

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 37 // Issue 27



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this week

March 23 — March 29, 2011



Female talent show // Tuesday, March 22

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Former Oakland University student Olivia Pizzo performed at the Declarations of Desires all-female talent show in the Pioneer Food Court. Seen performing with Hula-Hoops here, Pizzo also demonstrated her unique ability to eat shards of broken lightbulb, a talent she picked up a month ago. Other performers included singers, gymnasts and instrumentalists.



6 **CAMPUS //** The four vice presidential candidates debated on parking, the cost of food and Greek involvement Friday in the Fireside Lounge.



8 **CAMPUS //** An English 200 class spent three days assisting the Salvation Army in Pontiac as it moved locations.



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have to say.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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STAFF EDITORIAL

A conflict of interest

There's a reason parents don't let kids decide their own bedtimes. They'd never go to bed.

The same logic should be applied to Oakland University Student Congress' control over the student activities fee.

On March 7, the Student Activity Fund Assessment Committee passed a proposal to up the student activities fee to \$30 from \$25.

A week later, it passed a proposal to support giving The Oakland Post an additional 1 percent of the fund—0.2 percent would be taken each from OUSC, Student Activities Funding Board, Student Program Board, Student Video Productions and the special projects fund.

The 0.2 percent transfer from the special projects fund was approved.

At its Monday meeting, the OUSC legislature voted to prevent the rest of the proposal from appearing on the upcoming election ballot.

Only the former proposal, however, will be on the ballot during student elections March 28-30 (see our center spread on pages 12 and 13 to read about that).

Student body president Brandon Gustafson argued that multiple proposals on a similar issue would confuse students

and that we should stick to a "straightforward" ballot.

Understandable. But it shouldn't be up to OUSC what would or would not confuse students.

What's really confusing is why it's up to OUSC, which takes a 16 percent cut of the student activities fund, to determine the future of a SAFAC proposal anyway.

A proposal's fate should not be decided by a group who has a stake in the issue.

We have no reason to believe OUSC's vote was financially motivated, but regardless of who would be gaining or losing percentages, a proposal's fate shouldn't be left up to a group who has a stake in the issue. That's a clear conflict of interest.

If a proposal reaches the ballot, students would then vote on it, but students won't get that opportunity with this SAFAC proposal.

Are you following this process clearly? Don't worry. We couldn't either as it unfolded before us.

This editorial isn't about whether The Oakland Post deserved an additional 1 percent; it's about the convoluted process of placing items similar to it onto the ballot.

The committee is made up of eight voting members who represent each of the directly funded organizations.

In addition to The Oakland Post and OUSC, WXOU radio, SVP, SPB, Student Life Lecture Board, the Student Activities Funding Board and club sports each have a representative on the committee.

Each year, the committee meets in order to update other organizations and their advisers. It is an evaluation of sorts of how student activity fee money is used.

All changes to percentage divisions must first be approved through a vote done by SAFAC. If passed, it then goes to OUSC's legislature for further approval.

Granting OUSC that authority is as arbitrary as allowing the members of any of the other SAFAC organizations to decide on the fate of a measure proposed at these meetings.

There is no need for an intermediary between SAFAC and students.

Did you ever have to ask your siblings for five more minutes of TV time before your parents decided on that bedtime?

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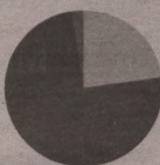
Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.

Poll
- of the -
Week

3.23.11

Last Week's Poll

Who should have the responsibility of accommodating test takers with special needs?



- Classroom Instructors
20 votes / 23%
- Disability Support Services
65 votes / 75%
- Other
2 votes / 2%

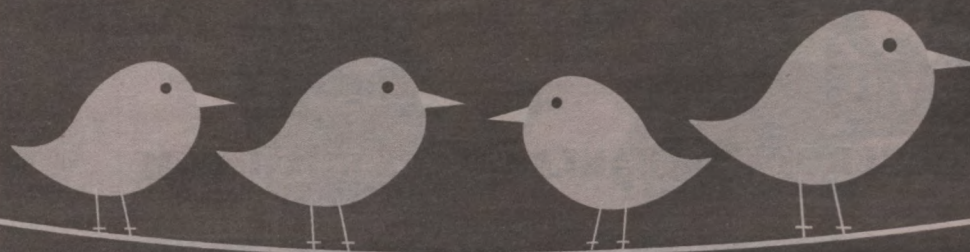
This Week's Poll

Are you voting in next week's OUSC elections?

