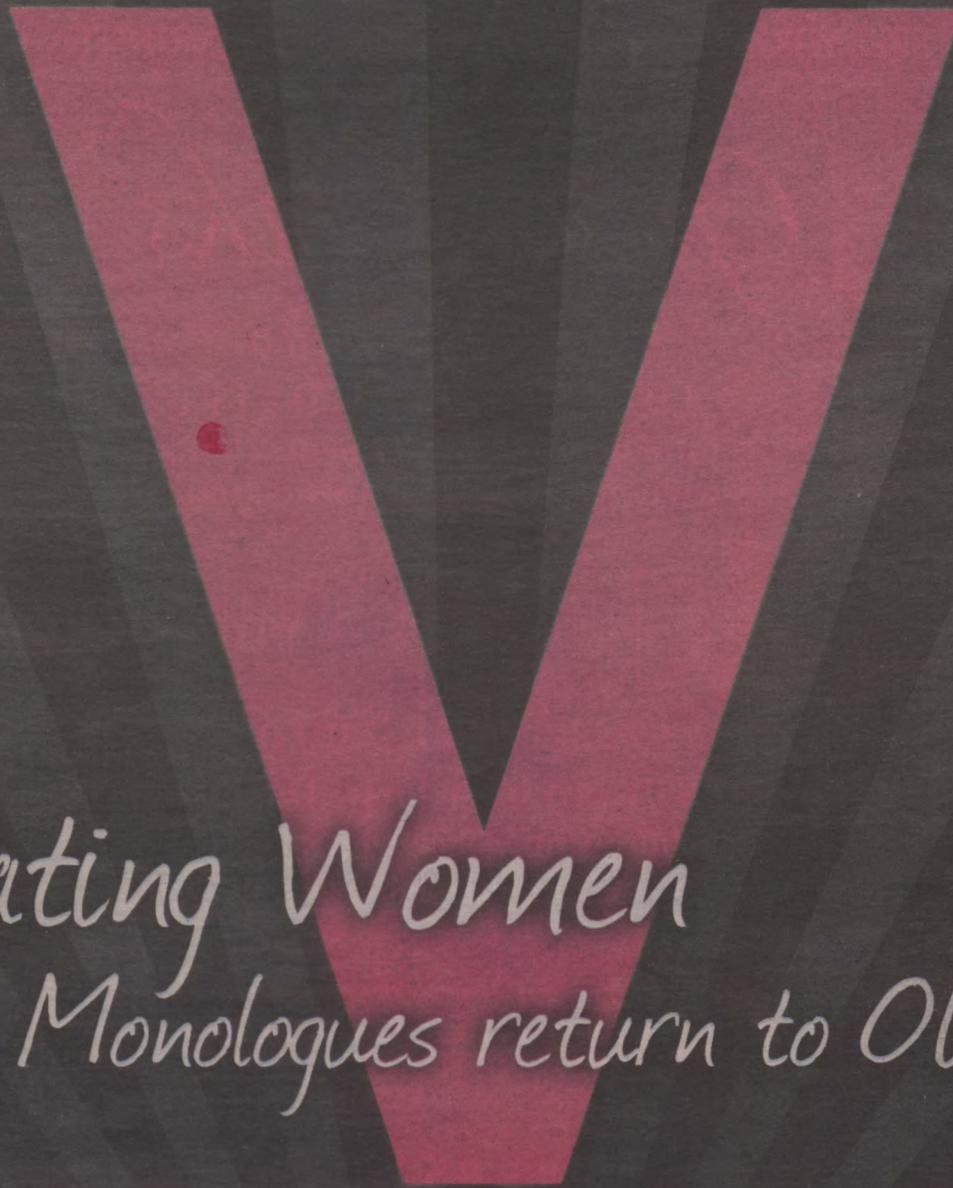


THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 17, 2010

Volume 36, Number 27



*Celebrating Women
Vagina Monologues return to OU*

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YOU

Prof takes medical leave. Students blog well-wishes; gratitude.

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MIX

Pops concert: Beatles on marimbas, xylophones, and drums.

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SPORTS

Grizzlies travel to Milwaukee for NCAA first round.

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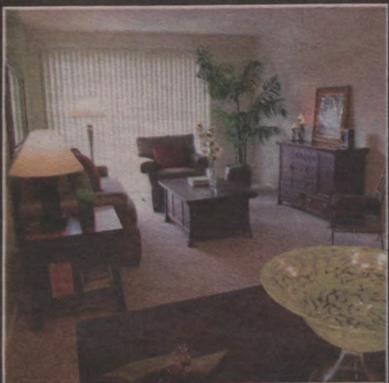
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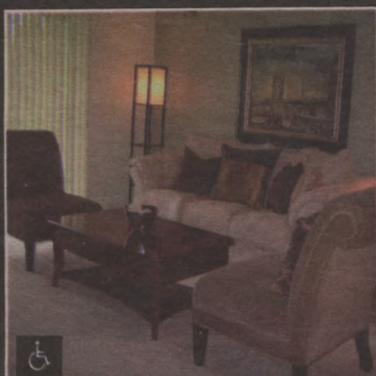
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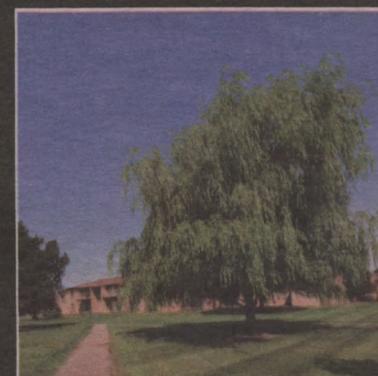
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Cover illustration by Jason Willis
Photos courtesy of Oakland.edu, Jacob Thielen & Jason Willis

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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"To provide a forum for news, information, opinion and discussion for the Oakland University community."

— The Oakland Post mission statement

Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 17, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

No confidence in vote

Can we take a vote to not have a "vote of no confidence"?

The Post has been covering this saga from its inception during the contentious contract negotiations, "strike," salary freeze/executive raises, and up through the second faculty forum with President Gary Russi.

As next week's vote of no confidence against the president finally approaches, we urge the organizers to just stop it.

Cancel the thing. Put the kibosh on it.

Get on with finding and implementing solutions to Oakland University's problems as opposed to perpetuating them and creating more.

This is such a poor representation of the university, and unfortunately, because of the way our media works, it's going to be an image that burns bright for at least one news cycle.

What will a vote of no confidence do to the credibility fought for by our professors, the donations, the mindset of students, the lawmakers who decide how much funding we should get?

It's not as if a majority vote expressing a lack of confidence in Russi has any official weight. So best case scenario for those in favor of it is that they prove a point.

We heard you already, loud and clear for the last year. We reported on

your efforts to make a variety of much needed changes, like swifter software purchasing, equality for the LGBTQ community, transparency, and explanation about executive raises.

The vote was originally planned for November, but was postponed to supposedly let Russi make good on these grievances against him.

But if the hold-off was to give him time to try and address these issues, then why in January did the organizers of the vote say it will take place unless Russi resigns first. Logic begs the question, what is the true motivation behind this vote?

Since the first forum last fall, there have been a number of things done to work away at the long laundry list of "particulars." Nearly every one of those items that he has in his power to fix as the president, he has initiated.

He has pledged his \$100,000 raise as a donation back to the university, he has kept updates of the meetings he scheduled and committees created to work away at these issues and logged all this information on oakland.edu/thepoint.

These actions speak very clearly that Russi has worked overtime to try to satisfy these demands. Of course they haven't all been fixed. And they proba-

bly all won't be. The Post still can't find the LCME documents that are supposed to be in the library.

We still don't have a faculty liaison to the board. Russi has met with board members to discuss this, but it is really not in his power at all to implement that. It's something the board of trustees has to do itself, and they have expressed no interest in it.

The buck has to stop somewhere, but you know it changes a lot of hands before it ever reaches the person who runs any organization. Especially in light of the sign of good faith from the president's office, there is hardly reason enough to continue on with this vote.

It's unfair to the president and to the thousands of stakeholders in this university to expect that trying to remove a leader who has generated a lot of good will lead to something better. No evidence has even been presented to support that case.

What's the point in a call to action that measures somebody's approval rating when the very people at the root of the vote seem to have made up their minds a long time ago.

Why vote at all if regardless of the outcome, all we are going to be left with is a bad reputation, no real solutions, and no leaders.

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Letter Policy:

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

THE OAKLAND POST TRIVIA CONTEST

Do you read our paper cover-to-cover? This contest is for you!

- 1) How many students won the OUSC scholarship committees essay contest?
- 2) What interactive website gives a little more than the viewer bargains for?
- 3) Why was a blog created for Professor Bhargava?
- 4) What is the Grizzlies' stated goal for the NCAA Tournament?
- 5) Who won the face-off: the Italians or the Irish?

Directions: The first reader to answer all five questions correctly will win a prize!

E-mail your answers to oakpostcontest@gmail.com with "Trivia Contest" in the subject line.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

On page 21 of the March 10 issue, the credit for the photo of Constatin Carstea in front of his Game Over Lounge should go to Jennifer Bucciarelli, staff intern.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail oakpostmanaging@gmail.com or call (248) 370-2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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

- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A no-confidence vote in President Russi's leadership has been called for. It is to be conducted online from March 26 to 31. We believe this vote should not have been called without adequate prior consultation with the eligible Oakland University faculty. We believe a no-confidence vote is not in the best interests of the Oakland University community. Consequently, we ask the AAUP Executive Committee to consider abandoning the no-confidence vote. Here is our reasoning.

We believe that even President Russi's most severe critics would acknowledge that he has made numerous positive contributions to the advancement of Oakland University over the course of his tenure. Under President Russi's leadership, and through the work of the faculty, staff, and students, Oakland has advanced from a quality small regional commuter school into a nationally recognized university with international programs. In no small measure, President Russi is responsible for leading and directing this advancement.

There is an excitement in the community regarding Oakland's growth and development. Oakland has established and nourished many partnerships with educational, cultural, and business organizations. The approval of the School of Medicine is the most recent evidence of academic progress. There has been significant growth in the student body and a concomitant increase in the full-time faculty and staff. Because of the outstanding quality of the faculty and staff, Oakland has increasingly become a first-choice university for our students.

We believe that a no-confidence vote will certainly have the potential to damage the good reputation Oakland University has acquired. Further, we believe a no-confidence vote on President Russi's leadership lacks merit. He has made a good-faith effort to address faculty concerns. We also believe the AAUP and the administration can amicably resolve issues that involve faculty-administration differences. Therefore, we ask you to consider joining us in opposing the proposed no-confidence vote.

Signed,
Friends of OU

Monahar Das, Professor of Electrical Engineering
Mary Karasch, Professor of History
Gopalan Srinivasan, Distinguished Professor of Physics
Richard Stamps, Professor of Anthropology
Kristin Dayag, Student Body President
Samon Waquad, Student Body Vice President
Corey Schmit, Student Liaison to Board of Trustee
Tawnee Milko, Student Liaison to Board of Trustee
Sayed Nassar, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director, FAJRI
G. Rasul Chaudhry, Professor of Biological Sciences
Eddie Cheng, Professor of Mathematics
Jacqueline S. Long, Chair Board of Trustee
Leonard Hendricks, Auburn Hills
Frank Moss, Maintenance Manager, Department of University Housing

Dear Editor,

I am writing you to discuss the recent Oakland Post that was on newsstands the week of March 10th.

The cover page of this issue has a picture of the OU men's basketball team celebrating their victory in the Summit League with the words "HELL YEAH!" in bold letters. I am not writing you this letter as some born-again Christian or concerned parent worried that profanity is being used in the University's newsletter. I am writing you out of disappointment and anger that the creative team at the Oakland Post could not come up with a more original title for their March 10th issue than a simple "HELL YEAH."

Professional newspapers throughout Southeast Detroit and the United States are famous for showing creativity in their celebratory newspapers. The Detroit News celebrated the Red Wings with a title "Sweet Stanley" and the Detroit Free Press and its Tiger related articles proclaiming "The Roar is restored!" Sports and the newspapers who cover them always seem to attract witty catchphrases and clever titles and the Oakland Post should be no exception. "Hell Yeah" is nothing but a cop-out on behalf of the Editorial Staff of the Post. It is not an article title, it is an exclamation.

I personally would have liked something to the effect of "Golden Boys win it again" (A play on the team name Golden Grizzlies) or "Grizzlies Maul the Competition" or even "Un-Bear-able victory!" is it perfect? No. But at least it is trying to be creative and show effort. The title you chose is completely unoriginal and comes across as lazy editing work. It does not follow the pattern that Detroit area newspapers show and the Oakland Post should strive for, and frankly it is disappointing to witness on newsstands because of the talent I have come to respect from your newspaper in years past.

