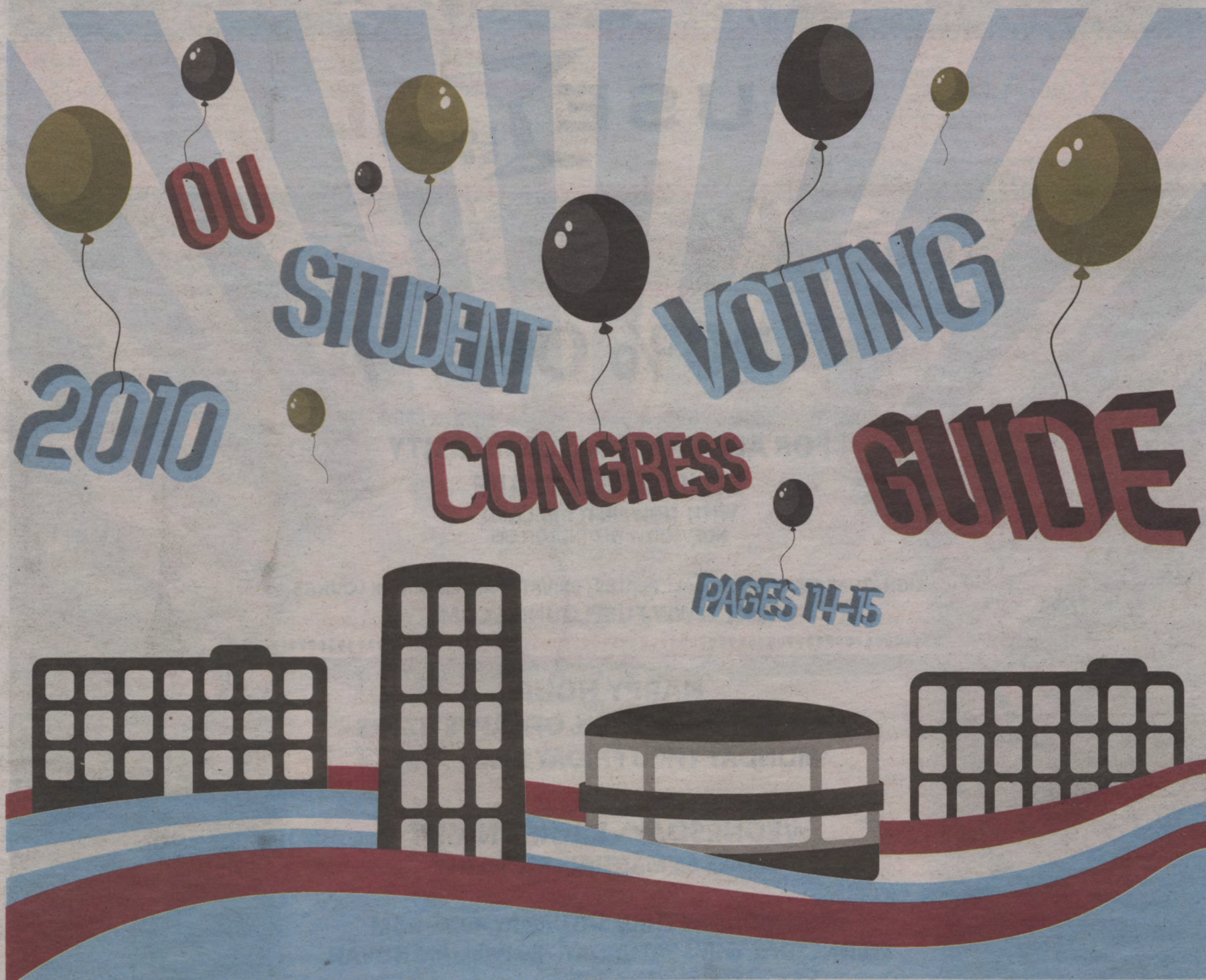


THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 24, 2010

Volume 36, Number 28



CAMPUS

AAUP postpones
“no confidence”
vote again.

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**Royal
Oak**
CITY GUIDE

SCENE

Cozy cafes and a
timeless theater.
Royal Oak has it all.

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SPORTS

Grizzlies historic
season ends in
first round.

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Party with The Post

Save the date:
Wednesday, April 14 at 6 p.m.
outside the Oakland Center.
More details on the way.

Cover illustration by Jason Willis

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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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March 24, 2010

STAFF EDITORIAL

Elect your student reps

Be informed about those who'll spend your tuition!

This is the annual, obligatory "you should vote in the student congress elections" editorial.

But don't just vote for your Oakland University Student Congress president and vice president because this editorial or somebody in the hallway next week solicits you to do so. If you're going to be sticking around next year, and even if you're not, please just take five minutes to get to know the people who are vying for the opportunity to represent you.

If you can make it, attend the debate on Wednesday, March 24 at noon in the Fireside Lounge.

The student body president and vice president aren't simply a pair of students looking to get an extra line on their resume, or we hope not. They have real power and influence on student life and major decisions at the university. Particularly, the president and VP oversee the OUSC's power to spend about \$200,000 of tuition annually.

Student congress uses its share of tuition fees to provide "free" Scantrons, provide USA Today and New York Times in the Oakland Center, help sponsor trips to the state capitol and the NCAA tournament, and dozens of special projects thought up by members of congress, like the creation of the disc golf course on campus.

Members of each ticket hoping to win the upcoming election, being held March 29-31 online at oakland.edu/voteou, have different ideas on how to spend their time and the students' money to improve OU.

Full details can be found in the center spread of this issue and also on The Oakland Post's election page, oaklandpostonline.com/election-hq/.

On that page you will find a video of a candidate forum held in The Oakland Post's office with all those running for president and vice president. Post editors fielded questions to the candidates. We were able to get a feel for what each

ticket stands for, in case you don't have the time to perform your own analysis.

Gustafson/Ring ticket

The Brandon Gustafson and Amy Ring ticket you have probably heard of. Their faces are plastered on banners all over the place. Their marketing strategies for their campaign mirror their proposed strategy as president and VP: To get the word out like crazy. They want to do more Facebook and banner advertising on campus for events.

They also want to have "Fireside Chats" on a weekly basis to meet with students and hear their concerns. Much like President Franklin D. Roosevelt's radio addresses, these would foster a relationship between students and their representatives in OUSC.

Gustafson/Ring are fun candidates, and would be sure to bring the students some memorable and realistic changes, like a proposed quad for hanging out on hammocks outside and possibly a campus clock. They get along really well with each other and are sort of the every man's ticket.

Schea/Diedrich ticket

The Cameron Schea and Mike Diedrich ticket is focused on creating a name brand for OUSC. They make a valid point that the student body only sees the free Scantrons when it thinks of OUSC.

To expand OUSC's image, they want to deliver large events that appeal to "everybody," not the small or special-interest groups on campus.

While they have a few good ideas, like converting the Bear Bus into a safe-ride program and pushing to get the bookstore to be tax exempt, we question how realistic some of their other campaign promises are.

For example, they are pushing for sta-

dium lighting and night sports games, which they said is to use as leverage for their SAE brother's hopes for an OU football team.

They also want parking structures built, but that was found to be unnecessary and costly in a recent parking committee assessment. Diedrich mentioned at the debate Tuesday that students are "pissed" about tuition, but that's how we would pay for such grandiose ideas proposed by the ticket.

Schea also said that the current student body administration has been ineffective, yet as a current legislator he is part of it.

Waquad/DeSanto ticket

The Saman Waquad and Laura DeSanto ticket definitely has the advantage of incumbency and experience, as Waquad is current student body vice president. She also has the most OUSC experience of any of the candidates.

DeSanto is new to OUSC, but as a commuter offers fresh ideas and perspectives, like reaching out to professors to create an incentives program that would match class subjects with campus events and students could receive extra credit for attending.

The Waquad/DeSanto ticket is running on a platform that mirrors the overall goal of higher education: to work toward making OU students more well-rounded, helping them become more marketable for jobs when graduating.

They also want to reevaluate the inner workings of OUSC, and make sure that everyone on staff there is held accountable for the responsibilities given to them.

While The Post has decided not to endorse a ticket, we urge you to make whatever effort you can to get to know these candidates.

It counts.

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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.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

On page 13 of the March 17 issue, the photo cutline incorrectly spelled Nick Kish's name.

The bracket graphic on page 22 of the March 17 issue was created by Bryan Culver.

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

Campaigns need to find their own forums



Mas Rahman
guest columnist

For good or for bad, the United States recently reformed its election campaign policy.

I think Oakland University's student body elections can also use some campaign reform, for good.

While attending two events on campus Thursday, I was accosted by campaigners from a student body president and vice president ticket, which I will not name, and I did not

like it at all. As a student trying to enjoy some student-run events, I did not appreciate a political team interrupting these events to try to increase support for their campaign. Especially because I rarely get to attend campus events due to my busy schedule, so what events I do manage to attend, I do not want the experience tainted by being hassled by political petitioners.

This is not why I attended these events. If I want to know more about the campaign, I'll read the paper, go to the facebook group, talk to the candidates or attend an official election campaign forum.

At the Women with Disability Forum, I was

approached by a campaign manager who was passing out campaign literature to attendees. I found this distasteful because I don't think this was the proper avenue for petitioning for a separate cause. If the campaigner was out in the main hallway outside the Fireside Lounge, that would've been OK because that's a public place, but I think being inside the Fireside Lounge where the non-election-related event took place crosses the line.

Then at the Open Mic Night, another campaign manager from the same team interrupted the host in the middle of the show and tried, thankfully unsuccessfully, to speak on their campaign's behalf. I was appalled at these attempts. Again, if the petitioner was outside the room, this would've been OK, but trying to petition inside crosses a line.

This is not the way to run an election campaign: piggybacking off other people's events. These are not political forums, and nor should they be turned into ones. I don't know if the two incidents I witnessed on Thursday were isolated ones, or if they're indicative of this team's or other teams' campaigns.

Either way, these incidents make the campaign look, at best, amateur, and at worst, as if the candidates are intentionally hijacking other students' events — which they worked hard to put together — for their selfish gain.

A couple different candidates told me that this method of campaigning at campus events is not new and that everyone does it to some degree. But I don't think this justifies it, because it can cause discomfort to event organizers and attendees. And at the very least, the campaigners could ask permission from the event hosts before the event.

I am not mean-spiritedly bashing any campaigns: I have nothing against any candidates or their campaign. But I also don't care whether this will be embarrassing for the campaigns and may drive people away from the candidates: I am not their PR advisor. I am writing this open letter and airing my grievance because I was annoyed, and I'm sure many other students feel the same way.

I hope the candidates rethink what are appropriate forums and methods for campaigning for student elections. And I hope any future petitioners for any cause — not just student body elections — reading this will rethink their approach too.

Editor's note: Mas Rahman is a former reporter for The Oakland Post. He has reported on OUSC events in the past. Rahman is no longer affiliated with The Post, and is a freelance writer.

THE OAKLAND POST TRIVIA CONTEST

Do you read our paper cover-to-cover? If so, this contest is for you!

- 1) What days will the SAFE Streets Projects be implemented?
- 2) What day did Anysia Gray leave for duty?
- 3) What student organization helped us celebrate Europe?
- 4) Which OU basketball player is becoming known for hassling the defensive players on the court?
- 5) Who would win: The Syracuse Oranges or the Vermont Catamounts?

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.

Column Contest Results

In our March 10 issue, The Oakland Post asked our readers if newspapers should endorse candidates in a political campaign. In light of the Oakland University Student Congress election, The Post has an opportunity to endorse a candidate — but should we? One reader (and fellow staff member) had a response.

By SHAWN MINNIX
Copy Editor

You can't fool the readers.

Newspapers are the last line of defense in a world filled with prejudice and bias. Political endorsements have no place of any kind in a newspaper because they are a detriment to the very fabric that holds the media industry together.

I'm a junior majoring in journalism, and I know that I have to remain objective, no matter what the circumstance. I cannot be biased even against those who I have negative feelings for. While it's great for newspapers to state the issues that matter to their readers, getting politically involved is dangerous business.

The question then becomes: Is this paper really writing legitimate news stories — or are they starting an ominous trend of editorializing? Giving away political endorsements sacrifices objectivity for opinion. It isn't the newspaper's job to make opinions; they are there to cover the hard stories that are relevant to their readers. We live in an era where information has never been more prevalent, and never have there been as many places to find it.

