

THE OAKLAND POST

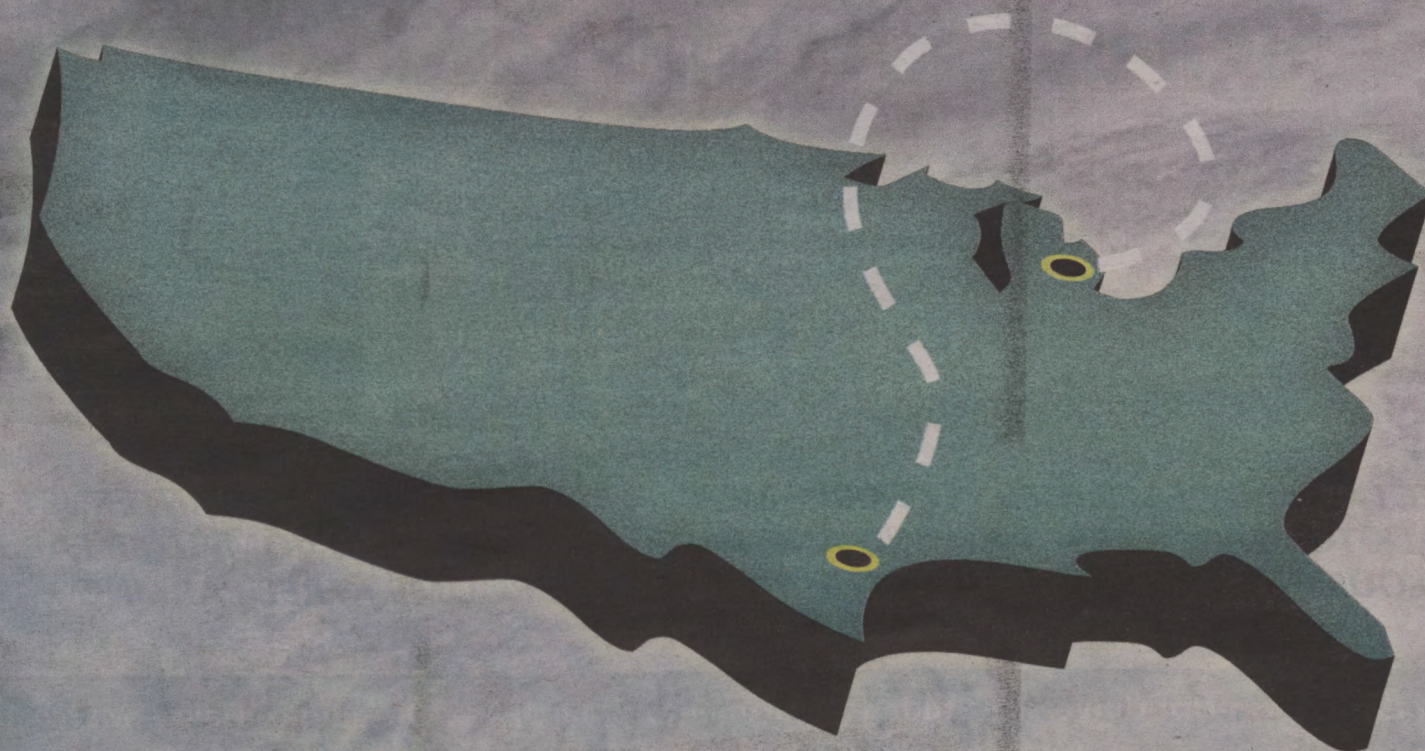
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 17, 2010

Volume 36, Number 24

SHORE SUPPORT

STUDENTS REBUILD GALVESTON FOR ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK PAGE 11



CAMPUS

Dayag and Waquad reflect on their historic year.

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SCENE

Erotic art. Show satisfying for all who come.

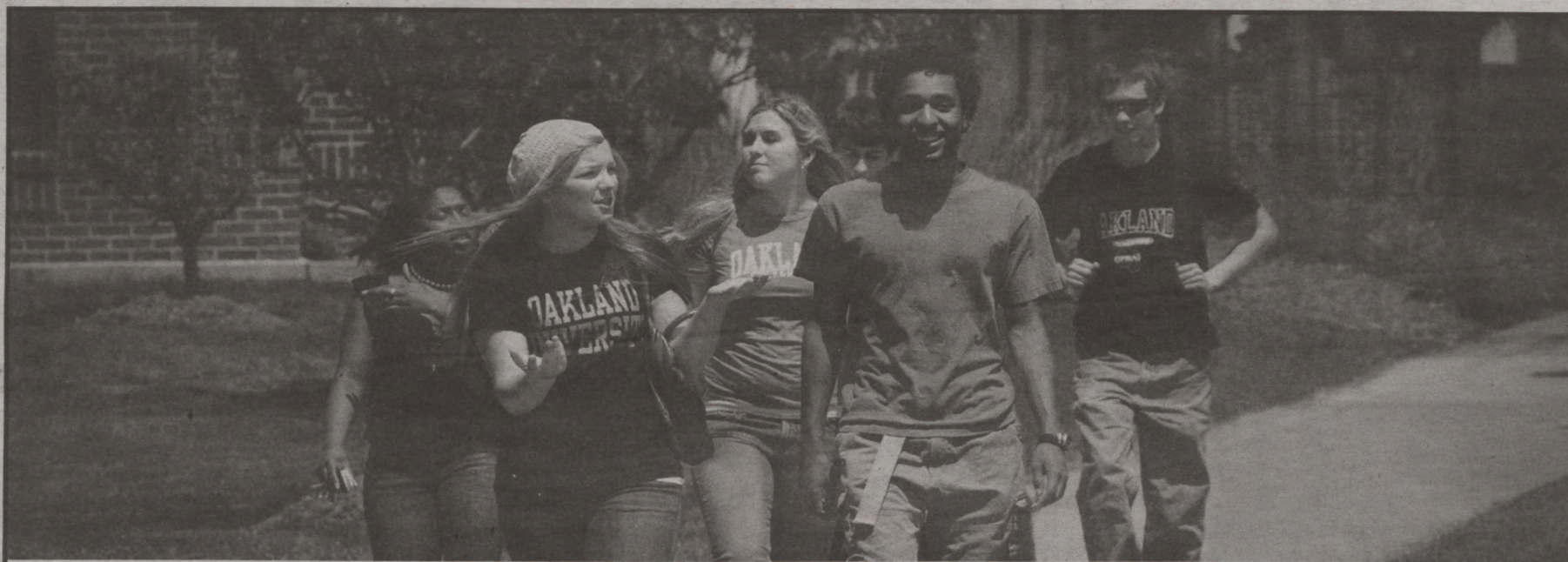
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SPORTS

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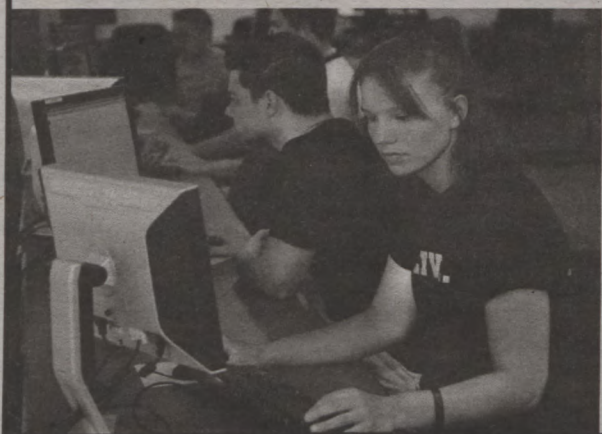
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For more information, visit oakland.edu/housing.



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Housing Early Sign-Up: University Student Apartments – March 2-9, Residence Halls – March 10-19



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The Post will not be printing an issue for winter recess.

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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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February 17, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

Run for the money

Student congress members have power of the purse

So you want to be a big shot? Well believe it or not, it's all very possible.

Oakland University's student congress budgeted spending of about \$200,000 of student tuition in 2009-10. That is all student money, a percentage of the \$25 taken out of every student's tuition bill who is enrolled this year.

Student congress leaders also have a vote on how the rest of the student fees is split up among other direct-funded student organizations, see page 10.

It's that time of year again and every seat on the student congress is up for grabs. There is the presidential and vice presidential ticket, which is elected by the student body, and eight other executive board positions that are appointed: financial affairs director, Student Program Board chair, Student Activities Funding Board chair, administrative assistant, student services director, multicultural affairs director, publicity and technology coordinator, and legislative affairs director.

All of these positions are paid! Not only is it a great opportunity to network

with other motivated students and gain leadership experience, but you get paid and bulk up your resume. Better than letting the Michigan job market eat away at your sanity.

These positions pay \$8.50 per hour, without ever having to leave campus, and a well-decorated office space to boot. The hours range from 10-25 per week, depending on the position and the time of year.

Some of those titles sound daunting for an outsider. How many students have actually been a director of anything? The only chair most of us have sat on is the one with four legs.

But don't let that discourage you. As Mark Medaugh says, who is the current SAFB chair, somebody is already doing it so that means somebody else can too.

Possibly the best way to get started at student congress is by putting your name in for one of the 25 legislator positions, which are also elected positions. Last year, everybody who was on the ballot won because there were only 22 people running for 25 seats. Legislators

aren't paid, but they have the access to get their ideas funded. Take the disc golf course that opened on campus in the fall for example. That was an idea that took only about a year to become a reality after once-legislator, current student services director, Jarret Schlaff introduced it.

