortunately this year in OUSC, as in any situation when you have so many individuals with strong views and convictions, it was at times difficult to compel individuals to achieve compromise, which is often the best solution in benefiting all of the parties involved.

V: One of the major weaknesses of this year's congress is the lack of student involvement. This year OUSC spent just under a thousand dollars on "OU Day at the Capital" in Lansing, yet just a handful of students attended. Mr. McGuinness' administration has not lived up to 'engaging uninvolved students'.

E: The single greatest weakness of this year's OUSC has been its lack of accountability. The budget has been rearranged without the consent of the legislature, and requests for information have been met with scorn. This is not proper behavior for any elected official, no matter what office they hold.

Student Congress passed a resolution about the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative. How do you feel about the resolution?

Mc: It was a well-written resolution that was passed with the best interests of students in mind. Just as University President Russi discussed with me, it is clear that the ballot initiative will have highly dangerous consequences for university policies and outreach programs. Oakland students will be hurt by the MCRI.

M: OUSC took a stance against the MCRI because after careful consideration it was determined that this initiative would detrimentally affect students. It is the duty of OUSC to do what is best for students, and I believe that taking a stance against something as potentially harmful to student life as this, was without a doubt the correct decision.

V: I do not feel that it is the place of OUSC to take a stance on state and national politics. I do however find it imperative that the OUSC educate the student body at large on important political issues. The OUSC needs to educate the students not dictate to them.

E: On a personal level, I am strongly opposed to the MCRI. However, this opposition should not affect my ability to work for the students. OUSC should be focused on the issues affecting our campus, such as financial aid or parking.

If elected, what are your goals for Student Congress and the student body?

Mc: There are too many to list within the word limit: Association of Michigan Universities involvement; awareness initiatives development; campus activities growth; civic participation enhancement; financial aid and tuition vigilance; first-year student assistance; legislative engagement; multicultural focus continuation; student handouts expansion; student organizations support; student outreach and publicity improvements

M: If elected, Michael and I hope to both continue the trend of positive change and implement new initiatives through OUSC. Encouraging civic engagement, expanding the P.A.W.S. program, expanding Women's History Month, and a voter registration drive are just some of the ideas that are outlined in our detailed platform.

V: If elected the main goal of the Vitale/Ewing administration would be to increase student participation in student congress. The chief purpose of the OUSC is to advocate on behalf of the students, but currently the students don't know that. The Vitale/Ewing administration would work to fully engage the student body.

E: In the next academic year, OUSC needs to focus on the needs of our student body. We need to support our student organizations, and advocate their needs and desires to the university administration. We need to use our resources to provide student organizations with the tools they need to grow, and prosper.

Why should students vote for you?

Mc: Madalyn and I have the background, creativity, and energy to best serve our student body. It has been an honor serving as President this year and I am determined to build upon our successes. A vote for us is a vote for enthusiastic, positive leadership for an exciting year.

M: Michael and I have the enthusiasm and the passion for the students that will drive positive change on campus. We have demonstrated that we possess the dynamic leadership skills to propel OUSC to the next level through our continued involvement on the campus of Oakland University. Mr. McGuinness and I have both worked hard to serve the students, and the results of that work are evident in the many great programs that have occurred this year. A vote for the McGuinness/Miller ticket is a vote for positive enthusiastic leadership for and enthusiastic year.

V: Student Congress needs change, and a Vitale/Ewing administration will create the change necessary for OUSC to properly serve the students. A vote for Vitale/Ewing is a vote for fiscal responsibility. Under the current administration 41% of the OUSC budget has gone towards paying the OUSC Executive Board; a Vitale/Ewing administration will cut such expenditures by 25%. A Vitale/Ewing administration is one that will respect the checks and balances of the OUSC constitution, not spending a penny more than what the budget allows. A vote for Vitale/Ewing is a vote for a new congress, a congress that works for the students.

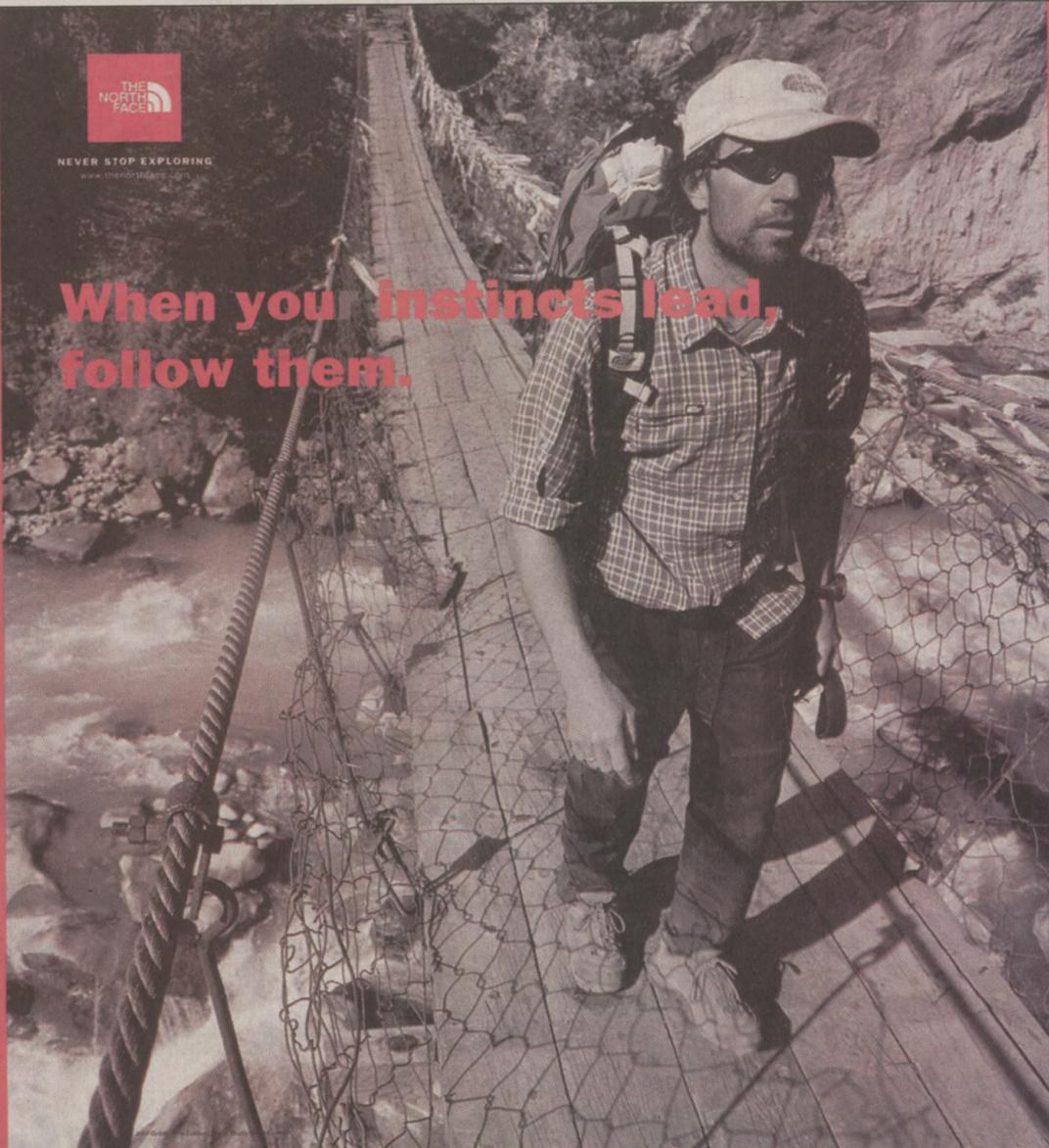
E: The Vitale Ewing administration is focused on positive change for our student body. This year, OUSC has lacked clear direction. Many goals were not realized, and resources were mismanaged. As we move into another year, the student body deserves a student congress focused on the needs of our campus. The Vitale-Ewing administration will provide the leadership necessary to make that goal a reality.



Mark Ewing for Vice President Peter Vitale for President

Photos by DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post

Compiled by Kristin Sommer



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- ❖ Cable television access in every apartment and room

Early Sign-up
Wednesday, March 29, 2006
7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Fireside Lounge
Oakland Center

We have a place reserved just for you!

Residence Halls Contracts and Applications for University Student
Apartments will be available.

Rochester Hills group aims to save area green spaces

Board meets bi-weekly to discuss issues

By CINDI POZZI
Contributing Reporter

Rochester Hills is taking a proactive approach about the city's natural surroundings with the creation of a new Green Space Advisory Board.

The Rochester Hills City Council established a seven-person board for the purpose of planning and developing strategies, recommending acquisitions and maintaining the green space funded through the millage.

The millage proposal, 0.3 mills for 10 years, was passed by a small margin receiving 4,884 votes to 4,385 votes in September 2005.

The millage will provide funding for permanently preserving green space and natural features for Rochester Hills.

A similar proposal on the 2004 presidential election ballot failed.

At a rate of 0.5 mills for 10 years, the measure was denied by a nearly 10 percent margin, 16,122 yes votes versus 19,801 no votes.

The board is similar to Oakland Township's Parks and Recreation Commission, which also strives to preserve natural resources which receives funding through acquisitions and donations.

Rochester Hills City Council Vice President Bryan Barnett said he thinks that once the new advisory board sets specific criteria for property assessments it will play a substantial role.

"They will be the group city council will lean on for direction and guidance in this area. That's why it was so important to find people from cross sections of the community to serve on the board," Barnett said.

Board members include: Gerald Carvey, Chairperson, Bill Windscheif, Vice-Chairperson, Paul Funk, Tim Gauthier, Lorraine McGoldrick, Jack Robinson and Pam Wallace.

Although members of the board are required to be citizens of Rochester Hills, their prior experience varies from being heavily involved with green space to community activism.

Carvey, the board's chairperson, has been involved with the environment in the past.

In 1988, as a city council member in Rochester Hills, he worked with the group to pass a bond issue that brought funding to purchase Borden, River Bend, Nowicki and Veterans' Parks as well as some of the land where the Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center is located.

The board is comprised of wonderful citizens, who are all working hard to do

the right thing, Carvey said.

It is currently working in establishing process and procedures, reviewing and understanding how other similar green space boards in the country are handling the issues.