I sincerely hope the continuation of the Grizzlies success in the postseason will give your paper the opportunity to capitalize on their success with more original and witty articles.

Sincerely,

Robert Conner, History/Secondary Education student
Concerned Reader

Dear Editor,

On the behalf of the Oakland University Alumni Association, and as the declared date for an Oakland faculty "no confidence" vote approaches, we wish to convey our steadfast support for the presidency of Dr. Gary Russi.

For more than a decade, Dr. Russi has led Oakland University to great heights and in the process transformed a relatively unknown university into one today that is regionally known and respected and on its way to national recognition. Through careful planning, collaboration and wise use of resources, Dr. Russi has overseen impressive growth at OU while protecting and enhancing its academic core.

Student enrollment alone has increased by 28 percent since 1999, and with it the growth of faculty. In 1996, the number of full time faculty totaled 380. Today, our faculty ranks total 527. Since 1996 the university has added an impressive 58 new degree programs and gained doctoral research classification by the Carnegie Institute. Faculty are receiving record amounts of external funding to support path breaking research with funding levels reaching \$12.3 million in 2009.

Oakland is a thriving university that has forged hundreds of partnerships that bring untold benefits to students, faculty and alumni. Glance around campus today and you'll find one that is buzzing with activity, not only in student life opportunities, but in campus infrastructure and improvements. During Dr. Russi's presidency, he has overseen the expansion, renovation and growth of nine new buildings, adding quality teaching, learning and student life space as well as technology enhancements.

Oakland recently received 10-year, re-accreditation from the North Central Association, affirming the quality of its programs and governance. In February, the university received LCME preliminary accreditation for a new medical school, which will transform and elevate Oakland University, its reputation, recruitment and degree equity.

Add to these accomplishments Oakland's move to Division I athletics in 1998; a new business incubator on campus and in Macomb County; and completion of the university's first-ever comprehensive campaign, concluding one year ahead of schedule and surpassing its goal.

All of this has been achieved in the midst of annual declines in state funding to higher education, making Oakland's growth and evolution all that more impressive.

We're proud of our alma mater and urge Oakland faculty to vote against a resolution of no confidence. A no confidence vote now would be a black mark upon all that has been achieved for OU. Let's not damage Oakland's success and reputation when it is poised for even more greatness.

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Bass
Gregg Garrett '97 SECS
John Ganfield '81 SBA
Director for Alumni Relations Chair, OUAA Board
Immediate Past Chair
Lynn Gross '87 SBA
John Hruska, Jr. '89 SBA
Anthony Thornton '76 CAS
Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

POLL OF THE WEEK

Last Issues Poll

"Miss the results from last week's online poll? Go to the Perspectives section at oaklandpostonline.com to see how our readers answered!"



www.oaklandpostonline.com

Current Poll

Do you think the AAUP should hold a vote of no confidence against President Gary Russi? After the November postponement, the vote has been rescheduled for March 24-31.

<p>A No way! He's really improved these past few months.</p> <p>B Definitely - he hasn't made good on all of his promises.</p> <p>C No, and it never should have come up in the first place.</p>	<p>D Wait, this is still an issue? Wasn't it solved months ago?</p> <p>E Maybe, I don't really know what has changed since November.</p>
---	--

V-Day: Speaking of vaginas

Student-powered "Monologues" encores at Oakland

By KATIE JACOB
Copy Editor

Scripts with titles like "My Vagina Was My Village" and "The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could" were being distributed among students, and every one of them was snatched up.

Parts were being assigned for the upcoming performance of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues."

Every seat was taken as students crowded into a meeting at the Gender and Sexuality Center on a late Tuesday afternoon the first week of March.

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed on March 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. at Dodge Hall as part of a series of events celebrating Women's History Month.

The production is sponsored by the Women's Issues Forum and is part of V-Day, a global movement on campuses across the country and in communities around the world to end violence against women and girls.

Nataisha Washington, the president of Women's Issues Forum and a senior women and gender studies major explained that V-Day is centered on bringing awareness around violence and sexual abuse against women.

The "V" in V-Day stands for victory, valentine, and of course, vagina.

Washington said the first time she ever heard about "The Vagina Monologues" was in a women's studies class sophomore year when the teacher made the class watch the movie of the play, in which Ensler performs.

She said everyone was quiet and seemed a bit scared when they first heard about the premise of the movie.

"You see this word (vagina) and you're like 'Whoa' like 'what is this?'" she said.

The monologues, which are based on over 200 interviews with women about their memories and experiences of sexuality, cover a wide range of topics including love, rape, menstruation, childbirth and genital mutilation.

The assortment of topics may sound heavy but Washington said that "The Vagina Monologues" has something everyone can enjoy.

"It makes you want to laugh, but it



KATIE JACOB/The Oakland Post

Students have been preparing for the performance of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" by rehearsing in the Gender and Sexuality Center and Dodge Hall. T-shirts were made for the event.

also makes you aware of the issues. Everyone leaves feeling so good," Washington explained, "You don't have to have a vagina to relate to 'The Vagina Monologues.'"

Washington said that every time she has seen the play there have been men in the audience.

Although men are not allowed to perform on stage, they are allowed to participate in the event.

Washington said that it helps that some of the members of Women's Issues Forum are men.

Todd Fitzsimmons, who is doing technology for the show said that he worked on the production before.

He said that OU hosted "The Vagina Monologues" several years ago, and that they brought them back two years ago.

Washington describes the monologues as "stories from women told by other women." V-Day stipulates that all of the people who perform the monologues must be living lives as women.

The performers in "The Vagina Monologues" do not have to be actors and in fact they are allowed to bring notes onto the stage with them.

One performer, junior psychology major Kelly Shaw, said she had some acting experience in high school. She said she played Dogberry in "Much Ado About Nothing" and "got to do a little cross-dressing for that role."

Washington said it's similar to doing a speech in a public speaking class. The performers are not paid.

Crystal Cromwell, a junior sociology major, said putting on the show is "pretty fun." Her monologue is a 6-year-old's response to the question: "If your vagina got dressed up, what would it wear?"

Tickets cost \$10 and are on sale now at the CSA window in the Oakland Center or can be purchased at the door on the night of the performance.

Ninety percent of the proceeds from ticket sales will be split between two local charities.

One of the charities is Alternatives for Girls, a nonprofit from southwest Detroit serving homeless and high-risk girls and young women. The other is Turning Point, which works with victims and survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and homelessness.

Ten percent will go to V-Day.

Women's
History
Month

18
MARCH

Women with
Disabilities Forum

Thursday, March 18
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Gold Room A,
Oakland Center

19
20
MARCH

The Vagina
Monologues

Friday, March 19 &
Saturday, March 20
8 p.m.

201 Dodge Hall

31
MARCH

Self Love Spa Day

Wednesday,
March 31
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Rooms 128-130,
Oakland Center

1
APRIL

Women and Gender
Studies Annual
Awards Luncheon

Thursday, April 1
noon-1:30 p.m.

Pioneer Room,
Recreation Center

Students write and win money, OU gear

By **MIKE SANDULA**
Senior Reporter

Next semester when professors hand out syllabi complete with lists of required texts, it won't be as expensive as usual for two Oakland University students.

Sai Myint and Thomas Butler wrote essays that won them book scholarships from OUSC's scholarship committee.

The awards were presented at Monday's student congress meeting.

In his essay, Myint, a sophomore majoring in health sciences, detailed how he would spend OUSC's annual \$80,000 budget. His response won him \$150 for textbooks and other educational expenses.

Myint said that many students line the walls and sit on the floor of the Oakland Center due to a lack of seating.

Myint suggested expanding the food court or perhaps having a "satellite OC" in another building like Pawley Hall.

"We really liked the (idea of) expanding the cafeteria because it's becoming a really big problem," said Hawra Abogilal, scholarship committee chair.

As a tennis player, Myint wrote he'd

also like to see tennis courts on campus. And like many of the other applicants, he said OUSC should give out more scholarships.

The other essay contest asked: "How would you change the cultural climate of Oakland?"

Butler, a senior psychology major, said OU should plan events that capitalize on the diverse cultures in the nearby area.

Citing metro Detroit's large Arabic and Jewish populations, as well as its growing art scene, Butler wrote, "It is my suggestion that these already existing cultures be tapped into to provide a unique and enriching cultural experience for Oakland University students."

His essay outlined ways to study which events OU students currently attend and then research ways to successfully advertise future events, both on paper and electronically.

Butler's essay earned him \$200 in scholarship money.

In addition to a scholarship, each student received a gift bag stocked with items from the OU bookstore. The black string backpacks contained various gifts decorated with the OU insignia.



MIKE SANDULA/The Oakland Post
OUSC legislator James Kaminski presented Sai Myint (pictured left) and Thomas Butler (pictured right) with their scholarships. Myint and Butler won out of a pool of 14 applicants.

Financial affairs and the multicultural affairs committee helped the scholarship committee come up with the questions and judge the responses.

There were 14 total applicants.

Each essay had a length requirement of 750 words or less, but legislator James Kaminski said ideas were more important than word count.

"It was not so much about the grammar," Kaminski said. "(It was) more about content."

He also said OUSC takes the ideas generated in the essays into serious con-

sideration for legislation.

For instance, one student suggested building a track, something OU does not have aside from the small indoor track at the Recreation Center. It is too small for the track and field team to compete on.

"We're a university and we don't have a track," Kaminski said. "Our track team goes to a high school to run our competitions."

Abogilal said OUSC gives out two such scholarships every semester.

For more information, visit the OUSC website at www.oakland.edu/ousc.

STUDENT CONGRESS UPDATE



HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING RALLY

Do you want the Michigan Promise Scholarship?
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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER
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2010 STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS EVENTS:

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES
WEDNESDAY MARCH 23rd
11:30 to 1:30 IN THE OAKLAND ROOM

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES
THURSDAY MARCH 24th
NOON to 1:30 IN FIRESIDE LOUNGE

FREE FOOD AT BOTH DEBATES

Leaders gather for LTC

By COURTNEY UMBRAS
Staff Intern

The second annual Leadership and Technology Conference will be on Saturday, March 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Oakland Center.

Fifteen locally and highly recognized speakers are expected at this year's conference. Some of the speakers include: Scott Monty, head of social media at Ford Motor Company, Byron Brooks, vice president of sales for the Pepsi Corp. and Bryan Barnett, Oakland University alumnus and Rochester Hills' mayor.

Some of the topics covered will be new technologies, effective communication techniques, marketing, social networking, leadership styles, group communication and more.

The goal of the conference is to educate students in the fields of leadership and technology. The program may help students to better understand the specified fields and how to excel in them.

"This is a really good way to bring teams together," said Steve St. Germain, who has helped plan the conference, "whether they are just getting to know each other or if it will be the last hurrah."

LEADERSHIP



Students are encouraged to come participate in the afternoon's activities.

"We're doing geocaching this year," said St. Germain. "Its like a GPS based scavenger hunt — every team gets a GPS handset and they try to find everything that's been planted around you, which could end up being cool souvenirs."

The other activity scheduled is a case study, which is completely filled.

There is a waiting list to sign up, which is first come, first serve. All those unable to participate in the case study can participate in the geocaching.

The conference is free to all enrolled Oakland students, but not for students enrolled at other universities. For those students or the general public to attend, there is a \$30 fee.

To register for the conference (and sign up for the case study if interested), go to <http://www.oakland.edu/LTC>.

AAUP organizes vote

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

Oakland AAUP is holding a "vote of no confidence" March 24-31 regarding OU President Gary Russi's leadership.

AAUP planned to hold a similar vote in November 2009, but postponed it to March to give Russi time to make good on promises he made at a Nov. 19 open faculty forum.

Russi promised to hold regular meetings with deans, AAUP leaders and others and vowed to make available documents pertaining to the school of medicine.

He reiterated these and other promises at a follow-up faculty open forum held March 11.

At that forum, Frances Jackson, AAUP's grievance officer, said the main issue is that faculty's trust in Russi had eroded, to which many of the 140 in attendance applauded.

"All board members have publically voiced their support for Dr. Russi and his administration and are extremely satisfied with the progress Oakland University has made in the last 15 years under Dr. Russi's leadership,"

said board of trustees chair Jacqueline Long. "This leadership is especially important during these challenging economic times."

Faculty said issues that have caused this distrust range from salary disputes to the lack of a faculty liaison to the board of trustees and extend all the way back to the handling of an appointment of an interim dean in 1999.

"Any one of these problems would be considered troubling; together they demonstrate a larger pattern of behavior that is dangerous," said Karen Miller, AAUP vice president.

The vote will be held on a secure website maintained by the AAUP, according to Miller. It will be a simple "yes/no" decision, with results being presented in writing to the board of trustees.

What would happen with the results is unclear. Though it wouldn't have a direct consequence, it might compel the board to take action.