Here at Oakland University, the student congress elections are coming up, and again, it's not The Post's job to pick who would be able to serve best. That's for the student body to decide. Stating the issues and printing the candidate's solutions is one thing, but giving a seal of approval goes totally over the line. The newspaper can help the process much more by showing the student body what is at stake in this election and what each candidate's platform is. Again, our job isn't to alienate readers. Our job is to get them to come back each week and grab new people through our diligent reporting, and not by controversy or rhetoric (Unless it's Dan Simons, then you get a free pass!).

With newspapers bleeding out from web and television outlets, it's a bad time to piss the public off. People aren't stupid. By opening the industry up for scrutiny, we kill the very industry we set out to protect. And besides, the reader ALWAYS knows best.

A burning cross results in smoke and fury



Mike Espejo
staff reporter

I wanted to cover this story journalistically: report the facts and appropriately distance myself from opinion. But there's too much passion here. It started on August 13, 2009, when the Green family found a smoldering cross on the lawn of their Clarkston home. I was of course furious.

I remembered that my great grandmother used to tell me about the night her family had found a flaming cross on their lawn (this was the 1920s and her parents were Danish immigrants).

Then, last month, three Clarkston teens were arrested for the August burning, with ethnic intimidation and conspiracy as the charges. I graduated high school with all three.

Ex-girlfriends of the accused testified that on the night of the crime, one had said, "Let's teach the n****s a lesson." Hours later, the burning cross was found.

I didn't know these guys intimately, but we shared classes in the past, had lunches together, and roamed the same halls.

They rode their BMXs to school. They'd hang out by the bike racks, circling them like wheelie-popping vultures. Harmless kids, really.

My girlfriend joked she probably finger-painted with one of the accused when they were both in kindergarten.

I'd like to note that back in high school and even today, there always seemed to be an obsession with Confederate flags in Clarkston.

The Southern Cross is everywhere — on everything from belt buckles and bumper stickers, to license plate covers and T-shirts.

Other than their Lynyrd Skynyrd fandom, the kids sporting these insignia often claim an expression and preservation of a Southern heritage.

Please. Who are they kidding? These are the same kids who fell asleep during U.S. History. I'd bet money they couldn't even name two Civil War generals. But I digress.

Why was that cross burned? Why did it happen in my hometown, and why did it happen in 2009, decades after the Civil Rights Act and more than a century after the end of Reconstruction?

Like most others, our state doesn't have the greatest track record for civil rights. Although not as shameful as some of our Southern neighbors, it's a reputation that nonetheless haunts our heritage.

The Ku Klux Klan was prolific in Michigan throughout the 1920s (a giant cross was burned one night in Holland, Mich. during the early part of the decade) and Klan groups are supposedly still active throughout the state.

Also, the former Super Wizard or Grand Dragon

or whatever dopey name they give their leader was a Michigan native. Yuck.

Earlier this month, a KKK-style hood was found on the campus of the University of California San Diego. A month before at UC Davis, a swastika was found carved in a Jewish student's door. Students around the state gathered to condemn the incidents.

And in 2004, two states away in Kentucky, a group of teens were arrested and charged with burning a cross on the lawn of a black family. Eerily familiar. Disturbingly close.

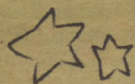
We have to remember there has been progress. Hate crime laws and civil rights have come a long way in just fifty years, considering there's a sinister history of law enforcement and legislators turning a blind eye to cross burnings and lynchings. Today is different.

There is an overwhelming amount of support for the Green family coming from the Clarkston community. They want to make sure these acts of bigotry are condemned and the guilty parties are brought to justice. For this, I'm proud of my neighbors.

H. Wallace Parker, chief counsel for the NAACP owns a home in Clarkston. After the incident he said, "There is something morally and logically wrong with this act."

As we find out what happens to these boys, we can remember: hate like this does not run in our blood. None of us are born wanting to burn crosses or put on white hoods. Let logic and love prevail.

As of yet, the accused mentioned are innocent until proven guilty. They have pled not guilty.

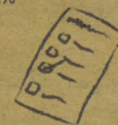
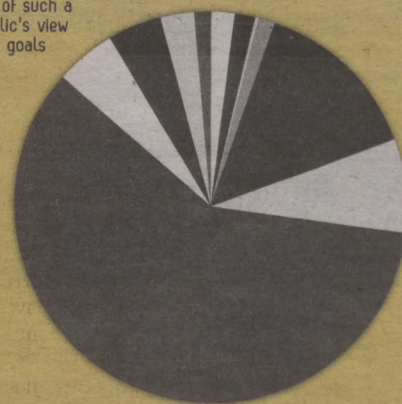


LAST ISSUE'S RESULTS

total votes: 257

Do you think the AAUP should hold a vote of no confidence against President Gary Russi? After an online vote Monday whether to hold the vote, the AAUP is postponing the vote of no confidence until next year.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| A No way! He's really stepped up his game these past few months.
36 votes > 14% | E Maybe, I don't really know what has changed since November.
11 votes > 4% | I No, since the most likely result of such a vote would only tarnish the public's view of OU and not reach the AAUP's goals
4 votes > 1.5% |
| B Definitely, he hasn't made good on all of his promises.
20 votes > 8% | F Although I feel a sense of no confidence, it is the AAUP's right to hold this vote and I support that.
7 votes > 3% | J I don't care.
1 vote > 0.04% |
| C No, and it never should have come up in the first place.
153 votes > 60% | G No! The Board of Trustees make all the decisions on this campus. Dr. Russi cannot do anything without their approval.
4 votes > 1.5% | K No they shouldn't. He has done everything they have asked and it would tarnish the school's reputation.
3 votes > 1% |
| D Wait, this is still an issue? Wasn't it solved months ago?
13 votes > 5% | H The president already got the message. Whether or not he deserves our confidence remains to be seen.
5 votes > 2% | |



POLL OF THE WEEK

www.oaklandpostonline.com

CURRENT POLL

vote now online!

How do you feel about the newly passed health care bill? Check out our Nation/World section on page 25 for some background!

- | | |
|--|--|
| A I think it's awesome, and will have a positive influence on our country. | D This bill has been re-written so many times that I don't even know what's going on. |
| B I think it's a terrible piece of legislation, and will be detrimental to our country. | E I haven't decided yet - I'm going to wait and see what happens. |
| C It's a small step in the right direction, but more action needs to take place. | |



oaklandpostonline.com

AAUP postpones vote

By MIKE SANDULA
Senior Reporter

The AAUP decided Monday to postpone the vote of no confidence planned for next week.

The Oakland chapter of AAUP had planned to hold a vote of no confidence March 24-31 in regards to Oakland University President Gary Russi's job performance and whether he has come through on promises made in the last year.

A 24-hour poll was held Monday. The online poll garnered the opinions of 352 of the 729 eligible faculty.

The highest percentage of voters, 43.8 percent, were in favor of postponing the vote of no confidence until the following school year.

"This is the course of action the AAUP Executive Committee will follow," Scott Barns, executive director of AAUP, said

in a statement.

No date has been set for the next vote.

About a third of those polled were in favor of holding the vote next week while roughly 25 percent wanted to cancel the vote altogether.

This is the second time a planned vote of no confidence has been put on hold.

"I was very pleased to learn that a majority of the faculty who voted feel we are making progress in resolving the concerns raised over the last year," said Russi. "I want to see this progress continue, so we'll keep the lines of communication open and continue to look for ways we can work together in the best interests of the university and our students."

AAUP originally scheduled the vote in November 2009 but canceled it to allow Russi to make good on promises he made at an open faculty forum that month to quell rumors and alleviate tensions.

The vote was then rescheduled for next

week by AAUP officials.

Russi held another open faculty forum March 11, in which he outlined the progress that's been made in the last year as well as future plans of action.

He also fielded further questions from faculty members at the forum.

"As the time of the vote approached, some members suggested that opinions might have changed since last term," said Karen Miller, vice president and spokesperson of AAUP.

AAUP said it will continue to monitor whether Russi follows through on his promises.

Russi stated after learning of the postponement that he thought that he shared a common objective with the faculty, despite "some important differences and difficult challenges" that have been faced.

For previous coverage on the vote of no confidence and AAUP grievances, visit www.oaklandpostonline.com.

Students to converge at state capitol

By MIKE ESPEJO
Staff Reporter

Students from public universities all around Michigan will be coming together Thursday in Lansing to demand changes in higher education funding.

The rally, called the Lansing Blitz, is being organized statewide by the Student Association of Michigan and at Oakland University by the OU Student Congress.

"It will be one of the most visible movements that students have made in a long time," said OUSC legislative affairs director Amy Ring.

The Student Association of Michigan posted a declaration at www.mistudents.org, which explains their intent for the rally.

The proclamation includes a list of ways the state has undermined higher education, including the 2009 termination of the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

The \$4,000 scholarship was given to students attending at least a two-year program and who scored a Level 1 or 2 on the Michigan Merit Exam.

The Promise Scholarship was discontinued for the current fiscal year, suspending payments for class years beginning with the class of 2007.

According to the declaration, it "directly affected 96,000 students and their families."

Other evidence in the declaration of the state's "short-sighted policies" include Michigan's 22 percent decrease of per student appropriations and spending discrepancies.

As the OU representative for the event, Ring urges students to sign up to attend the rally and learn more at www.rally.mistudents.org.

"It is an opportunity to experience and participate in what could potentially assist in higher education funding being made a real priority in Michigan," said Ring. "Hopefully it will make a statement in showing elected officials that we cannot be ignored."

Transportation to the Lansing Blitz is free and a T-shirt and snacks will be provided.

Be aware when driving on campus

OUPD to "stop accidents from escalating"

By RORY MCCARTY
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Police Department is continuing Project SAFE (Stop Accidents From Escalating) Streets starting March 31. The cooperative effort between the OUPD and the Auburn Hills Police is now in its third year.

The SAFE Streets Project is a citywide initiative which is done twice a year in the spring and fall. OUPD's Captain Mark Gordon said that the OUPD will be patrolling the roads just outside of campus to try to improve driving conditions by setting up traffic enforcement zones to "make community members aware of their driving."

"It makes them think twice," Gordon said.

The OUPD represents only one facet of the project. Though the OUPD has been cooperating with Auburn Hills police for three years on SAFE Streets, the project itself is in its sixth year. The project has led to a 23 percent reduction in the number of traffic accidents in Auburn Hills since it was implemented.

The areas of University Drive between Squirrel and Pontiac roads, and Squirrel Road between Cross Creek Parkway and Walton Boulevard will be monitored as OUPD's traffic enforcement zones, which will also be marked by signs.

Gordon said that although all regular traffic laws will be enforced, officers will be paying special attention to drivers using excessive speed, following other vehicles too closely, and

failing to yield to others.

Enforcement zones will be set up on March 31, April 14 and May 5, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The dates for traffic enforcement zones are a bit more spread out than they have been in previous years, but Gordon says this way it will produce a long-term memory effect.

"I think if we spread them out a little further, we stay on their minds," Gordon said.

But what would be the point of getting tough on traffic laws and then warning everyone in advance to let them know when and where the enforcement zones will be?

"The intent is not a 'gotcha' moment where we sneak up on you," Gordon said.

Gordon said the effort is more about education, in an overall effort to increase safe driving, rather than simply handing out more tickets. The officers also hand out pamphlets about Project SAFE Streets to the cars they stop.

The OUPD has some specific tips for safe driving on their website as well. They advise avoiding driving in bad weather, avoiding eating, drinking, or talking on a cell phone driving, allow a three second space cushion between your car and the car in front of you, and give yourself extra time to arrive at your destination.

Generally, the program suggests being aware of surroundings: checking blind spots before changing lanes, scanning intersections before passing through them, and indicating with a turn signal before changing lanes.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ORGS

student video productions

By PHILLIP PARKINSON
Contributing Reporter

Student Video Productions is an Oakland University club designed to give students hands-on experience with professional equipment, ranging from \$1,000 cameras to Avid editing software.

SVP started in the 1999-2000 school year with the intent to provide students with opportunities to learn how to use professional quality equipment for television.