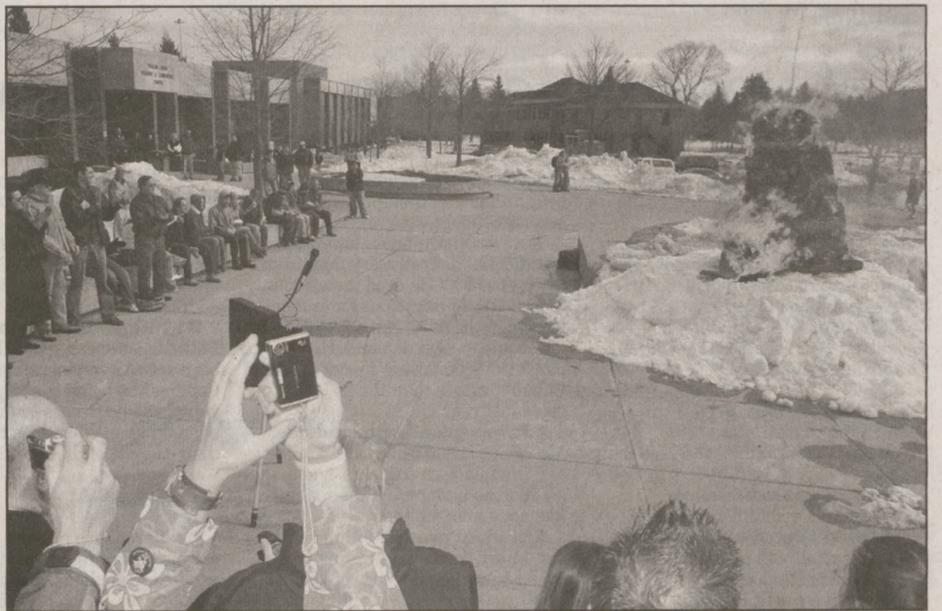
"I am impressed by their research and the due diligence they are providing to their work," said Ravi Yalamanchi, city council representative.

At its first meeting in February, the environmental section of Oakland County's Planning and Economic Development Services presented information on connecting green space and how to access data, useful to the board, from the County's Web site, <http://www.oakgov.com>.

At its first meeting in February, the green space board saw a presentation about the Natural Features Inventory, which was a survey conducted by a city-hired contractor.

The environmental section of Oakland County's Planning and Economic Development Services also presented information on connecting green space and how to access data, useful to the board, from the county's Web site, <http://www.oakgov.com>. The Green Space Advisory Board will meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., at City Hall.

Meetings are open to the public and agendas can be found at <http://www.rochesterhills.org>.



People at Lake Superior State University welcome in the first day of spring Monday with the 37th annual Burning of the Snowman at the university in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The snowman, made of paper, was 10 feet tall, prior to the blaze.

The Associated Press

MICHIGAN IN BRIEF

XL nets \$300 million, study says
DETROIT (AP) — The 2006 Super Bowl created \$273.9 million in economic activity in the Detroit area, a study says. A St. Louis research company made the estimate in a report for the Metro Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau. The \$273.9 million is at the low end of the range of \$262 million to \$342 million projected by the NFL. The main reason is that Pittsburgh Steelers fans greatly outnumbered Seattle Seahawks fans. Coming from a nearer location, Steelers fans stayed fewer days in hotels or used recreational vehicles. "We feel good about the numbers," Michael O'Callaghan, executive vice president of the convention bureau, told Detroit Free Press columnist Tom Walsh for a story Thursday. "That's a huge chunk of money at a typically light time of year" for a northern city, said Ken Kettenbeil, vice president for communications for Detroit's Super Bowl Host Committee. Visitors spent an average of \$363 a day, excluding air travel, lodging and tickets. Hotels, casinos and other entertainment and food and drink providers took in 54 percent of the \$170 million in direct spending by out-of-town visitors, said the study by St. Louis-based SportsImpacts.

Gas prices on the rise
DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — The average price of self-serve regular gasoline in Michigan is up 39.2 cents per

gallon over the past four weeks, AAA Michigan said Monday. The statewide average of \$2.574 per gallon is 10.6 cents higher than last week and 43.8 cents higher than a year ago at this time. In the Detroit area, the average increased 10.8 cents per gallon to \$2.547. The Grand Rapids area has the most expensive gasoline of Michigan's metropolitan areas at \$2.604 per gallon, the auto club said. Dearborn-based AAA Michigan surveys 2,800 gas stations daily for its report.

Pizza chain expanding
DETROIT (AP) — The Ilitch family's Little Caesar Enterprises Inc. says it plans to add hundreds of pizza outlets around the country, reversing a shrinkage that has reduced the number of stores from 5,000 in the early 1990s to 2,000 today. The privately held company says it will open outlets in areas that include Georgia, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington, D.C. Details of the plan were to be announced Tuesday by Little Caesar Enterprises President David Scrivano, the Detroit Free Press reported. He became president last year. Scrivano said the company is ready to push into the Northeast. There are no Little Caesars stores in Philadelphia and a handful in New York City and New Jersey. It also seeks growth in the Atlanta area, which now has five Little Caesars outlets "but could support 100," he said.

General Motors restates '05 loss
DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Corp. shares sank nearly 3 percent Friday after the world's largest automaker increased its previously-reported loss for 2005 by \$2 billion to reflect fresh estimates of the costs of bailing out its former parts-making unit and revamping its loss-riddled North American operations. GM said after the market closed Thursday that it now estimates it lost about \$10.6 billion last year compared with its preliminary report of a loss of \$8.6 billion. Its shares fell 65 cents, or 2.9 percent, to \$21.57 in morning trading Friday on the New York Stock Exchange.

Local man sentenced to life in prison
DETROIT (AP) — A 60-year-old man who was convicted of first-degree murder in the 1989 death of a Livonia businessman was sentenced Tuesday to the mandatory term of life in prison without parole. Richard Lawson was found guilty March 7 of murder and armed robbery in Wayne County Circuit Court in the death of Exavor Giller, 67, a cab company owner who was shot and killed outside his home. Investigators have said they hope information from Lawson will lead them to the killer of four Oakland County children in the 1970s. Police said earlier this month that he gave them information in the "Oakland County Child Killer" cases. The child deaths horrified the Detroit area starting in 1976, with parents keeping their children in sight at all times.

Local student faces 20 years for 'Columbine-style' threat

Fewer than half of Rochester High School students attended classes Monday

The Associated Press
ROCHESTER HILLS — An 18-year-old student was arraigned Monday on charges of threatening to commit an act of terrorism at Rochester High School, authorities said. Daniel Ray Davis Jr., of

Rochester Hills, could face 20 years in prison if convicted. District Judge Charles T. LaSata set Davis' bond at \$100,000. He was held at the Oakland County Jail. Only 40 percent of the nearly 1,800 students at Rochester

High School showed up for classes Monday, despite additional security measures prompted by Davis' alleged threat. The threat, stating that a Columbine-style attack would take place Monday at the

school, was discovered last week on a men's restroom wall. The threat referred to the 1999 attack at a Colorado high school where two students killed 12 classmates and one teacher and wounded 24 others before taking their own

lives.

"We conducted searches of lockers and other security measures (Monday) and are happy to report no problems which is what we expected," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard told The Detroit News for a story posted Monday on the newspaper's Web site. "We never felt there-

was a high level of risk here but that doesn't mean it wasn't given a high priority."

A threatening note found Saturday on a Rochester High School entrance door that prompted officials to reschedule a dance that was to be held that night is unrelated to Davis, Bouchard told the Detroit Free Press.

Oakland University's Student Affairs

144 Oakland Center

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HELP US RECYCLE IN THE OAKLAND CENTER
Plastic and glass BOTTLE RECYCLING CONTAINERS are located in the Pioneer Food Court and on the lower level. Please use the appropriate containers when disposing of plastic and glass bottles. Help us recycle as we do our small part to save the environment!

New Student Programs

FIRST-YEAR TRANSITION WORKSHOPS
■ How to Successfully Move Home for the Summer, Tuesday, April 4, 7PM, Hamlin Lounge, Hamlin Hall
■ Test Anxiety, Tuesday, April 11, noon, Lake Superior A, Oakland Center

Graham Health Center

The Graham Health Center staff wants to help you with your healthcare needs. You can call us at ext. 2341 for an appointment, or email us questions about our services at health@oakland.edu. On our website (www.oakland.edu/ghc) you will find information about our services, general information, and frequently asked questions. In addition, a health links page directs you to sites regarding general health, alcohol information, nutritional links, sex and sexuality, and more. Stop by our website, browse around, and see what Graham Health Center has to offer you.

LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

Commuter Involvement Award, Volunteer Service Award, and Sidney Fink Memorial Award Applications Now Available
Nomination forms available in CSA (49 OC), CMI (134 NFH), Dean of Students (144 OC), Service Desk, Campus Recreation, and Student Congress (62 OC) offices.
Questions? Call Jean Ann Miller at 248-370-4332 or email at jam@oakland.edu.
Recipients to be honored at the CSA Student & Greek Organizations Recognition Night on Wednesday, April 12, 2006.
Deadline for all three awards is Friday, March 31, 2006 to CSA, 49 Oakland Center.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE WINTER 2006 presents Chrissy Burns
Friday, March 24, 2006, 7PM, Vandenberg Dining Center

HA!

Looking at the world of comedy as one big buffet, this full-figured gal helps herself to an oversized portion of laughter. Audiences delight in getting to know Chrissy as she regales them with true-life stories of dieting, dating and life on the road. A sexy, rubenesque woman, Chrissy Burns believes in using her comedy to break stereotypes. As a three-time cancer survivor Chrissy brings to the stage a heart-felt message about the healing power of laughter. Free admission and refreshments.

STUDENT LIAISON TO THE OU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2006-2008

Now accepting applications/nominations. The role of the student liaison is to serve as a source to the Board in decisions regarding student issues. Term of office is one or two academic years, beginning July 1. Must be in good academic standing (2.5 GPA or higher), have earned 56 undergraduate credits (28 from OU) or 18 graduate credits (9 from OU). Must not hold any other elected campus office, have a record of service to the campus or community, and no record of disciplinary action. Applications available at Student Affairs, 144 Oakland Center. Call 248-370-4200 for more information. **Deadline is March 31, 2006.**

ELECTION ADVICE ...

The Oakland Post encourages all Oakland University students to let their voices be heard and cast their ballots next week. Civic participation is a crucial necessity for any system of democracy to effectively and efficiently serve the people.

EDITORIAL

Let your voices be heard, don't forget to cast your vote

This year, The Oakland Post is endorsing change — change for the better.

We think the best way for the university to continue changing for the better is to re-elect Student Body President Michael McGuinness.

After much deliberation, The Oakland Post endorses the following candidates and issues:

For student body president and vice president:

Michael McGuinness and Madalyn Miller

■ Extensive experience:

McGuinness and Miller have been involved with Student Congress for several years, both as legislators and as members of the executive board.

■ Active participation:

McGuinness and Miller are both members of the Association of Michigan Universities and interact with student governments across the state on issues that benefit the student body, such as higher education appropriations.

■ Budget accountability:

The Student Congress budget has been

visible and accessible by the student body. It has also been presented at several Student Congress meetings.

Further, McGuinness lowered the presidential discretionary fund from \$2,000 to \$500. He used it once to buy \$120 worth of Scantrons for student use when the office ran out of the forms due to high demand. He also budgeted \$500 for the End of the Year Banquet rather than the \$5,000 budgeted last year.

■ Involvement with students:

McGuinness and Miller are familiar and friendly with students, and make an effort to understand their views and accommodate their needs.

■ **Student needs:** McGuinness and Miller helped in lowering the would-be tuition increase of 15.2 percent to 9.53 percent by calling numerous students to attend a board of trustees' meeting where the decision on tuition was made. McGuinness also addressed the board.

■ Raising awareness:

McGuinness and Miller both took part in creating Student Employee Appreciation Week and Anti-Hate Week.