"A substantial majority vote declaring no confidence in a president or other academic leader typically triggers a resignation within a year," Miller said. But she said even 30 percent of faculty declaring "no confidence" is likely to make the board act.

POLICE FILES

Harassing communications: March 7 a student asked for a police officer to stand by while her ex-boyfriend came to get his belongings. The student broke up with her ex in early February. At that time, the student asked him how he wanted his belongings. She stated that her ex told her he did not want them. The student sold a PS2, but kept the rest of the items. March 7 her ex contacted the student through a mutual friend asking for the PS2 back. The ex continues to contact the student. OUPD advised the student to drop her ex's belongings off at the police station. She dropped the items off in a duffle bag. OUPD contacted the ex and told him the items were at the police station. The ex has been advised not to have contact with the student.

Sexual Assault: March 9 two students met in North Hamlin after an exchange of text messages. Both the male and female students went up to the male student's room. The students began to playfully wrestle. The students began to kiss on the floor. The male student put one of his hands on the female's midriff area and the other on her butt and thigh. He tried to pursue the fondling further when the female resisted, so he said he stopped. After a while the female stated she had to go and left the room. The male student texted the female later asking if she was mad at him. The female did not respond. When the male student was questioned by OUPD he told police that the female student might be mad at him because of the incident. The two met over Facebook in February. The matter is unresolved.

Sick care for medical: March 10 two officers were dispatched to Bear Lake Nightwatch Station for a medical emergency call. The subject had a laceration to his head and was bleeding from a failed robbery off campus. When an officer arrived on scene they noticed a cut on the student's ear, but no other apparent injuries. The student stated the injury occurred in Pontiac at a gas station. He was approached and assaulted by an individual trying to steal

his car. He decided to drive to OU to clean off his wound. The student was advised to file a police report. The scene was cleared without further incident.

Operating while intoxicated: March 12 an officer responded to a call about a possible Operating While Intoxicated driver in the traffic circle at University and Squirrel. The vehicle was driving erratically forward and backward in the wrong direction around the circle. An officer stopped the vehicle. The driver appeared to be disoriented and spoke with slurred speech. There was an odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle. He was placed in the back of a patrol car for further investigation. The interior of the car was filled with dust from the dual airbags, which had deployed. The car was damaged from the driver's immediate stop. An officer located a tree that had been recently struck by a car. A piece of the driver's bumper was on the ground by the tree. The driver's license is currently ineligible and he is suspended until April 8. A Preliminary Breath Test was administered and the driver blew a .233. He was transported to Oakland County Jail and given an OWI. The vehicle was towed and impounded.

Medical emergency: March 13 two officers were dispatched in response to a suicidal subject. A woman had called OUPD and told them to follow her. They went to a room in Van Wagner and found a female resident lying on her bed crying. Her head was in a pillow and she was on a cell phone asking for her best friend. The informed officers that she wanted to kill herself. She became very upset when she was told she would be going to the hospital. An officer located a small bag of marijuana in the student's coat. The student was transported to Crittenton Hospital Emergency Room where an officer filled out a petition for hospitalization.

— Compiled by staff reporter Gabi Jaye from OUPD's media logs

CAMPUS BRIEFS

OUCARES to host family fun event in the Rec Center

On Sunday, March 21, the Oakland University Center for Autism Research, Education and Support will be holding their annual Family Fun Day.

OUCARES is a program at OU that integrates academic course work, along with knowledge and research to prepare professionals in the autism community. Its mission is to promote understanding and awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder through education, research, and support to improve the quality of life for people impacted by autism.

The activities will include swimming, arts and crafts, a moonwalk and caricatures. The event is specifically organized for families affected by autism.

Family Fun day will be held from noon until 4 p.m. in the campus Recreation Center. There will also be a sensory room staffed by the professionals from Kaufman Children's Center who specialize in working with children with communication challenges.

An information fair will also be set up for families to learn about the available resources to them and speak to representatives from over 20 organizations.

Those interested in volunteering with OUCARES can learn more about the program at www.oakland.edu/OUCARES

— Staff Intern Christy O'Shaughnessy

Chief Lucido unveils new stop sign on campus

A 3-way-stop has been added to Oakland's campus to help relieve heavy traffic flow.

The stop sign was added at the intersection of Pioneer and Library drives this past weekend. The 3-way stop will help students get in and out of Lots P-32, 34, 36 and 38 more efficiently, according to an e-mail sent to all students, staff and faculty.

The intersection will be monitored over the next couple of weeks, according to OUPD Chief Samuel Lucido.

— Staff Intern Courtney Umbras

Undergraduate Admissions presents Go for the Gold event

Student organizations will have the chance to represent themselves at one of the largest undergraduate admissions events taking place at Oakland University, Go for the Gold.

The Academic and Student Service Fair will be held on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. in the Pioneer Food Court in the Oakland Center.

The event is to help student organizations make high school juniors and seniors aware of their programs.

The deadline for organizations to register is March 26.

If the president and/or adviser of a student organization is interested in participating in the event or has any questions, contact Whitney Litzner at wrlitzne@oakland.edu.

— Staff Intern Courtney Umbras

Women with disabilities forum to take place

March is National Women's History month. To honor that, Women Empowered Inc., Council for Women with Physical Challenges, will be holding a session on Thursday, March 18.

The public forum, entitled "United Voices and Sharing Our Stories," will go from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center.

Three student organizations will be sponsoring the event: Students Toward Understanding Disabilities, the Women's Issues Forum and the Gender and Sexuality Center.

There will be an audience question and answer period after the panel discussion.

The organization is in its 30th year and was organized to raise awareness of women's history.

For more information on Women Empowered, call 313-745-6574 or visit its website at www.womenempoweredinmich.org/.

For more about Women's History Month events at Oakland University, see page 6 or visit www.oakland.edu/gsc.

— Staff Intern Courtney Umbras



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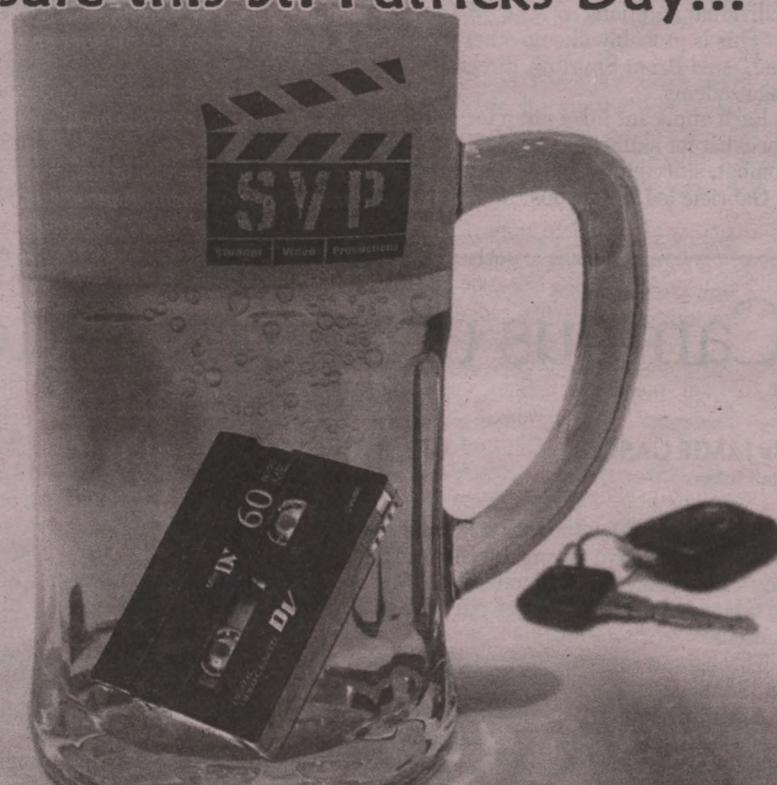
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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
 Thursday, March 18
 @ 12:00 PM & 5:00 PM
 Oakland Center - Gold Rooms

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Be safe this St. Patricks Day...



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OUSVP.com or "OU Videoproductions" on Facebook

Renaissance Festival comes to life during tryouts

By MIKE ESPEJO
Staff Reporter

Denise Boum, aka Abigail Elizabeth Codspur, waits to hear her name. Ready to be called in for her unscripted audition, she pulls a card out of a basket draped in red silk.

"Please be a good one, please be a good one!" she said.

The card reads: "Executioner."

"I think I'll have to play this one with some finesse," she said.

Boum and seven other hopeful candidates auditioned for roles in the Michigan Renaissance Festival Sunday, March 7 in 110 Varner Hall.

According to its website, the annual Festival is a "time-travel adventure into the 16th century," where guests roam a 17-acre village filled with shops and performers in wooded Holly.

The group judging the auditions was made up of 11 Renaissance Festival production staff and performers, a handful of whom are Oakland Alumni.

"The main thing we focus on at the Festival is guest interaction," said production and improvisation director Lisamarie Gabriele. "Which means as resident cast members your main duty is to interact with as many people as you can."

The performers selected at these tryouts will become part of the Festival's general cast of characters, but only after completing a two-month training academy.

Shawn Amidon, cast member and panel judge, said his experience at the academy was invaluable.

"You get to be mentored by some of the finest entertainers in Michigan," said Amidon. "Just in this room we probably have 175 years of combined performing experience."

The cast tryouts were divided between group and individual auditions.

"This is probably like no other audition you've ever had," said Brian Spurling, director of the festival's acting academy.

Each applicant filled out a form that included a checklist for skills like juggling, mime, whistling, stage combat, storytelling, magic and even calligraphy.

Gabriele led the groups through two improvisational



MIKE ESPEJO/The Oakland Post

Gina Locke and Kevin Buchman tried out with cast member and director Brian Spurling for a part in the Renaissance Festival.

exercises: one called "What are you doing?" where the players exchange miming actions, and another called "Human Orchestra," where Gabriele leads the group through an impromptu storytelling.

The first improvisational scenario was "Washing a Giraffe on Sunday."

The actors were then asked to wait in the hallway where they picked a random role out of a basket.

Playing their selected character in a scene with the Queen (played by Gabriele), they had to ask the Queen for a special boon, or request.

Fairfax, the Queen's page (played by Spurling), introduced each auditioner before their individual auditions by procaliming: "Your Highness, your next audience is ready!"

He and the rest of the panel interacted with the performers during their tryouts, shouting out quips and suggestions, all in character as the Queen's advisors.

During his audition, aspiring performer Kevin Buchman played the King of Spain, begging the Queen to help him find the man who killed his father.

"There has recently been a tragedy in my kingdom," said Buchman as the lippy Castilian. "A six-fingered man has killed my father and I want to ... buy him a drink."

"I've been going to the festival on and off for 10 years," said Buchman before his audition. "I'll take any role they want me to play."

Although the actors most likely would not be playing these roles if they became a cast member, the auditions gave the judges a feel for their personalities as well as their improv skills.

"They were pretty easy going folks," said Shane Fekete after his audition as a Troll who can't get any sleep. "I thought it went pretty well and they said they'd be in touch."

There was a 6-year-old boy signed up to audition, but he got nervous and left with his mother.

There will be a second set of auditions on April 18 from noon-3 p.m. in 110 Varner Hall.

Those interested in finding out more can contact Lisamarie Gabriele at mrfentertainment@gmail.com.

Campus offices move to give a central one-stop shop

By JAMIE GASPER
Staff Intern

As of June 2010, students and faculty will no longer have to venture the 1,441 acres that make up Oakland University to take advantage of services offered on campus.

Throughout campus, various offices are on the move.

According to Terry Stollsteimer, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, all of the recent changes have been going on for over a year and will be completed by June of 2010.

The purpose of this move is to bring all of the offices that directly relate to students to North Foundation Hall.

NFH currently houses offices like

the Cashier's Office, Advising Resource Center and the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, as well as tutoring services.

The renovations OU underwent nearly 10 years ago brought the offices of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid to NFH and by June of 2010 the final piece — the office of Career Services — will be added.

The relocation of Career Services has been discussed for years, but gained more traction about two years ago with urging from OU's Student Congress.

After funding for the move became available, the next step was to locate a new space.

"We want to create a one-stop student service center so students don't have to run all over campus to get business done

or to get help when needed," said Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of Student Affairs.

To make room for the incoming offices, things had to move out.

On March 23, the Budget and Human Resource departments will move from NFH to join the employee administrative services, as well as the budget office, which moved to Wilson Hall earlier this year.

Despite all of these changes, the classrooms in NFH will remain intact and the space in Vandenberg, where the office of Career Services is located, will be turned into additional student housing.

Other offices shuffling around campus include the various professors' offices that moved from Wilson to O'Dowd Hall

in 2009. Administrative offices are now all in ODH.

"With Career Services now in the center of campus, we hope students begin to explore their career interests and possible job prospects much earlier as undergraduates," Snyder said.

Many students find this move to be a helpful and potentially successful action for OU.