The Bear Bus is also another student legislative initiative that is changing the way Grizzlies get around the area and soon, the campus.

Most of the "little things" that make campus life better are the product of students on congress. There are probably thousands of brilliant ideas floating around in thought bubbles somewhere between Pawley and Hannah halls.

So you can continue wondering how great your memoir will be when you finally share your ideas with the world, or you can do something about it and run for student congress. You can apply until March 1 on oakland.edu/ousc.

Like everything else in life, this thing we call our college experience is what we make of it.

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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.



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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

Organ donation affects more than just the ill



Annie
Stodola
you/local editor

9,232 people are waiting for an organ transplant in the state of Michigan alone.

Some will be lucky and get the organ they need to survive, but for too many of these people, they'll be on the list for months or years, and some will die waiting.

When I was 17, doctors told my dad he needed a liver transplant. As the

liver is a regenerative organ, many people can receive just a portion of a liver from a live donor. Unfortunately, my dad's liver had already been damaged past that point and he needed an entirely new one.

The next 11 months were filled with hospital visit after hospital visit. My dad would get better for a few weeks and then suddenly get sick again. Fluids would build up in his liver, causing him to get confused and often violently ill.

Through everything, my dad stayed just as goofy as he had always been, making light of his condition as much as possible. He would crack jokes about the sterile gowns we had to wear to go into his hospital room and try to sneak his cell phone when the doctors weren't looking. He spent a lot of time watching old Mystery Science Theatre episodes or movies like Tommy Boy, quoting them before they even got the words out. He never stopped being his dorky self, which made things easier on all of us.

In October 2007, doctors finally found a match. Several factors go into the matching process, including blood type, organ size, tissue type, and the severity

of the potential recipient's condition. My dad's wait time was relatively short for most donors, but still far longer than anyone should have to wait for news about whether they'll live or die. The doctors knew that the liver was from a heart attack victim and might not be a perfect match, but my dad desperately needed it so they transplanted it anyway.

The surgery went well. My dad got his liver. Although he seemed to be making progress, doctors soon found that the liver was not a strong enough match and my dad would need a second liver transplant. He was lucky and got a second liver just a few weeks later.

By Thanksgiving, it was clear that there was something wrong with the new liver. Although it's common for a body to reject a new organ, my dad's new liver was rejecting his body instead. The liver caused my dad to develop Graft-versus-Host disease, a condition that involves the transplanted organ attacking the body until the person suffers from total organ failure. My dad needed a new liver again, but the doctors knew that it was too late to get him another transplant.

On Dec. 27, 2007, my mom called from the hospital and told me my dad had passed away. I was in disbelief. To this day, I can't believe that my dad won't be there to see me graduate college, to walk me down the aisle or to meet my children.

I hear "Puff the Magic Dragon," which he sang to me as a child, or the theme song to the Andy Griffith show, which we watched every Saturday morning, and I'll lose it. Every time my grandpa or uncles talk in their deep, Minnesotan accents, I still hear him. I still tell all of his same old cheesy jokes. I still crave his famous Mickey Mouse pancakes when I wake up most mornings.

For too many people, this is the reality. Too many people are living in the memories left by a lost loved one who couldn't get a life-saving organ before it was too

late. Too many people are growing up without a parent or having to bury their children. Too many people are dying because there aren't enough donors.

We can change this. People shouldn't have to worry about dying while waiting for those organs anymore.

My dad was a registered organ donor for most of his life, even before he knew about his disease. Whenever anyone asked why he wanted to donate, he always responded with another question.

"Why not? I won't be using them when I'm gone anyway," he said.

Most major religions approve of organ donation. Organs from one donor can help save the lives of up to eight other people. Contrary to a popular myth, emergency medical professionals are just as likely to try to save a donor as they are to save a non-donor. Even people with some medical conditions are allowed to donate organs. There's no excuse.

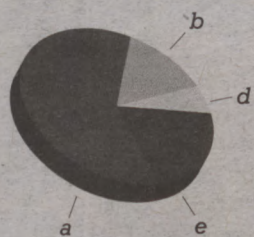
For information on the donor registry or nationwide organ transplant needs, visit **OrganDonor.com**. To sign up for the Michigan registry, visit their site **giftoflifemichigan.org** or **donatelife.net**. Students and faculty can also register by visiting Oakland University's Gift of Life Campus Challenge page at **giftoflifemichigan.org/showusyourheart?tag=oakland**.

My dad taught me to have a strong work ethic. He taught me the importance of love and laughter. He even taught me to growl as a baby, just to catch the relatives off guard. Most importantly, though, he taught me to fight for what I believe in. I can never repay him for all of the amazing things he did for me, but I can help carry on his memory by fighting to end this donor shortage.

Be a hero. Save a life. Sign up to be an organ donor today.

poll of the week

last issue's results Total Votes: 371 Poll conducted at oaklandpostonline.com



When did you start to receive sex education and information about STDs?

- a) Sometime around or before middle school. 22 votes | 59.5%
- b) When I was in high school. 5 votes | 13.5%
- c) Not until I started going to college. 0 votes | 0%
- d) What's sex? What's an STD? 2 votes | 5.4%
- e) When the doctor told me it wasn't just any rash. 8 votes | 21.6%

current poll

Vote now @ oaklandpostonline.com

Do you have any plans for your spring break?
See The Mix on page 15 to read a few interesting things your fellow students are doing!



- a) I'm going someplace where it actually feels like spring - maybe even summer.
- b) I'm probably just going to work extra hours at my job to make some cash.
- c) I don't really have anything planned.
- d) I'm going to stay at home and catch up on some much-needed relaxation.

Graduation checklist: Incomplete

By KATIE WOLF
Managing Editor

I've been having mini-panic attacks for the past few months. They're brought on each time I remember a very specific, monumental fact: I'm graduating this spring.

My first little episode happened when I registered for my winter 2010 courses. It was the last time I would ever register for classes at Oakland University.

The next jolt of anxiety came when I got the e-mail from the university that the application for graduation deadline was in January.

Next week will be my last spring break ever. It feels a little unnerving. Why didn't I take more vacations? Maybe because I was too busy trying to graduate.

This is something I've been working toward for almost five years and it's finally happening. In fact, I've been working on this degree for so long that it seemed like I would never reach the end.

Maybe that's why I don't have my shit together.

I still have to set up my internship, and I haven't even bought a portfolio folder, let alone begun to put it together.

I did visit an academic advisor to make sure that all of my required classes are completed, and thankfully they are. I definitely recommend this meeting, even if you think you're sure you're set — it offers a big peace of mind and a bit of smug satisfaction.

I printed out the 10-page spring commencement packet. Another panic attack — not only am I paying thousands upon thousands of dollars for my degree, but I'm also expected to pay \$48.98 for my cap, gown, and tassel.

The truth is, I think even when I do have everything completed, I'm still going to be nervous. Walking in that processional will mean I no longer have the fall-back excuse of being a college student for any of my failings.

Even though it's only February, I know May 1 is not that long away. Make sure you plan accordingly for your graduation. A good place to start is <http://www2.oakland.edu/registrar/graduation.cfm>.

I also suggest a bottle of Tums.

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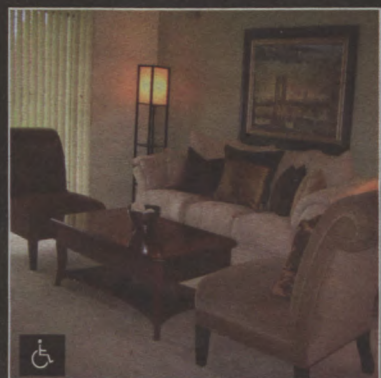
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Campus

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A look at the first ladies of OUSC

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

With the Oakland University Student Congress elections season just around the corner — presidential ticket candidates will be formally announced in early March — president Kristin Dayag and vice president Saman Waquad will soon be ending their term.

When Dayag and Waquad were sworn into office as president and vice president, respectively, on April 6, 2009, they became the first all-female executive office pair in OU history.

Provost Virinder Moudgil said their election should give the student body "pride" that they elected a "capable" pair of women.

"I think that has to be celebrated, whatever it means. It's an important milestone," Moudgil said.

Goals and promises

Dayag and Waquad's campaign flier didn't mention any specific promises, but it did list seven goals that they said they've held themselves accountable to.

"One of the reasons why our platform was a little vague at the beginning is because I didn't want to be one of those presidents that had false promises made because I actually wanted to see through every initiative and goal that I put forth for myself," Dayag said. "And I think I was able to do that."

One of their goals was to endorse OU pride, which they accomplished through hosting an OUSC tailgating tent before the Homecoming games where they handed out sweat towels.

Another listed goal was effectively listening to and addressing a multitude of student concerns.

Twelve suggestion boxes have been ordered and will be installed in every advising office throughout campus, Dayag said.

Strengthening the foundation of student congress was another focus.

Dayag and Waquad said there have been issues within the legislature this year such as attendance and meeting quorum.

"If you were to go to every legislator and ask what they have done with their position, I think the facts will back up my statement," Waquad said.

To combat this, they've created ad hoc committees and focus groups to more readily address student concerns like



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post
Dayag and Waquad will soon have to make way for a new OUSC president and vice president.

parking and Chartwells food service.

John Beaghan, vice president for finance and administration, was one of the administrators who worked with Dayag and Waquad on parking.

"We modified some of our thinking and plans related to parking ... because of their input," Beaghan said.

Other highlights include the creation of Kresge Library's reflection room.