- YES
- NO

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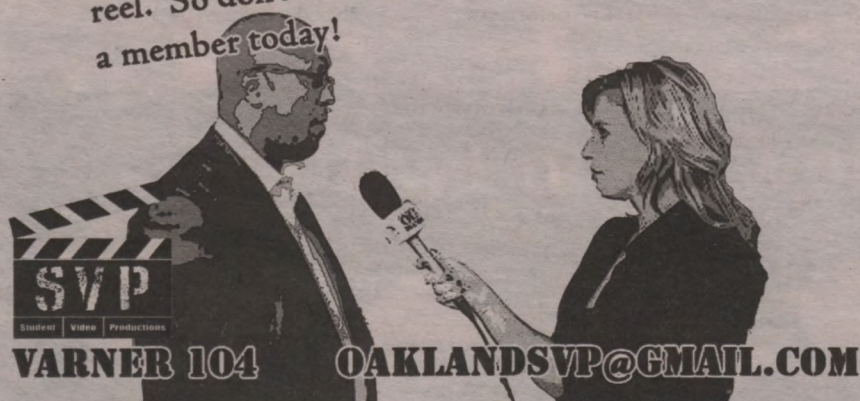


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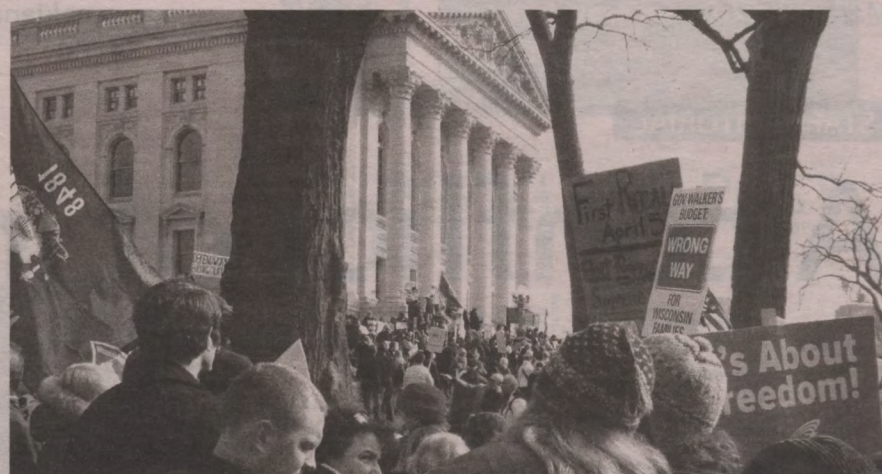
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If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oakland-postonline.com or call 248.370.4268.



Wisconsin protests bring voices together and unify

It was early for a Saturday morning — 5:30 a.m. — and we were excited. It was time to get ready to return to Michigan Education Association headquarters even though it seemed as if we had just left.

The meeting of the board of directors had adjourned after 8 p.m. the previous evening and we had stopped for dinner on the way to the hotel.

It had been just midweek when MEA board members and local union presidents had received an invitation from the MEA to a rally scheduled in Madison, Wisconsin scheduled for March 12.

Three full buses departed Lansing at 7 a.m. Two were filled with board members and presidents and one with MEA staff. A fourth bus departed from the UP. Spirits were high as we sang and composed chants along the way. We arrived in Madison at 2 p.m. — one hour ahead of schedule.

Our group left the buses and joined the procession to the gathering area. Oh my, the cheers, tears and thanks we received from the Wisconsinites lining the route.

It wasn't until we walked around the capital and then onto the lawn that we fully realized the size of the crowd. We have been told it numbered over 100,000. The streets surrounding the capital were filled with people as far as one could see.

The crowd consisted of people from all walks of life — union members, students, seniors, farmers, police and firefighters. It was colorful. There were costumes and homemade signs.