SVP advisor Heather Haughey explains the various learning elements involved in video productions.

"Educational doesn't mean just spouting facts and figures on TV, but it's also the process of learning television productions, how you write a script, how to operate the equipment, how to create graphics, how to design 3D elements," Haughey said. "There is a lot of educational material from the backside of video productions, behind the camera, not just the content."

Advisor Haughey and founding advisor Scott Burke are part-time instructors at Oakland University, but their full-time jobs are to run the Video Services Department.

The department handles all of OU's video needs, ranging from shooting a meeting to creating commercials for the university.

"Obviously two people can't run video services. So we have a budget for five student employees: Those five students help us get stuff done for the channel, but that's still not enough so what we did is, we encouraged the development of SVP," Burke said. "You can use all of our equipment and resources as long as you are producing programming for OUTV."

SVP promotions director Aaron Segel hopes that SVP can work closely with the new cinema studies majors in the near future, suggesting, "It's film experience even if it's not film ... Our main goal is to get people experience with filming in general."

Some of the new things planned for SVP include trying to go HD, ordering a jib track and dolly system, updating its sound effects library to include more than 50,000 new sounds, creating a wider variety of shows, and better quality for all of the shows. SVP currently has seven shows, three which are inactive.

Last year SVP produced shows such as, "Afterhours," "Live at Oak," and "Visiting Professionals."

This year, some of those shows haven't been produced in months.

"They haven't been produced since October. That's three shows that this club used to do that they are not doing right now," Burke said. "Before they start a ton of new initiatives, I would like them to either get those shows back up and running or replace them with new ones."

With campus activity at a low, getting students involved is proving to be a challenge.

Haughey understands why it's hard for students to get involved and takes time to look at things from their perspective.

"Students tend to only come to campus on certain days because they commute," she said. "Our goal here is instead of having students come back for an entire in studio shoot, get them involved in putting together certain pieces for various television shows."

Creating shows piece by piece is not that unusual. Most SVP shows are prerecorded, and put together in the editing room. However, getting students involved in putting together pieces is not that easy.

SVP is starting new incentives. One way of trying to get members more

involved is the new Member Movie Challenge.

The Member Movie Challenge was an SVP competition to see which of its members could make the best comedic film for Lunch Break.

The three with the most votes won OU bookstore gift certificates.

Next month, SVP plans to do a similar contest for their show Best Tech.

"We are trying just to get everybody motivated to start working on projects instead of just talking about them," student Elizabeth Broderick said. "I have been involved with SVP since the beginning of this year."

Students can get involved in SVP by simply showing up to any of its events, to see if it's something they want to do.

"We will put you to work," said Segel. "After that, if you want to continue, you can become a dues paying member."

SVP dues are very affordable, initially \$10, with returning members paying \$5 each year.

Students don't have to be active members to get involved with SVP. Extras are always needed.

For further information, visit the SVP's website at www.ousvp.com or stop by its office located at 104 Varner Hall.

POLICE FILES

Medical emergency: March 15 two officers were dispatched to Varner Hall for a chin laceration. A student stated he was attempting hand clap push-ups when he landed on his chin. Auburn Hills Fire Department arrived and advised the student to receive stitches. The fire department cleared the scene with no further incidents.

Minor in possession: March 18 two officers were dispatched to assist nightwatch with an uncooperative intoxicated female. The officers made contact with three female students upon arrival. One of the students had forced her way in the door of Van Wagoner and sat in the chair inside the doorway. She told OUPD that they were all just really intoxicated and that it was two weeks until her 21st birthday. The student then became uncooperative with OUPD and was handcuffed by the officers. All three women were transported to the Oakland University Police Station. Two of the women took a Preliminary Breath Test and were issued a citation for a Minor in Possession. All three were transported to East Vandenberg Hall to stay for the night. All of the students' OU identification cards were retained by nightwatch and all nightwatch employees wrote out witness statements.

Sick care for medical: March 18 a student was walking behind his vehicle in P43 when he tripped. The student fell where old asphalt and new asphalt meet. He hit his head causing a small laceration above his left eyebrow. The student refused medical care and the scene was cleared.

Stolen undergarments: March 19 a student came into the Oakland University Police Station and stated she went to her dorm room and found a note on one of the boards in her room from her ex-friend. The note informed the student that her ex-friend had stopped by. The students were friends until about two weeks ago when they had a falling out. The student found that all of her undergarments, bras and panties were missing. The student believes that her ex-friend and an accomplice took six or seven bras and about 100 panties from the closet. The student's suitemates said they did not take the missing garments but saw the suspects enter the foyer area and closet yesterday. The investigation is open pending contact with suspects and suitemates.

Stolen cell phone: March 20 an officer was dispatched for a report of larceny. The officer met with a female student. She said that her cell phone had been taken from a room in Pawley Hall where she had been instructing a study skills group. She set her phone down on the desk next to her and put her coat over it. She left her phone for about five minutes. When class was over and the students left the room, she noticed her phone was missing. The student believes it was one of her fellow students who took her phone as the class exited. The scene was cleared without further incident.

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

CAMPUS BRIEFS

YouTube Video Contest

Those with a knack for filmmaking and a love for living on campus have a chance to showcase both through the University Housing YouTube Video Contest. To enter, students simply make a video ranging from 30 seconds to two minutes, telling why they love living on campus.

The guidelines instruct entrants to make sure they highlight all of the free benefits campus has to offer such as cable and Wi-Fi.

These videos are intended to draw new students to stay on campus, and will be featured on Oakland's Housing website.

The first place winner will receive a \$500 Barnes and Noble gift card, the second place winner will receive a \$250 Barnes and Noble gift card, and the third place winner will receive a \$100 Barnes and Noble gift card. The videos will be judged on creativity and promotion of campus activities. Deadline to enter is Wednesday, March 31.

YouTube videos should be tagged as "On-Campus Housing."

Students can submit their videos through YouTube by clicking "Share" and addressing the message to oaklanduniv, or video links can be sent through Twitter @OUhOUUsing.

— Staff intern Jamie Gasper

Pawley Offers free webinars

The Pawley Learning Institute at Oakland University will be offering the "Lean Thinking Webinar" Series. The series will introduce participants to theories of lean principles, practices

and application.

The first webinar, entitled "Introduction to Lean Thinking," is free of charge and available on the Pawley Institute website.

The webinar is approximately an hour long and will cover introductions to lean history, three philosophies of lean and five organizational practices of lean. The Pawley Institute is also offering two interactive webinars from 1-2 p.m. on Friday, March 26, and Friday, April 16. Designed for lean practitioners, the sessions will cover basic lean concepts and tools.

For more information or to register for a webinar, visit www.oakland.edu/lean.

— Staff intern Jamie Gasper

"The Art of the Artist's Book" sparks discussion

On Sunday, March 28 at 2 p.m. associate professor of art and director of the Oakland University Art Gallery Dick Goody will be moderating a panel discussion featuring artists Lynne Avadenka, Susan Goethel Campbell, Ed Fraga, Chido Johnson, Dennis Michael Jones and David Lambert.

This discussion is held in conjunction with the closing of the exhibition "The Art of the Artist's Book" at the OUAG in Wilson Hall.

All panelists have works showing in the current exhibit. The exhibit features works of art from the past two decades in a work of visual art. It will close April 4.

— Staff intern Jamie Gasper

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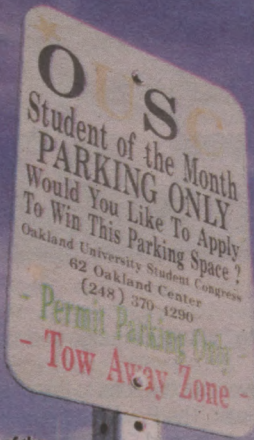
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STUDENT of the MONTH

Emily Tissot, Sophomore
Major: Anthropology and Spanish

'08-'09 Freshman Year

- > Spanish Club, Founder and President
- > International Allies, Member
- > Vandenberg House Counsel, Chair
- > Oakland University Gear Up College Program, Language School Teacher
- > CSA Mentorship Program, Mentee
- > Anthropology Club, Member

'09-'10 Sophomore Year

- > Spanish Club President
- > Spanish Celebration Week Coordinator
- > Center for Multicultural Initiatives, Mentor
- > Honors College Colloquium Team Leader
- > Member of the Anthropology Club
- > VIP member at Oakland (Volunteer Incentive Program)
- > University Senate, Student Rep/ Voting Member
- > Honors College, Events Committee
- > Alumni (FAN), Member

Student of the month is selected by the Oakland University Student Congress through applications (available at 62 Oakland Center). The winner receives a prime parking spot near the Oakland Center and \$50 in Spirit Cash.

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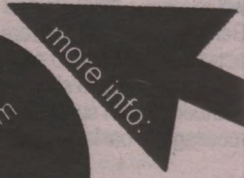
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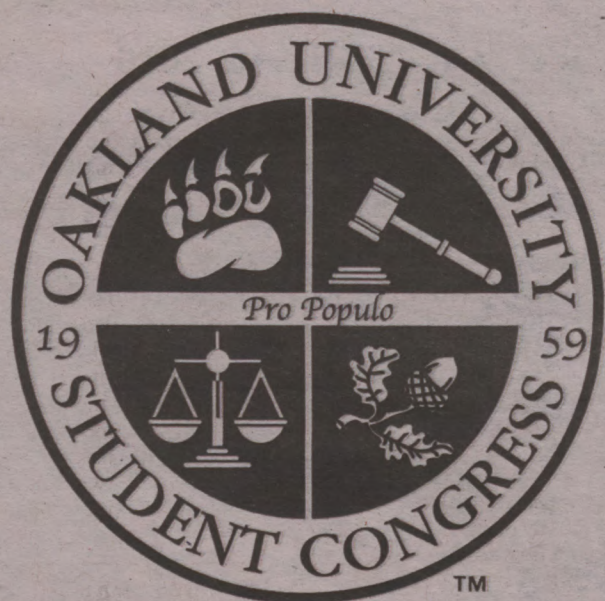
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Veteran shares Iraqi stories

By **CHERIE ROLFE**
Contributing Reporter

As Anyisia Gray shares her computer photo album of her one-year tour of duty in Iraq, she remembers her feelings when she received the call telling her that she would be leaving for active duty on Dec. 26, 2004.

"We were supposed to fly out on Christmas Day so I wasn't able to go home for the holidays," she said.

A snowstorm delayed her departure to Iraq until the next day.

"It was very stressful, I didn't even get to say goodbye," Gray said. "I don't know how to describe the stress you feel, and it was very somber."

Gray, 27, who will graduate from Oakland University in May with a double major in sociology and women and gender studies, enlisted as an army reservist with the goal of earning money for her education.

She quickly moved through an experience that would change her life by exposing her to the stark realities of difference and loss.

Shipping out to Iraq

Her journey began when she signed up in February 2004 and attended fitness camp and basic training in March.

She then went on to Advanced Individual Training where she learned to operate dirt and earth moving equipment for the military.

There were 30 females and 120 males in her AIT. Gray was the only African American female.

It became apparent that some of the women in the barracks had never been exposed to women of other ethnicities.

"The girls in the barracks would ask really weird things, like, 'Can I set your hair?'" Gray said. "I can't say they were racists, they were just unaware and meant no harm. They knew I was from Detroit so they would ask me, 'Have you ever seen anybody get killed?'"

After six weeks of AIT she graduated in August.

Her platoon called in September. She would be leaving for training to go to Iraq and had four weeks to get ready.

"I knew I could go to Iraq, but I didn't think it would be so quick," she said. "I had never been in for my weekend training — it was that quick. You don't feel prepared."

She completed her two weeks of weekend training and moved on to the Soldier Readiness Program in Minneapolis, Minn.

"That was when I knew it would be different," said Gray. "I looked around and said, 'Where are the people that look like me?'"

She spent October through December at Camp Atterbury in Indiana for more preparation and training.

Next, she was off to Iraq on the day after Christmas to join the 983rd Engineering Battalion in Operation Iraqi Freedom Three.

Gray's first stop was Kuwait.

New experiences

After three weeks, her unit began a three-day convoy to Iraq.

"It was a horrible experience, and very dangerous," Gray said.