Dayag also said she was especially proud of the initiatives taken up by legislative affairs director Amy Ring and student services director Jarret Schlaff.

Ring helped bring Michigan gubernatorial candidate Mike Bouchard to speak on campus while Schlaff worked to extend Kresge Library's hours, among other initiatives.

While both have worked toward the same end goal, Mark Medaugh, student activities funding board chair for OUSC, said there's a distinction between the two, personality-wise.

"Kristin's a little more easygoing, Saman's a little less easygoing, but for the most part they compliment each other well," Medaugh said.

As with every administration, the two student leaders said there were bumps in the road and things would unexpectedly come up that had to be dealt with immediately.

This was the case last summer, for instance, when tuition was a big issue.

The university was pushing to increase it by 11 percent, but Dayag and Waquad lobbied to prevent that.

A 9 percent tuition increase was settled on.

"I don't think that would have hap-

pened if the students hadn't been rallied and prepped to get out there and speak strongly against it," said Mary Beth Snyder, VP of student affairs.

Having a presence

Despite busy schedules, Dayag and Waquad try to be as visible around campus as possible.

"Saman and I have made an effort to go to almost all the major events held here on campus," Dayag said.

Moudgil recognized their consistent attendance at board of trustees meetings, saying they always come well informed and offer constructive input.

"You know, I am always there in the front row and I see them take stands in the interest of students," Moudgil said.

Their depth of involvement has also impressed Snyder, who noted that in addition to recreational events, one or both of them also attend just about every administrative meeting.

"If students want to share the governance, then they have to show up at the meetings where decisions are made," Snyder said.

Waquad said building a relationship with the administration has been paramount to their platform because they're the people who can help bring about substantial change.

Dean Glenn McIntosh said he meets with them on almost a biweekly basis and that he's worked with them on task forces pertaining to issues like the bike share program and the pouring rights contract with Pepsi.

"It was always obvious that they would

come to the meetings with questions that were on target and relevant," McIntosh said. "That's very refreshing for us."

Others students leaders have taken note too.

"I've seen them at virtually every event I've attended," said Tawnee Milko, student liaison to the board of trustees. "That they've also been able to tackle other issues on their agenda ... when they have so many other commitments reflects an administration that has been dedicated to addressing the issues that are important to them."

Toward the future

With two months still left in office, Dayag and Waquad said there's still a lot they'd like to accomplish.

Tuition remains an issue and Dayag said she'd like to have a tuition forum where they discuss either lowering or freezing tuition costs.

Dayag also said she'd like to see OUSC's constitution updated as well as look into making classroom texts available in Kresge Library, an idea that got put on the backburner earlier this year.

Student congress currently has a roll-over surplus of about \$70,000 that Dayag said she would like to see used toward the welfare of the university.

"I have been having executive board meetings on a weekly basis challenging them to think of creative ways of how we could spend the money that would most benefit students," Dayag said.

Another goal before leaving office is to make sure the transition goes smooth for whoever takes over.

"One of the things we really want to do is make sure the next administration has the resources to do a good job and carry on what we instated," Waquad said.

Waquad, who is entertaining the idea of running for student body president, said she feels she has a responsibility to continue the work she started but might pursue other passions.

Dayag, a junior, said she doesn't see herself holding a position in student congress next year and will instead focus on her schoolwork.

She encourages students to get involved in the elections, however.

"Don't be discouraged or overly confident in them," Dayag said. "Just hold them accountable to their responsibilities and duties and make sure they're going above and beyond what is required of them."

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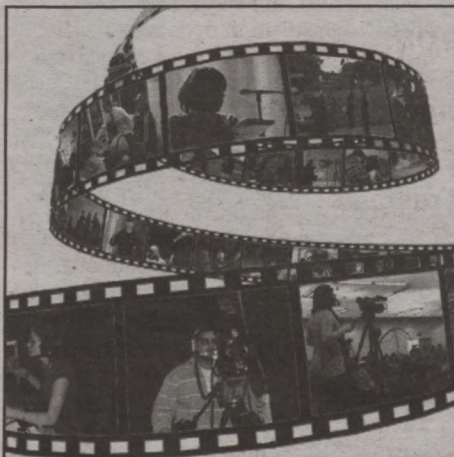
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Mr. Phisignificant crowned

By BRAD SLAZINSKI
Contributing Reporter

A Wild West themed pageant was held in the Dodge Hall of Engineering Saturday, complete with faux cow skulls, hay bales and other props.

This was Mr. Phisignificant, an annual male charm pageant conducted by the sorority Phi Sigma Sigma.

The pageant consisted of three rounds, starting with 17 contestants.

The winner serves as an ambassador for the sorority and will do so until next year's pageant.

All Oakland University men were welcome to participate in the event.

The first round was OU spiritwear and the second was oriented around the Wild West theme, asking questions related to the Oregon Trail and asking what a contestant's best pick up line was.

In the final round, evening wear, contestants were handed a rose and asked

if there was anyone they would give it to.

At the end, voters had a choice of five contestants.

Brandon Gustafson, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, was crowned Mr. Phisignificant.

"I had a really good time; I thought it was a lot of fun," Gustafson said.

A member from TKE had never won the event in previous years.

"I thought it would be a good idea and it would be fun; I wanted to do it to help represent my fraternity," he said.

The event was also a charitable affair. There was a bake sale and a donation of \$1 was collected from audience members who participated in voting.

"All the proceeds from the bake sale and the audience vote will be going to the National Kidney Foundation," Amanda Kochanski, OU senior and Mr. Phisignificant co-chair said.

A total of \$109 from the audience vote was raised for charity.



BRAD SLAZINSKI/The Oakland Post
In addition to being Mr. Phisignificant, Brandon Gustafson is also a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Drake tickets on sale for Oakland University students

Oakland University students can now purchase tickets to see hip-hop artist Drake perform live as part of his "Away From Home" tour at the Meadow Brook Music Festival on Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

Presale tickets will be available to students from Monday, Feb. 15 until Friday, Feb. 26 at the Center for Student Activities service window, located in the basement of the Oakland Center. Tickets do not go on sale for the public until March 1.

Students can purchase lawn tickets for \$10 and pavilion tickets for \$20. Each student will also be allowed to purchase one guest ticket. Guest tickets are \$15 for lawn seats and \$30 for pavilion seats.

The concert is presented by Oakland University's Student Program Board with the \$100,000 cost being supported by money from student fees. Opening acts scheduled include Francis and the Lights and k-os.

— Contributor Jake Thielen

Student organizations to host Middle Eastern Festival

Oakland University's Lebanese Club, Arab American Student Organization and Chaldean American Student Association will be hosting the third annual Middle Eastern Festival on Friday, Feb. 19.

The event will be held in the Oakland Center's banquet rooms from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The Middle Eastern Festival will feature music from Bassam Saleh and his band, beats by DJ Kamel, tablah work by Tony Bahu and beat boxing by Stevie Soul. A full Middle Eastern dinner will also be provided.

The event is free and open to everyone. Students attending the event are encouraged to bring their friends.

— Contributor Jake Thielen

One World cultural celebration kicks off

The Oakland University Student Congress is sponsoring the One World Cultural Celebration kick off on Thursday, Feb. 18. This event will take place in the fireside lounge, from noon to 1 p.m.

This event is to kick off their one world passport program, where students can collect stamps on a paper that works like a passport at various cultural events on campus, which can then be turned in for prizes.

This cultural celebration will include a 30-minute performance by the Omowale Dance Group.

Food from various ethnicities, information about each cultural and free globe beach balls to take home are included. Cultural attire is suggested but not required. All students are welcome to attend.

— Staff Intern Jamie Gasper

Profs bring up concerns

By MAS RAHMAN
Staff Reporter

At the Oakland University Senate meeting last Thursday, Feb. 11, John Beaghan, vice president of finance and administration gave an infrastructure update report and answered questions from the Senate members.

The Senate discussed various issues, though no conclusions were made about the business.

Also, Tim Larrabee, president of OU's Employee Resource Group addressed the Senate and asked its members to support a campaign to get equal health care benefits for LGBT employees.

There are plans to put the proposal on the OU board of trustees agenda at the March 2 meeting, when it can be approved, denied, delayed or discussed because the board of trustees have the final say.

Larrabee said this may be difficult because different employees are represented by different unions, or none, but President Gary Russi said he supports it, so "I assume with his support this will get momentum."

Edith Chopin, assistant professor of chemistry, asked if there is a possibility of adding staff-only parking because

parking or loading docks aren't always available.

OU Police Department Chief Sam Lucido said to give OUPD a call in these circumstances, and they will usually be unloaded in 10-15 minutes.

Thomas Pedroni, associate professor of education, said the current shuttle bus proposal of two running buses may not be enough to help.

He believes people don't want to wait for 20-30 minutes, and asked why students are doing this and not the administration.

Brett McIsaac, an OUSC legislator in charge of the shuttle bus proposal, was not present, but said that trial runs showed "it would be about 10 minutes of waiting time."

Beaghan said students are trying this out because this was an OUSC initiative. "If what they do doesn't work, maybe we can take it over and try it," he said.

Ron Tracy, associate dean of the School of Business Administration, asked what OU plans to do with the shortage of classrooms.

"We seem to want to grow and grow and grow without the facilities," to match, Tracy said.

Beaghan said he recognizes the problem, but didn't have the answer.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ORGS

Name: SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management)

President: Aleks Perepelytsya

Purpose: To expose students to the human resource management profession through speakers, workshops and professional connections. The group also conducts workshops to assist students studying for the PHR exam.