"It will be nice not to have to go all around campus to get things taken care of," said Courtlin Baca, an undecided student. "I'm a freshman and hardly know where my classes are let alone where all of these offices are; I'm glad I won't have to hunt any more."

New campus maps and directories are currently in the process of being made.

Blog offers vintage attire

By **CHRISTY O'SHAUGHNESSY**
Staff Intern

Oakland University students have a local opportunity to find vintage apparel.

Lilly Greig is a student who has a passion for vintage clothing and apparel. Finding herself needing money for tuition at Oakland Community College, she started her own vintage clothing shop, Love Charles Vintage.

She had been toying with the idea for a long time before actually setting up the clothing shop.

"Being a full time student I wanted something flexible and that I could grow with," said Greig.

Not only is her work an extension of her love of vintage but she said it is also rewarding.

"Even though being self-employed means you work double the hours of a regular job, you also get what you put into it," said Greig. "When you work for yourself, you work a lot harder."

She finds throwback dresses, tops, vests, shoes, boots, jackets, purses, accessories and belts at thrift shops. She displays and sells her finds at her site, www.etsy.com/shop/LoveCharles.

She also sells vintage and handmade jewelry. The handmade jewelry she makes herself.

Nicole Derocher, sophomore at OU is a regular customer at Love Charles.

"Since I am a huge dress fan, I loved the dresses," Derocher said. "They are super cute with all the different prints, and with the belt underneath the chest," Derocher said on Greig's selection of vintage dress items.

"I like it because on myself it makes me look slim, but not too slim. Dresses like the ones on that particular page (of



Photo Courtesy of Lilly Greig
One of Greig's outfits that was chosen by the clothing store H&M to be featured online as one of the contest winners. The contest picked outfits that utilized the color blue as their main feature.



Photo Courtesy of Lilly Greig
One of Greig's spring looks for Love Charles. The spring looks are outfits that involve big floral patterns, pleated skirts and blouses.

Also, she said, there is not one trend she stays with, stating that her style vision is always changing and evolving.

"By the time spring rolls around, it will have morphed into something else," said Greig.

As for now Greig's vision for spring fashion on her website involves a lot of big floral patterns, pleated skirts and draped blouses. Many of the items are made of chiffon, silk and lace.

For colors, she plans to find outfits mixing muted jewel tones, with light spring time neutrals, beige, ivory and light pink for a spring look.

Her marketing strategy is through blogging, word of mouth and by networking with others in fashion over the internet.

"I try to support other stores and bloggers as much as I can," Greig said. "Networking is one of the best forms of marketing in my opinion."

The name for her store was inspired by something close to her heart.

"As much as I would like Charles to remain mysterious, my shop is actually named after my pup, and he is a very deserving pooch," Greig said.

Anyone interested can also visit the Facebook page for more information on LoveCharles at www.facebook.com/LoveCharles/Vintage.

the site) are flattering to anyone and everyone," Derocher said.

Derocher also said that Love Charles has a variety of professional tops to choose from.

"Overall the Love Charles Vintage clothing are clothes that I would actually wear. They are professional, fun, flirty, exciting and different. Different is always good if you want to stand out at the right time and place," said Derocher.

Recently the clothing company H&M chose one of her outfits as a contest winner, and they are now featuring her creation as well as the other winners on the H&M website.

The challenge was to create a look where blue was the main color. The picture of her winning look also appears on Greig's blog, which can be found at lovecharlesvintage.blogspot.com/.

For her personal style, Greig said she tries to choose pieces more on the classic side and silhouette her figure, rather than what modern fashion magazines suggest.

With the vintage pieces she selects, she likes to be able to mix in trendy clothes as well. This is similar to the way she tends to pick out items for her website. She strives to have a large variety of clothing available, making it appealing to everyone.

"Everyone has a different style and being able to add in these unique pieces is what makes an outfit special," said Greig.

When asked about her favorite designers she listed Alexander McQueen and Jean Paul Gaultier. She said they contribute to ideas and inspiration for her outfits.

Yet another inspiration for her is the 1920s era. Many of her looks are ultra feminine.

The '20s is her favorite fashion era because of the way the clothing and models looked in pictures.

"I love the '20s era; the clothing was gorgeous and had so much detailing," Greig said. "The women always looked very lush in the photos I see."

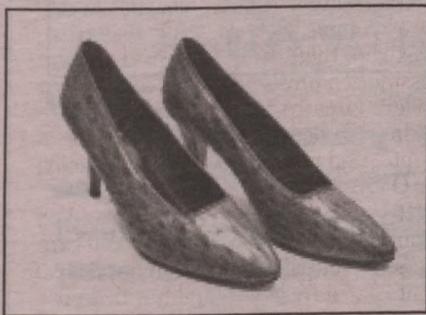


Photo Courtesy of Lilly Greig
Greig looks for vintage finds, including these shoe, at thrift stores and sells them at her online vintage clothing store, Love Charles.

Students are 'Thinking of Mukesh'

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

Mukesh Bhargava hasn't been in school since two weeks before spring break.

Bhargava, an associate professor of marketing at Oakland University, recently took a medical leave from his teaching position.

Two weeks before break, students in Bhargava's classes received an e-mail saying that he was taking a medical leave of absence.

When Sheri Profant, a senior marketing major, heard about Bhargava's condition, she joined with other students in her class to attempt to come up with a plan to show the professor they were thinking about him.

"In order to mitigate the number of individual e-mails that he was receiving from students, I thought it would be a good idea to start a blog where students could leave their well-wishes all in one spot and that he could easily visit when he was feeling up to it," Profant said. "Also, for the students that were in his Internet Marketing course, they know that the use of social media was the best way to reach out to all of his students, both current and past."

Using the information they learned in Bhargava's Internet Marketing course, they created a blog called "Thinking of Mukesh" for students to share their thoughts with the professor.

One of the students she enlisted to help with the site was Brian Nguyen, another senior majoring in marketing at OU.

"My original thought was that students would just leave a short message that said 'get well' or 'thinking of you,'" Profant said. "However, much to my surprise, students are leaving heartfelt statements that detail the impact that Mukesh has had on their lives. I have even been contacted by a former student who lives out of state asking to be added to the blog because Mukesh is the reason she even has a job today."

Since the blog was created on March 13, several students have already shared their thoughts about Bhargava.

Students frequently mention how his style of teaching has influenced their academic careers.

"You challenged us with every class to not just live for today, but plan for a bigger, better and brighter future," Kaja Mitevaska wrote on the blog.

She also credited her academic achievements largely to Bhargava's work.

"I'd like to thank you so much for everything you've done to contribute to your student's successes ... mainly my own," Mitevaska wrote. "Without your letter of recommendation, I doubt I would have received last year's Adcraft scholarship or one of the SBA (School of Business Administration) scholarships. Without those, I'm not sure where I would have been this year."

Nguyen also credits much of his academic success to Bhargava's teaching style.

"He doesn't focus just on tests and what you score," Nguyen said. "He focuses on critical thinking and helping you learn as a student and evolve. He's very active in his students' lives."

He also said Bhargava has been a mentor for him for the past two years.

"We just want him to know that he really has touched our lives and to me he's been a mentor for the past couple of years," Nguyen said. "I definitely wouldn't have the GPA as high as I do or be as interested in school."

Profant said the focus of the blog is to let students show support for Bhargava.

"I think that the main goal of the project is for Mukesh to realize how influential he has been in so many students' lives," Profant said. "The number of students, both past and current, rallying together for him is incredible. We all miss him terribly, but right now, we just want him to be able to look at the blog, and realize that he has a team of supporters behind him."

Those who want to share wishes with Bhargava should visit thinkingofmukesh.blogspot.com.

"I just want to let him know that he's an amazing, amazing person," Nguyen said. "I have learned so much from him and without his advice and guidance I definitely wouldn't have been able to use my potential talent. I'm so thankful I had a professor like him at OU."

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Nick Nash (right) performs Rush's "The Spirit of Radio" on the marimba, one of the several percussion instruments used by the Pops. Percussion Pops plays Varner Friday, March 19 at 8 p.m. JACOB THIELEN/The Oakland Post

PERCUSSION POPS PLAY THE HITS

By JACOB THIELEN
Contributing Reporter

On Friday, there will be a concert in Varner Hall featuring songs from Rush, The Beatles and Peter Gabriel.

Instead of guitars though, the songs will be performed by Oakland University's Percussion Pops using instruments like marimbas, xylophones and drums.

"We're kind of like a bar band meets classical percussion instruments," said Pops member Matt Dudek.

The Pops arrange their own music and each of the group's 13 members can play all of the instruments involved.

In addition to the rock songs on the set list, the Pops have also included a hip-hop song — "Handlebars" by FloBots.

"That's kind of been our fun project this year — could we find a hip-hop song with enough music in it to make it worth doing on these instruments?" Dudek said. "The goal is that any time someone comes out to this concert there's gonna be at least one or two songs where they're like 'I know that' or 'I really like that song.'"

Dudek said that this year's concert will also feature multimedia elements, including video production that accompanies the music.

"There's going to be something in this concert for anybody that comes, and they're gonna enjoy it, not only musically, but the energy that we provide," Dudek said. "The show that we're putting on is going to be enjoyable for anybody that just comes to check it out."

He said that the goal is to make the concert seem like as much of a real rock concert as possible.

Pops member David Mety said that the concert will feature members of OU's vocal department, and the Pops are looking to possibly add members of the dance department in the future.

"We're trying to bring the whole department together," Mety said.

The concert will be held Friday, March 19, at 8 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to everyone.

For more information on the Percussion Pops, visit the group's Facebook fan page.



Pop's member Jeremy Otto looks on as vocalist Liz Cedroni performs Rush's "The Spirit of Radio." JACOB THIELEN/The Oakland Post



Percussion members play Hearts "Barracuda." JACOB THIELEN/The Oakland Post



Pops member David Mety rehearsing the drums. JACOB THIELEN/The Oakland Post

The Scene

14

www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 17, 2010

By ALEXIS TOMRELL Scene/Mix Editor

The Wave Pictures

Be prepared for these East-Londoners to play Texas with their lo-fi basement ballads like "I Love You Like a Madman" and "Leave The Scene Behind." It's questionable whether The Wave Pictures even exist in this decade at all, or if they're permanently stuck in the awkward teenage years of the late '80s and early '90s. Whenever they're from, the resulting sound is oh-so-cute and kissable! The clumsy romanticism of their simple guitar strums and cheerful vocals bring memories of summer porches and bittersweet reunions with old friends. Their latest album to hit stores is the buzz-worthy

"If You Leave it Alone." Support these guys in the states, but if you do, please do so on audiocassette and listen in an old car on a warm night. They even manage to pull off a Sam Cooke cover, and you get the feeling they wrote his lyrics in a journal lots of garages ago.

XV

Finally, an American playing Texas. And he's probably the most talented MC you've never heard of. His hip-hop style is like no other, but it is tied to a line of sound streaming from the best and freshest - the Midwest. XV is from Wichita, Kansas, a largely-ignored music city housing a too-ignored young rapper. Like Kid Cudi did for Cleveland, XV will put Kansas on the radar, as he showcases his intelligent and innovative musical abilities at SXSW this week.

In 2009 he released "Everybody's Nobody," a mixtape that proved him capable to rhyme with the brightest out there. I hope he gets the exposure he deserves during the fest, and sets the stage for new creations and collaborations by this cleverer than ever MC. His forthcoming album is titled "The Kid with the Green Backpack," a salute to his high school days, where kids only knew him as the quiet kid with the crazy backpacks.

South by Southwest or SXSW is a music festival March 12-21. Centered in Austin, bands from around the world in all genres showcase their independent sounds to a national crowd. The bands you need to hear this year — are up and coming — and very British, but SXSW is 100 percent American rock in the most rocking city in the U. S. of A.

SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST

"New bands you need to hear."

VV Brown

Texas better be bracing itself for the next British invasion. In the spirit, VV Brown is a serious pop throwback to the sound, even if she's more Ronettes than anything. Her solo act is decked out in bright polka dots and blessed with her signature retro, flipped under flat-top.

In the train of Britain's Lily Allen, Adele and Kate Nash, VV is another go-lucky soul goldmine that gives new twists to that vintage crooner sound and style. Named as the UK newspaper The Independent's "artist to watch in 2009," VV originally sang backup for Madonna and The Pussycat Dolls, but don't associate the three.

VV is an original sweetheart, who is a lot cooler in my playlist, with songs like the offbeat swing stomp "Crying Blood" and big band "Game Over" of her "The Attic EP." If the "Mashed Potato" was still cool, VV would be the girl leading the stage — her persona and energy radiates whimsy, but serious retro talent.