Because of a lack of funds, only certain units received up-armored or fully-secured humvees. Others, like Gray's, were left to make do with what they had. The humvee Gray traveled in had scrap metal welded onto it for protection. This was known as "hillbilly armor." There was no bullet-proof glass on the vehicle.

Gray recalls sleeping on the hood of the humvee at night when it was cold.

When the sun went down, she said the temperature would sometimes drop 50 degrees. If it was 80 during the day, it was 30 at night.

The hottest day she experienced while in Iraq was 157°F.

"You would sweat, then dry up until your body got tired of it," Gray said.

To stay hydrated she drank six liters of bottled water a day in addition to Gatorade and juice. There were no short uniforms. Gray spent her hottest days in full uniform with a 60-pound bullet proof vest.

As she continues through her photos, few women appear. In her engineering company of 137 soldiers, only 14 were women.

Gray felt women were treated differently — especially by the officers. Although her fellow soldiers treated her as an equal, she said the officers didn't treat the women as part of the team.

Because of her race and gender, Gray sometimes felt singled out for small things. She received citations for infractions when others did not.

Living quarters were cramped. Six to



Anyisia Gray while serving in Iraq. Gray, an OU student, left in 2004 for a year in Iraq. Gray and other veterans can visit the Veteran Support Services office in North Foundation Hall.

eight women lived in the tiny barrack with what Gray describes as an "open floor plan."

Arranged in rows, the little plywood houses had no interior walls. The women slept in bunks with three-inch thick mattresses.

The women hung sheets for privacy until they were told not to do so.

"It was worse for the men because there were more of them," Gray said.

Life in Iraq

As a diversion, the soldiers were allowed to have fight nights and talent shows. The USO would provide occasional entertainment shows.

"You have to have fun," Gray said. "You have to have something to keep you from going absolutely crazy."

During downtime, Gray read books and played games like chess and checkers sent from home.

"I imagine this was what it was like before TVs existed," said Gray.

They had TVs with DVD players, but no channels.

"I didn't think about current events and I can't say I missed any of that. What I missed was being able to get off work — you're never off because you work where you live."

Communication with family was

restricted and kept in very general terms.

"You couldn't let your family know where you were," said Gray, "you would say, 'Hi, I'm alive' and talk about the weather or the movies. You get so detached, it's weird."

There were restrictions on social media sites and Army computers were only allowed to access secure websites.

Three members of Gray's company were killed during their tour of duty.

One of her photos reminds her of a friend, Kendall Fredericks, 19, who was killed during a convoy to Baghdad. Gray remembers Fredericks made the trip to complete finger prints for his paperwork. His was crushed in the humvee when a roadside bomb exploded.

"He was a great guy," Gray said. "I don't know what else to say."

"Most soldiers are killed in convoys ... but you could die on the base. We got shot at every single night."

She recalls two other incidents where soldiers were killed by incoming missiles.

One occurred while Gray was jogging. She heard the tell-tale "whistle" and knew a missile was on its way.

SEE VETERAN ON PG. 12

VETERAN

Continued from pg. 11

A marine, who was also jogging, was hit and his body blown to pieces.

"I kept puking, and running, and puking ... and the worst thing is that nobody says anything about it."

Gray later witnessed a bombing of a gym while she and her partner watered a cement helicopter pad (to keep the pad free of dust) one night. She described being frozen with fear as she heard the "whistle" and saw four people walking into the gym. There was no doubt in her mind the four were killed.

Gray served her one-year tour without a break.

"A lot of people went home for two weeks," she said. "I didn't."

Gray said that if she left, it would have been too hard to come back.

And yet, Gray was able to find beauty in Iraq.

Looking at another photograph, she remembers the landscape, particularly "the most beautiful sunsets and sunrises. That was the only thing beautiful. It's so clear when there's nothing around."

Returning home

As the end of her tour approached, Gray looked forward to returning home, but nothing is ever certain.

"They don't give you a date," she said. "You're hoping that you're out by a certain time. Rotation is one year. They don't tell you anything, and you can't tell your family."

Right up until the time the soldiers board the plane



Anyisia Gray operates earth moving equipment during her one year tour of duty in Iraq.

Photo Courtesy of Anyisia Gray

home, tours can be extended.

Upon her return home, on Jan. 27, 2006, Gray said that she felt more "distant."

"Nobody can really understand what you went through ... they have to be there with you. Every tour sees something different." She still talks by phone with her "battle buddy," Jennifer, twice a week.

"You never fully reacclimate," she said. "Your life changes ... some nights, I can't sleep at all."

She has also experienced hearing loss caused by the noise and the vibrations of the heavy equipment she operated.

Although dreams of Iraq still haunt her, Gray looks forward to the future with the possibility of graduate or law school after she leaves OU.

She finds the best way to cope is to stay focused. In addition to her studies, she is involved in her church and finds joy in volunteering with Alternatives for Girls, where she has two mentees.

"I help myself through working with them," Gray said. "It takes the focus off my own problems."

Veteran community at OU

Anyisia is not alone at OU. Veteran Liaison Michael Brennan said there is a large group of Iraq war veterans on campus — himself included.

Brennan served two tours in Iraq. He served as an aircraft mechanic in the army in 2003-04, then again in 2005-06.

He said the Student Veterans of OU hold weekly meetings every Tuesday and host monthly events — from basketball games to movie lunches.

An on-campus office veterans' affairs office was established last fall. The Veterans Support Services office is located at 103A North Foundation Hall.

Brennan says OU was recognized by GI Jobs magazine as being in the top 15 percent of veteran-friendly schools for 2010.

"OU charges in-state tuition rates for out-of-state veterans," says Brennan. The university is also flexible if classes have to be put on hold because of service.

Brennan acknowledges that while women can find acceptance in the military, some still struggle to fit in.

As she looks back on her time spent at OU, Gray said her women and gender studies classes have validated her experience. She finds comfort knowing other female veterans are on campus.

"I'm not the only woman who went through this struggle," she said.

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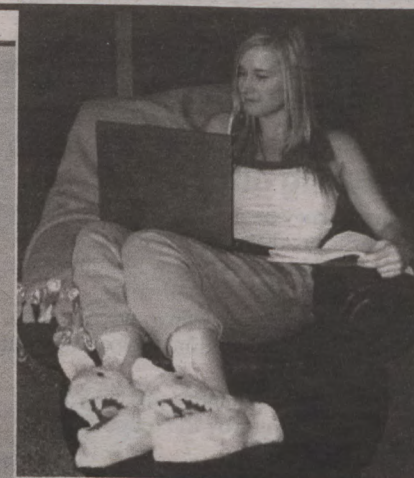
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Three photos from Anyisia Gray's collection from her tour of duty in Iraq. Above: one of the sunsets Gray saw while serving overseas. In spite of the tough experiences she faced in Iraq, she said she found comfort and beauty in the desert sunsets. Top right: Hillbilly armor that Gray's unit had to utilize. The trucks are covered in scrap metal rather than actual armor. Bottom right: Typical armored vehicles that are properly equipped in Iraq.

Photos Courtesy of Anyisia Gray



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President & Vice President Candidates	OUSC Involvement	Current Campus Involvement	Student Involvement Philosophy
Brandon Gustafson & Amy Ring	Brandon: > Current Financial Affairs Director Amy: > Current Legislative Affairs Director > 1 year as Legislator	Brandon: > Vice President of Students in Free Enterprise > Treasurer of Student Association of Michigan > 2010 Mr. Phi Significant Amy: > Resident Assistant > Honors College Student	Brandon: "We want everyone to have a platform so that they can be accountable. It just gives them motivation and incentive to be involved on campus." Amy: "That's all that we're aiming at, making the lives of the students going here."
Cameron Schea & Mike Diedrich	Cameron: > Current Research and Review Committee Chair Mike: > Current Judiciary Committee Chair	Cameron: > Vice President of the Financial Management Association Mike: > Alternative Spring Break Participant	Cameron: "I still believe the best way to feel for student concerns is to connect with the student through a handshake and a conversation." Mike: "We want to tackle the issues. Maybe (students) can have small ideas that we can implement for them."
Saman Waquad & Laura DeSanto	Saman: > Current Student Body Vice President > 1 year as Legislator > 1 year as Legislative and Multicultural Affairs Director > 1 year as Legislative Affairs Director Laura: > None	Saman: > President of Students in Free Enterprise > Student Representative of Student Association of Michigan > Community Service Council Laura: > President of Americans for Political Enlightenment > Model United Nations Participant	Saman: "We have shown that we can hold leadership positions and be able to bring people to the table with initiatives and a common goal." Laura: "We would like to see more students come to the events, and make the advertisement is going toward commuters."

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 Should club sports receive direct funding? Read more on oaklandpostonline.com/election-hq/

Candidates for student

Vice presidential candidates running in the University Student Congress elections squared off in front of about 25 students, about half were students and event organizers.

Amy Ring, Mike Diedrich and Laura DeSanto were the candidates posed by both the moderator and the candidates. The debate was held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Oakland Room and was moderated by Christina Ring, communications instructor and faculty advisor.

Ring, who currently serves as legislative affairs director, she wants to build a stronger relationship between the executive board and its legislators. She said

Student Involvement Philosophy	Greek Affiliation*	Greek Representation in OUSC	Platform
...everyone to know our ...at they can keep us ...just gives them mo- ...centive to be more ...mpus." ...we're about: Improv- ...the students that are	Brandon: > Social chair of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity Amy: > No Greek affiliation	Brandon: "I think it's just about who is in office at the time." Amy: "I think that Greeks enhance our administration and bring in a lot of great ideas, but we do need to have a balance there."	> Student Organizations Vehicle > Student Quad/Hang-out area between OC and Elliott Hall (benches, picnic tables, hammocks) > Campus Clock > Increased campus communications > Fireside Chats > Increased OUSC visibility > More athletics promotion
...ne best way to get a ...t concern is to con- ...student body with a ...d a conversation." ...ckle the big ideas. ...ts) can bring us the ...we could push for	Cameron: > Athletics chair of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity Mike: > Member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and vice president of the Greek Council	Cameron: "It's excellent, it's really been crucial to our campaign." Mike: "Going towards a Greek platform would help. Greeks are the ones that stay on campus ... they want to push for better academics, more athletic events, more social life ... Why not cater to them?"	> Sales tax exempt bookstore > Parking structure at P38 between Dodge and Elliott Halls > Stadium lighting that could lead to an eventual football team > Bear Bus conversion to a safe-ride program > Bi-weekly meetings with "top" departments like Greeks, housing and athletics
...m that we not only ...o positions, but we're ...eople together for ini- ...ommon cause." ...to ...bring commuters ...and making sure that ...ent is geared more ...uters."	Saman: > Founded the Zeta Sigma Chi multi-cultural sorority chapter at OU Laura: > No Greek affiliation * Note: Earlier in the school year, The Post ran a story about Greek representation in OUSC. While they currently make up over half of the representative body of OUSC, Greeks make up three percent of the student body.	Saman: "I have seen a heavy Greek influence and agenda: I have called it out ... I'm a student-leader first: My job responsibilities come first. I'm a Greek for life, I'm very proud of it, but that does not in any way overtake my responsibilities to the interests of the student body. That's why I've had no qualms about calling people out this year."	> Books on reserve program in the library to offer books to students who cannot afford them > Student leader mentorship program > More sports-related parties > Alumni plaques in the OC > Promotion of academic success > Monthly diversity and inclusion workshops

Student congress debate before elections

By Mike Sandula | Senior Reporter

ing in this year's Oakland ...ns squared off Monday in ...alf were OUSC members

ra DeSanto fielded ques- ...and the audience. ...a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Oak- ...Christine Stover, adjunct ...culty advisor to WXOU. ...islative affairs director, said ...onship between OUSC's ...She said she'd like to reach

out to athletes, Greeks and residents more.

Diedrich, OUSC legislator and judiciary committee chair, echoed Ring's ideas, adding that he'd like more students to attend OUSC meetings.

He said "the student body's got (OU President) Gary Russi on the ropes" and should push for big-ticket items such as a football team or another parking structure.

DeSanto, the only candidate who's not currently a member of OUSC, said she wants to reach out to a broader demographic and focus on "tangible" goals such as a student bill of rights.

Following Ring's performance of OU's fight song, the debate

ended with each candidate asking each other a question.