Goal: The organization provides information on career paths in the field of human resource management and also helps develop students for HR leadership roles. The goal of this student chapter is the professional and personal growth of those who join as well as serving the needs of prospective human resources professionals by providing essential and comprehensive resources.

Group Dynamic: Interested students interact with human resources professionals and participate in workshops. In addition, officers learn leadership skills. All interested students are urged to participate regardless of major.

History: Founded in 1988, SHRM has over 15 consecutive years of success, earning merit and superior awards from the national group. In 2008, the OU SHRM chapter was one of the top 10 in the nation. Members have submitted articles to the national student newsletter and the sponsoring chapter newsletter. The Oakland chapter is locally sponsored by the HRAGD (Human Resource Association of Greater Detroit).

Future: The chapter plans on continuing its efforts to educate students about the HR profession, welcoming all students.

How to get involved: SHRM has regular meeting dates posted at www.sba.oakland.edu/studorg/SHRM as well as on their Facebook page. Interested students can contact SHRM officers through Facebook or one of their faculty advisors: Lizabeth Barclay at barclay@oakland.edu or Karen Markel at markel@oakland.edu.

— Staff Reporter Ryan Hegedus

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- ◆ Must not hold any other major elected campus office

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

Applications are due in the Student Affairs Office by
March 31, 2010

For questions, please call: 248-370-4200

\$537,000 at play in meetings

Club sports asks for direct funding from tuition

By MAS RAHMAN
Staff Reporter

Club sports on campus could soon become directly funded by student tuition.

Currently, clubs receive a flat funding amount of \$25,000 through the Student Activities Funding Board, which receives 29 percent of the \$25 collected from every student who pays tuition.

The proposal would be for SAFB to receive 24 percent and club sports would directly receive the 5 percent.

Representatives from the seven direct-funded organizations, including the SAFB, met for the second time Monday, Feb. 15 to hear the case for making the change. SAFB chair Mark Medaugh said that this new percentage would probably amount to \$22,000.

Some concerns with the change were raised, like that club sports do not offer a product for all students and that the clubs allow up to 40 percent of non-students to participate.

Alex Meyer, a student and vice president of Campus Recreation Funding Board, said club sports are working on

improving visibility and are hoping for growth.

This panel meets every year, called the Student Activities Fund and Assessment Committee, to see if any of the organizations would like to request a change in the percentage they receive, or to request to tap into the special projects fund.

None of the organizations requested a change in percentage, which is currently: Student Activities funding board 29 percent, Student Program funding board 26 percent, student congress 17 percent, WXOU 11 percent, The Oakland Post 7 percent, Student Video Production 5 percent, Student Life Lecture 3 percent and 2 percent to the special projects fund.

The Oakland Post was the only organization to request use of the special projects fund, which is currently at about \$16,000.

Some considerations for the money are new computers and software. A formal request has not yet been submitted.

The last SAFAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1 at 3 p.m. The committee will vote on proposals then.

Russi to attend next OUSC meeting

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

At Monday's meeting of Oakland University Student Congress, legislators discussed topics they'd like to see addressed to President Gary Russi and approved the elections committee as well as a new legislator.

Russi will be at their next meeting, which will be held March 1 in Banquet Room A at 4 p.m. He'll be answering students' questions.

Topics of interest included seeing how budget surplus money will be spent and whether the university will be appealing the Micah Fialka-Feldman case.

Administrative assistant Bill Hamilton announced the elections committee, which was subsequently approved.

The committee is chaired by former OUSC administrative assistant Jennifer Doptis. Former public relations agent Janelle Arbuckle, Jane Choi, Gabi Jaye, Victor Lord and Trevor Pike make up the rest of the committee.

Sponsored by OUSC, the "One World" campaign kicks off Thursday at noon in Fireside Lounge.

Multicultural affairs director Arwah Al encouraged everyone to wear ethnic

clothing to the event, which is focused on raising awareness about cultural organizations on campus.

Steering committee chair Dan Evola, whose job performance was called into question at last week's meeting, said he's been "doing a little bit of revamping" like compiling a binder filled with suggestions for the next steering committee.

Tom Cruz was approved as both a legislator and steering committee member. Cruz has served on OUSC before as both a legislator and student services director.

He did not serve last semester because he was in Africa.

Legislative affairs director Amy Ring urged students to attend the OU day at the capitol March 9.

She is also looking for non-OUSC members to attend Leg-Con, a student leadership conference.

Legislator Cameron Schea is still working to extend the OC's basement hours.

Student congress's tuition, parking and constitution committees are on hold until they find more non-OUSC members to join them. Those interested can inquire at their office at 62 Oakland Center.

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OU gives back to Galveston

By KAY NGUYEN
Campus Editor

College spring break can oftentimes be described as a weeklong party in a warm locale, characterized by copious amounts of liquor and fleeting romantic jaunts.

However, that's not true for the members of Oakland University's Alternative Break. While they will be in the warm climates of Galveston Island in Texas, their plans will not focus on alcohol or romance.

While the actual idea of Alternative Break was formed in the early 1980s as a response to "traditional" college spring breaks, this is the first year OU has had a formal student organization, although it has offered alternative break trips before.

Caitlin Merivirta, vice president of Alternative Break at OU, said that they have a much more unified vision of what Alternative Break is about this year.

"This year, we know what the break is about: Keeping everyone together," Merivirta said. "We are making it about the students and the program."

Sara Madjoff, president of ASB, attended the trip to South Carolina last year. She said she's most looking forward to the group bonding as they work on their service project.

"Just everyone coming together to work for a good cause, help the community, change people's lives, I think that'd be pretty great," Madjoff said.

Advisor Tiffany Sims and 14 students will head down to Texas Sunday morning to volunteer their services to One Mission: Galveston, a faith-based organization created to help with Hurricane Ike relief.

This is the third year there has been an organized Alternative Break effort on campus.

In previous years, students have worked with Habitat for Humanity in South Carolina and have gone to New York City to do charitable work.

This year is also different as the trip is more student-based and run as opposed to the trips planned in previous years by the Center for Students Activities staff.

The trip was in its planning stages in August and most participants applied to go on it by October.

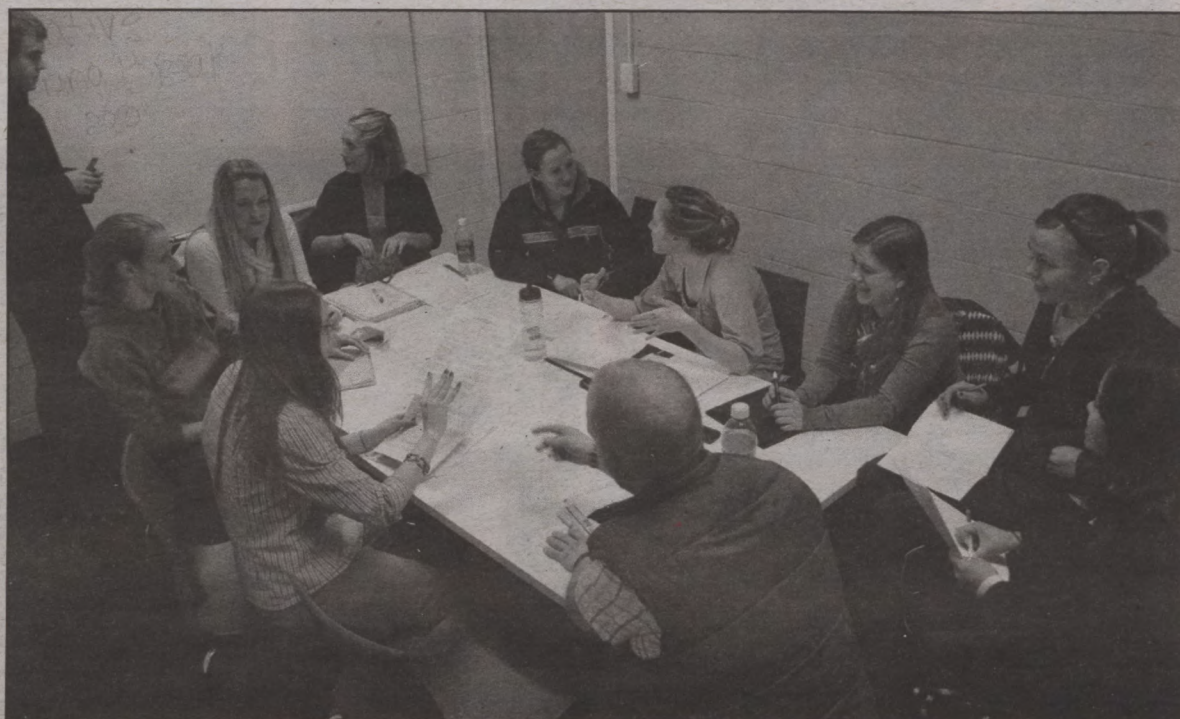
Sims said that while there is an application process, any students who complete applications and understand that the trip is for a service project and are willing to abstain from any alcohol or drug use are accepted for the trip.

"We capped the limit at 15 (students) this year and had a waiting list," Sims said. "You could say that (Alternative Break) is growing."

While the issue of disaster relief on the Gulf Coast is well-known to many Americans, Sims believes there has been much less support for Hurricane Ike victims in relation to Hurricane Katrina relief in New Orleans.

According to Sims, Hurricane Ike victims receive only a small fraction of federal money allotted to Gulf Coast relief and charitable giving is significantly lower for the area. One Mission: Galveston estimates that for every dollar in aid Hurricane Katrina victims received, Hurricane Ike victims received less than a dime.