LoveLikeFire

Shoegaze has never been, nor will it probably ever be a commonly-used term when it comes to describing a band's sound. It's been around since the late '80s, and how many times have you used it or heard it? Well, it's ambient dreamy pop, played while "gazing at their shoes." Still, it's making its introspective comeback on the alternative airwaves in new bands like Bat for Lashes, and at South by Southwest, in the form of LoveLikeFire. Like the genre stimulates, LoveLikeFire's music is good to turn on and drop out — in a good way — and lose yourself in a steady, pop equilibrium.

The San Francisco quartet's debut full-length album "Tear Ourselves Away" is a mesmerizing reverie of original work, taking up where electronic daze bands The Organ and Broadcast left off. Each song flows seamlessly into the next, a seductive record to drive around at night or chill out to — real laid back thinking sort of stuff.

Story continued on page 16



LoveLikeFire consists of San Francisco quartet from left to right: Eric Amerman, David Farrell, vocalist Ann Yu and Marty Mattern. The band plays South by Southwest Friday and Saturday, March 19-20.

Photo credit Retts Wood

Chatroulette: A tragic tech review

By MAS RAHMAN

Guest columnist

You're bored one night. With a friend, or alone. It's a joke. Or not. Drunk or high. It doesn't matter. What matters is that you're really, really bored. So you decide to check out a website a friend told you about, or that you read about on a blog somewhere. Ok, it's that one site where you video chat with random strangers: **Chatroulette.com**.

I did this last week, and if you're considering trying it out, let me give you a piece of advice: Don't.

There is nothing of substance on Chatroulette. Most of its users are exhibitionists whose sole purpose is to gross you out, or they are creepy voyeurs NOT looking to chat. The other users are people like me, only on the site to satisfy their curiosity, kill time, or like Jon Stewart put it on "The Daily Show," reporters mining for a story.

But, fools rush in where angels fear to tread, so for those of you who are going to try it anyway, a few tips:

The VERY first and foremost: Get ready to see a lot of penises. It's the first thing and last thing you'll probably see. Well, no, the first thing you'll notice when you go to Chatroulette are the rules of the site, which state "Chatroulette does not tolerate broadcasting obscene, offending, pornographic material and we will have to block users who violate these rules from using our service."

This definitely doesn't deter at least a quarter of the users from broadcasting these obscene things.

To begin chatting, you click "new game" and are paired up in a video chat with a random stranger. When you click "next" enough times, most likely within minutes, or even seconds, you'll get paired with a guy masturbating in front of his home webcam.

Even if you want to try and have a conversation with

him, which I'm sure you won't, it's not going to work. He'll hit next, or you will. Maybe he wants to show off his penis to as many people as possible, or maybe he's waiting to have a conversation with a girl or guy better looking than me.

Some guys aren't quite willing to show off their willies, but they'll for sure go bare-chested. It's also extremely disturbing that some of these guys look like they're still in high school or middle school.

Point in case: If you stick around long enough, you'll see straight-up pornography. All different kinds: straight, gay, whatever. Other websites are trying to capitalize on Chatroulette's popularity and leaving their looped clips of porn videos with URLs of their sites. I hope this isn't the newest trend in advertising.

The most shocking thing that happened to me was rather ingenious and terrifying, in retrospect. I "nexted" someone and saw a guy hanging by his neck from a rope tied to the ceiling. A chair was nearby, his legs were swinging ... and then they slowly come to a stop. It was scary. I wasn't sure if this was real or not.

Was this an act or was it a dummy? Or did I just witness an actual suicide? Was this guy trying to make a statement about technology and society by giving up his life and broadcasting it on the Internet?

There was no way I could hit next. If I "nexted" him, I'd never know if it was real or not. But if he "nexted" me, then it wasn't real. It was sad, but this was the longest "chat" I had. After two minutes, I got "nexted." Turns out the clip is a fake that's been circulating.

Getting "nexted" isn't always a relief. People constantly "nexting" you could damage your ego. It's a very competitive "next or get nexted" environment. Most people "next" as revenge or a pre-emptive strike, without ever giving you a chance to next him or her.

Who cares? After all, they're not people — just pixels. Someone asked me to show them my penis in

exchange for a peek at their boobs, by typing "dick for tits." Safe to say, the person disabled their webcam so I couldn't see them. When I told them I was suspicious it was a guy, he admitted it and said, "Guys have boobs too."

The most significant conversation I had was with a Latin-looking middle-aged man who was hitting on me in Spanish. He asked me whether I liked tequila. I answered. You know, in an attempt to try out my Spanish. Then he asked to see my penis. Next.

More on boobs: Several people had posters with messages like "show me your boobs" or "1 boob = \$1 for Haiti (or Chile)." Ah, charity.

Others actually take a genuine interest in you. They might ask you where you're from and what you do. If you aren't white, occasionally people's curiosity increases. And so does their racial insensitivity, like the guy who called me a "sand nigger." Next.

The first thing one person said to me was, "Ahmed or Jose? Jk." He must have forgotten I could be Indian too and call me Apu. When I told him I was an Ahmed, he said he was a Goldstein. "Ah, I guess we're natural enemies," I typed. I probably would have kept talking to him, but he looked like he was in middle school.

The website also has potential for showing you lots of random and funny entertaining things, like guys in full mime gear smoking weed.

By and large though, it's a waste of time. Most users are just guys looking to cyber-copulate with girls or with guys more interesting than me.

I recommend trying it once for the wacky experience, or if you're just plain bored. But if it's profound conversation you're seeking, don't be fooled for a second.

Finding anything worthwhile in Chatroulette is like looking for gold in a mud puddle.

According to 17-year-old founder Andrey Ternovskiy the site gets close to 20,000 unique visitors a night.



Screen shot Chatroulette

A bored Mas with nothing to do tries Chatroulette and ends the night disgusted and traumatized.



Screen shot Chatroulette

Here's a tame jokester using Chatroulette, unlike the other exhibitionists and voyeurs Mas found.

South by Southwest

Continued from page 14

Cate Le Bon

"Shoeing the Bones" is one of the most striking and original-sounding songs I've heard this year. Granted, it's only March, but I guarantee she grabs a whole new audience in 2010.

Her album "Me Oh My" is light in tone, with a folkish psychedelic air to it, with occasionally dark and droll lyrics. It sets her apart from some of the other forgettable female folk that's been releasing lately. It may be reaching to compare her to folk legends Vashti Bunyan or Donovan, but her Welsh heritage lends nostalgia to the thoughtful listener. Le Bon's also been described as a Welsh Nico.

Although she's heavy in old influence, she's definitely modern, representing the present shift in folk convention, as she multilayers synth and ghostly, almost French-accented vocals and mixes them with organic acoustic character.



Photo courtesy Big Hassle Media
Her Gallic-sounding album "Me Oh My" releases May 4 via The Control Group.

Check out these free downloads at sxsw.com

- Surfer Blood: "Swim"
- Jim Jones Revue: "Rock 'N' Roll Psychosis"
- Kidz in the Hall: "Jukebox Main"

Frightened Rabbit

Hailing from Selkirk, Scotland, Frightened Rabbit first caught our hearts with the lyric "It takes more than fucking someone to keep yourself warm." They're more upbeat, but still in the same musical ranks of Bon Iver. In Iver's same style you feel cozy and pensive, like you're traveling the Scottish countryside. Their sound is intimate and acoustic-based, sitting on the tail-end of winter when spring first sings. The lead vocalist has a deeply personal tone, like that of a frightened rabbit, a rare combination of elusiveness and intimacy. Their band name stems from a nickname given by singer Scott Hutchinson's mom who likened his shyness to a "frightened rabbit."

Listen to the track "Swim Until You Can't See Land."

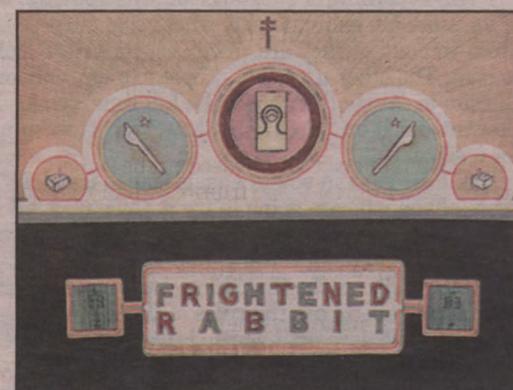


Photo courtesy of Fat Cat Records.
Frightened's new album, "The Winter of Mixed Drinks."

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Revitalizing Detroit Schools

DPS financial manager calls for every graduate to be accepted to college

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press Reporter

DETROIT — The man appointed to overhaul Detroit Public Schools' finances unveiled a shoot-for-the-moon, five-year academic plan Monday that calls for making sure every high school graduate who applies to college is accepted.

If the \$540 million plan, released to the public Monday night, ever comes to fruition it likely will be after the district has shrunk even further.

Detroit has lost nearly 100,000 students since 1997 when enrollment stood at 175,168. It has about 84,000 students now, but that number could "bottom out" at 56,503 by 2014, emergency financial manager Robert Bobb said after his state of the district address.

Fewer students means less funding. The district gets nearly \$8,200 for every general education student.

While fewer seats will be filled, there also will be fewer schools and a more rigorous learning environment beginning next fall.

Under the Excellent Schools for Every Child academic plan that Bobb unveiled, the district would have to graduate 98 percent of its students, have all of them pass standardized tests and have anyone who applies to college be accepted by the 2014-15 academic year.

Improving the district's average ACT composite score from 15.6 to 22.1 and improving attendance and lowering the dropout rate also are part of the plan, which would rely heavily on parents and the district's 5,345 teachers.

Along with state funds, the plan would be financed by federal stimulus dollars and Race to the Top grants.

"It's a Herculean task. These goals are very ambitious," Bobb said. "It can happen if the community wants it to happen."

Appointed by Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm last March to correct the district's ailing finances, Bobb has spent the past 12 months restructuring Detroit schools while cutting into a deficit that now stands at \$219 million.

He has weeded out waste, asked teachers to take a pay cut, and closed 29 schools with 45 more expected to be closed. But the state of academics was as poor as district ledgers, causing many parents to seek out charter schools and public schools in suburban districts.

The 11-member school board has complained that Bobb has overstepped his authority and has sued to get academic control back. A ruling is pending.

Board members adopted their own academic plan during the summer, but they note that Bobb controls the purse strings.

"I think he hasn't allowed it to be implemented," board member Carla Scott said. "You weren't hired to make an academic plan. Show me where you've corrected the finances."

Detroit's graduation rate for 2008-09 was 58 percent, compared with the national rate of 89 percent. The district's 27 percent dropout rate over 2008-09 was more than three times the national rate of 8.7 percent.

Bobb's plan looks to lower the drop out rate to 3 percent and push daily student attendance in the school

district up to 98 percent.

Advanced and proficient Michigan Educational Assessment Program math scores would rise from last fall's 62 percent to 72 percent next school year, and 81 percent in 2011.

The percentage of students with advanced and proficient reading scores would increase from 69 percent last fall to 76 percent next fall.

There will be expanded time for reading and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, and better programs for special needs students.

"Our academic plan will make DPS schools competitive with the best schools in the city, suburbs and beyond because we will be gauging our success not against Michigan's standards, but against more rigorous national standards," Bobb told a crowd Monday night at Renaissance High School where he spoke about the state of the district.

It can work if the right foundations are laid, said parent Ida Byrd-Hill, who has a son and daughter in the Detroit School of Arts.

"Everything around the child is technology until they come into school," she said. "They have to power themselves down to go into a slow-moving school."

The 38 first-graders in Chris Habood's class at Carleton Elementary haven't been able to power up for more than a month inside their room.

"I see a lot of wishful planning," the longtime teacher said of Bobb's plan. "But it's hard to see it when I'm sitting with no electricity in my classroom. There are lights only."

Possible budget cuts could raise tuition

By TIM MARTIN
Associated Press Reporter

LANSING — A proposal to cut state aid to Michigan's public universities has some students worried their tuition bills could go up next fall.

The Republican-led Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to vote as early as Wednesday on budget bills that would cut state appropriations to universities and community colleges by 3.1 percent. That could lead to higher tuition increases or more program cuts next fall than under Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm's budget proposal, which would keep funding sent directly to the universities and community col-

leges at current levels for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

"We want legislators to invest in higher education and students," said Julie Boon, a student at Saginaw Valley State University. "We are taking the time and the money to invest in our future, and we believe that they should be doing the same."

The Senate is proposing cuts because it is trying to erase a projected \$1.7 billion overall budget shortfall for next fiscal year without tax increases.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop said Tuesday he expects eventually there will be a consensus among lawmakers that cuts must be made.

Granholm has said she won't sign budgets with education cuts, although those comments have focused on K-12 schools. Granholm said she would speak with university and community college administrators about their ability to absorb cuts before deciding whether to veto bills that would reduce their funding.

Mike Boulus of the Presidents Council, which represents Michigan's universities, said schools are studying their options.