DeSanto – whose running mate, Saman Waquad, is the current student body vice president – defended against Diedrich's criticism of the current administration. She said that Waquad and current student body president Kristin Dayag couldn't fulfill all of last year's campaign promises because they had to deal with unexpected things, like the tuition increase and handled them well.

In addition to their campaign managers, all three presidential candidates were in attendance. They will face off in a similar debate Wednesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Fireside Lounge.



RORY McCARTY/The Oakland Post
The Albanian American Student Organization's tri-fold display board.



RORY McCARTY/The Oakland Post
A tote bag from the French Club's informational stand.



RORY McCARTY/The Oakland Post
The Albanian American Student Organization performing a traditional dance.

CELEBRATING EUROPE

By RORY McCARTY
Staff Reporter

Food, music and conversation was in abundance at the European Night celebration in Oakland University's banquet rooms on Thursday night. The Albanian American Student Organization showcased a traditional Albanian dance, a Scottish pipe band played, and a German accordion and trumpet band attempted to get students to do the chicken dance. Ethnic and foreign language student organizations were in attendance as well to participate in the festivities.

A myriad of European countries were represented by German potato cakes, Polish stuffed cabbage, Greek spanakopita, Spanish paella, Albanian meatballs, Italian lasagna, British apple crumble, Czech crepes, baklava, cannoli, strudel, and mousse.



RORY McCARTY/The Oakland Post
The George Murray Flint Scottish Pipe Band performing at European Night. Scottish pipe bands usually consist of pipers, snare drummers, tenor drummers and a bass drummer.

Leading the 21st century



By ALEXIS TOMRELL
Scene/Mix Editor

This past Saturday, March 20, Oakland hosted the 2010 Leadership and Technology Conference.

Planned by the Center for Student Activities, Kresge Library, Student Technology Center, Technology and Leadership Keys (TALK) and the American Marketing Association (AMA), the full-day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) conference was divided into three breakout sessions, with a lunch, afternoon geocoaching and a case competition.

The conference was organized in order to provide students with leadership and technology skills in the ever-changing career fields of the 21st century.

The conference catered to several tracks with speakers addressing students on marketing, information technology, social media, leadership, team building and communication tactics.

This year's keynote speaker was Scott Monty, the Global Digital and Multimedia Communications Manager for Ford Motor Company. Other speakers catered to educational sessions throughout the Oakland Center, like Phil Bertolini, the chief information officer for Oakland County, Deb Dansby, the senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Ken Rogers, executive director of Automation Alley, Michigan's largest technology business association.



Photo courtesy Sandra Matty

Brittany Wright and Sandra Matty with Byron Brooks, vice president of sales FoodServices from Pepsi Bottling Group at the Leadership and Technology Conference.



Photo courtesy Sandra Matty

The overcrowded American Marketing Association table with members from the AWC, or Association for Women in Communication.

Other speakers at Leadership & Technology Conference

- Bryan Barnett, mayor of Rochester Hills
- Antoine Dubeauclard, president, Media Genesis Inc.
- Ryan Hertz, executive director, Pontiac Hope Hospitality & Warming Center
- Kathy Livelsberger, assistant director, Oakland University Career Services
- Dara Munson, president and CEO, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit
- Christine Platz, senior consultant, Ernest & Young
- Kevin Schneiders, CEO, Educational Data Systems Inc.
- Naimah Wade, Wayne State Executive Development Center



Photo courtesy Sandra Matty

Oakland's American Marketing Association (AMA) posing with Charlie Wollborg, Founding Partner and Chief Troublemaker of Curve Detroit, a creative strategy and design firm.

The Scene

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

March 24, 2010



Darkest Hour

Where: Eagle Theater (attached to the Crofoot compound)

When: Thursday, April 1

Who: With Dillinger Escape Plan, Animals as Leaders, Iwrestledabearonce and Wilson.

Stats: Heavy metal band from Washington D.C. Their newest album is "The Eternal Return" off Victory Records.

Current members: John Henry: vocals; Mike Carrigan: guitar; Mike Schleibaum: guitar; Ryan Parrish: drums; Paul Burnette: bass

Photo courtesy of Adrenaline PR

Darkest Hour's tour started March 11 and wraps up April 13. They play the Eagle Theater, part of the Crofoot, April 1 with bands Dillinger Escape Plan, Iwrestledabearonce and Animals as Leaders.

The tides of a touring band

Heavy metal band Darkest Hour speaks to The Post about new album & lyrics

By AMANDA MEADE
Assistant Ads Manager

Melodic death metal band Darkest Hour has been going since 1995, and according to guitarist Mike Schleibaum, they aren't planning on stopping anytime soon.

The band, from Washington D.C., has released six full length albums and seen their fair share of band members come and go.

The Oakland Post got a chance to talk with Schleibaum about their current tour, lyrical content and the originality that sets them apart from other bands.

The Oakland Post: What aspects of this tour are you most looking forward to?

Mike Schleibaum: It's been a really long time since we've toured with Dillinger Escape Plan, it's really cool because so much of the music industry turns over so fast and trends fade so often that we find ourselves on tour with new bands all the time.

It's nice to be able to go on tour with a band that we've kind of grown up alongside and always seems to push what they're about. The other bands are super cool, like the first band, Animals is Leaders, is some people from D.C. which is very rare that we'll tour with anybody who's from where we originated.

It's a really exciting lineup to be a part of, which is kind of rare in today's rock world.

The Post: What sets Darkest Hour apart from other bands?

Schleibaum: I think it's definitely a pretty unique sound as far as metal, the combination of metal and punk. We were formed originally around the mid-'90s. There were a couple bands that started with a similar style, like Shadows Fall came out around the same time, and then soon after there was Unearth and God Forbid and there were some bands that emulated mixing American style metal with what the Swedes were doing. The unique thing about Darkest Hour is when people say metal-core they talk about the mix of metal and hardcore, but to me our sound is a true mix of metal and punk, and if you understand the genres of music you can understand what the subtle differences are. We've got a little niche in the extreme music world.

The Post: What drives your lyrical content?

Schleibaum: All of the songs are about a lot of different things. For the entire history of the band we've tried to have what we considered to be intelligent metal lyrics. They're not really about ripping off your friends face and eating it or something like that, but usually about

relationships or politics or life experiences. I think lyrically we're open to many things that metal bands, especially death metal bands, wouldn't touch.

The Post: In an interview last year you mentioned your latest album, "Eternal Return," came out of a difficult time for the band. Have things gotten better?

Schleibaum: It just came out of a hard time in the sense that we were at the end of our Victory contract, we'd been with that record label for 10 years. When you're part of the record label model, it's kind of important to how things operate in the band and the contract was pretty much at the point where everybody knows it's going to be over soon it just really becomes impossible to make a creative energy and put it out there for the world.

"Eternal Return" is always going to be this tortured little creation that never got the same chance that all the other records got. I know that some of the other guys in the band, including myself, feel like it is their favorite record and every time we play the songs they have a special meaning to me because of the journey that it took to get them and the journey that they took when they came out. It's like having a kid that ended up in jail. You still love him, but it's the tortured one.

The Post: What accomplishment are you most proud of in your experience with Darkest Hour?

Schleibaum: It's definitely the records. I mean even the older records I could list every flaw I have calculated in my brain and believe me, as an artist you'll cut yourself up all the time. What I consider mistakes — in the end those mistakes are what make the band have personality. When I talk to people that like the band and connect with the music it's those things that give it character to them.

The Post: What are your five-year plans?

Schleibaum: I hope that I still feel proud of the records that we put out; I hope that there are still the same guys around me and I hope that we can still connect to people and find happiness doing music. I think if you hope for anything else, you always get caught up in realizing that you're hoping for the wrong things. I think the only thing to shoot for in any five-year goal is just to continue to be happy, proud of what you're doing and moving forward.

Darkest Hour play the Eagle Theater in Pontiac Thursday, April 1 with Dillinger Escape Plan, Animals as Leaders, Iwrestledabearonce and Wilson.

For more information go to myspace.com/darkesthour.

Others in the Oak

- A** **Main Art Theatre:** Big city indie flicks for the thoughtful cinephile. 118 N. Main St.
- B** **Noir Leather:** The stop for kinky, leather fetish wares and wears. 124 W. Fourth St.
- C** **Royal Oak Farmer's Market/Flea Market:** Local produce and selection year round on Saturdays, with 100+ flea market vendors on Sundays. 316 E. Eleven Mile Rd.
- D** **Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle:** National and local comedy acts in a nonsmoking venue. 269 E. Fourth St.
- E** **Gusoline Alley:** Best lil' dive with great bathroom art and an even better jukebox. 309 Center St. — location is not visible on map (behind Cafe Habana graphic)

Café Habana

Café Habana is located on Main Street, but it may take a few roundabouts to find it. It shares the building with the Belgian restaurant, Bastone, in a tiny back hideout. For those partial to Cuban and Latin cuisine, Habana, also located in Ann Arbor, is an intimate getaway of taste and space. The restaurant is small and minimally decorated with retro poster art and high booths. At the front is an open kitchen, which emanates smells of the (suggested) Baja burritos and arepas. It is a quaint stop for a quick lunch or late night dinner with mojitos and Brazilian cocktails.

109 E. 5th St.

323 East

This small hub could be one of those easy-to-miss boutiques, if it weren't for its neon green paint job. 323 East is a mosaic of local creativity. The narrow building is home to large and small artwork, graffiti pieces, and one-of-a-kind clothes and whimsical buys from bizarre toy dolls to cool iPod cases. The store's art implications stretch outside of its four day-glo walls too. In a short time, it has become the place for regional artists and designers to showcase their works to consumers and collectors, playing revolving doors to a host of over 100 artists and exhibitions that span a variety of artistic mediums, like the March 20 opening of "Glass, Cinder and Thorns," a collection of female artists' interpretations on the classic fairytale.

323 E. 4th St.

Inn Season Café

Delizioso! I'm not vegetarian. That said, it doesn't detract from the fact that the Inn Season Café is my favorite restaurant in metro Detroit. I don't want to praise the hell out of this place, but if I could eat at any restaurant for the rest of my life, and feel content and healthy with my decision - this would be it. Its exterior mustard paint job complements the mellow yellow colors and local artwork inside. It all adds to the dining experience, which is filled with flavorful, rich natural options and exotic takes on organic fare. All the dishes, like the house-made Fourth Street Burger or seasonal squash casserole, leave you satisfied, but never stuffed. Even the organic coffee is a treat. Like a lot of Royal Oak niches, seating is limited, but the wait is never too long, and the staff is friendly and accommodating. Eating at the Inn Season is akin to a relaxed dinner party with good food and friends. Tables are close, the tastes are homespun and conversation comes naturally.

500 E. 4th St.

Lost & Found Vintage

The clothing store has won readers' picks from the Metro Times for "best vintage clothing" year after year. The title is well deserved. Lost and Found is renowned for its collection of women and men's classic selections. The inside is bright and inviting, and the staff is highly educated in historic getups. The store's main level houses accessories - eyewear, broaches, jewelry and select designer pieces, while the upstairs is dedicated to women's dresses, leather jackets, colorful boots and zany knits. Downstairs, the men's racks contain western button-ups, concert tees and trousers. In the back, they even offer reasonably priced records. It's all like someone went to garage and estate sales, picked, pressed and priced the best in worst taste, and all you had to do was show up to buy.

510 S. Washington Ave.

Café Du Marquis

Tucked on a side street between the Starbucks and Caribou, is the discreet Café Du Marquis, a hazy alternative to professional coffee runs. The small place fills up fast. Marquis seats maybe 20-30 in antique tables and mismatched chairs. The décor is a jumble of eclectic period pieces like a knight's armor and an old table set for chess. The wide variety of sandwiches and drinks - I recommend the peanut butter cup espresso or frozen caramel - are served at your table. The Marquis evokes a slow-paced European café, occupied by a mixed bag of customers, although I don't prescribe Marquis for those with sensitive lungs. Most of the customers are smokers, or there to enjoy hookah, but in warmer months the French doors are open and outdoor seating is available, a great front porch for people-watching and casual conversation.

204 5th Ave.

Royal Oak

CITY GUIDE

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DMC faces potential sale

Tennessee health company proposes to purchase Detroit Medical Center

By ANNIE STODOLA
You/Local Editor

The Detroit Medical Center is going to be experiencing changes in the next few months.