"I didn't even realize when I first found out that we



This year's Oakland University Alternative Spring Break group has their final meeting before they embark on their trip to Galveston, Texas. The group of students is spending their spring break rebuilding homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Ike. JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

would be going to Galveston, TX to do hurricane relief that it was for Hurricane Ike," said Kaitlyn Fetterman, an Alternative Break trip participant.

As an Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), Sims works on campus to promote service learning and a culture of community service on campus in addition to her work as an Alternative Break advisor.

"Americorps can be described like the Peace Corps, but it works on the domestic front," Sims said.

Many trip-goers are heavily involved with service projects on campus and in surrounding communities.

Merivirta and Fetterman have been involved in community service since middle school and see Alternative Break as another way to reach out to a larger community.

Fetterman is the president of the Alpha Phi Omega national co-ed service fraternity. She and a fellow brother are going on the trip.

"From this trip I hope to gain a sense of awareness of the aftermath that natural disasters are still causing so many years later," Fetterman said.

Merivirta is involved in honor societies like Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology, and Golden Key. She finds time to log hours through the organizations and is also on OU's VIP (Volunteer Initiative Partnership) e-mail list.

Sims organizes VIP, which entails promoting charitable opportunities to members and keeping track of students' service hours.

While it's too late to sign up for Alternative Break,

Sims welcomes those still wanting to give back during break to volunteer at her monthly day of service at the Echo Grove Salvation Army camp Saturday. Students can sign up for the service project or any other volunteer opportunities by visiting the CSA.

Spring Break Awareness Fair

The Center for Student Activities is offering a Spring Break Awareness Fair and Alcohol Screening on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The National High Impact Alcohol Awareness program offers students the opportunity to experience simulated effects of what it's like to drive while intoxicated. The program is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Oakland Center and the P-2 parking lot.

The Spring Break Awareness Fair, which offers health and safety tips as well as various giveaways, is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the main hallway of the Oakland Center and the Fireside Lounge.

The Scene

12

www.oaklandpostonline.com

February 17, 2010

Dirty nights in Detroit

International erotic art exhibition comes again

By ALEXIS TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

After one visit to Detroit's "Dirty Show," all else will seem muted. The atmosphere is explicit. The mood is curious. The theme is the hottest topic of all: Sex.

Last Friday marked the beginning of the international erotic art exhibition's two-weekend engagement at Bert's Warehouse Theatre in the Eastern Market area of Detroit. A long entrance hallway does little to prepare attendees for the show behind closed doors. Between the initial \$9,000 phallic statue and the two almost-naked girls suspended above the bar by scandalously placed pantyhose, the atmosphere could be, well, blushing, for the modest. Get through the first shock, though, and the experience is like none other.

"It seems to generate a kind of giddy anticipatory excitement; like when you are getting ready for a date and you are not 100 percent certain, yet you're pretty sure you're going to get laid," said Jerry Vile (aka Jerry Peterson), founder of The Dirty Show. "When you get that many happy positive endorphins in a room, it becomes electric."

In its eleventh year, The Dirty Show is one of the largest erotic art exhibitions in the world with a new sponsor, Larry Flynt's Hustler Club. The tides have certainly changed since 2000 when Vile held the first show in the offices of his now-kaput Detroit magazine, Orbit.

Its popularity was outstanding and the show grew to larger spaces until it settled in its current home in 2007.

People of all ages, styles and fetishes gathered in observance of erotic art for the exhibition's first three days on Feb. 12-14, two of which were sold out. This upcoming weekend promises high attendance again.

April MacKay, a ballet dancer who performs in the show's salacious version of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," said, "It's an extremely diverse crowd. A lot of people who come are really into the scene, the whole sub-culture. Then there are other people who come out of curiosity, some who just come to watch and others you'd never expect, like Joe at the office."

The feeling inside is community-oriented, a few weekend nights where raw sexuality is explored in celebratory forms with other adults. Those forms span artwork, performance pieces, dancing, stripping and other types of interactive entertainment, some involving paddles. Performances and art abound makes the \$15 admission price well spent.

Friday and Saturday are the exhibit's biggest nights, with larger crowds and more performance surprises. Audience attention is split in two directions between the artwork lining the walls and the main stage, which showcases burlesque dancers, cabaret performers, fetish acts, suspension artists and comedy routines.



ALEXIS TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
Audra Kubat, a Detroit musician, played the ukulele in feather get-up for the Valentine's Day edition of The Dirty Show.

On Valentine's night Audra Kubat, a Detroit-based musician, graced the stage wearing a feathered skirt, her top only covered by a ukulele to which she strummed and sang beautifully. Other performers were crowd favorites: "Kat the midget entertainer," and Lady Fuchsia and Shadow, aerial acrobats who slinked and stunted to brooding music.

Before performances, the artwork is still the show's initial focus. All work is for sale, ranging from \$50 to



ALEXIS TOMRELL/The Oakland Post
Performers and art displays split the attention of attendees at this year's Dirty Show in Detroit.

\$10,000. Serious art collectors attended opening night.

Vile said he was excited for the featured work of Frederic Fontenoy, a Parisian photographer whose voyeuristic lens captures vintage stills of stocking-clad women caught in fetish positions.

Other artistic themes cover homosexuality, religion, old age, size and race. "Only in America" is a collaged map of the United States with pornography cutouts representing each state. "Zing" is bondage pop art, and "Holier than Thou" is a bronze fountain of simulated fluids.

Yes, here is a place where anything goes. Perversion or art, The Dirty Show pleases in the worst ways.

Feb. 19 and 20 are the final nights of The Dirty Show. Exhibit opens at 7 p.m. and runs until 2 a.m. Tickets are available online at dirtyshow.org and at the door.



DAN FENNER/The Oakland Post

The Palace of Auburn Hills hosted more than 12,000 people for John Mayer's concert Friday, Feb. 12.

John Mayer pardoned at The Palace Friday

By KEVIN ROMANCHIK
Columnist

CONCERT REVIEW

John Mayer has come under rapid fire since the release of his Rolling Stone and Playboy interviews, but during his Feb. 12 concert at The Palace, fans landed him a break, and he responded with two hours of nonstop talent.

Mayer ignored the controversy and ripped through a diverse set list containing tracks from all four of his albums, and some unexpected covers.

He opened the show with the first track, "Heartbreak Warfare," from his most recent release "Battle Studies." His echoing guitar riffs and strong vocals commanded the crowd's attention immediately.

Mayer strayed from the impersonal "larger than life arena show" that some artists perpetuate with outrageous visual distractions and spectacle. Instead, Mayer broke the mold and let the sound speak for itself with fan favorites like "Bigger Than My Body" and "Waiting on The World to Change," and earlier hits like "Why Georgia."

Mayer also performed The Police's hit "Message in a Bottle." He took the famous song head-on, both honoring the band and making it his own.

His shining moments during the show were in his elaborate jam renditions of recorded versions, as he added extended guitar solos and new melodies. Mayer and his band played off each other for

minutes on end, alternating between solos and instrumental duets.

One musician in particular, drummer Steve Jordan, also part of the John Mayer Trio, really showcased his skills and talents in his "groove" spotlight. Jordan may just become one of the most talked about drummers in popular music today.

Near the end of the performance, Mayer said, "Any of these performers could tour under their own name, and I can't thank them enough." The statement couldn't be more true, each band member complemented him effortlessly.

Throughout the entire show, Mayer engaged with the eager audience. Before one track, he jokingly referenced the '80s arm-wrestling flick "Over the Top," and included insight into his song creation process. Later on, he asked the crowd to step back into the '70s, a time where records were selling like crazy.

His upbeat attitude, in lieu of his self-inflicted media problems, give new meaning and reason behind his "Perfectly Lonely" lyrics, "I have to thank the wrongs that led me to a love so strong."

He seemed to be taking a step in the right direction by not avoiding the elephant in the room.

During the entire set, particularly in "War of My Life," Mayer seemed to find comfort in the healing power of music and lent lyrical advice to the audience with the cry, "Fight on, fight on every-one, fight on."



DAN FENNER/The Oakland Post

Mayer's set featured tracks off his recent release "Battle Studies" and fan favorites from early albums.