■ Leadership development:

McGuinness and Miller took part in putting together two student retreats in which Student Congress members gathered to learn about leadership and how to effectively and efficiently address student concerns.

■ Uniting Student Congress:

Both McGuinness and Miller have been active in trying to unify Student Congress by being friendly with individuals on both sides of the table and by making an effort to get to know them outside of the meetings.

On Proposal A:

Yes

■ Inflation has made it more expensive for organizations to provide services to students. An increase in student fees, which has not happened in the last several years, would only cost students not more than \$4 each semester, yet would greatly enhance operations of organizations.

■ An increase in fees does not necessarily mean an increase in tuition. Rather, it is a request by students to take a larger portion of the tuition to fund student organizations rather

than university operations.

■ The Special Projects Fund will present organizations with low budgets the opportunity to enhance their services to students by making one-time requests for special projects that they would not be able to fund with their annual budgets.

When you go into the polls next week, you need to make your own decision — a personal, educated and informed decision — on what you want for your Student Congress.

Don't let anyone tell you which way to vote.

Candidates and campaigners are trying to influence your decisions, friends and strangers are debating with you, and your student newspaper is making recommendations and sharing its stance on candidates and issues.

But remember that these are all suggestions. Take them for what they are worth.

Evaluate the message, the source and the situation, do your research, and then make your own decision.

The single most important issue

The Oakland Post wishes to endorse this year is a what rather than a who. The what: voting.

The Oakland Post encourages all Oakland University students to let their voices be heard and cast their ballots next week.

Civic participation is a crucial necessity for any system of democracy to effectively and efficiently serve the people.

— THE OAKLAND POST

The Post and Buddy's Pizza encourage you, the students of Oakland University, to take part in this year's Student Congress election. If 40 percent or more of the student body votes in the election, The Oakland Post will publish a coupon in the issue following the election for \$4 off any large, eight-square Buddy's pizza. Make sure you vote!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election process programs 'mars' the image of process

Dear Editor,
The invalidation of Eric Perich and Mike Palmer's candidacy to the OUSC mars the image of an already suspect election process (see "E-board candidates write their own rules," in Feb 1, 06 Oakland Post) and, ultimately, the OUSC in general. This invalidation has expired my faith in the Election's Commission as a body focused on the best interests of the student body. The Commission is an embarrassment to the CSA, a discredit to the OUSC, and an ipeccac of aware students.

Kevin Greenlees
Junior
Philosophy

Vitale/Ewing best choice to lead OU's student body

Dear Editor,
Every year, the student body is asked to turn out to vote over a three-day period to select those who will lead them as student body president and vice president, as well as who will compose the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) legislature. The results of those decisions have a far-reaching impact, greater than many students realize when they click a box or type in a name. I myself have taken part in this process as a voter and a candidate. In fact, I am currently seeking a third legislative term. During my time on OUSC, I have had a great deal of time to observe the workings of the body. Sometimes I like what I see, sometimes not. The 2005-2006 term has been especially, shall we say, informative. With that thought in mind, I feel that it is my duty as a conscientious and informed student and OUSC Legislator to endorse Mr. Peter Vitale and Mr. Mark Ewing for stu-

dent body president and vice president. It is my belief that Mr. Vitale and Mr. Ewing are by far the best choice to lead the Oakland University student body into the University's fiftieth year. Over the last few months, I have come to know Mr. Vitale very well, and I find him to be a thoughtful, deliberative and respectful person, someone who truly has the best interests of the student body at heart. I have known Mr. Ewing for several years now. He is a noble person, and very passionate about any cause that he takes up. Neither will rest until they have done what they set out to do. They are a true paragon of student leadership. It is time for a change in Student Congress. Mr. Vitale and Mr. Ewing have been an instrumental part of the push for that change this year, but they can do far more as president and vice president. Under a Vitale-Ewing administration, I see the potential for a budget whose line items are not overspent. I see a Congress that will continue successful programs and create new ones that efficiently use the students' money. I envision an executive board that is separate from and equal to the legislature, not presumptively superior. And I see an OUSC where dissent is respected and professionalism prevails. In short, I see what Mr. Vitale and Mr. Ewing promise: a New Congress. These intrepid young men will undoubtedly lead both the Student Congress and the student body effectively, efficiently, and, above all, responsibly. They stand for fair leadership and accountability. So I encourage all students to go to the polls and cast their vote for Vitale-Ewing.

Joshua J. Miller
Junior, History
Legislator and Steering
Committee Chair
OUSC

Let students think for themselves

Dear Editor,
In light of last week's letters to the editor, I feel compelled to say something about our upcoming OUSC election. For students who are not aware, I ran for OUSC president last year under the platform of Representing all the Students all the Time. It was Danny's and my aim to take out the politics from OUSC and bring back a nonpartisan, student centered government. Unfortunately, we lost, but in our loss we achieved 30% of the vote, and I thought perhaps things would change. Sadly, after reading last week's letters to the editor I know they have not. Endorsements aren't worth the paper they are written on. One of my big gripes with any McGuinness ticket is that they assault the student body with a lot of propaganda and lofty statements from some very biased people. Is it really any surprise that the people who are on the McGuinness ticket support him? Is it any surprise that these folks only come out of the woodwork when there is an election to win? Seriously, I could do the same and endorse a candidate. I could tell you that I will be voting for Vitale/Ewing (which I will be), but will that make you any more of an informed voter? No, it would just be more propaganda. What I will advocate is to take a look at the candidates and a look at the facts. I urge you to take a look at both candidates' facebook groups and their prospective platforms. Vitale/Ewing clearly state what they stand for and what they want to accomplish. On the other hand, McGuinness/Miller mention their similarity to candy and that they are nice people... While I do get their claim to being similar to candy, I don't really get the nice people part. If they were really so nice, would every other candidate have joined

together last year with the joint election campaign slogan of "Vote for one of us, not none of us"? If the campus really liked Mike McGuinness wouldn't more voters have voted for him than against? The truth is last year more people voted against McGuinness than for him... Clearly, there was something that didn't appeal to the student body. I believe ethics were what turned students away from the McGuinness ticket. Last year there were more voting irregularities and violations than ever. People like Crystal Allen were removed from the voting commission, and other election workers were caught at the voting booths telling students to vote for McGuinness. People did take action though once these issues came to light. The biased election commission met and decided that it wasn't a serious enough issue that election workers were telling students to vote for McGuinness while they voted, and after being elected President McGuinness decided Crystal Allen had done such a good job for him the previous year that she should head the election commission for 2006... You can imagine I'm a little less than enthusiastic about the fairness of this year's election. Oh yes, and let's not forget about the question of campaign funds. It's still anybody's guess where McGuinness gets the funds for his campaign materials. Last year, students as well as The Post asked McGuinness/Caver how much they were spending and where it came from. McGuinness/Caver replied with a secretive and suspicious "No comment". Is that the kind of answer you want from your Student Congress president? I could go on for quite some time about my distaste for some of the unethical practices of OUSC, but that's not my goal. My intention is to encourage you to ask the tough questions

and to dig for the truth. Find out what the candidates stand for and who will represent you best while being moral and ethical. ABOVE ALL ELSE do not let someone else do your thinking for you. Find out the facts and then you make the choice.

Bryan Austin

'Vote yes on the student activity fee adjustment'

Dear Editor,
I'm writing the Oakland Post to encourage students to vote yes on the student activity fee adjustment. The fee adjustment would allocate a small amount of money to organizations such as Student Congress, WXOU Campus radio, OU TV, The Post, Student Program Board, Student activities funding board, and the student life lecture board. The opportunities the fee adjustment will offer is astronomical compared to the amount of money it will cost the students to help out these organizations that serve the university so tirelessly. The campus radio station would be able to upgrade to more professional equipment, such as automation equipment that will allow us to broadcast 24 hours a day even when the Oakland Center is closed. We will also be able to upgrade remote sports broadcast equipment for better sports casting, which is one of the University's greatest assets in promoting itself off campus and around the country. I myself can only speak for the radio station because I see what goes on around there and know first hand how these slight increases would help us out, but I am certain that the other organizations who will be affected positively by the extra income will put it to good use. Up to this point these organizations have been able to make their small allocations work but we have come to a point where we can no longer provide the same service

es or grow with the small amount of allocations we have been working with. While the impact this adjustment will have on our pocket books as students is very small the help it will provide to these organizations is monumental.

Mike Parsons
Jr. Clinton Township

McGuinness 'failed to fully concentrate on serving students'

Dear Editor,
With the student body elections nearly upon us, I have begun to examine more closely the performance of our incumbent student body president. After consideration I feel compelled to share my realizations. I find it astounding that Mr. McGuinness is seeking a second term when he failed to fully concentrate on serving students during his first term. Instead of acting as a responsible representative of the Oakland University student body he was going door-to-door in my home town of South Lyon in an effort to get himself elected to the city council. With Mr. McGuinness personally taking home over four percent of the OUSC budget in the form of a salary—thousands of dollars in student money—I find it grossly inappropriate that, instead of serving the student body, he has been serving his personal interests and efforts in furthering his political career. Had he succeeded I would have found him representing me poorly in South Lyon, just as he has at Oakland University. With the upcoming elections in mind, I feel we, as students deserve a president who is willing to invest himself fully in serving the needs of the students, not a president who is preoccupied with voters in the opposite corner of the county.

Michael Potter
Freshman



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



The Oakland Post is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press.

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What do you think? Have a news tip?
Send your comments to The Oakland Post.

By e-mail: editor@oakpostonline.com
By mail: Letter to the Editor
The Oakland Post
61 Oakland Center
Rochester, MI 48309

Letter Policy: Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

In the March 15 issue, in the story titled, "Election process called into question by invalidated candidates," it stated that 377 signatures were needed to qualify a candidate as valid. It should have read that there were 377 lines for signatures in the candidate packet, but only 318 signatures were needed to consider the candidate valid.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

McGuinness' fiscal irresponsibility is 'disconcerting'

Dear Editor,
I have found the distinct lack of fiscal responsibility under the current McGuinness administration to be disconcerting and therefore feel obligated to discuss why I oppose his re-election. The Oakland University Student Congress is charged with a trust by the student body; to use student money responsibly and for students. The current McGuinness administration had failed in this regard with budgetary overspending and phenomenally high labor costs. Every year the Oakland University Student Congress must review and approve a budget for the fiscal year. This budget is to be followed and, should there be extenuating circumstances where it is clear that more money may be needed for a particular program or item, increased funding must be approved by those that represent the students as the OUSC legislators. Mr. McGuinness, however, has seen fit to continually disregard this and overstep his bounds by allowing more money than the legislature allowed for to go towards different items in the budget without their approval. One may ask, if this is happening, we even bother with approving a yearly budget to begin with if it is to become nothing more than a formality. This is a clear violation of the Oakland University Student Congress Constitution and the students' trust. Mr. McGuinness has failed to use student money responsibly; 41 percent of this year's fall semester budget went towards paying nine people. That is tens of thousands of dollars that we, the students of Oakland University, will never see. During last year's election Mr. McGuinness made many promises to students, most of which required large sums of money in order to accomplish. Yet, I cannot see how he and his administration could be effectively accomplishing these goals with so much money going to labor alone. Moreover, Peter Vitale and Mark Ewing, Mr. McGuinness's opponents have a tangible plan to lower these labor costs by at least 25 percent, insuring that more money goes back to serve those it came from; the students. A Vitale-Ewing administration will eliminate the monetary waste that has occurred under the

current McGuinness administration and would continue under a second. Mr. McGuinness has betrayed the trust between the Oakland University Student Congress and the students it serves and, after a year of fiscal irresponsibility under one McGuinness administration, I think that it is clear that we, the students, can't afford another.