On March 19, Vanguard Health Systems Inc. submitted their letter of intent to purchase the DMC. Vanguard is a hospital is based out of Tennessee.

The Detroit Medical Center, a nonprofit organization, operates eight hospitals, including Children's Hospital of Michigan, Sinai-Grace Hospital, Kresge Eye Institute and Detroit Receiving Hospital. The DMC additionally has a partnership with the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center.

A large portion of the reason the deal has been supported by the DMC is the system's small budget.

"We've had to sit by and watch while West Bloomfield and Novi and Ann Arbor make huge investments in new modern hospitals and we've been frustrated we can't do the same in the city of Detroit," DMC CEO Mike Duggan said. "Now we can. Detroit will no

longer take a backseat to anyone in the quality of our hospital facilities.

Representatives from the DMC insist the change in ownership will not have a negative impact on patient care. DMC board chair Steve D'Arcy said Vanguard's pledged \$850 million investment in the DMC over the next five years is a strong step forward for both the hospital system and the metro Detroit area.

"It represents great confidence in the future of the City of Detroit," D'Arcy said.

The investment over the next five years will go toward improvements to several of the hospitals.

If a deal is reached between the DMC and Vanguard soon, ground could be broken on improvement projects as early as June.

Vanguard proposed to pay \$417 million for all assets of the DMC system. Vanguard plans to open a Michigan subsidiary company called VHS Michigan to manage the DMC hospitals.

The hospitals will continue to operate under the DMC brand name and the current individual hospital names.

Vanguard has pledged to keep each of the DMC hospitals open for at least 10 years. It's unclear if the hospitals will remain open after the initial 10 year period.

The current board for the DMC will remain intact to ensure that Vanguard is holding up its end of the deal.

Vanguard also currently operates 15 hospitals in Texas, Massachusetts, Arizona and Illinois.

Vanguard and the DMC have until June 1 to develop a final plan for the acquisition.

As of right now, the letter of intent from Vanguard is nonbinding and may not result in a guaranteed deal between the two hospital systems.

Any proposal regarding the merger must be approved by the boards of directors from both Vanguard and the DMC.

A zoning ordinance would also have to be approved by city and state governments.

Several local developers have speculated that the sale of the hospital systems will help create growth in the Midtown neighborhood in Detroit.

Information on DMC is available at dmc.org.

Community calendar: VegFest, job fairs

'Get Your Noodle On' kidney foundation fundraiser

LANSING — Patrons of Noodles and Company have an extra incentive to stop by the restaurant Thursday, March 25.

From 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. consumers will receive 25 percent off their meal.

This incentive was created by the restaurant along with The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. The proceeds of "Get Your Noodle On" will go to NKFM's annual Kidney Walk event.

All 13 of the Noodles and Company restaurants in Michigan are participating.

People can take advantage of this offer by mentioning NKFM or by bringing in the promotional flyer informing everyone about the event.

— Staff Reporter Gabi Jaye

Environmental challenge begins

ROYAL OAK — Recycling for Charities, a Royal Oak-based nonprofit, is organizing an Earth Day recycling competition.

Local residents can donate their used electronic items at various locations throughout the city, including 24 local businesses.

The drive is accepting iPods, cell phones, digital cameras, PDAs and Mp3 players from now through April 24.

The drive will conclude with the Royal Oak Recycle event on April 25.

A full list of locations is available at facebook.com/recycling.charities.

— You/Local Editor Annie Stodola

New Rochester Hills Meijer location hosts job fairs

ROCHESTER HILLS — Meijer is looking for 200 employees for their new Rochester Hills location.

The store is slated to open in late May and is located at 3610 Marketplace Circle.

Unlike other locations in the area, the Rochester Hills store is designed to be a smaller version of the typical Meijer store, with an emphasis on grocery sales rather than other items sold in the store.

Interested applicants may apply in person at the store this week through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

— You/Local Editor Annie Stodola

Michigan VegFest coming to Ferndale

FERNDAL — VegMichigan, a West Michigan nonprofit vegan organization, will be hosting VegFest on Sunday, April 18 at Ferndale High School.

The vegan and vegetarian event will start at 11 a.m. and go until 5 p.m.

New York Times best selling author, Rory Freedman, will be there along with former Piston and NBA champ, John Salley.

The event is to celebrate and educate about the benefits of the vegan diet.

Local restaurants and national brands are providing food. There will also be door prizes and information booths about vegetarian and vegan organizations.

— Staff Intern Courtney Umbras

Local briefs: MDOT funding, drunk driver

State receives funding for rural transportation

LANSING — Michigan received \$524,000 with a continuance of the Federal Recovery Act. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, the money will come in the form of a Flex Funds Grant and will go toward numerous small transport agencies in 13 counties.

The much-needed money will give bus agencies the chance to buy items such as maintenance equipment, computers, vehicles, tires, bike racks and surveillance equipment. This money from the Recovery Act will also go toward updating of transportation systems.

Detailed information on the use of the funds is available at michigan.gov/mdot.
— Staff Reporter Gabi Jaye

Mich. fugitive found in Pa. bar in hospital gown

PITTSBURGH — A fugitive wanted for bank robbery in Michigan is in police custody after he walked into a Pittsburgh bar wearing only a hospital gown.

Authorities say 20-year-old Elbert Lewis Thompson II walked out of Allegheny General Hospital and into JR's Bar on Friday night in a gown and with a needle in his arm, prompting a call to police. Thompson was taken into custody a short time later.

Police in Vandergrift say Thompson had been detained by officers after fleeing a traffic stop there, about 25 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. He was initially hospitalized after complaining of feeling sick and losing consciousness.

Thompson is wanted in Oakland County for armed robbery and other charges. It was not immediately clear if he had an attorney.

— Associated Press Reporter

Mich. police: Drunken driver called 911 on herself

EAST LANSING — Police say a drunken driver called 911 and chatted with an emergency dispatcher for 20 minutes before she was pulled over and arrested in a Meijer parking lot in East Lansing.

Police Capt. Tom Johnstone said Monday that the 27-year-old Charlotte resident placed the call at 5:40 a.m. EST on March 13.

Johnstone says the woman admitted to being drunk and had difficulty expressing herself but was able to convey that "she shouldn't be behind the wheel."

He says the dispatcher pleaded with the woman to pull over.

The woman was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and faces up to 90 days in jail.

— Associated Press Reporter

Mind Body & Spirits receives 'green' honors

Mind Body & Spirits of Rochester was named one of Michigan's Green Leaders by the Detroit Free Press on March 21. The restaurant was among the top 16 individuals, businesses and community groups to make the list.

The all-organic restaurant offers a solar-powered energy environment along with a greenhouse on its first floor. Everything down to the soda straws are made out of organic or recycled material.

Mind Body & Spirits was selected from a list of 350 nominees.

The restaurant and all of the other leaders will be honored on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22 during an awards program on Belle Isle.

Ford Motor Company Executive Chairman Bill Ford will be the keynote speaker. The leaders and guests will enjoy a breakfast while being recognized for their innovative practices that are on the way or bringing new jobs to Michigan.

— Staff Reporter Gabi Jaye

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Sports

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March 24, 2010

Season closes with NCAA fall

By DAN FENNER
Staff Reporter

Oakland University's dream season finally met its end Friday afternoon, as the men's basketball team could not pull off the unlikely upset against Pittsburgh, falling 89-66 in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament in Milwaukee, Wis.

"We're disappointed, obviously, that we weren't able to win the game," Oakland head coach Greg Kampe said. "We really believed we could come into this tournament and try and get a win."

From the very start, Oakland could not sink the shots it needed to make to be successful. OU shot just 33 percent on a night in which it was competitive in most other areas of the game.

"We didn't make shots. Now, are they bigger than who we normally play against? Yes. Are they more athletic than who we normally play against? Sure. But if you look around, watched the games yesterday, the teams that get the upsets are the teams that make shots," Kampe said.

For the first 10 minutes of the game, however, it appeared that Oakland could hang with its Big East Conference opponent. OU forced several turnovers and drew several fouls to seize a five-point lead minutes into the game.

"I thought that we had it going just the way we wanted it to go," Kampe said. "I thought we were defending extremely well. We were on the boards. We weren't giving them second shots."

But the game took a significant turn when the Grizzlies lost senior forward Derick Nelson at the mid-



Golden Grizzlies gather together for their last pre-game huddle before the first round of the NCAA tournament in Milwaukee, Wis. JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

way point of the first half after he was elbowed in the head by Panthers center Gary McGhee. Nelson was attended to for several minutes and was bleeding from his left temple.

"I was running for a rebound, and I just seen a elbow coming toward my face," Nelson said. "I tried to get out of the way but I got hit."

At the time of the injury, Oakland held a four-point lead, but was outscored 29-12 in the final 10:23 of the half with Nelson receiving treatment in the locker room.

With one minute remaining in the half, the Panthers had pushed their lead to a first half-high 17 points, but late field goals by Blake Cushingberry and Keith Benson made it 39-26 heading into the break.

Nelson returned for the second half after receiving six stitches near his left eye, but the game was almost decisively in the hands of the Panthers by then.

Pittsburgh maintained its double-digit halftime lead throughout the remainder of the game, with Oakland getting only as close as 14 points with five minutes remaining.

The deficit ballooned to 23 points as the Grizzlies failed to make a field goal in the closing minutes.

Six Panthers' players scored in double figures as the team shot over 53 percent for the game.

Freshman Ledrick Eackles had 17 points for Oakland off the bench in his first trip to the NCAA Tournament.

"We lost. I'm happy that the team made it. I'm thankful for Derick Nelson and Johnathon Jones for helping us get us here," Eackles said. "But I think we'll see Oakland University in the NCAA tournament in the near future. Players are taking it hard, and we want to get back and start working out immediately so we can make it back here."



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

GOLDEN GRIZZLIES GAMES of the WEEK

Lacrosse record rises to 7-0

By SHAWN MINNIX
Copy Editor

The Oakland University women's lacrosse team was victorious in four scheduled games this week and remains undefeated, raising their record to 7-0.

On Thursday night at Ultimate Sports Arena in Pontiac, the Golden Grizzlies defeated Saginaw Valley State University 25-7. Senior midfielder Vera Pattah scored five goals while freshman Vittoria Wallace scored four times, including a transition goal that spanned the entire length of the field.

The team broke a close game wide open in the first half, holding the Cardinals scoreless for the final 16 minutes and scoring 11 unanswered goals to lead at halftime, 15-3.

Oakland continued to score at will in the second half and dominated the flow of the game with their possession and rapid passing. The Grizzlies went on a 7-1 run at the start of the half and kept the pressure on the Cardinals, who had no answer.

The women had three more games scheduled on Saturday and continued to be successful. They defeated

West Virginia University 16-4 in the early game and followed up with a 16-9 victory over Grove City College. The final game was scheduled to be versus Penn State Behrend College, but Penn State withdrew because of spring break. Carnegie-Mellon was put in their place but failed to show up. They forfeited to OU with a score of 1-0.

An important season game for the team will be this Thursday night when Central Michigan University comes to Pontiac. CMU is also undefeated this year, and OU women know how much is at stake with this game.

"It's a rival game; it always has been for the four years I have taken over the program," head coach Towbey Kassa said. "It's going to be intense. It's whoever wins the game, wins the division."

The Grizzlies are going for their fourth consecutive divisional title and are focused solely on the monumental challenge that CMU will bring in this winner-takes-all game.

"That game basically is our national championship game," Kassa said. "We're going to come out full speed ahead."



Oakland Post File Photo
OU's women's lacrosse continue to dominate over their opponents; their skills will be tested in the upcoming Central game.

Grizzlies secure place in District 12

Senior Johnathon Jones and junior Keith Benson were chosen to be on the NABC District 12 league for 2010.

The 24 NABC All-District teams were chosen and voted on by members of the National Association of Basketball

Coaches. IUPUI's Robert Glenn accompanies the Oakland stars on the District 12 first team as well as Gordon Hayward and Shelvin Mack from Butler.

The 240 chosen athletes are eligible for the State Farm Division I All-America teams.

Benson was also named as OU Student-Athlete of the week after capturing nine rebounds and scoring 28 points in the NCAA tournament.