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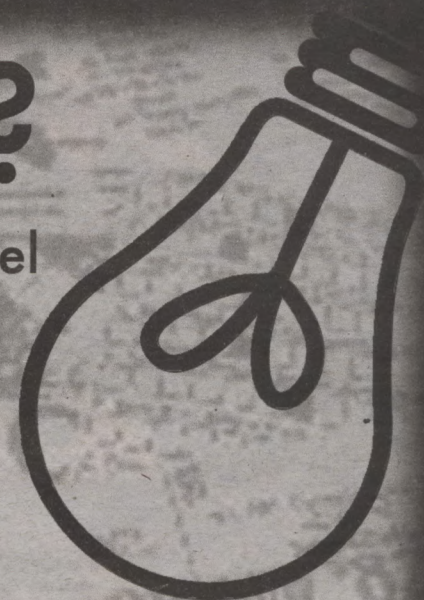
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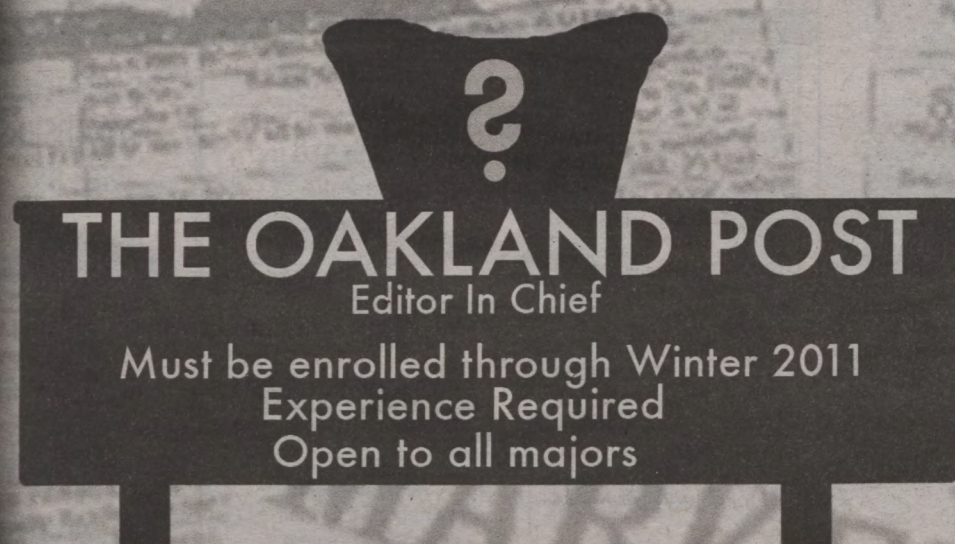
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Spring break destinations: Where are YOU going?



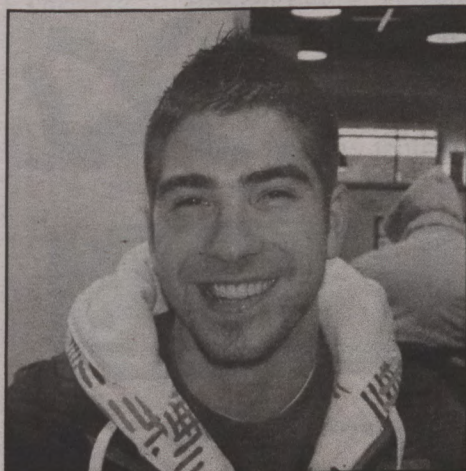
"Dominican Republic. I'm going to an all-inclusive resort to be in the warm weather."

Kelsey Suisse
Freshman, health sciences



"I'm going to Half Moon Bay in California to visit family and get away from the cold."

Steve Alvarado
Senior, political science



"I'm going to Dallas, Texas. My ideal destination is Sydney, Australia."

Steven Noriega
Sophomore, health sciences

Survey conducted by Shawn Minnis, Staff Intern

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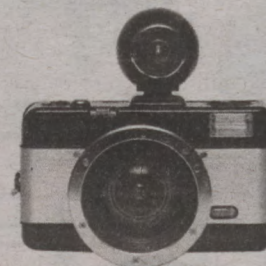


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Oakland of opportunity

Transfer Reggie Hamilton hopes to reach his full potential at OU

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball program has no shortage of talented players on its bench these days, but the team will have to make room for one more on the court next season.

Reggie Hamilton, a transfer from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, has spent this season on the sidelines in accordance with college basketball regulations. But Golden Grizzlies fans can expect to see him donning the black and gold jersey next year as opposed to putting up points against them.

Before becoming a member of the Grizzlies, Hamilton had some of the best games of his career against Oakland, including a career-high 23 points with UMKC on March 1, 2008.

Decision to transfer

In his year and a half stint at UMKC, Hamilton made waves in the Summit League. He was a member of the conference's All-Newcomer Team in 2008 when he averaged nearly 12 points per game as a true freshman. The following season, he improved his scoring average and led the team in assists.

But Hamilton's time with the Kangaroos (who finished last in the conference in 2008-09) did not go as well as he'd hoped.

He asked to be released from his scholarship and the team in January 2009 and began the process of transferring shortly after.

"I didn't feel that I was in a position to succeed and I didn't think I would reach my full potential there," Hamilton said. "It's no disrespect to any of those guys (at UMKC); it was just a personal feeling for me and my family."

Once his intention to transfer schools became known, Hamilton began garnering interest from several mid-major schools in the region.

The first person to contact Hamilton about potentially coming to Oakland was Johnathon Jones, the Grizzlies veteran point guard.

Jones, who had developed a competitive friendship with Hamilton through several head-to-head game meetings, made a phone call to gauge Hamilton's interest in possibly coming to play for the Grizzlies.

Oakland's coaching staff then contacted UMKC and was granted permission to speak with Hamilton, who visited campus and learned about the program before choosing OU.

"I just felt I was familiar with this conference," Hamilton said. "OU has a good reputation. It always finishes high in the conference and the coaching staff is



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Reggie Hamilton transferred to Oakland University from conference rival UMKC and will play for the Grizzlies next season.

well respected. I thought playing a year behind a really good point guard would better my game."

Biding his time

Despite being limited to a practice player this season, Hamilton has found ways to help his teammates and make an impact without participating in games.

Jones said he attributes a lot of his success to daily matchups with Hamilton in team practices.

"We guard each other every day so I think that's one of the best things I've had since being here; I've got another player who can push me," Jones said.

Head coach Greg Kampe has been speaking of the benefits of having Hamilton around since before the season began.

"Reggie is a very hard worker and he's very committed to being good," Kampe said. "He has really helped our team this year with what he's done in practice. He makes (Jones) better every day. He was an all-league caliber player at Kansas City and he's come here and played well."

Forecasting the future

With Jones set to move on from the program at the end of the season, the starting point guard position will be open season for the first time in a long time. Hamilton said he's been focused on trying to mold his game into that of a true point guard — something he said he wasn't during his time at UMKC.

"I've been told by a lot of people that I'm a great scorer, but I just want to be a pure point guard also with the ability to score," he said.

Alongside Hamilton, Oakland's backcourt will remain crowded next season — Larry Wright, Ledrick Eackles and Blake Cushingberry will return among others — but it remains to be seen which one will assume the starting point guard job.

"I'm ready to be in any role coach Kampe puts me in and try and fill it to the best of my ability," Hamilton said.

One thing about his role on the team seems certain for next season, however.

"Sometimes we lack perimeter shooting on a consistent basis and with (Derick) Nelson leaving, we're going to need Reggie because one of the best things he does is shoot 3-pointers," Kampe said.

A view from the bench

Having to sit out the season before he can play, it could be expected that Hamilton would grow restless, especially in the midst of such a successful season for OU. But Hamilton said it's been an easier wait than he expected it would be.

"The season rolled around kind of fast. It's been good cheering the guys on and they've been winning so I've been happy for them," he said.

He can be seen in street clothes at the end of the Grizzlies' bench at home games, but NCAA transfer regulations prohibit him from traveling with the team on the road.

Hamilton's unique position as a member of the team but being unable to play gives him an interesting perspective on Oakland's championship run.

"I think people understand their roles. This is a veteran team," Hamilton said. "People like Derick Nelson and Johnathon Jones did a good job of laying the foundation and the other guys just grabbed hold and are rolling with it."

Hamilton will have two years of college eligibility remaining when he suits up for Oakland next season. He said he's really looking forward to getting back into the games.

"I'm putting in the work I have to put in," he said. "When that time comes (that I can play), I'll be ready."

GOLDEN GRIZZLIES GAME of the WEEK

Grizzlies victorious on Senior Night

By ADAM R. STROZYNSKI
Contributing Reporter

The Oakland University club hockey team (25-9-1) closed out its regular season home schedule Saturday with a 13-0 victory over the University of Buffalo on Senior Night at the Onyx Ice Arena in Rochester.

Having already defeated Buffalo on Friday night, the Grizzlies were motivated to get the sweep for their senior class.

"It was great to win by that much on Senior Night, and looking back I know (the seniors) will appreciate the hard work the guys put in," head coach Jeremy Bachusz said. "It was a nice night for them."

Buffalo never recovered from its coach getting ejected late in the first period as the game was quickly reduced to chippy play and heated fans exchanging verbal blows. The lack of control was seen on the ice and helped Oakland seize the lead.

With Oakland leading 4-0 in the second period, Buffalo's John Fitzgerald checked senior Brett Haugh from behind, knocking out some of his teeth as he hit the boards.

OU defenseman Colin Ronayne took exception to the hit and paired off with Fitzgerald in a fight. The two exchanged blows until Fitzgerald's jersey came off and he was tackled to the ice. In the meantime, senior Kyle McMahon did



Senior Kyle McMahon was one of two Golden Grizzlies to square off in a fight Saturday after teammate Brett Haugh was checked hard into the boards.

some fighting of his own and bested his Buffalo counterpart.

"There was definitely a message sent. After all that, our team got back to doing what we do best," McMahon said.

Haugh was carried off the ice and did

not return for the game.

Oakland continued to score, getting goals from unexpected sources. Junior Ross Lane tallied the first two goals of his career at OU.

Stalwarts like senior captain Cody

Austin also figured into the scoring with a goal in the third period.

Coach Bachusz credited Oakland's patient power play, which had been ineffective in the last three games, with the victory.

"Patience; the guys relaxed a bit. I think they were gripping their sticks a bit too tight. They relaxed and found the net, that got them some confidence."

Oakland's power play was successful on three of its eight chances; this contributed to the Grizzlies outshooting Buffalo 46 to 10.

OU defenseman Jason Maltese had five points on the night, while forward Jesse Worrell had four.

At the end of the game, Oakland honored its three seniors — Haugh, Austin and McMahon — with an on-ice presentation.