The sun was shining, but it was cold and windy and muddy. The crowd was orderly and united.

Speakers included the "Wisconsin 14,"



Susan Russell
Guest Columnist /
University Employee

the Senators who had gone into hiding to try to prevent the vote to take away bargaining rights from taking place.

This was a historic event. It wasn't just a "union" issue. It was about the rights and respect of all workers. It was about awakening the voice of the silent majority — the workers that built America. It was to defend labor, sustain the middle class and prevent a plutocracy. We were proud and considered it a privilege to be a part of this event. It was solidarity at its best and it was most humbling.

We boarded the buses and departed for Michigan at 6 p.m. Many had driven their own cars to Madison, as well, after learning there were no more available seats on the buses.

We arrived at headquarters at 3:30 a.m. with two hours lost due to the rolling forward of our clocks that morning and the time zone change from Wisconsin. Participants said "good morning" and departed for home. It had been a wonderful experience and we MEA members were proud.

We had shown our strength and unity.

We had used our voices to assist others in their fight to save the middle class.

'Egypt is not Las Vegas'

Pulitzer prize-winning Thomas Friedman speaks at Oakland

By KATIE JACOB

Copy Editor

Recently returned from covering the news of revolution spreading across the Middle East, New York Times Foreign Affairs columnist Thomas Friedman told the audience at the O'rena Monday night that he was going to "wing it" and talk about his trip.

"For those who think they were baited and switched" — "Hot, Flat and Crowded" was the title of the lecture — he said he would talk about that, too.

The lecture, originally scheduled for Feb. 8, had to be postponed. Friedman told the audience that he was in Egypt for the final nine days of the revolt that culminated in the fall of President Hosni Mubarak.

"Nine days at Tahrir Square was the most amazing story I've ever covered," Friedman said.

On Feb. 8 he posted from Cairo:

"... In 40 years of writing about the Middle East I have never seen anything like what is happening..."

During the talk, he explained that the incident in Egypt will not be isolated.

"Egypt is not Las Vegas," he said. "What happens there will not stay there."

Friedman, who was thrice-awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the Middle East, told an audience of students, faculty and members of the community that for the last 50 years, "America, Europe and Asia have treated the Arab world as a collection of big gas stations."

He said that what we're seeing today in the Middle East is a result of what was going on behind those "gas stations."

He said the people in the region were no longer willing to put up with the corrupt governments and the impoverished conditions under which they were forced to live.

He pointed out that Egypt had a huge population of educated young people who couldn't find jobs and that there was "no more dangerous, frustrated group than the educated unemployed."

He said that social media like Facebook and Twitter for the first time allowed youth to communicate, where before they could only gather in mosques.

Friedman said the people took down the regime, "not for us, but for themselves."

He said the election of President Obama inspired them.

He said we should help them. He has suggested that if we change our energy policy — if, for example, you put a \$1-a-gallon tax on gasoline we would buy more alternatively fueled cars — it would free Americans to openly push for democratic values in the Middle East without worrying about our oil interests.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Thomas Friedman addresses the audience in the O'rena on Monday. He spoke about his time in Egypt last month.

Iraq War

Friedman was an early supporter of the Iraq war as a means to promote democracy in the Middle East.

Paul Kubicek, professor of political science at OU, said, "I think that he's one of, sort of, these liberal hawks who, for human rights ... got involved in Iraq so Iraq could at least have a chance at a better future in terms of our engagement."

"Of course," Kubicek said, "people disagree with him."

Kubicek said that while Friedman had been a cheerleader early on, he had tempered his enthusiasm.

"He did not exactly repudiate his views. I did not see him say that the war in Iraq was 100 percent a mistake ... Maybe he had a change of heart," Kubicek said.

Friedman said Monday night that he supported the Iraq war for democracy reasons. He said the saddest thing about Iraq was how many people wanted the U.S. to get it right.

"Do you think they like living under these regimes?" he asked. He said he never did the "I sinned, I'm sorry" (about promoting the war), but that "we made a god-awful mess of it."

Friedman said he was weary of the U.S. attacks on Libya.