"We're cutting, we're eliminating programs with the understanding we're in for some tough times," Boulus said. "Obviously, we don't want to raise tuition more than we have to. We're very sensitive to the affordability issue."

Tuition and state aid typically are the

largest chunks of revenue for public universities. When state aid declines, tuition often climbs to help universities make up the difference.

Michigan universities got \$2 in state funding for every \$1 charged in tuition 30 years ago. Now the ratio has reversed, with tuition making up the bulk of university general funds.

Most Michigan universities have significantly expanded their internal financial aid programs to help offset tuition increases and cuts to state-based scholarship programs in recent years.

Boulus said it's too soon to guess what tuition increases might be for next fall. Rates typically are locked in over the summer.

Local briefs: Perfume ban, racist Easter eggs

Teen charged with capturing nude photos

MOUNT CLEMENS — A Sterling Heights teen accused of taking a cell phone photo of an undressed man inside a tanning salon faces up to five years in prison. Eighteen-year-old Ryan Woods was arraigned Monday in Macomb County Circuit Court on charges of capturing or distributing an image of an unclothed person. Police said the incident happened at the Image Sun Tanning Center in Mount Clemens.

Macomb County Sheriff's Capt. Anthony Wickersham said that more than 100 images of what appear to be partially dressed men in a tanning salon booth had been downloaded onto CDs that were found at Woods' home.

Woods is free on bond pending a May 24 court date.

Auburn Hills police probe racist Easter egg notes

AUBURN HILLS — Auburn Hills police are seeking information about who is responsible for placing racist and anti-gay fliers inside plastic Easter eggs and tossing them onto residential lawns.

Police responded Sunday to a complaint of fliers containing offensive material in the suburban Detroit community about 20 miles north-northwest of Detroit. About two dozen eggs were found on several yards by officers.

Lt. James Manning said that the printed fliers listed a website for the Aryan Nations, a white nationalist neo-Nazi organization, and were folded and stuffed into the eggs. Police do not believe any particular residence was targeted.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Auburn Hills Police Department at 248-370-9448.

Michigan health care 'opt out' plan stalls in Senate

LANSING — A resolution aimed at exempting Michigan from any potential federal health care overhaul has failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote to advance in the state Senate.

The Republican-backed resolution got 24 votes Tuesday. It would need 26 votes in the 38-member Michigan Senate to advance to the Democrat-led House.

Republicans likely will try to pass the measure again.

The Michigan resolution would change the state constitution to prohibit federal law from forcing any person, employer or health care provider from participating in any health care system.

The Michigan resolution aims to give voters the final say on whether to participate in the possible federal health care overhaul.

Detroit city employees banned from wearing perfume

DETROIT — City employees in Detroit will be urged not to wear perfume, cologne or after-shave as a result of a settlement in a federal lawsuit.

Officials plan to place warning placards in three city buildings. The signs will warn workers to avoid "wearing scented products, including ... colognes, aftershave lotions, perfumes, deodorants, body/face lotions ... (and) the use of scented candles, perfume samples from magazines, spray or solid air fresheners ..."

Other notices will go in the new employee handbook and be mentioned in Americans with Disabilities Act training.

The Detroit News reports the move stems from a \$100,000 settlement in a federal lawsuit filed in 2008 by a city employee who complained that a co-worker's perfume made it challenging for her to breathe and do her job.

— Associated Press

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Never-used music tax break could help rebuild Motown

DETROIT — A little-known tax break for music producers that could put Motown back on the music map has been available for two years — but no one has taken advantage of it.

The state offers tax credits of up to 42 percent for the production of music CDs and music videos. It was designed to lure big-name artists to record in Michigan, which already is home to Eminem, Kid Rock and Bob Seger.

The incentive is tucked away in a package of tax breaks for the movie industry, and state officials have put most of their efforts into growing the local film business.

That could be why no one has used the tax credit, even though it's been available since April 2008.

"If we could market that with the labels, do you know how much business we could bring to Detroit?" asked Brian Pastoria, a partner at Harmonie Park Studios in Detroit. "I think it could start something. This is huge."

He said his contacts at major recording labels were intrigued when he told them about the tax breaks. Pastoria, who has worked with Aretha Franklin, Eminem and the Velvet Hearts, is work-

ing on bringing production of a tribute album for British rock legend Frankie Miller to Detroit.

The tax break can be claimed only by those who spend at least \$50,000 in the state, a threshold that can be met by big-name artists but likely not others. Companies must apply for the tax breaks in advance, and it can take a year before the money is paid.

Ken Droz, a spokesman for the Michigan Film Office, which administers the incentives, said musicians with small budgets don't need the tax breaks. He also said that the film office has no plans to market the music tax breaks.

The Michigan tax breaks are starting to draw interest. Dickinson Wright, a Detroit-based law firm, has a Nashville office that's looking at the incentives for some of its clients, said Steven Enwright, one of its attorneys.

Unity Studios, which is building three sound stages in Allen Park, plans to operate at least one room for recording music.

"The music industry and film industry go hand in hand," he said. "We really need to get back to what Motown did."

— Associated Press Report



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Grizzlies prepare for Panthers

Selection Sunday announces OU's first "Big Dance" partner

By DAN FENNER
Staff Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies will be dancing on Friday as the Oakland University men's basketball team learned who, when and where it would be playing its opening round game of the NCAA Tournament, alternatively known as "The Big Dance."

Oakland was awarded a 14 seed by the selection committee and will square off against third-seeded Pittsburgh at 2:45 p.m. ET Friday in Milwaukee, Wis.

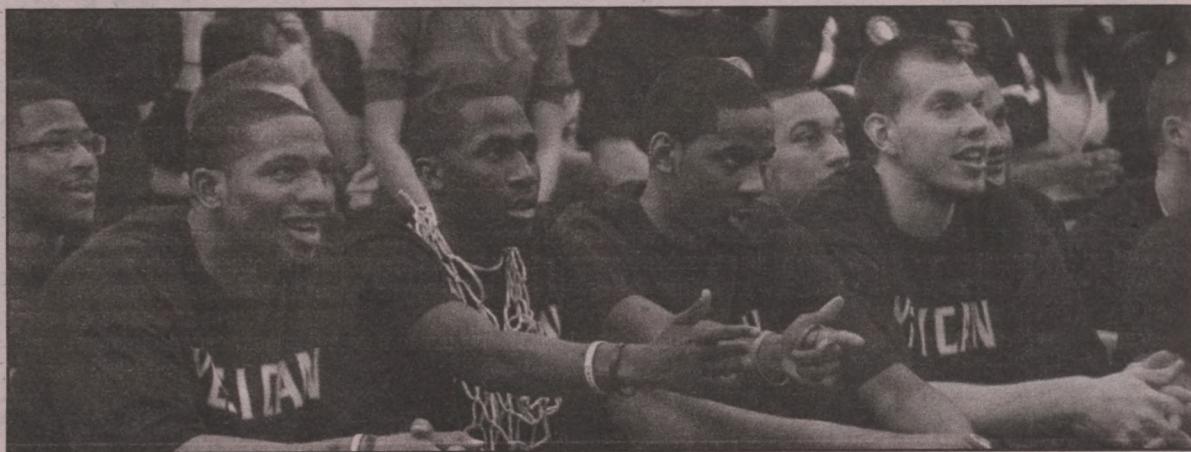
With about 1,000 OU supporters gathered at the Athletics Center O'Rena on Sunday night, players and coaches watched with great anticipation as the tournament bracket was unveiled live on CBS.

Much to the delight and surprise of everyone in attendance, the Grizzlies avoided having to travel to the farthest opening round host cities, drawing a game in Milwaukee.

"It's a mixed emotion," head coach Greg Kampe said. "I'm really happy that we're not going to Spokane or San Jose or New Orleans. All of our kids (and fans) can get there."

Despite this convenient location, Kampe felt his team should have received a higher seed in the tournament.

"I'm really disappointed in the seed though — I don't understand how you can have a 51 RPI and be a fourteenth seed," Kampe said. "To see teams that are 90 to 100 in RPI in the 12 and 13 slots, I guess that's just the matter of that we're new to this and maybe



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Golden Grizzlies players and fans alike watched anxiously for the revealing of the NCAA bracket Sunday night in the O'Rena.

there's not a respect level toward us."

The matchup against Pittsburgh will prove very difficult for Oakland, though a 14-seed has defeated a third-seeded team 15 times in tournament history (15 percent).

"I know that Pitt is coached by one of the best in the country," Kampe said. "They're a great defensive team ... they defend and they rebound. It'll probably be a low scoring game and it'll be hard for us to score would be my guess."

The Panthers limited their opponents to just 61.4 points per game, which was good for 32nd in the nation out of over 300 Division I schools this season.

OU will, however, be aided by an additional day with which to craft a game plan, as the team will play on the second day of the first round.

Seniors Derick Nelson and Johnathon Jones were members of the Oakland team that lost to Pittsburgh three years ago, but that game will have no bearing on Friday's tournament game.

"They have great guards, but we have a lot of depth at the guard position too," Jones said.

Pittsburgh, which currently ranks 18th in the Associated Press Top 25, suffered a surprise defeat in the opening round of the Big East Tournament last Thursday against Notre Dame.

The Grizzlies' treacherous non-conference schedule this season, which included games against two of the tournament's four No. 1 seeds, will prove beneficial to the team since it

will not be uncomfortable playing in front of a crowd of 18,000 people or unprepared for the top competition.

"We won't be in awe in anybody, so that's good. But at the same time, we know how good they are," Kampe said.

While the team's stated goal is to advance to the Sweet 16, the mere inclusion in the field of 65 teams is a huge sign of progress for a mid-major program trying to gain credibility.

"This could be the start of Oakland as a program rising even more," Nelson said. "We've come so far just since I've been here ... good things are happening to the school and to the program."

First Round

Oakland (14) vs Pittsburgh (3)



Friday
March 19
2:45 ET



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or watch on CBS.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Nearly 1,000 Grizzlied fans packed into the O'Rena on Selection Sunday.

Women's LAX keeps the lead

By SHAWN MINNIX
Copy Editor

Oakland University's Division 2 women's lacrosse team remains undefeated after a solid victory over University of Michigan's B squad 13-6 Thursday, March 11 at Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac.

The game was close until Oakland turned up their defensive pressure late in the first half, holding Michigan scoreless for the final 13 minutes. OU scored three times during this stretch to go into halftime leading 8-3, with team captains senior Haley Noonan and junior Ashley Krisfalusi leading the way.

In the second half, Noonan and Krisfalusi continued their great play, as Noonan added a power-play tally and Krisfalusi scored a goal late to put the game away.

Both women are integral parts of the team's chemistry and were first-team all-league selections in 2009, and their experience provides a catalyst that energizes the entire team.

"Haley's been playing with me for four years now," head coach Towbey Kassa said. "She has very good hard work ethic and just came to play tonight."

"Once those two get going, the whole team starts feeding off their energy," Kassa said.

The win raises their record to 3-0, having also defeated Eastern Michigan and Toledo. Junior defensive captain Charlotte Rose has seen some changes occur, but does not believe that will be a factor heading forward.

"We have several new girls on defense, but we don't feel that in any way will really hinder us," Rose said. "We have every expectation of defending our title."

Rose was a 2009 first-team all-league selection on defense, but was not playing in Thursday's game because she has not been cleared to play due to pneumonia. She expects to be back in the lineup when the Grizzlies play Saginaw Valley State on Thursday night.

The team, which plays in the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League, is coming off three straight Northeast Division championships, and last year won their first conference championship. This year they have every intention of duplicating that feat and taking the next step.

"We want to go to nationals in Arizona and win the championship there," Rose said. "We aim high and just go all the way."

They have a difficult schedule coming up however, with games looming against Michigan State and Michigan's top squad, both currently ranked in the top 15 in the nation. Even with those tough teams, Kassa believes that the Grizzlies will meet those challenges



The Oakland Post file photo
OU's women's lacrosse remains undefeated in their 2010 season.

and possibly exceed their successful 2009 season.

"Our expectation is to get back there again like we did last year," Kassa said. "If we continue to work hard, do the little things, and start putting the pieces of the puzzle together, we'll be just fine."

Get Fit for Spring

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY
Sports Editor

As the warm weather rolls in, the OU sidewalks will be seeing sandals rather than snow boots. When the shorts are pulled out, many students may be looking to shed the extra pounds that the cold winter months put on. Luckily for everyone with a student ID, the Recreation Center is the perfect place to go for some warm weather fine tuning.

Group fitness classes are offered daily and run from early morning times to as late as 11:30 p.m. on Saturday. Classes include cycling, Tai Chi, kickboxing and cardio. Pilates and yoga classes are also offered but require a prepaid pass. Swimming lessons are available for \$40 for OU students and include beginner, intermediate and private sessions.