"It means everything — you've got your family, you've got your friends and your fellow seniors. You couldn't ask for a better night," Austin said.

With three road games remaining, this may be the victory that galvanizes the team as Oakland prepares for sixth-ranked Liberty next weekend.

"(This game) was crazy. The boys played under control; that's what the main key is. We will go into Liberty with our heads up," Austin said.

The Grizzlies will play in the ACHA Division I National Tournament March 6-10.

Men's Basketball

2/18 vs. SDSU 7 p.m.
2/20 vs. NDSU 6 p.m.
2/27 vs. IPFW 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball

2/20 vs. NDSU 3 p.m.
2/22 vs. SDSU 6:30 p.m.
2/27 vs. IPFW 3:30 p.m.

Indoor Track & Field

2/19 Jack Skoog Open at CMU
2/28 - 3/1 The Summit League Championships in Fargo, N.D.



GAME SCHEDULE FOR FEB. 17 - MARCH 2

Baseball

2/26 - 2/28 at Mississippi
(three game series)

Club Hockey

2/19 at Liberty
2/20 at Liberty

Softball

2/19 - 2/21 GSU Eagle Classic
2/22 at Savannah State (two games)
2/23 at South Carolina State (two games)
2/24 at Presbyterian (two games)
2/26 - 2/28 Frost Classic in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Swimming & Diving

2/18 - 2/20 The Summit League Championships in Indianapolis, Ind.

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SCORES FROM THE ROAD

By **DAN FENNER**
Sports Editor

A recap of the out of town scores from the past week:

Men's basketball

Feb. 11 — The OU men's basketball team received big production from a couple of secondary scorers Thursday night, as the Golden Grizzlies overcame previous road woes against Southern Utah in an 85-72 win.

Sophomore Drew Maynard and junior Will Hudson had 17 points apiece for OU, which picked up its fourth straight win and improved to 13-1 in the Summit League.

Southern Utah actually outshot OU by a slim margin in the game, but lost the rebounding battle by a large margin, 39-27.

The 61 first half points scored by Oakland was its highest total of the season as the team carried a 23-point lead into the break.

Feb. 13 — The Golden Grizzlies picked up their 20th victory of the season Saturday night by knocking off UMKC by a score of 83-71.

Senior point guard Johnathon Jones scored a game-high 23 points on 8-of-9 shooting to lead Oakland University to its fifth-straight win.

Two other Grizzlies scored in double figures, with junior Larry Wright contributing 20 points and junior Keith Benson put up yet another double-double — 16 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks in just 27 minutes.

Oakland shot a season-high 63 percent from the field, compared to the Kangaroos 43 percent.

With the win, Oakland wrapped up its road schedule for the season, finishing a program-best 8-1 against in Summit League games, and 10-7 overall. The Grizzlies will return home to close out with three home games, beginning with South Dakota State on Thursday.

Women's basketball

Feb. 13 — The women's basketball team coasted past UMKC Saturday afternoon, beating the Kangaroos for the second time this season.

Senior forward Melissa Jeltrema scored 16 points and added nine rebounds for Oakland. Two other Golden Grizzlies scored in double figures, with freshman Bethany Watterworth putting up 14 points and sophomore Sharise Calhoun chipping in 13 points.

With the game tied 7-7, OU proceeded to go on a 29-4 scoring run to put them ahead by 25 points. UMKC only got as close as nine points the remainder of the game.

Feb. 15 — Jeltrema had a career-high 26 points to go with 10 rebounds Monday against Southern Utah as Oakland won 68-52.

The Golden Grizzlies improved to 11-4 in Summit League play and have just three games left to play before the tournament.

The game was close for the first seven minutes before Oakland took the lead for good.

OU held a huge 54-34 advantage in rebounding.

The next game is Saturday at 3:30 p.m. when the Grizzlies will take on North Dakota State for the second time this season. OU won the first matchup back on Jan. 25.

THE SPORTING BLITZ

A rundown of the week's news in Oakland University sports.

Women's lacrosse

The 2010 women's lacrosse season began last week and Oakland University's club team won its season opener 18-5 over Eastern Michigan Thursday at the Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac.

The team competes in the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse League. Oakland is a part of Division II and competes with other universities in the region.

OU won't play its next game until March 4 when the team will begin playing weekly.

Baseball

The Summit League preseason baseball coaches poll was announced Friday with Oakland University picked to finish sixth in the conference.

Oral Roberts was a unanimous first-place selection in the poll.

The Golden Grizzlies finished 22-34 overall and 10-18 in league play last season.

Twenty players return from last year's squad. OU lost several of its top players to graduation and has just one senior this year.

Oakland will open its season Feb. 26 and will play a full month of games on the road before making its home debut April 2.

Gov. delivers budget proposal

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

In her Feb. 11 address, Gov. Granholm introduced her budget recommendations to the legislature.

Granholm said her budget will focus on three main points.

"This budget cuts spending, while still investing in job creation and education, modernizes the state's tax system to stabilize funding for schools and create jobs and reform the budget process," Granholm said.

Granholm predicts her government reforms will save the state \$7.8 billion over the next 10 years.

The governor is encouraging state employees and public school employees to consider buyouts that will additionally help decrease the amount of money spent on government employee health care.

In addition to the 11,000 state jobs that she said have been removed since 2001 in Michigan, she is proposing \$566 million more in cuts to the state govern-

ment this year by adopting her reforms.

Granholm's proposal to revive the Michigan economy centers on education as a means of job creation.

"One of the most important needs of a 21st century business is having a 21st century talent pool," Granholm said. "And that means education. Education directly correlates to job creation. Therefore, despite declining state revenues, my budget recommendation maintains per pupil funding for K — 12 education at the same level as in the current state budget."

She also called for reinstating the Michigan Promise scholarship as a \$4,000 tax credit for students who complete a college degree and work for one year in the state.

"The old Michigan economy, which provided a middle-class standard of living for so many, is gone," Granholm said. "We are now transitioning to a new Michigan economy — an economy requiring knowledge, speed and efficiency."

She placed heavy emphasis on the

Pure Michigan tourism campaign.

"Like some other states that consistently fund their tourism ads, I propose relying largely upon a small fee from out-of-state tourists or business travelers who rent cars at the airport," Granholm said. "160,000 Michigan jobs depend on it."

The budget recommendation includes decreasing sales tax rates from 6 percent to 5.5 percent, but widening the amount of services taxed. Granholm cited survey data from the Federation of Tax Administrators that state Michigan taxes only 27 of 168 transactions classified as services. This makes it the 39th lowest in the nation.

"All of the revenue would go to the School Aid Fund to ensure that we have the stable funding necessary for our children to receive the world-class education they need to compete in a global economy," Granholm said.

The final portion of the governor's address focused on changing Michigan's budget to a two-year budget cycle.

Following a recommendation by a group of bipartisan freshmen legislators, the governor is calling for the legislature to finalize the budget by July 1. If the budget is not completed by then, she said the pay of the legislators, as well as her own pay, should be docked each day until the budget is done.

A review of tax breaks, which added up to \$36 billion for the 2010 fiscal year, is also on Granholm's list. While she said tax credits are helpful to creating jobs, the government should use them sparingly.

"We need to periodically scrutinize them to make certain we're getting the benefits — in job creation and economic growth — that we expected, that they're not just permanently baked in to the tax structure if they are not creating jobs," Granholm said.

Toward the closing of her address, Granholm also requested that all legislation include full information on the financial impact of the legislation on the government and the state as a whole.

Local briefs: radiothon, upcoming meetings

Purtan hosts annual WOMC Radiothon

TROY — Dick Purtan of 104.3 WOMC is hosting his 23rd annual Dick Purtan Radiothon on Feb. 26 at Oakland Mall.

Purtan, who recently announced his upcoming retirement, conducts a radiothon each year to raise money for the Eastern Michigan Division of the Salvation Army.

Since the event began, it has raised about \$22 million for the Salvation Army. All proceeds from the radiothon go to the Salvation Army's Bed and Bread Club. The Bed and Bread Club helps serve 5,000 meals each day and houses 570 people.

The Bed and Bread Club truck travels through Detroit to provide meals to people in downtown Detroit. Many people utilize the service when they are out looking for work.

To become a member of the Bread and Butter Club, visit www.usc.salvationarmy.org. Members give at least \$10 a month or a total of \$120 a year.

Additionally, throughout the month of February, for each 24 oz. loaf of buttercrust white bread purchased, Kroger will donate a loaf of bread to the Salvation Army.

To donate to the radiothon, visit womc.org.

— Annie Stodola, You/Local editor

Buffalo Wild Wings sponsors charity night

TROY — Buffalo Wild Wings locations throughout Michigan are hosting a Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan Day on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

There are 36 Buffalo Wild Wings locations in the state are participating in the event. For the entire day, 15 percent of all participating stores' revenue will go to the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. Kids also receive discounted meals that day.

— Annie Stodola, You/Local editor

MLB's Bowman says he won't run for Mich. governor

LANSING — Major League Baseball official Robert Bowman said Monday he won't seek the Democratic nomination for Michigan governor.

The former state treasurer formed a committee last week to explore a run, but said in a statement that he decided against a campaign.

"I would enjoy the challenge of a campaign and the job of serving as governor, but for many reasons I am just not able to commit to run at this time," Bowman said.

Bowman, 54, works in New York City but has a summer home in the northern Michigan resort community of Harbor Springs. He's also president of the Michigan Education Trust, the state's prepaid tuition program. He served as state treasurer of Michigan from 1983-90 under former Gov. James Blanchard.