Xavier baseball team outruns OU

The OU baseball team split two games against the Xavier Musketeers last Saturday with a 2-1 win and 3-2 loss at Hayden Field.

Starting off the series, Oakland scored two runs off seven hits while Xavier

scored one run on two hits. Freshman Mike Carson contributed to the win with a home run to left field in the ninth.

In the second game, pitcher Russell Luxton allowed three hits and two runs in the final inning, only striking out one batter.

Xavier took the series 2-1. Oakland's record rises to 3-8 after these games.

— Compiled by Kaitlyn Chornoby



For more photos visit www.flickr.com/photos/theoaklandpost/sets

JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Future of the Grizzlies

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Staff Reporter

For Oakland University, the 2009-10 men's basketball season was a record-breaking one. The team won 26 games, captured their second Summit League tournament championship, and was rewarded with a 14 seed in the 2010 NCAA Tournament.

They lost that game to a physically tough University of Pittsburgh team, but the future remains bright for head coach Greg Kampe and his team.

Obviously, there will be player movement within the program. Next season, OU will be losing two program-altering players.

The Grizzlies will have to deal with the departures of seniors Derick Nelson and Johnathon Jones. Both players put up record numbers in their years at Oakland, but it was also their leadership and will to win that helped propel the Oakland program to new levels.

Junior Keith Benson is arguably the biggest key for next year's Oakland team, with his post presence not only bringing statistical success but also diverting attention from the opposing defense, opening up teammates on the offensive end.

The 6'11" junior has played his way onto NBA mock draft boards as a potential late first round or early second round pick.

The Farmington Hills native has not said anything about his decision to

declare for the draft, but has spoken about what he wants to work on to raise his game to the next level.

"I want to work on my strength in my legs and my jump shot and some post moves and just strength overall and conditioning," Benson said.

Benson could also be a player who steps into the leadership role left by Jones and Nelson, as he became increasingly vocal on-court during the last few games of the season.

Junior Will Hudson will also prove helpful for 2010. The 6'9" forward scored in double figures just four times this past season, but it was his defense and rebounding ability that proved most valuable to the team. He also played center at times when Kampe went with a smaller lineup.

Filling out the key bench players are sophomores Blake Cushingberry and Drew Maynard. Both players showed improvement on the defensive end of the court while maintaining an ability to provide a spark on offense - Cushingberry with 3-point shooting and Maynard with explosive leaping ability.

Looking to fill the point guard role is junior Reggie Hamilton. The 6'0" guard, known more for his scoring ability during his two seasons at UMKC, has practiced with Jones the entire season working to become a more complete point guard.

A potential leader and go-to guy on the 2010-11 squad could be junior Larry Wright. Wright was a part-time point

guard at times this season, but his greatest strength is his ability to stretch the defense with his 3-point shooting.

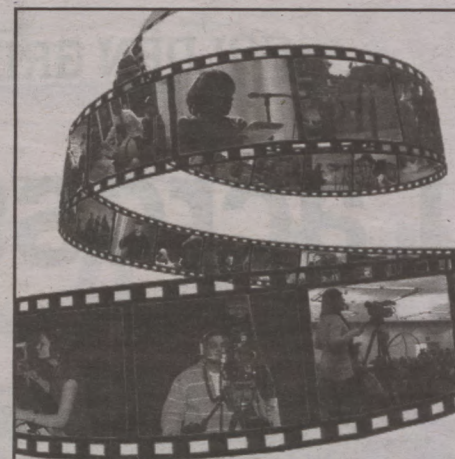
Two players that will factor into the future of Oakland's basketball program are freshman Ledrick Eackles and Drew Valentine.

Eackles has proven to be a tenacious defender, constantly yelling and harassing players on the defensive end.

While posting up and overpowering other guards in the Summit League, Eackles has shown that he can score in the league. There was a stretch this season in which he scored 10 or more points in six of seven games, including a career-high 20 points versus UMKC.

With Nelson as the team's starting small forward, Valentine received sporadic minutes but played hard-nosed defense and seemed to be everywhere on the court when he played, allowing him to excel in multiple categories on the stat sheet.

"We've got a lot of good players coming back, but we lose two great leaders," Kampe said. "This offseason, we're going to have to figure out how to make up for that. But talent-wise, I feel really good about our talent."



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GOLDEN GRIZZLIES

COMING ATTRACTIONS

SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 24-30



Women's Lacrosse

3/25 vs. Central Michigan at 9:30 p.m.

Ultimate Sports Arena, Pontiac

3/28 at Michigan



Women's Tennis

3/27 vs. Wayne State at 2 p.m.

3/29 vs. Niagara at 11 a.m.

Baseball

3/24 at Toledo

3/27 at Michigan State

(double header)

3/30 at Western Michigan

Men's Golf

3/27 at Ball State (all day event)

3/28 at Ball State (all day event)

Softball

3/26 at Southern Utah

(double header)

3/27 at Southern Utah

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www.oakland.edu/csa

Student Activities and Leadership Awards

Nominate anyone who has positively affected OU's community, such as a student or Greek leader, student employee, faculty advisor, student/Greek organization, or club sport, you CAN nominate yourself! Awards Night - April 8th

Nominations due before 5pm, March 26th at the CSA office
www.oakland.edu/csa/lead

Saturday, March 27th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Tours of:
Eastern Market, Hamtramck
St. Florian Roman Catholic Church

Sign up at CSA Service Window

religion
and
society



ANNUAL OAKLAND UNIVERSITY PHOTO CONTEST

No entry fee!

Black & White or Color

Minimum 35 sq. in.

Forms and photographs due by Thursday April 1st

Information on CSA website under "Events" tab

For more information consult our website

www.oakland.edu/csa/

Nation | World

March 24, 2010

www.oaklandpostonline.com

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NIW BRIEFS

Source: Associated Press

3-23 | WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors are considering filing weapons charges against former top officials of the Blackwater Worldwide private security company over allegations they illegally stockpiled automatic rifles at the company's North Carolina headquarters. The Associated Press has learned. Senior Justice Department officials are reviewing a draft indictment against former president Gary Jackson, former Blackwater lawyer Andrew Howell, and a third man who used to work at the firm's armory, people close to the case told the AP. A decision is not expected until at least next month. Any indictment, even of former executives, would be unwelcome news at a company beleaguered since a 2007 shooting involving Blackwater guards in Baghdad left 17 people dead. Under a new name, Xe, the firm is trying to win Defense Department approval to train police in Afghanistan. The contract could be worth up to \$1 billion but has drawn the ire of some in Congress.

3-23 | KABUL — The new U.N. mission chief in Afghanistan said Tuesday that he backs the Afghan government's peace talks with a major Taliban-linked militant group. "The talks are helpful and should be supported," said Staffan de Mistura, who added that he is confident that Afghan President Hamid Karzai was working to reform the election process so that parliamentary elections in September will not be a repeat of last year's fraud-stained presidential ballot. In meetings with the Karzai government during his first week on the job, de Mistura said he was given strong assurances that a "major and constructive reshuffle" of the Afghan-run election commission was imminent. He said Karzai told him that the U.N. would choose the international members of the Electoral Complaints Commission, which oversees the Afghan elections and rules on the validity of votes cast. The makeup of both commissions was widely contested in the presidential ballot that led to Karzai's re-election.

3-23 | MEXICO CITY — Almost a year after President Barack Obama promised to be a "full partner" with Mexico in its battle against drug cartels, a team of U.S. Cabinet secretaries and other top advisers will look for ways to help Mexico strengthen its law enforcement and judicial systems in meetings Tuesday. The full day of U.S.-Mexico talks gained gravity after an American consulate worker, her husband and the husband of a Mexican employee were gunned down two weeks ago in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. Suspected drug gangsters chased down and opened fire on two SUVs carrying the families from a children's party, killing the adults and wounding two children. The sessions in Mexico City were planned months ago and will be led by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. "The tragic events in Juarez are just a reminder of the challenges that both countries face," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Arturo Valenzuela said during a press briefing in advance of the talks.

3-9 | MONTPELIER, Vt. — An 11-year-old from Connecticut has the most disgusting shoes in America. Trinette Robinson of Bristol, Conn., was crowned the winner of the 35th annual National Odor-Eaters Rotten Sneaker contest Tuesday in Montpelier, Vt. Her sneakers were judged the most vile on the basis of their condition and odor. She says she got them dirty by playing hard in Girl Scout Camp and doing community walks for charity. She was among nine kids ages 6 to 16 competing in the contest. She wins \$2,500 and an expenses-paid trip to New York City. The runner up was 6-year-old Madilyn Taylor of West Jordan, Utah.

Obama passes Health Care bill

By **MIKE ESPEJO**
Staff Reporter

After over a year of fierce debate between lawmakers, pundits and citizens, the House of Representatives adopted President Obama's health care reform bill Sunday night.

The final vote of 219 yeas and 212 nays was calculated late Sunday to the sound of House Democrats cheering Obama's campaign mantra, "Yes we can!"

The president signed the historic bill Tuesday, surrounded by members of Congress and other Americans who will benefit from the coming reform.

Before he signed the bill, Obama said, "All of the overheated rhetoric over reform will finally confront the reality of reform."

The \$940 billion bill constitutes the largest expansion of federal health care in more than four decades and is projected to extend insurance coverage to nearly 32 million Americans.

Among other changes, citizens will now be required to purchase health care, while larger employers will have to provide health insurance to their employees.

Insurance companies will also be barred from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions or gender.

Dr. Nancy Jansen, nurse practitioner and director of Graham Health Center at Oakland University, feels the coming changes will undoubtedly benefit students.

"One of the most important things in the bill are the changes in preventative care policies," said Jansen. "Students won't have to pay co-pays or deductibles on important things like vaccinations, including Gardasil and flu shots."

She also praised the changes in how long children and young adults can be dependent on their parents' insurance policies.

"Although a lot of OU students are still on their parents' plans, other students who are in and out of school due to illness and other factors won't be able to get kicked off their parents' plans," Jansen said.

"Health care is a right, not a privilege," said Jansen. "Here at Graham, it's about students and getting them the health care they deserve."

Republicans have vowed to continue fighting the reform, with 13 states planning to sue the federal government, challenging the constitutionality of the bill's authority to require citizens to purchase health insurance.

Michigan Attorney General and GOP gubernatorial nominee Mike Cox joined the effort to fight the bill, sending a letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi telling her about the planned lawsuits.

According to Cox, the bill is an "unprecedented overreach by Congress and the President."

Dr. Peter Trumbore, political science professor at OU, downplayed the threats coming from the GOP.

"I don't see it as an actual option," said Trumbore. "In Cox's case, I feel he's just being an opportunist. I don't see this as a real threat to the bill or to the Democratic party."

He added, "The bill is going to work its way through. It's a done deal."

President Obama will begin the process of selling the reforms to the public with a speech in Iowa City, Iowa this Thursday, according to Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

"I don't think it will be too hard to sell to the non-Tea Party public," said Trumbore. "By the time people get to the polls in 2012, they will have only seen positive changes."

While the bill is a clear victory for Obama and Democrats in Congress, the public supports the passage by a thin margin.

According to Gallup polling, 49 percent of American adults think the passing of the bill was a "good thing," while 40 percent are opposed.

Oakland University junior and political science major Maxx Lesnick said that although the passage of the bill is a good step toward progress, there is still room for improvement.

"The bill is a bit too watered-down," he said. "It's a little too conservative for me, but it's a step in the right direction."

Once the bill is sent to the Senate, it must stay there for 20 hours of debate.

If any part of the package is rejected or changed, it would have to go back to the House for another round of voting.

13 states file suit against new HC bill

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**
Associated Press writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The White House says it isn't worried that 13 state attorneys general are suing to overturn the massive health care overhaul, and many legal experts agree the effort is futile.

But the lawsuit, filed in federal court seven minutes after President Barack Obama signed the 10-year, \$938 billion health care bill, underscores the divisive-

ness of the issue and the political rancor that has surrounded it.

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum led the effort to file the suit that claims Congress doesn't have the constitutional right to force people to get health coverage. It also says the federal government is violating the Constitution by forcing a mandate on the states without providing resources to pay for it.