**Brian Koss
President-College Republicans
President-Political Science
Student Association**

'Accountability' of Vitale ticket leads to support

Dear Fellow Oakland University Students,
I am Mike Mersol-Barg and I am a student and legislator on Student Congress here at Oakland University. More importantly, I am supporting Student Body Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates Peter Vitale & Mark Ewing. You may ask; why do I support them and what makes them qualified for the job? I support them for several critical reasons:
1. **Accountability**
As a colleague of theirs I know that they have worked hard to insure that Student Congress is held accountable to you the students. A testament to this is a piece of legislation that Peter and Mark recently helped pass through OUSC calling for roll-call votes on all pieces of legislation. The purpose of this bill was to insure that there was a public record on how each legislator—all of whom are elected by and represent you the students—voted on each resolution. In this way Student Congress would more ably be held accountable to those that put them in office and to those they serve; you, the students of Oakland University. These efforts, however, will not stop there as I am confident that accountability to the students of Oakland University will continue to be a key part of a Vitale-Ewing administration.
2. **Fiscal Responsibility**
This past semester, under the McGuinness-Caver Administration, 41 percent of the OUSC budget went to pay for the labor costs of NINE people. As a student here at Oakland University whose tuition goes towards funding OUSC, this is totally unacceptable to me. Peter Vitale and Mark Ewing are commit-

ted to insuring that your money is spent responsibly and, more importantly, on you the students. In fact, they already have a concrete proposal that will cut labor costs by 25 percent, putting money back to work for Oakland University students. Student Congress has been entrusted with thousands of dollars of student money (over \$100,000.00 this past Fall/Winter semesters alone) and it is imperative that Student Congress not break that trust. I am confident that, under a Vitale-Ewing Administration, this simply won't happen.
3. **Development of Student Life at Oakland University**
I think everyone can agree when I say that there is always room for improvement when it comes to the student life here on campus. Though the Student Activities Funding Board and the like have made great strides in this regard, Oakland University can play a pivotal role in bringing to fruition all the untapped potential that could be student life here at OU. With a philosophy touting fiscal responsibility—putting money back to work for the students—and accountability to the students, Peter Vitale and Mark Ewing are just the guys for job. I believe that, under a Vitale-Ewing administration, student life at Oakland University can grow at an unprecedented rate. Peter Vitale and Mark Ewing bring to the table a great many skills and experiences that qualify them to lead the Oakland University Student Congress as student body president & vice president. Perhaps most importantly though are the new ideas they bring with them that will aid them in invigorating student life and the college experience here at Oakland University. A vote for the Vitale-Ewing ticket is a vote for 'Forward Leadership, Accountable Results' and a 'New Congress' that will make good on its promises to students!

**Michael Mersol-Barg
Political Science
Legislator-Oakland University
Student Congress
Treasurer-Theta Chi Fraternity**

'McGuinness has this student's vote'

Dear Editor:
Michael McGuinness has this student's vote. I have known him well for many years. He also appointed

me as a student representative to the Student Life Lecture Board, so I serve with him on that. It is clear that Michael is an outgoing individual. He has the personality that I want in my Student Body President. I want our main spokesperson to be an outspoken person. No matter what he is doing, Michael is doing it passionately. It is one of his many great qualities. He has the passion that I want in my Student Body President. I want our main advocate to be a passionate advocate. Michael McGuinness has been a great student body president this past year. He is an outspoken spokesperson and a passionate advocate on behalf of us, the students. "I Like Mike McGuinness: He's Got My Vote."

**Matthew Keeney
Human Resource Development
Junior**

Vote 'yes to raising the Student Activities Fee'

Hello students,
This has been an exciting year for student run activities! There have been some amazing events like the Gospel Jam, All-In Poker Club weekly tournaments, and a great number of speakers that different organizations bring in on a weekly basis for all OU students! This of course is only a small number of events that the Student Activities Funding Board gives money to put on. There are now roughly 150 student organizations on campus with new ones created weekly. OU also has some amazing club sports teams that have gone to and even won national championships for the past couple of years. This is amazing, and I am happy to see the INVOLVEMENT on campus. There is one hold up though...in order to accommodate the growing number of organizations and their growing success, my Board needs more money! Unfortunately this year S.A.F.B. may have to say no to some student organizations that want to put on more great events, or club sports that have the opportunity to advance their teams. Denying student events and opportunities is unacceptable and shouldn't have to occur. There is a way that OU students can help! Start by voting YES on the referendum to change the Student Activities Fee from where it currently stands to \$25. Compared to other universities whose Student Activities Fees are in

excess of \$100, OU is a steal! This small increase could create a raise in tuition, and this has worried some students. However, it would only raise tuition at most only by 1/12 percent. This is a very small amount! I am willing to pay that extra few dollars so that more organizations can program for me and continue to bring big names like James Earl Jones and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Just think of the great things that we could have at our university! Student organizations have every right to program, and club sports have every right to play. Please support fellow students, organizations, and teams by voting yes to raising the Student Activities Fee by a few dollars. If we don't each pay more now, they'll be paying for it later. Spread the word and vote yes March 27th-29th.

**Lindsay M. McCullough
S.A.F.B. Chair**

Attention should be paid to legislative and proposal portions of ballot

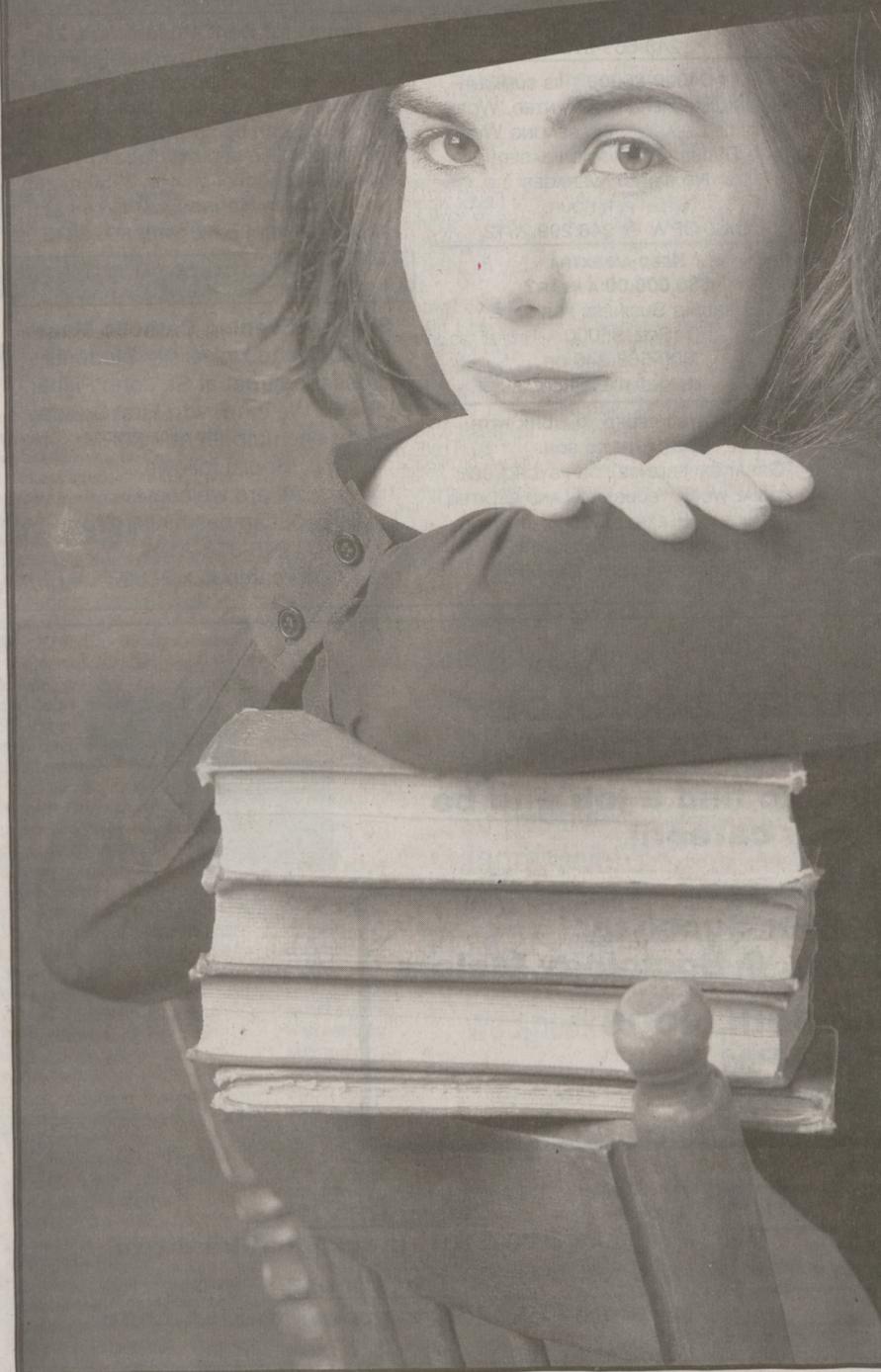
Dear Editor,
I want to thank The Oakland Post for their coverage of the Student Congress elections. It is my sincere hope that thousands of Oakland University students cast a ballot this year, taking part in the process to ensure their voices are heard. With informative, continued newspaper coverage, the goal of record-breaking student voter turnout is made more possible. While I obviously have a vested interest in which presidential and vice presidential ticket a student voter ultimately supports, I also want to call attention to the legislative and proposal portions of the ballot. These areas are also very important and have considerable impact on the quality of representation and level of student activities that we receive. Not only are there listed candidates for Student Congress legislators to choose from, there are also write-in candidates who need the help of their fellow students to make it over the winning threshold. There are more seats up for election than there are candidates for legislator on the ballot, so it is important that we take the time to write in the names of some of our peers to have a full legislature representing us. Some of the qualified leaders going there write-in route are: Christopher Darin, Jessica Deisenroth, Cathy DiPonio, Jen Fox, Bre Kopson, Salathiel Palland,

Adam Panchenko, Meghan Redmond and Saman Waquad. Please include their names when casting your ballots. Additionally, a Student Activities Fee proposal is before us students for consideration. I know I will be casting my vote in favor of the proposal and I encourage my fellow students to also vote in the affirmative. Both the assessment committee and Student Congress Legislative Body unanimously approved the proposal. In order to make progress and enjoy dynamic activities on our campus, we as a student body need to bring our resources up to speed. Finally, it has been a great honor serving as our Student Body President this year. I know what it takes to do a great job and I have the passion and drive to carry out the many initiatives that have been started. With my running mate Madalyn Miller, I ask for your vote for a second term as President. This can truly be a record-setting year, in terms of voting student participation. Please take a moment to ensure that your voice is heard and cast your ballot March 27 to 29.