Running through Friday, March 19, the Rec Center is hosting "Beauty comes in all different sizes," a week of activities as part of body awareness week. Events offered every day during the week include available statistics about body image, a "I love my body because" poster to sign and a question of the day to win chocolates. Participants will also be able to write on post-it notes with positive quotes to share on lockers.

Thursday features free screenings for

blood pressure and balance, flexibility and posture. Friday wraps up the week where participants can create a collage under the theme of "real beauty is on the inside."

All activities take place in the downstairs lobby outside of Studio 897 and will run from 9-11 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.

Walking routes are located around Oakland's campus in distances of 2.2 miles, 4.3 miles and 6.5 miles. Each track loops around campus and is paved. Students are also welcome to circle the indoor track at the Rec Center.

Those looking to stay out of the gym but keep active may want to sign up for the few remaining events offered by intramural sports.

Spring Team Olympics week, which begins April 12, will challenge teams to compete individually and in pairs in different sport events. Entry deadline is April 6 by 4 p.m. A refundable fee of \$25 is required in case teams forfeit.

The CoRec Softball tournament is a one day event held on April 17. Entry deadline is April 13 by 4 p.m. Teams can have up to 16 students on the roster. Equipment will be provided by the intramural sports department.

For full fitness class schedules and hours, call 248-370-4REC or visit oakland.edu/campusrec.



Baseball

3/19 at Cincinatti
3/20 at Cincinatti
3/21 at Cincinatti

Softball

3/19 at Houston Baptist
(Coastal Carolina Tournament)

Women's Lacrosse

3/20 at Grove City (tripleheader)
vs. West Virginia, Grove City and
Penn State The Behrend College

Men's Lacrosse

3/19 at St. John's

Mens Basketball

Think you've got the best picks for the NCAA tournament? Fill out the bracket on page 22 to see how your picks match up! Check out the Facebook group "Ims Ports" to participate in the IM NCAA Bracketology compare your bracket online with other OU students. Sign up for bracket predictions is March 17 at 5 p.m.

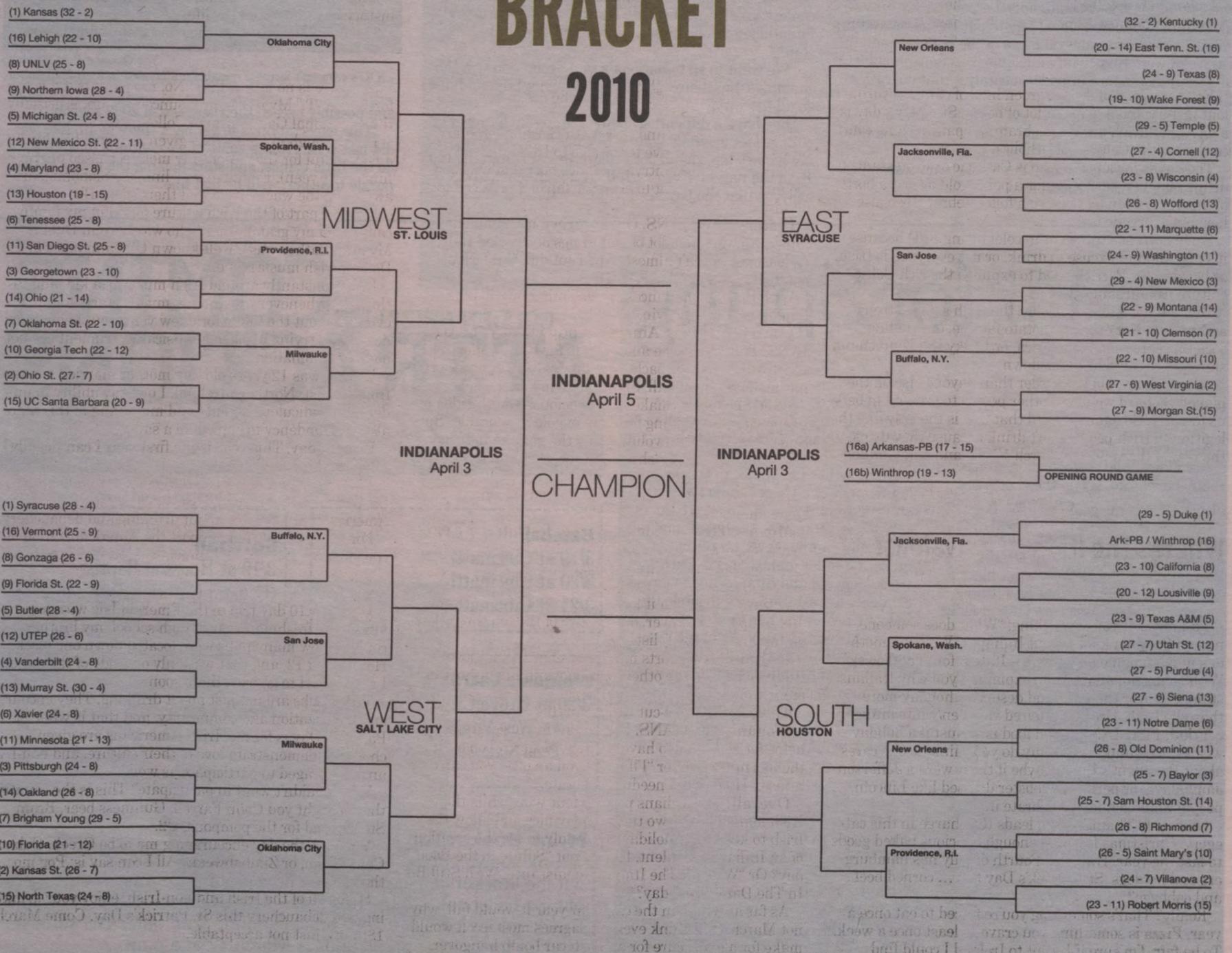
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First Round March 18-19
 Second Round March 20-21
 Sweet 16 March 25-26
 Elite Eight March 27-28
 Final Four April 3
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 Elite Eight March 27-28
 Sweet 16 March 25-26
 Second Round March 20-21
 First Round March 18-19

NCAA TOURNAMENT BRACKET

2010

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Mouthing Off

The views expressed in Mouthing Off do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Oakland Post

March 17, 2010

23

O'Kland getting its green on

Two Irish and an Italian explain what St. Patty's Day means to them. Cheers!

Sláinte and Erin go bragh

By DAN SIMONS

Mouthing Off editor/ Irresistibly Irish

Ireland has 4,459,547 people living there. 36,278,332 Americans (almost 12 percent of the whole damn country) claim Irish descent. There are eight times as many as Irish people in America than there are in Ireland.

That's a lot of shamrocks.

From the land of rolling green hills of clover, a turbulent history and a hell of a lot of booze, St. Patty's day is a day when Irish people celebrate the patron saint who converted the Celts to Catholics.

The day is for anyone who is Catholic or Protestant, drunk or sober, searching for a pot o' gold or just a bottle o' cheer. We even let non-Irish folk celebrate, because hey, not everyone is perfect.

Some don't see the point in celebrating SPD because it's just another excuse to drink, or not everyone is Irish, or because St. Patrick tried to expunge the rich Celtic culture from Ireland.

But you have to realize that the Irish soul is strong and hearty. Not even the potato famine, or grueling societal repression in America, or Lucky the Leprechaun stereotypes could bring us down.

So we party. Hard. Harder than anyone else on the planet. So hard we invite other people to pretend to be us to party. So damned hard that this is the only day the legitimate Irish people don't drink because they drink the rest of the year. On March 17, six and a half billion people will be Irish. Pass the corned beef and potatoes.

Go n-eirí an bóthar leat (May the road rise with you). Now let's find the gold in the bottom of this green beer.

Where's The Italian Equivalent?

By MIKE SANDULA

Senior Reporter/Insatiable Italian

I know what you're thinking: "What does someone named Sandula know about Italians?" Well, my mother's maiden name is LaTorre - Italian for "The Tower." With that said, allow me to explain to you why Italians stand tall over the Irish and deserve a holiday more than the Irish. Green/white/red vs green/white/orange.

Food: ITALIANS. Good food is a must if a holiday wishes to be important. Why do you think no one cares about President's Day? Maybe if there were a Jefferson Jambalaya, or perhaps a lobster dressed like Lincoln, people would actually celebrate it.

Obviously Thanksgiving leads the charge in this category. Christmas features enough delicious baked goods to last the year. Even the Fourth of July has hamburgers and hotdogs. St. Patrick's Day has ... corned beef and cabbage?

Really? That's something you're forced to eat once a year. Pizza is something you crave at least once a week. To be fair, I'm sure if I went to Ireland I could find

plenty of good food, but if you've ever been in an Italian kitchen you know there's no comparison.

I'm also awarding Italy bonus points for desserts. Cannolis are part of one of the greatest lines in cinematic history ("Leave the gun; take the cannolis." - Richard S. Castellano in *The Godfather*). Lucky Charms notwithstanding, I don't even know any Irish desserts.

Drinks: TIE. Drinks are just as important as food. The Irish have a strong showing here: Guinness, Harp, Jameson, the list goes on. I'll let the terrible innovation known as "green beer" slide. But who doesn't enjoy good Dago red?

The Irish are neck and neck with Germans in fine brews (I personally give the nudge to Ireland). Italy, of course, is wine country. But since beer and wine are too markedly different to compare fairly, I'm forced to declare a stalemate.

History: ITALIANS. OK, so an evil man named Mussolini who did a lot of evil things once ruled Italy. At least we weren't almost wiped out due to a lack of potatoes.

With those items canceling each other out, it's the Renaissance for the win.

Contributions to American pop culture: ITALIANS. This used to be an easy win for Italy. Unfortunately, the recent debacle of a show called *Jersey Shore* has made it a close call. Still, I'm giving us the edge.

Look, Shamrock Shakes are delicious. And the idea of a leprechaun searching for a pot of gold is adorable. But Super Mario Bros. revolutionized the gaming industry.

Putting aside their 'shroom usage, they can fly, shoot fire and become temporarily invincible. They provide a valuable lesson for a certain guy named Joe on how awesome plumbers can be.

Movies: TIE. In addition to other festivities, it's nice to have a movie to associate with a holiday.

I reluctantly admit I prefer "Boondock Saints" to "Goodfellas." I've never watched *The Departed* all the way through, though it looks promising. Don Corleone and company, however, occupy two of the top three slots on IMDb's "Top 250" list.

In the world of sports movies, it's hard to not love Rudy. Rocky, on the other hand, never quits (for better or for worse ...).

There isn't a clear-cut winner in this category.

Slogans: ITALIANS. For marketing purposes, it helps for a holiday to have a catchy slogan. "Top o' the morning to ye" or "I'll make you an offer you can't refuse." Hopefully I needn't elaborate.

Overall: The Italians pick up four wins while the Irish manage only two ties. I'll play nice and allow the Irish to keep their holiday. I ask only to see the creation of an Italian equivalent. How about "Salute to the Boot" day? Or "Without The Italian Renaissance, We'd Still Be In The Dark Ages" day?

As far as where in the calendar year it would fall, why not March 18? I think everyone agrees mostaccoli would make for a great cure for an Irish car bomb hangover.

Belfast and the Furious

By CAILIN JASON

WXOU Assistant program director/ Lady Leprechaun

Ever since I was a wee tot, my family's Irish cultural history has influenced my life.

The influence begins at the most identifying label of who I am: my name. (For you wankers who do not know my name, look up before continuing).

No, there is no misspelling. No, my parents did not forget the "T." My name, pronounced k + lin, is actually the traditional Gaelic form of Colleen.

Even though my name has given me some trouble, I am thankful for the options my mother passed on: Beibhinn (be + veen), Eibhlin (eve + linn), or Siobhan (shiv + awn). Oh, the wacky Irish and their silent B's.

A major part of the Irish culture found in my family came from my grandfather, who was born in Dublin. My grandfather was a well-known Uilleann piper in the Detroit Irish music scene.

I was constantly around Irish music as a kid, and to this day, whenever I hear a jig, my toe starts to tap. I even tried out the fiddle for a few years, but being tone deaf while trying to learn a musical instrument are not a good combination.

When I was 12 years old, my mother married a man from Belfast, Northern Ireland. I owe my ability to understand ridiculous accents and mumbling to this man; also, my tendency to curse like a sailor.

Present-day: This year is the first year I can "legally" celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

This day began as a Christian holiday to remember the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. However, in America, it has become about drinking and debauchery.

For those who do not support the Americanization of this holiday, you do not appreciate what it means to be social in Ireland: drinking and debauchery, but in a good way.

During a 10 day trip to the Emerald Isle with my family my freshman year of high school, my brother counted how many pubs were located down one block. He counted 12, and that was only one side of the street. I really need to go back there soon.

These pubs are not just about drinking. They encourage socialization and community, and that is what St. Patrick's Day is for me. Irish-Americans are given a chance to demonstrate love of their culture, and non-IA's are encouraged to participate as well.