"If I learned anything about Iraq from that experience, (it is) don't go to war unless you are really 100 percent commit-

ted," Friedman said.

Hot, Flat and Crowded

Friedman said the world is getting hot.

"We're caught right now, as a world, in two feedback loops," he said.

An inner loop, he explained, where higher energy prices lead to higher food prices lead to political instability leads to higher energy prices, and an outer loop, where small changes in temperature have huge climate effects.

He said the world is getting flat. There are more and more people who can see how we live and want to live like we do.

And the world is getting crowded. He said that there are 6.8 billion people on the planet today and that there will be 9.2 billion by 2050.

"The energy and resource implications will be staggering," he said.

Friedman said that the United States has no energy policy, that we need a new feedback loop, new policy.

Friedman said we need a mass emphasis on energy and efficiency.

We need pricing that will drive industry to produce the products and consumers to use them and mass investment to create clean technology.

campus briefs

Authors at Oakland

The Senate Library Committee is honoring the recent journal publications of Oakland's faculty. The event takes place Wednesday, March 23 from 2-4 p.m. on the fourth floor of Kresge Library. Jeffrey Insko, associate professor of English, and Laura Pittiglio, associate professor of Nursing will both speak on their articles.

Benjamin Pierce concert

Benjamin Pierce will be giving a free tuba and euphonium performance in Varner Recital Hall from 8-10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29. For more information call 248-370-3321.

SEHS academic forum

The School of Education and Human Services will be holding an academic forum on Thursday, March 31 from 2-4 p.m. in 220 Pawley Hall. Various speakers will be featured. For more information, contact Holly Smith at 248-370-3045.

Poetry Slam

Kresge Library will be holding a poetry slam from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 7. Poets are asked to bring two poems and prizes are available for the best poetry. For more information, contact Anne Switzer at 248-370-2475.

Kicks for Kidneys

The Phi Sigma Sigma sorority will be holding a Kicks for Kidneys kickball tournament on Saturday, April 9 from 2-6 p.m. with proceeds benefiting the National Kidney Foundation. For more information, contact Shelby Bludworth at 248-659-7111.

— Compiled by Kevin Graham,
Staff Intern

Degree in Three offers alternative

By ALI ARMSTRONG

Staff Reporter

Incoming freshmen can now plan out their college education in even quicker time. Oakland University recently launched the Degree in Three program, which is set to launch this fall.

Degree in Three is designed for students looking for a fast-track to complete their bachelor's degree. The program offers 19 majors, mostly through the College of Arts and Sciences, where students can earn their degree in three years. Some of the available majors include biology, economics, communications and political science.

"The idea here is to give students a quicker head start on their higher education or post-graduate work, and the way they do that is by taking courses throughout the year," Dave Groves, assistant director of media relations, said.

With this program, students will be taking courses through all fall, winter, spring and summer semesters. As a member of the program, a student can enjoy priority registration to ensure their registration for required courses. The program also provides cost-cutting benefits for both commuting students as well as students who live on campus.

"If you're a student who is living on campus, then this saves you a year's worth of room and board. If you're a student who is commuting, then it's a years worth of commuting cost. Really the bigger advantage is just timeliness," Groves said.

OU has also ensured that students who enroll in the program and receive financial aid will be able to use their financial aid for all semesters, including spring and summer semesters.

Students who have earned college credits from advanced placements courses, international baccalaureate or dual enrollment can apply those credits towards their degree, possibly earning their degree in less than three years.

The program is targeted at incoming students. Participants must enter the program during their first semester. Students must also have at least a 3.6 high school GPA or higher, as well as a composite ACT score of 25 or higher.

"Because this is academically rigorous, the students need to be well accustomed. Basically right when they come to the university, they need to step in with both feet. Students who are closer to average, or who need more time study, this is not going to be an ideal program for them," Groves said.

Admissions and marketing directors are

currently communicating with high school guidance counselors and parent groups about Degree in Three.

"I think that the Degree in Three program is an excellent way for people to finish their college education if they just want to get college over with ... or miss any opportunities that may immediately come in three years instead of four," Utica High School senior Heather Rochon said.