**Michael McGuinness
Oakland University
Student Body President**

The Post and Buddy's Pizza encourage you, the students of Oakland University, to take part in this year's Student Congress election. If 40 percent or more of the student body votes in the election, The Oakland Post will publish a coupon in the issue following the election for \$4 off any large, eight-square Buddy's pizza. Make sure you vote!

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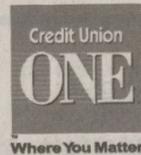
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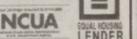
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Candidates face off

By JEFF KRANITZ
Senior Reporter

The Oakland University Student Congress campaign season was kicked into overdrive last Thursday with a vice presidential debate-double-header.

Mark Ewing, running with presidential challenger Peter Vitale, and Madalyn Miller, running under presidential incumbent Michael McGuinness, met midday in the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge and again during the early evening for a live broadcast on Oakland University's student radio station, WXOU.

Both candidates agreed the current state of campus life at OU was favorable, although they disagreed on what path Student Congress should take in the coming months and years.

"This year marks a fork in the road," Ewing told the audience during the first debate. "We've started an upward trend, and now we're talking about where to go in the future."

Ewing said he and Vitale planned to take Congress to a "new level" using two main building blocks — increasing accountability and enhancing student life.

"For accountability, we're going to ensure that Student Congress is completely open to any student who desires information," Ewing said. "We're going to be there in the office — with all of our information — anything you want to know is going to be right at your fingertips."

He pointed to the recent passing of a bylaw amendment to require roll call voting on all pieces of legislation as an example of how Student Congress can make themselves more accountable to the student body.

Ewing also recently introduced a bill that would establish regular hours of operation for Student Congress. He said for now, the bill proposal will only be getting an unofficial trial run until the end of the current semester, but he also said that a "Vitale/Ewing administration would be committed to establishing regular hours of operation."

Just a few hours later, during the WXOU debate,

Miller warned that although change is important, "radical change tends to bring chaos."

"Accountability is important, as Mr. Ewing said, but every week we have open Student Congress meetings," she said. "Every week we have executive board members who are issuing reports. I have never been asked for anything that I haven't been able to provide."

Miller also explained why she thinks the election process is important.

"This debate is not about me. And it's not about Mike, and these elections aren't about Peter and Mark. It's about 17,000 students and finding out who is in the best position to effect positive change on campus."

She cited a list of the socially progressive policies and projects that McGuinness and her have worked on during this past year as examples of her leadership qualifications.

"We've had things like Stand Up For Change Week, Anti-Hate Week and this week is Green Week and Environmental Awareness Week. We want to see even more happen."

The Student Program Board also organized the first major concert that has ever taken place on Oakland University's campus, Miller said.

"People often told me this couldn't be done — that this could not happen," Miller said about arranging for urban vocal group 112 to perform on campus last fall. "This year, we did it."

Ewing, a junior political science major, is a current Student Congress legislator as well as a member of the S.A.F.E. on Campus Advisory Board. He also has served as a residence hall assistant and president of the Gay/Straight Alliance.

Miller, a sophomore political science major, currently serves as the Student Program board chair and has served as student congress legislator and clerk of the Association of Michigan Universities. She also is a member of Phi Sigma Sigma, Gay/Straight Alliance and the Women's Issues Forum.

Ewing and Miller both said they hoped more students would turn out to vote during this year's election.

ELECTION GUIDE

ON THE BALLOT: Offices of president and vice president

What you're voting on:

The student body president of Oakland University is entrusted with serving as the chief spokesperson of the student body, as well as implementing measures and policies of Student Congress. He or she represents Student Congress and the student body at all appropriate forums. The student body vice president assists the president in carrying out policies and measures and is the chairperson of Student Congress meetings. He or she also assumes the office of student body president should it become vacant, and represents the president in his or her absence.

Your options:

- Running Mates: Incumbent Student Body President Michael McGuinness and Student Program Board Chair Madalyn Miller
Platform: "Energetic, positive leadership for an exciting year"
- Running Mates: Legislator Peter Vitale and Legislator Mark Ewing
Platform: "Forward leadership, accountable results"
- Write-in candidates: Students may also write in the names of individuals, present or not present on the ballot, whom they would like to see in office.

ON THE BALLOT: Legislator seats — 25 available

What you're voting on:

As part of the legislative branch, Oakland University Student Congress legislators are entrusted with establishing and maintaining procedures for Congress to operate effectively. They initiate proposals on matters relating to the welfare of the university to the university president or other parties of the university. They determine policies and procedures regarding student activities and events funded by the Student Activities Fee.

Your options:

- Timothy Atwood, Renee Blackburn, Kayla Burton, Joseph Coppola, Danielle Fallis, Christopher Goeth, Aaron Kochenderfer, Dan Kubicek, Michael Mersol-Barg, Joshua Miller, Christine Nguyen, Naasshon Phifer, Angelica Proffett, Joshua Rotarius, Dmitry Shapiro, Jordan Twardy
- Write-in candidates: Students may also write in the names of up to 25 individuals not present on the ballot.

ON THE BALLOT: Proposal A

What you're voting on:

■ Adjusting the fee rate to \$12.50 per student per spring and summer semester rather than \$10.50; adjusting the fee rate to \$25 per student per fall and winter semester rather than \$21.
■ Amending the Student Activity Fee percentage allotment so that the 2 percent Deficit Safety Net is eliminated and a 2 percent Special Projects Fund is implemented. The Special Projects Fund would be available to accommodate special, one-time needs by the organizations who receive funding from the

fee. The organizations are: Student Activities Funding Board, Student Congress, Student Program Board, Student Radio Station, The Oakland Post, Student Life Lecture Board and Student Video Productions.
■ The formal inclusion of Student Video Productions as an organization drawing directly from the Student Activity Fee. SVP joined last year as a trial run.

Your options:

- Yes
- No

— Information compiled from the OU Student Congress Ballot Box — available at <http://www.oakland.edu/voteou> — and the OU Student Congress Web site — available at <http://www.oakland.edu/ousc>.

VOTE

2006

<http://www.oakland.edu/voteou>

BUDGET Cont. from A1

Congress pushed the ceiling on the national debt to nearly \$9 trillion.

The House then promptly approved \$92 billion in new money for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and for relief along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

The Senate added billions of dollars for education.

To the dismay of budget hawks, the Senate's budget measure would break Bush's proposed caps on spending for programs such as low-income heating subsidies and health research, as well as education.

All told, senators endorsed more than \$16 billion in increases above Bush's proposed \$873 billion cap on spending appropriated by Congress each year.

Vice President Dick Cheney was on hand for a possible tie-breaking vote on the budget. But the spending blueprint advanced without need of Cheney's vote in the Republican-led Senate when Democratic

Sen. Mary Landrieu supported the plan after winning concessions to help her hurricane-damaged state of Louisiana and rest of the Gulf Coast.

She won inclusion of a proposal that could provide up to \$2 billion a year for levee and coastal restoration projects.

The money would come from auctioning television airwaves to wireless companies and from potential oil lease revenues from exploration in an Alaskan wildlife refuge.

Among the specific votes to increase spending above Bush's tightfisted budget were:

- \$3 billion more for heating subsidies for the poor. It passed 51-49.
- \$7 billion more for education, health and worker safety accounts. It passed 73-27.
- \$3.7 billion more for military personnel costs.
- \$1.2 billion more for aviation security and stopping Bush's proposed increase in airline ticket taxes. They advanced by voice vote.
- \$1 billion more for benefits for military survivors.

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Wage raise not beneficial, profs say

Profs discuss minimum wage hike, business tax

By ELIZABETH PERALES
Contributing Reporter

Hikes in Michigan's minimum wage may be favored by employees, but Oakland University experts disagree on how it will benefit the state.

"The only reason for intervention is a market failure and there is no market failure," said David Dulio, assistant professor of political science, at a panel discussion with Peter Trumbore, assistant professor of political science.

"The economy is better off when we let the market work, not by paying minimum wage," Dulio said.

The bill to raise minimum wage calls for a 44 percent gradual increase.

The current minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour would rise to \$6.95 in October, then to \$7.15 in July 2007 and finally to \$7.40 in July 2008.

Dulio said competition is the necessary factor.

However, Trumbore said competition would only drive down the wages.

The Single Business Tax, which brings in about \$1.9 billion in state revenue, was also a topic of discussion.

A petition started by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is aimed at eliminating this tax, which taxes businesses based on payroll rather than income.

"The environment in Michigan is dismal to start a business," Dulio said. "The taxes are so high and the hurdles are so high. People know that they can start a business in another state for a much cheaper price than here in Michigan, and that state doesn't have the problems we do."

Both agreed that Michigan's economic future isn't in labor intensive jobs but rather information and intellectual fields.

"The state of Michigan needs more discussions like this to

solve its problems," junior Michael Bazell said. "We need dialogue. Pure legislation won't solve anything."

"They both have good stuff to say," junior Christine Menking said. "You learn a lot more than if you were just listening to some politician."

Panelists also discussed

Iran's plans to open a plant that would allow the country to enrich uranium.

Iran has said the nuclear energy produced would be for

civilian use only as an alternative energy source.

However the United States is worried that could begin manufacturing nuclear weapons.

"We don't have the capacity to launch another war," Trumbore said, "but we would be able to launch a preemptive strike on Iran's nuclear facilities and could very easily destroy them."

Trumbore then challenged the audience to think about what Iran could possibly do to the United States were an attack made.

Many agreed that Iran could make the war with Iraq more difficult for the United States, possibly destroy Saudi Arabia or shut off the oil supply.

However, Trumbore asked listeners to think about the possible retaliations.

"Iran is a huge supporter of

many terrorist groups, but has never allowed those groups to launch an attack on the U.S.," Trumbore said. "Iran could unleash those groups on U.S. targets. Could you imagine if the terrorist groups that target countries like Israel and India started targeting the U.S.?"

Both professors agreed that if any action was taken by the United Nations, it would not do much.

"At best, a resolution would delay the inevitable," Trumbore said. "The real question is: how do we learn to live with a nuclear Iran?"

Several students found the topic of Iran the most interesting part of the discussion.

"Anything that has to do with war interests me," Menking said. "I agree that (a nuclear Iran) is inevitable and there's just too much at risk. It's really scary."

"The economy is better off when we let the market work, not by paying minimum wage."

David Dulio
Assistant professor, political science

OUSC funds civil rights education

By KRISTIN SOMMER
Senior Reporter

Following three weeks of debate, Oakland University Student Congress passed a resolution to educate students on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative.

Last week Legislator Mike Mersol-Barg offered to postpone the resolution because of confusion over the money he reallocated to fund the event.

This week he came to the table with an amended resolution to clarify financial questions.