Who wouldn't want to participate? This is the country that brought you Colin Farrell, Guinness beer, Bram Stoker, and for the pompous, U2.

Where is the day encouraging me to be Greek, Cuban, Cambodian, or Zimbabwean? All I can say is: Pog mo thoin.

So for all of the Irish and non-Irish, enjoy your drinking and debauchery this St. Patrick's Day. Come March 18th, it's just not acceptable.

Golden Bears? OU's getting no respect

One pissed Grizzly gets ready to claw those ignorant of our athletic amazements

By RYAN HEGEDUS

Staff Reporter / WOOOOOO GO GRIZZLIES

Last Tuesday the OU men's basketball team won the Summit League Championship, earning them a spot in the NCAA tournament. We kick ass.

By the looks of our campus the next day, however, you wouldn't have known that the team, led by seniors Derick Nelson and Johnathon Jones, had just cemented their place in history as the best Summit League team ever.

As a fanatical follower of our championship basketball team, it really pisses me off that students who go here have no idea that we're the champions of our conference, our players, or about the unimpersonable coach Kampe.

"Well I don't watch basketball, Ryan, so of course I don't follow our team!" you might say. My reply to you: "Why not?" and/or "Go to hell."

Homecoming, for our fellow state universities, is generally a celebration about the school's football team, drinking copious amounts of alcohol, and completely forgetting about said football game.

I want to forget half the Wolverines' beyond lackluster football season myself.

At this year's Homecoming, the 4,000 fans were treated to an incredible last-second, fade-away shot by Jones that beat rival Oral Roberts University. I was high-fiving and chest-bumping random strangers, my throat was sore from all the cheering, and I didn't even care if I looked like a jackass in the process.

It was one of the best finishes to a basketball game, college or professional, that I have ever witnessed, and people didn't even know we had a Homecoming.

Don't get me wrong, our basketball team currently has a great following. Sioux Falls shook last week during the Summit League Tournament, with Grizz Gang students and alumni showing their Grizzly pride. There was even a glimpse of Russi, in South Dakota of all places.

We can do so much better, people. Perhaps it's the conference we're in. The League Formerly Known as the Mid-Con has only been around since 1982, and we've only been in it since 1999.

Leagues like the Big Ten (1895), Southeastern Conference (1932), and

Atlantic Coast Conference (1953) are rich in lore and annually field teams full of All-American caliber players.

The Summit League is comprised of 10 teams from craptastic states like Missouri, the Dakotas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Utah. So despite our conference's name, only one of the schools is actually near any kind of "summit."

With so much distance between schools, it's difficult to travel to opposing arenas and publicly deface their beloved mascot statue. It isn't too difficult, however, to make fun of their school's name. ORAL Roberts? Jokes make themselves.

According to FSN North, the sports network that covered the first and second round games of the Summit League conference, we were the "Oakland Golden Bears" and tournament MVP Derick Nelson became "Greg Nelson."

Either the commentators were too stupid to read a media guide beforehand, or they realized that they were stuck broadcasting in South Dakota and just didn't give a Souix Fall-shit anymore.

When they announced Oakland would be playing against Pittsburgh, the CBS

camera failed to capture the hundreds of Grizzlies fans that filled the O'Rena. Way to fail, CBS. The Grizzlies getting a 14 seed was also a disrespectful kick to the Golden gonads.

Pittsburgh ... damn it. As if we needed another reason to hate those Penguin-cheering, Steelers-worshipping punks.

So maybe we aren't as great as the Spartans, Wildcats, or Jayhawks. But who says we have to be? We are the Grizzlies, and I'm damn proud of it.

On a Thursday night in December, come to the O'Rena. Hell, it's free for students. If there's anything that an Oakland student likes, it's free stuff. You can afford — no, too easy.

So come enjoy a game featuring the best team in a league full of ridiculous-sounding mascots. We might give you a hard time for being a bandwagon fan, but you'll be one more Grizzly voice in the growing roar of our student section.

As the country watches grizzly bears maul panthers (we've already killed jaguars and mastodons) wrecking brackets everywhere, I'll be chest bumping with my Grizz Gang shirt on.

GO OAKLAND!



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- Meijer in Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills
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- Finish Line and Campus Den at Great Lakes Crossing Mall in Auburn Hills
- Dunham's in Rochester Hills
- Finish Line at Twelve Oaks Mall and Lakeside Mall
- Textbook Outlet in Auburn Hills

Also check out ougrizzlies.com for more than 400 items available online.

Be sure to stock up on OU merchandise for March Madness. It's a great way to show your Golden Grizzlies spirit!

Nation | World

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Thousands mourn Canadian cop

By KAY NGUYEN
Campus Editor

Thousands gathered Friday, March 12 in Wingham, Ontario to mourn the death of Vu Pham, an Ontario Provincial Police constable who was shot while on duty by a suspect in a pickup truck he pulled over.

A 15-year police veteran, he is survived by his wife Heather and their three sons.

Pham's body was brought in a wood casket draped with the Ontario flag at 1 p.m. into the Huron Westcast Community Complex, the same arena he took his sons Joshua, Tyler and Jordan to play hockey.

The boys read letters to their father and reminisced about Pham cheering them on at their hockey games and goofing around with them.

"I miss you daddy," said Joshua, 7. "I wish you were here with us today."

They also reminded attendees of a father who taught them to play hockey and soccer and took them hunting.

"Dear dad, you are the best dad ever," said Jordan, 10.

There was a torrent of support from other police forces and citizens of Wingham at Pham's funeral.

About 3,000 people stood outside the complex in a light rain during the two hour service to support Pham's families because it could not hold more than 5,000.

Pham was born in a war-torn Vietnam in 1972. His father, Quang Pham, a South Vietnamese officer, also gave his life for his country.

Pham was then separated from his mother, Men Nguyen, after she was imprisoned for attempting to flee the country.

As a young boy, Pham left the country with an uncle and waited for an immi-

gration assignment at a refugee camp, not unlike many other "boat people" of the time.

Though he was later reunited with his birth mother and siblings, Pham came to Canada and was adopted by Dan and Terry Thompson, a Pentecostal pastor and his wife.

"He was just a skinny boy, seven years of age when he left his home," Dan Thompson recalled.

"I was so moved by the story: He left his family and a loving mother and came halfway across the world to this faraway place."

Heather Pham eulogized her husband and spoke of the "visions and nightmares" she had about the day she would have to speak at her husband's funeral.

She also forgave the man that killed her husband.

"As hard as it is, forgiveness is the only way to release us from pain and anger,"

she said. "I know it was what Vu would have wanted."

Fred Preston, the accused shooter, later died in a London, Ontario hospital of gunshot wounds from Pham's partner, OPP constable Dell Mercey.

"I didn't die that day because Vu Pham saved my life," Mercey said.

Preston was a 70-year-old former politician who had "threatened to do something radical," according to his brother Alex Preston.

He had been arguing with his estranged wife and police sources said that Preston was threatening to shoot other people as well. His daughter called the police, which led to the incident.

Investigations into the shooting are being carried out by the OPP and the Special Investigations Unit.

Eight pallbearers removed Pham's casket from the service accompanied by the sound of bagpipes.

NIW BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

3-16 | BANGKOK — Anti-government protesters who donated their own blood Tuesday prepared to splatter gallons of it at the Thai government headquarters in a symbolic sacrifice to press their demands for new elections. Hundreds of red-shirted demonstrators formed long lines to have their blood drawn by nurses, a day after their leaders vowed to collect 1 million cubic centimeters of blood — the equivalent of 1,000 standard soft drink bottles — to spill at Government House by Tuesday afternoon. "If they want to throw it and have a photo opp and have us clean it up later, I think it's fine," government spokesman Panitan Watanayagorn said.

3-16 | KABUL — The Afghan government was holding secret talks with the Taliban's No. 2 when he was captured in Pakistan. The arrest infuriated President Hamid Karzai, according to one of Karzai's advisers. The detention of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar — second in the Taliban only to one-eyed Mullah Mohammed Omar — has raised new questions about whether the U.S. is willing to back peace discussions with leaders who harbored the terrorists behind the Sept. 11 attacks. Karzai "was very angry" when he heard that the Pakistanis had picked up Baradar with an assist from U.S. intelligence, the adviser said. Besides the ongoing talks, he said Baradar had "given a green light" to have a three-day peace talk.

3-16 | LOS ANGELES — Even in death, Michael Jackson is breaking new records. The King of Pop's estate has signed the biggest recording deal in history: a \$200 million guaranteed contract with Sony Music Entertainment for 10 projects over seven years, according to a person familiar with the deal. The record-breaking contract through 2017 could be worth up to \$250 million if certain conditions are met. One of the albums will be of never-before-released Jackson recordings that will come out in November, the person said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the official announcement is expected later Tuesday.

3-9 | ST. PAUL, Minn. — A middle school teacher was accused of biting off part of a man's ear during a confrontation at a St. Paul diner. Prosecutors said the 30-year-old woman was drunk when she attacked the man at the Uptowner about 4 a.m. Sunday. A criminal complaint said the 33-year-old man was eating with friends when one made a comment about one of the women with the suspect. The complaint said the suspect approached the group of men, licked the victim's ear, then bit off part of it.

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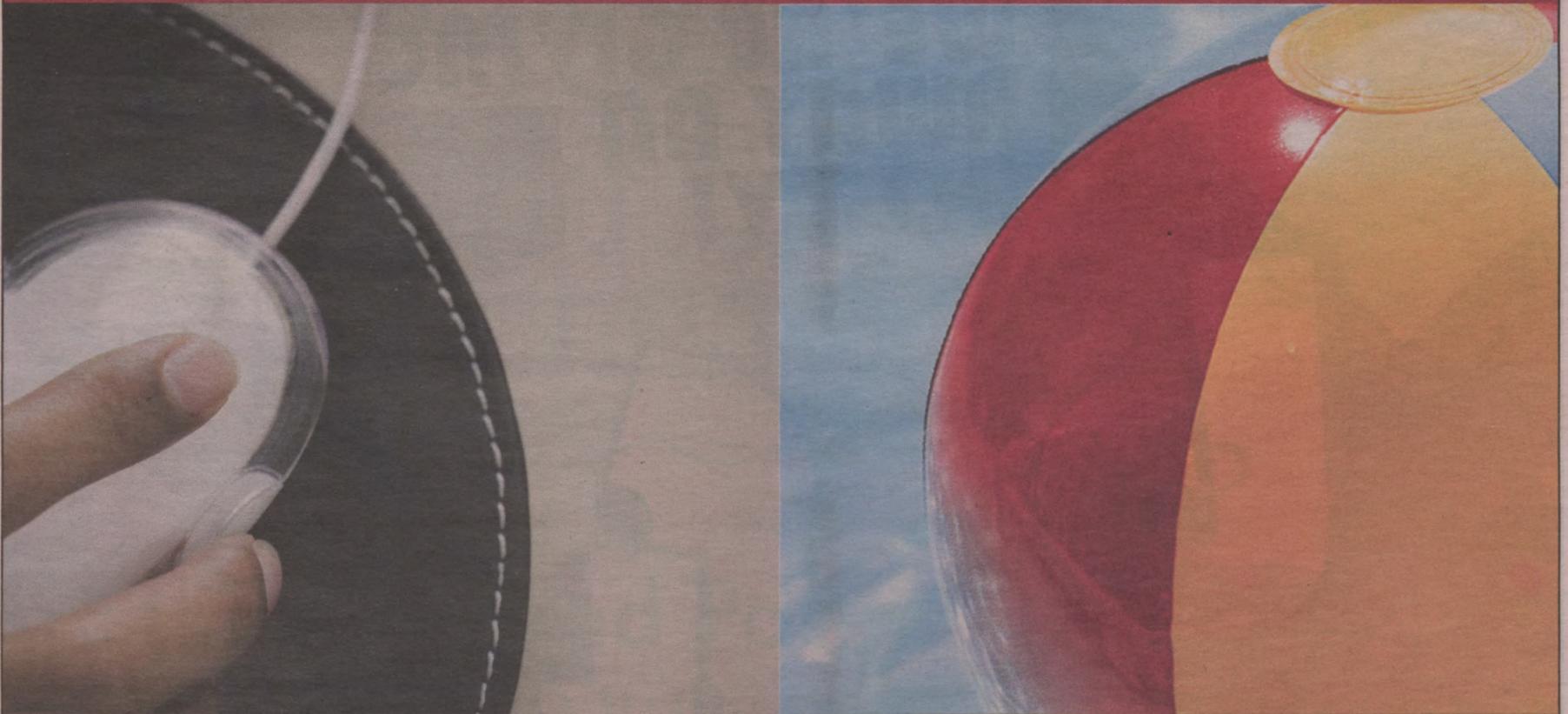
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