Lt. Gov. John Cherry's unexpected decision last month to withdraw from the race has left the Democratic run for governor wide open.

The only two declared Democratic candidates are state Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith and Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. Five Republicans are running.

— Associated Press Report

Upcoming city council meetings

Auburn Hills City Council meeting — 7 p.m., March 1, www.auburnhills.org

Ferndale City Council meeting — 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22, www.ferndale-mi.com

Rochester City Council meeting — 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22, www.ci.rochester.mi.us

Royal Oak City Commission meeting — 7:30 p.m. March 1, www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us

Southfield City Council meeting — 7 p.m., Feb. 22 www.cityofsouthfield.com

Utica City Council meeting — 6:30 p.m. March 9, www.cityofutica.org

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Taliban No. 2 captured

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD — The capture of the Afghan Taliban's No. 2 commander by a joint CIA and Pakistani team dealt a fresh blow to insurgents under heavy U.S. attack and raised hopes that Pakistani security forces are ready to deny Afghan militant leaders a safe haven.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar's arrest in the Pakistani port city of Karachi may also push other insurgent leaders thought to be sheltering on this side of the border toward talks with the Afghan government — a development increasingly seen as key to ending the eight-year war.

Baradar, in his late 40s, was the second in command behind Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar and was said to be in charge of the day-to-day running of the organization's leadership council, which is believed based in Pakistan. He was a founding member of the Taliban and is the most important figure of the hardline Islamist movement to be arrested in the war.

Baradar has been in detention for more than 10 days and was talking to interrogators, two Pakistani intelligence officials said Tuesday. One said several other suspects were also captured in the raid. He said Baradar had provided "useful information" to them and that Pakistan had shared it with their U.S. counterparts.

NIW BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

2-16 | PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — It will take three long years to clear the rubble left by Haiti's devastating earthquake, said President Rene Preval who admitted even he's still afraid to sleep under concrete in case another quake strikes. In a rare exclusive sit-down interview, Preval told Associated Press Television News on Monday that Haiti faces a long reconstruction process that will result in fewer people living in the capital, Port-au-Prince. "It will take 1,000 trucks moving rubble for 1,000 days, so that's three years. And until we move out rubble, we cannot really build," Preval said.

2-16 | HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — An Alabama professor practiced at a shooting range not long before police say she gunned down three colleagues and wounded three others during a faculty meeting, her husband said. Amy Bishop's husband, James Anderson, said his wife acted normally while they were at the range and none of her behavior in recent days foreshadowed Friday's rampage. Bishop, a Harvard-educated neurobiologist, is accused of shooting six people at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Two survivors remained in critical condition Monday. "She was just a normal professor," he told The Associated Press during an interview at his home Monday.

2-16 | BOSTON — A spokesman for Mitt Romney says the former Republican presidential candidate was threatened by an unruly airline passenger on a flight out of Vancouver. Spokesman Eric Fehrstrom says Romney and his wife were on an Air Canada flight to Los Angeles on Monday when Romney asked the passenger sitting in front of his wife, Ann, to raise his seat back before take off. Fehrstrom says the passenger then became enraged and took a swing at Romney. The plane returned to the gate, the passenger was removed and the flight took off a short time later. The Romneys had been in British Columbia since Friday to watch the opening of the Olympic Winter Games.

2-16 | BUNNELL, Fla. — A woman was charged with driving under the influence after showing up at the Flagler County jail and demanding a conjugal visit with a specific inmate. The sheriff's office reports that a 45-year-old woman had a visitation appointment but was turned away because she was late. Also, the jail does not allow conjugal visits. The woman drove away but reportedly returned a short time later. Jail guards called road patrol, because they suspected the woman had been drinking. She reportedly failed a field sobriety test, and a breath test showed her blood-alcohol content was 0.256 percent. Florida law considers a person impaired at 0.08.

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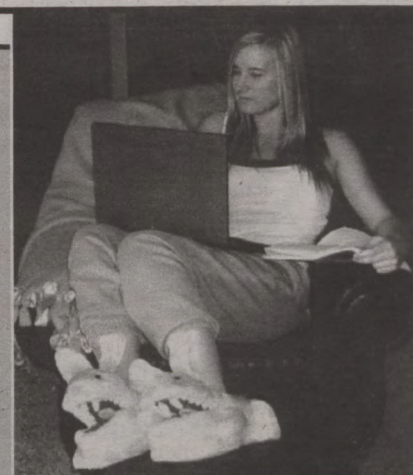
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Mouthing Off

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

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Sex, sex, and even more sex

An editor is more than willing to penetrate the dark world of erotic art

By DAN SIMONS
Mouthing Off editor

A tall, skinny man in a baby-girl pink colored suit walks onto the stage and introduces Kat, the "midget entertainer." A little person wearing fishnets, lingerie, and a top hat starts dancing around a stripper pole to Michael Jackson music.

Welcome to The Dirty Show.

Billed as a "world famous international erotic art exhibition," The Dirty Show takes place in a warehouse-converted theater in the middle of one of the dirtiest cities around, Detroit.

Inside is an orgy of arts, visual and theatrical. Kat is one of the many performers who takes the stage, surrounded by walls of artwork that you'd never let your grandma know you've looked at.

Most of this art, by any definition, is pornography. You'll see a spread of man parts, lady parts, and both man and lady parts together. Nipples of all colors, shapes, sexes and sizes. Completely normal things now have genitals and genitals are made out of various materials. There's a woman on all fours made out of black metal and a three-foot-tall stone penis statue you can buy for \$9,000.

Yes, if you really did want your grandma to know you looked at this stuff, you can buy most of it and take it home. And a statue of a wang really brings a living room together.

Cages are built around support pillars in the warehouse with dancers inside them. One is clad in red stockings and red colored wings with demon horns on her head. Another is an obese school girl. One man walks around wearing a bath towel, knee-high latex black combat boots and a tattoo on his shoulder. One of the performers, and I may have heard this wrong, called himself "Liat von Monkeyfetish." And these are just the people working the show.

There is no dress code for the audience either. One woman leads around another woman with a leash around her neck. A man ... or woman ... or something in between (or even outside categories) walks the floor nearly seven feet tall. The voice says man, the figure looks woman, the colors in the hair and the floor length black garb that starts at its nose screams Star Wars.

This is what happens when the circus takes The Matrix, meets The Rocky Horror Picture Show and invites along Alice in Wonderland at the Detroit Institute of the Arts with a dance company and lots and lots of tassels, finally blending it all together with a porno mag. This year the event is sponsored by Larry Flynt's new Hustler Club that opened recently in Detroit.

Imagine how I tried to explain where I was going to my mom. I left out a lot of details.

The Dirty show doesn't just push boundaries; it shatters them, crushes up the pieces, smokes this powder and laughs in the face of anyone who looks differently at all this. All while wearing a leather catsuit.

One man's taboo is another man's timid. To some a fear, others a fetish. This show demolishes any conservative notions about sexuality. Did I mention that the main bar wraps around a stage where volunteers can be bound up with pantyhose, suspended off the ground, and spanked by a man wearing a kilt?

Some people have already stopped reading this column by now. Good, this wasn't written for them. This was written in spite of them.

While I like how The Dirty Show pokes fun at preconceived notions of alternative sexual practices, the fact that it has to be called a "dirty" show invokes an unclean and unsafe connotation to it all.

Yes, there are pictures of women covered in chocolate syrup but that's not what I mean. That's messy, not dirty.

On the scale of porn and art, I would really put most of this stuff as art. There is a floor to ceiling mural of an orgy in one of the smoking rooms. The doorway to this room is a massive vagina decorated with Christmas tree lights. One performer, Hayley Jane, did a beautiful show-stopping rendition of "Mein Herr" from the musical Cabaret. The fact that she sang it while removing her garter and bodice was just a plus.

There was a world champion pole dancer, who has competed in tournaments in Japan and Amsterdam. The things she did made Cirque de Soleil performers look like drunken toddlers, all while wearing a dress. Belly dancers proved that sexy can be achieved in t-shirts and jeans.



ALEXIS TOMRELL/The Oakland Post

"Kat the midget entertainer." Houfs at The Dirty Show and this is one of few pictures we could run.

To think that these artists and the audience are in any way depraved, perverted, or unstable because of what they enjoy is ridiculous. And I know ridiculous; I just looked at a painting called "What Happens In Vegas Stays Inside Me."

Are these people freaks? No. Do they do freaky things? Yes. Like a Swan Lake performance where ballerinas dance around two people suspended from the ceiling by hooks jammed through the skin in their upper backs, swinging around, smiling most of the time.

This isn't for everyone and I in no way think that people who enjoy this stuff should do this around children or in public. I just don't like the fact that some people instantly disregard The Dirty Show and anyone who took part in it simply because of what they enjoy. Kinky is not dirty, naughty is not unlawful, and

sometimes, handcuffs aren't just for law enforcement.

That girl over there, in the bright purple corset and cat ears? That's your barista. That woman wearing a leather police officer's hat, black leather pants, a red shirt and a waist cincher that looks like it's killing her? A clerk at the court house.

I saw a cute older couple, dressed in normal clothes and around the same age as my parents, holding hands and walking around looking at paintings together. Even "normal" people enjoy the show.

The logo for The Dirty Show is a woman half naked, as seen through a key in a door. Let people enjoy what they like behind closed doors. And let those of us who want to see keep looking through that key hole.

Stay dirty, Detroit.

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