Originally, the resolution was to be financed by reallocating money from events such as alcohol awareness week. However, congress members said that some of that money was already used to fund those events.

While discussing the resolution, it was mentioned that there was money in the public relations fund available.

Since Public Relations Agent Krupa Ujla resigned, money in

the fund was unusable.

"It's dead money," Financial Affairs Director Brendan Stevens said. "So I think it'd be a good idea to spend it."

An amendment was passed to take all \$700 for the event from that fund.

Last week Director for Legislative and Multicultural Affairs Saman Waquad said she was already planning an event for the MCRI, regardless if the resolution passed.

Mersol-Barg changed the resolution to reflect that. "Basically, we want to give (Saman) free range to do what she feels is correct," Mersol-Barg said.

She said she is planning to have speakers from OU talk to students about the impact the initiative will have this fall.

By having an all-Oakland speaker list, Waquad thinks it will impact students more.

Student Body President Mike McGuinness announced during his report that Legislator Justin Zatkoff had resigned earlier that day.



DAN WILKINSON/The Oakland Post

Go Black! Go Gold!

Oakland University cheerleaders gather in the Pioneer Food Court of the Oakland Center to cheer for the women's basketball team. The Pep Rally, held last Thursday, included performances by Pontiac's drum line, speeches by team members and free ice cream.

REVIEW

Slam poet inspires, entertains

By GEORGE DAVIS III
Contributing Reporter

It all started in the customer service office of a rental car company.

It was there that slam poet and emcee Thea Monyee began to filter through her soul to develop the material that she is known for.

With her dreadlocks pulled back into a ponytail, and dressed in jeans and a t-shirt which read, "Ask me if I care ...," Monyee graced Oakland University with her passion and artistry last Wednesday in the Fireside Lounge as a part of Women's History Month Celebration.

A native of Los Angeles, Monyee has accomplished in a mere five years what most poets never accomplish in their whole career.

Best known for her numerous appearances on HBO's Def Poetry Jam and winning coveted slam poetry competitions across the country, on this evening Monyee's words flowed relentlessly as if to spring from a never-ending well within her, offering a transparent view of herself.

She started with a warm-up piece and quickly moved into her program.

A piece entitled "The Fro and the Hawk" was a dedication to her daughters.

The lyrically-impressive poem spoke to women's cultural identity issues.

In the poem she expresses a desire to leave a legacy for her daughters that reflects pride and acceptance of who they are.

"My babies are everything to

me, they come first," Monyee said.

Along with being a poet, Monyee is a mom, wife (her husband is also an artist), a social work investigator and is currently enrolled in school to complete her bachelor's degree.

At 25, she is learning how to balance between being an artist and a mom.

"I don't know how I do it ... coffee? It's work, but I have close friends and family that really believe in the dreams of my husband and me, and support our art."

Monyee came onto the slam poetry scene in 2001, and since has developed a strong following particularly amongst college students.

Monyee says she loves performing for college students because they bring great energy that she can feed off.

Victor Walker, Eastern Michigan University senior, said he has been inspired by Monyee's poetry since he met her at a conference in late October of 2005.

"Thea is an artist's artist. She continually moves and inspires me to create, and as an artist that's our ultimate use," said Walker.

The likes of Nikki Giovanni, Phyllis Wheatley and Erykah Badu are people that inspire Monyee.

"Did you see Dave Chappell's Block Party? Well, every artist that performed in his movie I love and inspires me," Monyee said.

Often compared to fellow

female emcee and lyrical genius Lauryn Hill, Monyee's poems are raw, soulful and sometimes gritty.

They pierce to the heart of socioeconomic, spiritual and cultural matters, bypassing politically correct clichés to encourage personal action and elevation of one's perspectives and ideals of prosperity and truth.

Keeping in mind that it is Women's History Month, Monyee expressed her opinions of women in a few poems during her "keeping it real" segment.

Subjects like the misrepresentation of women in hip-hop music and women being in toxic relationships sparked dialogue in which Monyee expressed personal issues as a

woman.

"I want to get to the point (as a woman) where we're more direct, and not so passive-aggressive; where we aren't afraid of 'rocking the boat' when we speak."

Madalyn Miller, Student Program Board chair, said she agreed with Monyee and thought her performance was positive.

"Thea brings a different dynamic, an aspect of art that enriches the college experience. Her poems have a powerful message, and she keeps it

clean. She is a powerful woman."

Monyee closed the evening with one of her most requested poems by students entitled "Butterflies."

Monyee sums up her entire purpose mid way through the poem with one line, "Who would I be if I never learned to write?"

How much do you know about current events?

Circle the correct answer for each question. Completed forms should be placed inside the box located outside The Oakland Post in the basement of the Oakland Center, office 61, no later than 5 p.m. Monday.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. What OU elections are starting March 27?
a. Oakland University Student Congress
b. Oakland University Senate
c. Board of Trustees
d. None of the above | 2. The Greenspace 2005 proposal passed by what percentage?
a. 25%
b. 50%
c. 10%
d. 5% | 3. What is the theme of OU's version of a Midsummer Nights Dream?
a. American
b. Japanese
c. Hawaiian
d. Canadian |
| 5. What type of cancer appears to be the nation's fastest growing?
a. Esophageal cancer
b. Skin cancer
c. Prostate cancer
d. Breast cancer | 4. Oakland lost the NCAA first round game against Oakland, but they played very well.
True
False | 6. Judy Jacobs wrote a guest column this week about the dangers of _____.
a. Rape
b. Workplace violence
c. Drunk driving
d. Abusive spouses |

Last week's winner: Kathleen Larrabee

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NATION

Bushes play host to new Liberia president

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Bush welcomed Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to the White House on Tuesday, calling Africa's first democratically elected female head of state "a pioneer." "You're the first woman elected president to any country on the continent of Africa, and that requires courage and vision and the desire to improve the lives of your people," Bush told her in the Oval Office. Sirleaf thanked the United States for its financial aid and interest in Liberia's future. Earlier this month, the House Appropriations Committee approved \$50 million in new economic aid to the government. "Liberia, we think, has the potential to become the U.S. success story in Africa," she said. In January, first lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice attended the inauguration of the 67-year-old Harvard-educated former finance minister. She inherits a war-ravaged nation of 3 million with an 80 percent unemployment rate, no running water and no electricity. Despite its diamond and timber wealth, Liberia is among the world's poorest; ranked 206th in per capita income out of 208 countries on a 2004 World Bank list. "We're confident that the Liberia people are ready to do what it takes," Sirleaf said. "They're back at work. Our country is open for business." Neither leader publicly commented on U.S. aid to Liberia or Sirleaf's request for Nigeria to hand over exiled former President Charles Taylor, who is wanted on war crimes charges. Taylor has been indicted by a U.N. tribunal on charges of committing crimes against humanity by aiding and directing a Sierra Leone rebel movement and trading guns and gems with insurgents infamous for chopping off the lips, ears and limbs of civilian victims.

Big Easy better prepped for hurricane season

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—New Orleans is better prepared for the upcoming hurricane season because of stronger flood walls and better evacuation plans since Hurricane Katrina, Mayor Ray Nagin said in an interview Tuesday. "We should be able to sustain another Katrina," the mayor said. "If a Category 5 hits us, probably the city will be gone and the levees will still be standing. The work they're doing is just incredible." Nagin said of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps, which designed and built the city's levees, has been heavily criticized by residents who note the city survived the worst of the Aug. 29 storm but then was swamped when flood walls broke, inundating 80 percent of the city with brackish water. Many have expressed fear about the condition of the levees as the June 1 start of hurricane season approaches. But Nagin told The Associated Press he's confident the Corps is using better materials and designs on the levees. He also said that evacuating the city in the event of another hurricane should be smoother. He said he would be in closer contact with forecasters at

the National Hurricane Center so he'll know quickly whether a mandatory evacuation will be needed. The one ordered two days before Katrina hit was the city's first. Nagin said he is concerned about the large number of travel trailers in which people are living while they repair their homes. Because the trailers are not very secure in high wind, they may need to be evacuated faster than the rest of the city.

Time Inc. agrees to pay-off investigation

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)— The publisher of Time magazine has agreed to pay nearly \$4.5 million to end investigations by 23 states including Michigan into whether it deceptively marketed and billed people for subscription renewals, Pennsylvania's attorney general said Tuesday. Time Inc. also agreed to make about \$4.3 million available in refunds, Attorney General Tom Corbett said. About 108,000 customers in 23 states are eligible to share the refund money and will receive a mailing in three months with a refund request form. The \$4.5 million will cover the cost to states to investigate Time, which also publishes Fortune, People, Sports Illustrated and more than 40 other magazines in the United States. Between 1998 and May 2004, Time required readers to cancel a subscription if they no longer wanted it, instead of giving them the option to renew it when it was about to expire, Corbett said. As a result, Time billed people or charged their credit cards for subscriptions they never ordered, Corbett said. In many cases, the automatic renewal notices resembled billing invoices, prompting people to pay them, sometimes out of fear of repercussion, he said. "This deceptive or perceived scare tactic method to renew a magazine is at best unfair and at worst illegal," Corbett said in a statement. Time, which is a division of Time Warner Inc., also agreed to stop using magazine renewal solicitations that resemble invoices, to stop using collection agents for unpaid bills of automatically renewed customers and to refund people for magazines they did not order, Corbett said.

Army dog handler at Abu Ghraib was convicted Tuesday of tormenting prisoners

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP)— An Army dog handler at Abu Ghraib was convicted Tuesday of tormenting prisoners with his snarling animal and competing with a comrade to make the Iraqis soil themselves. Sgt. Michael J. Smith, 24, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was found guilty at a court-martial of six of 13 counts. The judge later dismissed one of those six counts, saying it duplicated another. A sentencing hearing began in the afternoon, and will conclude Wednesday. The five charges carried up to 8 1/2 years behind bars. Prosecutors said Smith let his unmuzzled black Belgian shepherd bark and lunge at several prisoners for his own amusement.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION ...

"Fast is not more important than fair. We marched for fair elections, not fast elections."

—The Rev. Jesse Jackson, referring to his involvement in the civil rights movement. Jackson is lobbying southern cities against next month's New Orleans Mayoral elections because of the voters displaced by Hurricane Katrina

CANCER

Cont. from A1

leading one of the newest studies, using radiofrequency energy to burn away the damage. "That has not been answered."

But it's a question taking on new urgency as doctors chart a six-fold increase in the last two decades in the main type of esophageal cancer.

About 14,550 Americans will be diagnosed with esophageal cancer this year, the American Cancer Society estimates.

Most won't be diagnosed until they feel such symptoms as trouble swallowing and loss of appetite.

The prognosis is grim: Just 16 percent of esophageal cancer patients survive five years, and 13,770 are predicted to die this year.

Most have esophageal adenocarcinoma, the type linked to severe chronic heartburn.

With this "gastroesophageal reflux disease," or GERD, a loose valve allows stomach acid to regularly back up into the delicate esophagus.

In a fraction of heartburn sufferers, most over age 50, severe GERD over many years actually changes the lining of the esophagus:

When the stomach acid kills cells in that lining, the esophagus eventually starts healing itself with more acid-resistant cells — which happen to be cancer-prone.