If incoming students meet the criteria for the program, they will be considered for admission to the program, and will be set to receive information where they can decide if they would like to apply. A n application deadline for the fall is yet to be determined.

Colleges and universities around the country are looking into offering programs similar to Degree in Three to students.

"We haven't been able to get a real clear picture on who's offering it and who's not, but it's limited ... this is a growing trend across the country. It's still not common by any means, but more and more colleges are looking at offering this program," Groves said.

More information on the Degree in Three program and application opportunities can be seen on the Degree in Three website at www.oakland.edu/degreeinthree

VP candidates debate Greek life, parking

By ALI ARMSTRONG

Staff Reporter

Oakland University Student Congress vice presidential hopefuls squared off Friday in the Fireside Lounge from 12-1 p.m. during the vice presidential debate.

About 20 students gathered in the Fireside Lounge for food and politics as each candidate discussed their campaign promises and plans. Christine Stover, communications instructor and faculty adviser for WXOU, moderated the debate.

In addition to all four vice presidential candidates, all of the presidential candidates were in attendance with the ex-

ception of Benjamin Eveslage, who was in Washington, D.C. for OU Day at the Capitol.

Questions were submitted by the audience as well as the moderator, and asked candidates to introduce their platform, touch on their initiatives for OU, insights to issues like parking and visible changes they would like to see made to campus.

Each candidate referenced to their platform and each spoke of changes they would initiate as student body vice president.

Elisa Malile spoke of improvement to the public relations efforts on campus, Ryan Rott spoke of a more united student body, Brett McIsaac spoke of local advertising and Eric

Sturgis mentioned increased funding for student organizations.

The candidates were also asked to address concerns of integrating OU into surrounding communities more as well as their plans to help Greek life on campus. Five of the eight candidates running have Greek affiliation.

Rott, who is a member of Sigma Pi, said he would like to see an increase of Greek involvement on campus. Malile, who is a member of Phi Sigma Sigma, would like to see an expansion of Greek life through increased recruitment and events on Greek row. McIsaac, who is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon,

spoke of incorporating more Greek students into OUSC as well as coordinating events with Greek organizations. Sturgis said he would like to see more Greek representation in OUSC as well as collaborations with Greek organizations for campus events.

Candidates were also asked to explain the role of student body vice president, sacrifices they would have to make as a result of being elected vice president and the importance of diversity.

The presidential debate will be held Wednesday, March 23 in the Fireside Lounge from 12-1 p.m. Voting will run from March 28-30.

Students honored with awards

By KAITLYN CHORNOBY

Scene Editor

Established in 1965, the Wilson Awards recognize graduating seniors — one male and one female — who have contributed as scholars and leaders to the Oakland University community.

The winners for the 2010-11 school year are Marta Bauer, majoring in English, and Stephen Parker, a mechanical engineer major. They will both be officially recognized for their achievement at the board of trustees meeting on March 30.

Bauer had high hopes that she would be the recipient of the prestigious award.

"I think what really set me apart was the fact that Oakland has given me a lot," she said. "Leadership has never been for what I can put on a résumé, but how I can pay back the university for everything it has done for me."

Bauer participated in the Honors College, Career Services, orientation and new student programs as well as housing and welcome receptions, to name a few. She contributes her interaction with the OU community to the fact that she wanted to meet a lot of people.

Parker said that one could get a feel for his achievements and why he deserved the award based on the contents of his résumé.

"The piece you don't get out of it, though, is the passion, which is what I think really brought it full circle."

Parker has worked with Society of Automotive Engineers for over three years and helped change the organization completely,

growing from nine members in 2008 to 40 this year. Parker said SAE is where he flourished and continued developing his interest in delegating and bringing people together for a common goal.

"As a leader, you have the ability to be infectious and get people involved with things that they might want to get involved with but they're not sure how to give them a role or define the piece of the pie that they can be responsible for," Parker said.

Parker was involved with the Residence Hall Council, a member of Honors College as Cell Group Leader and the supplemental instruction leader for Nursing Chemistry, for which he was awarded the SI Leader of the Year award.

Parker said he hopes he has left his mark at OU, but doesn't feel like he is finished just yet.