"To that I say, 'Bring it on,'" said White House domestic policy chief Melody Barnes, who cited similar

suits filed over Social Security and the Voting Rights Act when those were passed. "If you want to look in the face of a parent whose child now has health care insurance and say we're repealing that ... go right ahead."

A 14th state, Virginia, did not join the bigger lawsuit, but filed its own, which other states are also considering.

All the attorneys general are Republican except James "Buddy" Caldwell of Louisiana, a Democrat.

Mouthing Off

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

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March 24, 2010

A who cares on health care

Mouthing Off is giving you a healthy dose of opinion about Obama's new bill

By DAN SIMONS

Mouthing Off editor / "Doctor Dan-o"

Instead of watching the health care bill get passed on Sunday night, I was out at a bar, putting greasy french fries in my belly, processing alcohol through my liver, and punishing my ears with loud noise, all while permeating my lungs with second hand smoke.

Clearly, I'm the guy to talk to about health care.

Facebook: Infirmary of info

When I came home I checked my Facebook and let my friends tell me what happened. Watching a news event unfold on Facebook is like hearing a crazy man screaming on the streets of a crowded city ... and he has lots of friends. And they are screaming together in angry unison.

In the future, students working on history projects about the early 21st century will be able to look up social networking sites from an exact date and see people's first reaction. Journalism has often been called the first draft of history — Facebook is saying your idea out loud before you write it down.

The feed contained such gems as: "i honestly do not care if some people do not have health care, but oh well, gj freeloaders," "wow, thanks Obama for...nothing," and "hey Nancy Pelosi, your a (expletive) bitch." Nine people liked that one, in spite of the wrong form of "you're."

"So since being a doctor got tossed out the window last night....new career idea?" said my one friend, a medical student. That would be like me dropping out of the journalism program just because Glenn Beck is still allowed to be on TV.

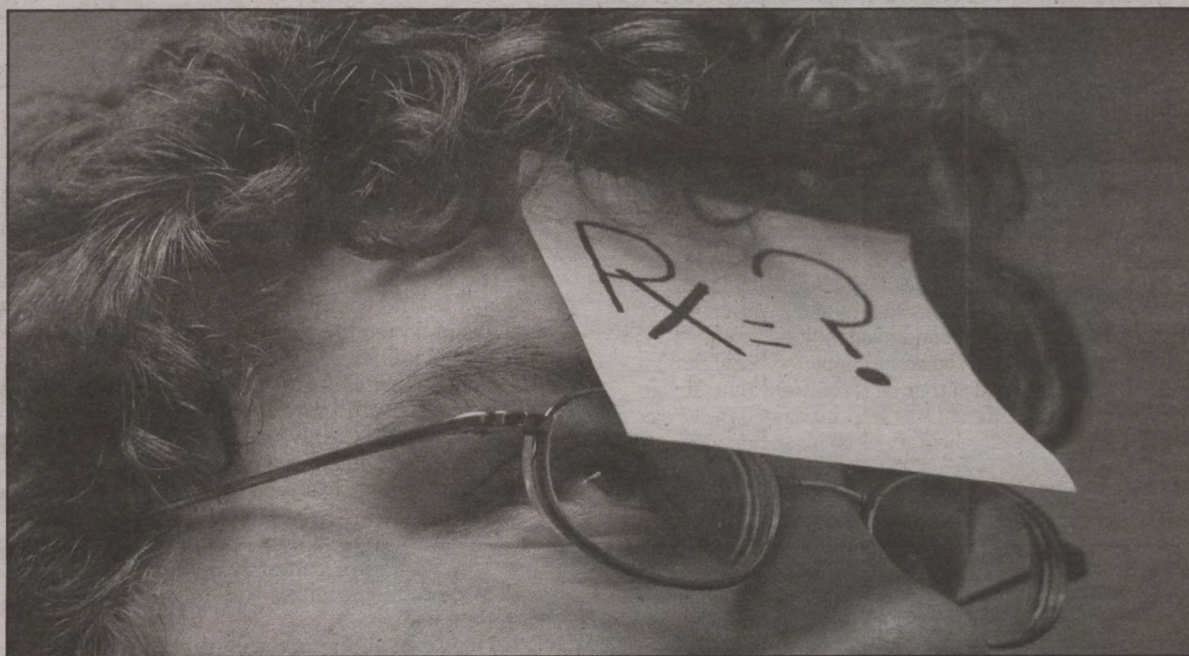
But for every person I knew against the bill, there were just as many people for the bill. People were strongly divided about it, and I didn't know a damned thing about the bill.

The plague of politics

After the 2008 election, every brain cell I had devoted to politics packed its bags and left, leaving a decimated wasteland of apathy in my head. It takes about four years for this place to regrow, so when someone throws something political at me, I can't cognate an intelligent response. Maybe I should have a doctor look at this part of my brain, because isn't it free now?

Part of the reason this health care thingy is getting so much attention is because of how split apart it has made the country. From my understanding, which includes pretending to listen to people who know about this sort of thing, the entire voting process boiled down to people voting on what their party wanted, and not what they thought was best. There was also a jousting match between gorillas but I may have daydreamed that part.

If this whole thing was just a shouting match between two parties, couldn't they have gone about it doing something awesome? Which ever party donates the most money to charity wins, maybe? Using your democratic



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

It's never a good idea to take doctor advice on a Post-It note. However, laughter is the very best medicine, making Mouthing Off healthy!

right to vote is overrated anyways, maybe organize a huge pillow fight in the congressional chamber? I'd watch C-SPAN for that.

"Dr. Simons to the ER ..."

If anyone should be up to date on health care, it really should be me. I've had a pitchfork impaled into my thigh, sliced my thumb open with a Swiss Army knife, I found out you can overdose on Red Bull, and I once accidentally hit a man in the face with a hammer. Total accident. Seriously.

"Throw some dirt on it and stop crying" isn't going to cut it all the time. Eventually I will have to go to the hospital for something and will need to know if I'm covered or not. With my luck I will eventually wind up in Beer Lake or need my stomach pumped trying to redefine "All you can eat" at Buffalo Wild Wings.

One of these days I will sit down with all the information I can get and get myself learned about this health care stuff. Right after I learn why my car makes this loud wheezing noise when I drive faster than 52 miles per hour and why my cat's right eye looks funny. Does this health care thing cover pets too?

The good, the bad, and the sick

I know this bill will make people happy. There are thousands of people who work really hard only to be screwed over when an accident happens and the giant evil insurance companies run by Darth Vader proteges make them pay an arm and a leg to fix either an arm

and/or a leg.

I know this bill will make people upset. There are thousands of lazy people waiting for another government hand out so that they can feed the hive of kids they had because they were too uneducated to use protection and figured the more spawns, the more money.

Maybe I would know more about this whole thing if the people on TV didn't spend so much time talking about how much Democrats and Republicans hate each other and actually gave me a decent run down of what all this stuff means, I'd be more in the know. Whatever. I'll be taking their jobs from them soon.

Money and politics, math and medicine ... I don't need a physician telling me this will all give me a headache (now free of cost!) The truth is that no matter what reforms we do to health care, how we go about keeping the people of this country healthy, or what political ramifications this has, no health care bill will help when the zombies come.

The final prescription

Yes, zombies. The real threat to America. All this bickering and fighting and confusion over health care won't amount to anything when an angry horde of undead smash the doors down to the Congress building and we have Senator BRAAAAAAINS roaming the streets. No amount of free or paid health care will help you when you get bit or are hunkered down in an old cabin in the woods.

Zombies, the real problem, folks. You've been warned.

Rory's bracket racket

By RORY McCARTY

Staff Reporter / OP's lead bracketologist

A week ago, our former sports editor Dan Fenner asked me to fill out a bracket for the NCAA tournament.

"OK," I said. "Also, what is that?"

Now, it's true that I know next to nothing about basketball, or sports in general. Based on what I've learned from playing NBA Jam on the Super Nintendo in my youth, a team of three different colored Dennis Rodmans should be unbeatable, except when your opponent is using Bill Clinton with the big head mode turned on, and he's on fire. So, I know at least that it involves former presidents doing quintuple front-flip slam dunks over your head.

In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find someone less qualified to fill out an NCAA bracket. If it came down to me and a 3-year old who thought the bracket sheet was a maze on his placemat at Big Boy, I'd probably still lose.

However! I CAN figure with little effort whether a badger or a terrier would win in a fight, so that qualifies me to fill out my brackets based not on logic, but on theories about which feral animal representing each college would win in a fight. I present: my mascot tournament bracket.

FIRST ROUND Syracuse Oranges versus the Vermont Catamounts. I actually started to look up catamounts to find out what they were, but I quickly came to my senses. The oranges? Really? Not even the "fightin' oranges"? I have trouble thinking of anything that could possibly lose to an orange in a no-holds-barred brawl, even a cute anthropomorphic human-sized orange with arms and features.

The Kansas State Wildcats meanwhile face off against the North Texas Mean Green — wait, what? That's not a thing, it's a color. Regardless of how angry it is, I see no way a color can win. This happens again when the Cornell Big Red faces off against the Temple Owls. Big Red could possibly be chewing gum, but still can't hope to win against an owl with angry eyebrows.

Other shenanigans afoot include a fight between two tigers, one from Clemson and one from Missouri. I'm calling this one a draw, because either way, the winner is mauled tigers. Then the Texas A&M Aggies do battle with the Utah State Aggies. I'm fairly sure those are both rocks, or marbles. Our campus editor, Kay Ngyuen advised me to "give it to the Mormons." So Utah State wins that fight, knowing full well they will be demolished by a train soon.

Holy crap. The Purdue Boilermakers are trains? I thought they were like, boil-in-bag rice or something. Can we end this now? I think a train will pretty much win the entire tournament easy.

Other no-contest fights include the Runnin' Rebels versus the Panthers (you can't outrun a panther, rebels), Bears versus Bearcats (assuredly some kind of bear and cat taped together for double violence), and Cougars versus Terrapins (whether Cougars are the giant cats or the older women, they can take out a turtle easily).

SECOND ROUND I struggled with the match-up of Arkansas Gold Lions versus the California Gold Bears. First, I had to establish the nature of golden animals. Are they mystical? Are they normal animals, simply painted gold? Are they cartoon animals, like the bear on the box of Golden Crisp?

I gave the Gold Bears the nod in this round, however OU's own Golden Grizzlies were unfortunately shot to death by the Xavier Musketeers, having just shot the Minnesota Gophers.

Another tough one was East Tennessee State Buccaneers and the Wake Forest Demon Deacons. Pirates fighting demons is something I've oft thought about, and doodled in the margin of my spiral notebooks. I can safely tell you that the demons always win.

The Oklahoma Cowboys get a free pass this round, since last round the Santa Barbara Gauchos ate the Ohio State Buckeyes and killed them both. The Florida Gators advance after eating the Wildcats and the Cougars in this round. Finally, Florida State Seminoles beat whatever a Catamount is.

SWEET 16 I figured the Notre Dame Irish would face the Saint Mary's Gaels in a close match-up, both being from the British Isles. However, the battle tips in the Gaels favor when the Irish start to question why their name is French. It doesn't matter anyway. The Gaels get hit by a train next round.

Aztecs versus the Cowboys. I gave the Cowboy the edge for his superior shooting technology, though he'll die in the next round due to Montezuma's revenge.

The Musketeers versus Gators match was an upset to be sure. I know you're thinking nothing can possibly beat the Musketeer, but unfortunately he used up all his ammo in the first rounds, forcing him to fight with a bayonet and ultimately wrestle the gator. It doesn't work out for him.

FINAL FOUR It's Spartans, Miners, Demons, and Trains in the final matches. But who am I kidding? They all get hit by trains and die. It's going to be the trains. Er, Boilermakers.

A PROPOSAL I think the key to winning in the NCAA is having a mascot that is strong, but with longevity. You can't just call yourselves the Hydrogen Bombs, because after one round you'd be too exploded to fight. That's why I propose OU changing its mascot to the Chainsaw-Hands Robot. There's no way we could lose ... at my brackets

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Student Liason
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Term of Office:

- July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 or 2012
- Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- Must have earned 56 undergraduate or 18 graduate credit hours (of which 28 are at Oakland University)
- Must not hold any major elected campus office

Applications available at:

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Student Congress Office - 62 Oakland University
Center for Student Activities - 49 Oakland Center

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

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