It's a condition called Barrett's esophagus, and Barrett's sufferers are thought to be at least 30 times more likely than the average person to get esophageal cancer.

Here's the rub: Esophageal cancer is slow-growing and doesn't appear overnight. Just one in 200 Barrett's patients develops cancer every year, cautions Dr. Stuart Spechler, a gastroenterologist at the Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Those who go on to develop precancerous spots called "high-grade dysplasia" are at greater risk — one in five will get full-blown cancer in the next five years.

Current guidelines call for doctors to watch for these step-by-step changes by giving Barrett's patients regular down-the-throat exams, so they can operate at the first sign of cancer when survival is around 80 percent, he says.

The debate is whether to just monitor — or to try to get rid of Barrett's tissue.

Last year, the Food and Drug Administration approved a device that snakes a balloon inside the esophagus and beams RF energy through it to burn away the Barrett's tissue. Maker Barrx Medical Inc. this month began funding a study of 120 patients at Mayo and 15 other medical centers to see how well RF ablation treats Barrett's patients with precancerous dysplasia.

Other options: Freezing away Barrett's tissue; photodynamic therapy, where a combination of a light-sensitizing drug and a laser burn it away; or endoscopically cutting out dysplasia.

The problem: The only treatment completely proven to prevent esophageal cancer is to cut out that part of the esophagus, a high-risk operation, conclude Spechler and

colleague Dr. Rhonda Souza, who recently reviewed the evidence in an American Cancer Society journal.

The less invasive Barrett's treatments haven't been studied long enough to know if they'll really eliminate the cancer risk, or if it will just return — and they, too, cause some side effects, the pair caution.

Still, the treatments do offer an option for patients too old or ill for major esophagus surgery, says Dr. Prateek Sharma of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, a spokesman for the American Gastroenterological Association.

And for those with those precancerous dysplasia spots, they're a potential middle ground.

One thing all agree on: Every Barrett's patient needs high-powered medication to control their acid reflux, even those who don't complain of heartburn symptoms.

The esophagus may simply be too scarred to feel the pain anymore.

Promising research is under way that suggests a genetic marker may soon be able to tell which Barrett's patients are at highest risk for cancer, and which can relax, Souza adds.

What about heartburn sufferers today?

Studies show only a fraction will develop Barrett's, but Souza worries about people who never see a doctor about frequent reflux.

Her advice: Anyone over 50 who has used over-the-counter heartburn medicines regularly for six months to a year should probably see a gastroenterologist.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE REVIEW



Alecia Rebello
Contributing Reporter

What do you think of when you hear St. Patrick's Day? Shamrocks? Leprechauns? Beer? What about Storm Troopers?

I had been in one St. Patrick's Day Parade before, but nothing could have prepared me for this one.

My costume club, the Rebel Legion, had been invited by the United Irish Society of Detroit to participate in the festivities — a third year invite for them, a first year for me.

I will say it once, and say it proudly: I am a Star Wars nerd.

In the early afternoon, Sunday, March 12, I arrived at the Corktown Inn of Detroit dressed up as Senator Padmé Amidala.

It was my 21st birthday and I was celebrating my Irish heritage in costume — what fun!

I changed into full battle Padmé regalia and crossed the street to the place where I would meet my fellow nerds and line up.

Down the street and around the block, I saw a long line of green-clad attendants, all from different associations.

Toward the back, I saw the white armor of the 501st Legion, the sister organization to the Rebel Legion.

We were second to last in line.

The Rebel Legion and 501st Legion are nonprofit organizations that celebrate the Star Wars movies, their costumes and enthusiasts who replicate costumes through charity work.

The Rebel Legion hosts the good guys — Jedi, Senators and Rebels, and the 501st hosts the bad guys — Sith, Storm Troopers and Imperial Guards.

In other words, they give us nerds a place to feel welcome.

Representatives from local Irish Pubs stood in front of and behind us. Paralegic athletes playing basketball were also in front of us.

The Easter Bunny and a leprechaun drove by on a double bicycle. The bunny approved of us with a thumbs-up.

In fact, every group that saw us came over for photos and handshakes.

We were definitely on the approved list: This was not going to be your ordinary parade.

The parade stepped off 30 minutes later than planned, and then it took us about ten minutes to get to the end of the block.

After turning the block into the Corktown District, we finally saw the starting line of the parade.

Through the air came the sounds of bagpipes and applause; we were finally underway.

It doesn't seem to matter who you are, but when you see a Star Wars character, your initial reaction is to cheer fervently. At least that's what seemed to happen to nearly every single person at the parade.

At the start of the march, a group of more than ten children began chanting "Darth Vader" once he was spotted.

People of all ages pulled our Princess Leia aside for personal photos. I even had a man come up to me for a photo, and let me say, that is one amazing feeling.

Kids put out their hands to high-five the Storm Troopers as they passed, and the crowd loved the old World War II motorcycle we had renovated into an Imperial Bike.

I bet you're still wondering, "Why Star Wars?"

I was actually pretty curious myself.

Shamrocks aren't exactly standard Storm Trooper attire. But, after seeing the massive range of diverse characters at this bash, I began to ask myself another question: "Why not?"



Photo courtesy of Alecia Rebello

Storm Troopers march down the streets in Corktown during Detroit's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Say 'Aloha' to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'



Photo courtesy of Linda Curatolo/Oakland University

Cast members from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." (Top, left to right) Ryan Falcheck as Snug, Denver Surgener as Snout, John Wencel as Peter Quince. (Middle, left to right) Blair Mellow as Bottom, Joel Trumble as Flute. (Bottom) Bobby Glowacki as Robin Starveling.

By STACEY MORSE
Contributing Reporter

Varner Studio Theatre was full of excitement Thursday, March 16 — opening night of Director Michael Gillespie's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare.

What was normally a cozy theater was now a Hawaiian atmosphere with props extending all the way to the ceiling. The stage was lit, and there was a circular stone-like platform that reflected many colors.

There were vines hanging from the ceiling and a hammock in the center of the ceiling.

As the last few people gathered into their seats, the lights dimmed and a loud voice from the background transitioned into classical music. Three actors entered the stage, and the performance began.

This version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" takes place during

the age of the Hawaiian Kingdom in Kona, Hawaii. The scene opens with the planning of a wedding between Theseus, Duke of Kona and Hippolyta, warrior queen of a neighboring island.

During the planning stages, Egeus, advisor to Theseus, arranges for his daughter Hermia to marry a young man named Demetrius. Any refusal to take part in this could result in a convent or an execution for young Hermia.

Hermia wants no part in this, and instead hopes to marry a young man named Lysander. The challenges these characters face are not the only major plot events. The performance continues, providing hilarious mini-plots that make this story on the Hawaiian Island ever so interesting and in-depth.

"I thought it was great," said Gabriel LaVere, a freshman at Oakland University. "I loved it. It made me laugh. It was very funny."

From the fairies to the workmen of Kona, to the main characters, every actor absorbs their character as if they

are in fact them. The costumes are unbelievably creative and imaginative, and add to the personality of the characters.

The audience is also given the opportunity to be absorbed in the performance. The scenery itself is so extensive it feels like you're on a Hawaiian island.

The occasional Hawaiian music and the smoke coming from the side of the stage are the perfect touch to make the audience feel involved.

The most awesome moment is when the stone platform opens up at the end, transforming into a sparkling pond. Soon afterward, Hawaiian music starts, and the actors perform a Hawaiian song and dance. This shows off the actors' talent and projects an outstanding Hawaiian spirit.

"It was very well done," said freshman Emily Wallin. "It is a very good play, so you come out feeling good."

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" was a great comedy on every level. Shakespeare himself would be proud of the performance.

REVIEW

CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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CSA SERVICE WINDOW EVENTS:

Discount tickets to the following shows and events are available to members of the Oakland University community. You can purchase tickets or pick up a detailed schedule of dates, times and prices at the CSA Service Window, 49 Oakland Center.

- Three Mo Tenors (March 26)
- Les Grans Ballets Canadiens (April 7)
- Aida (April 26, 28)
- Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (May 25, 28)
- Cinderella (May 17, 19)
- Wicked (May 31, June 1, 4, 8, 11, 18)
- Salome (June 7, 9)

13th Annual CSA Leadership Retreat!

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7:30 pm

Meadow Brook Theatre

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March 28: **Glengarry**

Glen Ross

April 4: **Rashomon**

OU Women's History Month!

March 8 - April 12, 2006

March 22 - **OU Women's Hall of Fame** Display of students, faculty and staff nominations as Women "Builders of Communities & Dreamers" at OU All Day, Fireside Lounge, OC

March 23 - **14th Annual Elysis Law Georgian Award Luncheon**

(there is a cost.) Honoring Kathleen Healy Moore, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

11:30 am - 1 pm, Meadow Brook Hall

March 28 - **Women's Studies Award Luncheon**

11:30 am - 1 pm, Gold Rooms, OC

"Gender Equality in the Workplace" noon - 1pm, Fireside Lounge, OC

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Questions? Email jam@oakland.edu.

APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006 to CSA

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The 28th Annual Student & Greek Organization

Recognition Night

Wednesday, April 12

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Oakland Center Gold Rooms

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- Outstanding Fundraising Program
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 - Greek of the Year
 - Student Leader of the Year
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- ◆ Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- ◆ Must have earned 56 undergraduate or 18 graduate credit hours (of which 28 are at Oakland University)
- ◆ Must not hold any other major elected campus office

Applications are available at:

Student Affairs Office – 144 Oakland Center
 Student Congress Office – 62 Oakland Center
 Center for Student Activities – 49 Oakland Center

***Applications are due in the Student Affairs Office by
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EXPERT ANALYSIS

Awareness of workplace violence can aid in prevention



Judy Jacobs
Ph.D.

Violence in the workplace is disquietingly commonplace and increasing daily. Not a day goes by that we don't hear about another episode of violence in the workplace on the television, in the newspapers or through the grapevine at work.

The phenomenon of workplace violence began generating concern among public and private sector organizations in the United States in the mid 1980's, and the awareness has increased steadily.

In 1992 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) declared workplace homicide a serious public health epidemic requiring priority attention by policy makers.

A recent report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reports that workplace violence was the second leading cause of occupational injury in America. Moreover, mass murders on the job by disgruntled employees have become media-intensive events.

In 2003, the U.S. Department of Justice (USDJ) recognized workplace violence as a specific category of violent crime that calls for distinct responses from employers, law enforcement and the community.

Definition of workplace violence

While the efforts to define workplace violence have generated considerable discussion in the literature, there continues to be no agreement concerning an operative definition of workplace violence.

When queried, the public usually describes workplace violence as a situation in which a "disgruntled" employee goes on a rampage injuring or killing fellow employees and causing significant property damage. In

reality, this disgruntled worker constitutes a small percentage of violent behaviors experienced in the workplace.

The USDJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) determined in their 2003 monograph that workplace violence includes acts of homicide, rape/sexual assault, robbery, assault, terrorism, domestic violence, stalking, threats, bullying, physical and/or emotional abuse, harassment, intimidation and other forms of conduct that create anxiety, fear and a climate of distrust in the workplace (p.19).

According to the FBI, acts of workplace violence fall into the following categories:

Employer Directed Violence: The disgruntled employee engages in a campaign of harassment, terror or violence against the employer and those working within the company.

Domestic Related Violence: Couples experiencing a domestically violent relationship at home may bring that problem to the workplace.

Property Directed Violence: Consists of employee acts against the company designed to damage property and/or the company's reputation.

Commercial Directed Violence: A non-employee perpetrates events, including theft of money or property, which also involves violence.

Terrorist Directed Violence: A new category developed since the various terrorist activities that have occurred in recent years in the United States.

Currently, only acts of homicide, rape, robbery and assault with injury must be reported to the criminal justice system. Unfortunately, this mandated reporting process leaves untold numbers of victims unidentified and without assistance.

The increase in violence

Researchers believe that violence in the work environment is directly related to society as a whole is becoming increasingly more violent. Our coping mechanisms are faulty,

Red flags of potentially dangerous behaviors

While not all people who demonstrate any of the following behaviors will have a propensity for violence, it is incumbent on all managers to stay alert and create a safety plan of action for their employees should these behaviors be recognized. It is better to be proactive than reactive. Behavioral characteristics that should raise concern are:

- Changes in behavior from the last evaluation
- Having an obsession with or carrying a weapon
- Making threats- verbal or physical
- Having no social outlets or hobbies-being isolated

- Displaying unwanted romantic interest in others
- Having recent or perceived physical, financial, or family problems
- Use of alcohol or drugs
- Inability to take criticism
- Verbalizing suicidal or homicidal ideations
- Drastic change in belief system (i.e., God)
- Recent significant loss or perceived loss (1)

(1) Excerpted from Workplace Violence in Healthcare Toolkit: A Guide to Establishing a Prevention and Training Program. McGraw Hill Publishers.

— Judy Jacobs, Ph.D.

thus we as a society have an inability to cope and communicate effectively without side issues — issues that do not pertain to the current situation — becoming apparent.

Experts differ as to the causation for the growing violence, but they agree that there are contributing factors for the increase in workplace violence:

- Romantic failure (couples breaking up) in the workplace;
- Media presentment of violence feeding the already unstable mind of the offender;
- Family dissolvent leaving people without dependable support systems;
- Authoritative style of management;
- Mental illness;
- Improper termination planning;
- Organizational downsizing and restructuring resulting in greater pressure on employees;
- Increased need for employee flexibility causing an increase in part-time jobs, leaving a perception of job insecurity;

■ Diversification of the workforce in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, physical ability and sexual orientation.

Liability issues

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Annual Crime Survey, nearly 1 million people will become victims of violent crimes in the workplace each year.

OSHA reports that one out of four workers will be attacked, threatened or harassed on the job. Additionally, violence in the workplace is very costly in terms of human suffering and actual expenses.

Of the \$4.2 billion employers pay per year for work place violent episodes, lawsuits account for the majority of the expenses.

Each incident will cost a company approximately \$250,000 for litigation, medical expenses, etc.

If such a situation should arise, it is apparent that the impact could be devastating financially and psychologically to the company and its workers.

Finding a solution

Violence is an unfortunate reality of our times and has far-reaching consequences for both employees and organizations.

We may not be able to eliminate violence entirely from our worksites, but we can take a pro-active stance against the proliferation of these incidents. By realizing that all organizations and their employees are at risk for violence in the workplace is the first step towards decreasing the problem.

Creating a formal Workplace Violence Prevention program is a leading factor to taking a stance against this very pervasive problem.

Educating employees on appropriate conflict resolution techniques, and management styles that empower the employees are also positive steps in the right direction.

The importance of documenting and reporting incidents of threatening behaviors is imperative to early intervention.

Workplace violence is pervasive, and its variety of forms, tremendously disruptive to all organizations.

Denial of this problem's existence has become too costly. The importance of identifying, documenting and diffusing workplace violence incidents is paramount to maintaining safe workplaces.

Being able to recognize the "red flags" or warning signs and then implementing a safety plan of action is essential in reducing everyone's risk for harm. However, no one can do it alone. Organizations as a whole, coupled with managers, supervisors, employees, and yes, students, must take responsibility and actively participate in the creation and maintenance of safer work environments.

Judy L. Jacobs, Ph.D. is co-author of Workplace Violence in Healthcare Toolkit: A Guide to Establishing a Prevention & Training Program, published by McGraw Hill Companies. This book can be purchased at the Oakland University bookstore.

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OU SPORTS WRAP UP ...

BASEBALL on March 18 at Cincinnati (DH): L 20-12, L 6-2

BASEBALL on March 19 at Cincinnati: L 23-10

TENNIS on March 18 vs. Northwood: L 2-5

WOMEN'S GOLF on March 14 at Jacksonville: 10th place ranking

Buckeyes cut OU's tourney-run short

By SAMANTHA FRANZ
Contributing Reporter

It is said that sometimes one must overcome the bumps in the road in order to achieve success. In Oakland's case, that bump came in the form of a 6-foot-5, Big Ten player of the year by the name of Jessica Davenport.

Davenport and teammate Debbie Merrill combined for 42 points as Ohio State routed OU, 68-45 in West Lafayette, Ind. in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"Ohio State is pretty good," OU head coach Beckie Francis said. "I was really proud of our team because I thought we defended them pretty well."

OU got on the board early with a quick basket by junior Nicole Piggott, bringing the game to its only tie, 2-2. Tournament jitters seemed to get the best of OU early on in the first half, and they soon found themselves in a 17-5 hole.

"If we didn't have a couple of those unforced turnovers early, (I) thought we were shooting ourselves in the foot a little bit," Francis said. "I thought it would be a little closer."

But OU didn't let the early lead scare them off. Senior Anne Hafeli nailed two consecutive 3-pointers within a minute of each other to bring the Golden Grizzlies within nine. Unfortunately, that was the last time OU trailed by single digits.

The Buckeyes just kept on coming and at halftime Oakland was down 35-20. Of

those 35 first half points, Davenport and Merrill accounted for 26.

The Golden Grizzlies didn't fare much better in the second half, as the closest they got to OSU was a 16-point margin.

Merrill, who averaged 9.9 points during the regular season, surpassed her season-high with 23 points. Davenport ended her night with 19 and Brandie Hoskins closed out the double digit scoring with 11.

"I didn't know (OSU's) Debbie Merrill was that good. She was good. She's the one that killed us, I thought," Francis said.

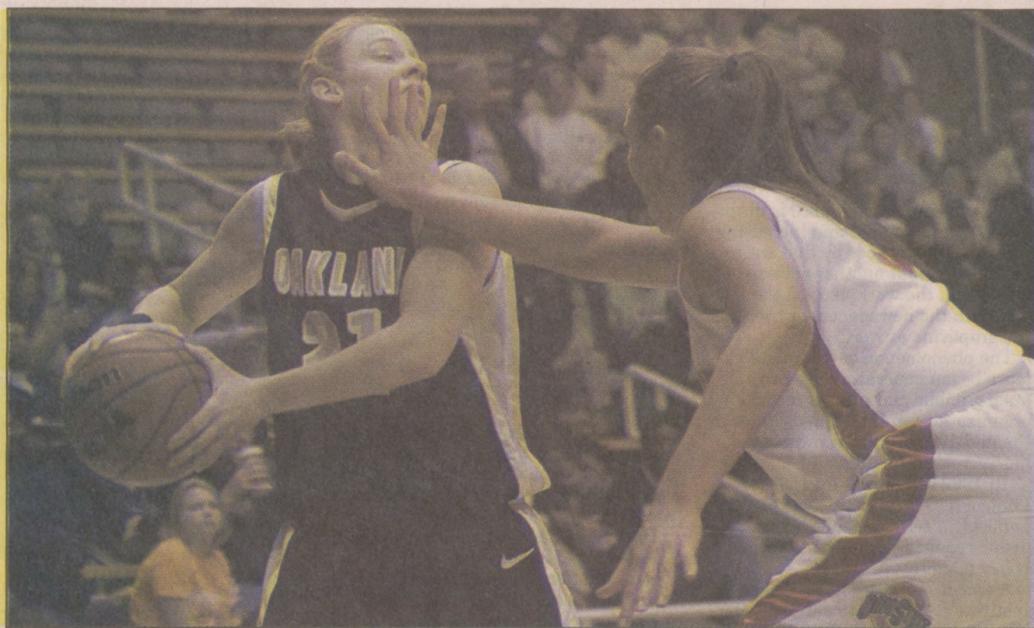
Nevertheless, OU put forth a gallant effort against the number one seed and never lost their tenacity. Piggott led OU with 14 points and Hafeli was close behind with 13.

Piggott, as a forward, frequently played on the inside against Davenport, who towers six inches over her.

"Basically, I tried to go out there and play with no fear because if you're afraid of them, that's when you're going to start making little mistakes," Piggott said.

Despite the loss, Oakland was just happy to have made it into the big dance.

"It's been a great experience," said Hafeli. "It still hasn't sunk in yet ... it's still kind of sad we lost the game but it's definitely been a great experience. The whole tournament has been so much fun."



OU senior guard Jayme Wilson looks for an open teammate while OSU puts on the defense, keeping Wilson to a rare six point game. DANTE CIULLO/The Oakland Post

Francis also took the loss gracefully and beamed with pride as she talked about her Golden Grizzlies.

"I'm just really proud of our players and they never quit," she said. "They kept working hard and they've been

doing that all year."

Though the Golden Grizzlies were six hours away from the Oakland Athletic Center, it didn't stop the fans from coming to support their girls. Two charter buses carried family, fans, alumni, and

the OU pep squad to Mackey Arena.

OU fans made sure there was never a dull moment, cheering on OU from the opening tip to the final buzzer with an energy that rivaled, if not surpassed the fans of OSU.

Lions coach says Harrington 'not with us' — Kitna or McCown to start

By TOM KRISHER
The Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions are parting ways with Joey Harrington after four turbulent seasons in which the former third overall draft pick went from franchise savior to fans' scourge.

Although he declined to say

whether Harrington had been released, coach Rod Marinelli told reporters Monday: "I've decided to move in a different direction with the quarterback."

"At this moment, he's not with us," Marinelli said. "That's been my decision."

A message seeking comment was left Monday with David Dunn,

Harrington's agent.

Taking Harrington's spot under center most likely will be Jon Kitna or Josh McCown. The two former NFL starters are expected to battle for the top quarterbacking job in Detroit.

As recently as last month, Marinelli and team president Matt Millen indicated that the Lions considered

Harrington their top quarterback for 2006. And offensive coordinator Mike Martz said he believed he could work with Harrington.

Marinelli said Monday that things had changed with Harrington and he decided to "move in another direction."

He would not say what changed with Harrington. "I'm not going to go

into everything about it," Marinelli said.

He said the quarterback competition is wide open.

"I really like that, too. We've stirred it up a little bit," Marinelli said.

By dumping Harrington, the Lions also lose his hefty contract nearly four years after making him a top-five pick in the 2002 draft.

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