"I don't intend to stop here," he said. "There are so many things I wanted to do while I was here that I never got to do. I'm either going to have to take classes or get ridiculously involved with the Alumni Association. I think it's probably going to be both."

Bauer and Parker both expressed great gratitude for being the recipients of the award and honored to be recognized for the things they loved to do.

"I can't tell you how great it feels to be honored for things I've done," Parker said, "but it's one of those things to say, 'Hey, this kid did something while he was here. Go do something while you're here.'"

Read the complete story about the winners of the Wilson Awards by visiting [oaklandpostonline.com/topics/campus](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com/topics/campus)

police files

Wild turkey trauma

On Sunday, March 20, the OUPD responded to a report regarding broken glass in the north hallway that connects Hannah and Dodge halls. It was reported that a wild turkey flew into one of the windows in the hallway, breaking the glass. Upon arrival, officers witnessed the stranded turkey that was unable to make its way back outside. Officers flushed the bird outside through opened doors, in a humane manner.

Bloodied window

On Friday, March 18, the OUPD received a report about a broken window in the 1000 building of the University Student Apartments. It was reported that there was blood on the glass, as well as blood splatters on the sidewalk area leading to the parking lot. The individual was not found. The ACA was notified as well as a mechanical assistant to fix the window.

Alerted to the Oakland Center

On Thursday, March 17, the OUPD assisted the Auburn Hills Fire Department on a call about a student who was feeling lightheaded and faint in the Oakland Center. Upon arrival, OUPD witnessed that the student was alert and had declined to be transported to a hospital. The student was taken to the OUPD station to be picked up by her father. While waiting for a ride, the student alerted the dispatch officer that her right hand and face were becoming numb and she felt nauseous. The AHFD returned upon request and transported the student to Crittenton Hospital.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Local Editor

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Women's History Month 2011: Express Yourself

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7:00pm - 9:00 p.m. - Hamlin Hall

Monday, March 28 - Women and Disabilities Forum
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English class assists Salvation Army relocation

By LAURYN ANDREWS
Staff Reporter

Oakland University students are making positive connections with community partners.

A group of 20 students from English Professor Rachel Smydra's English 200 class spent their 90 minutes of class time volunteering at the Salvation Army in Pontiac. During three class periods from March 15-22, students helped the Salvation Army settle into their new location off Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Students divided into groups and completed different tasks in preparation for the facility's grand opening. Some students helped to organize the center's food pantry, while others put a fresh coat of paint on the gymnasium's bleachers.

Professor Smydra uses the service learning experience as a way to teach her class persuasive writing strategies.

In English 200: Blogging as Literary Self-Narrative, students look at how traditional self-narrative genres entertain, engage, teach and persuade readers.

"Using these traditional texts, we then look at the medium of blogging to see how our voices translate when the immediacy of an audience comes into play," Smydra said.



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

Students help organize the food pantry at the Salvation Army for their English class.

By giving students the opportunity to volunteer at the Salvation Army they are able to utilize their hands on experience and apply it to classroom strategies.

"We are using this experience as a common experience so that when we come back to the classroom next week we will

start talking about persuasive strategies," Smydra said. "In order for them to persuade someone how to do something, I think it is important that you first go through the experience and then talk about how we felt, what we thought and decide how to craft a post on a blog that attracts someone in the

OU community."

Smydra said groups of four to five students will collaborate and create a blog geared toward a specific audience.

Students can create a blog that persuades OU students to volunteer at the Salvation Army or they can create blog that encourages a classroom discussion, Smydra said.

"With Pontiac only 10 minutes away, Oakland University students can find a wealth of opportunities to help strengthen the connection between the University and local residents and the blogs students create will try to inform and persuade readers to take action," Smydra said.

Larissa Dourjalian, one of Smydra's English 200 students said the volunteer experience was wonderful.

"Not only have I gotten to know my classmates better, but I've really been able to help those who need it," Dourjalian said. "The most rewarding part of this experience has been the realization that there really are people out there who need my help and that they're so grateful for it. Interacting with all the people is just as rewarding as the work."

All of the student blogs created from Professor Smydra's English 200 class will be posted on **blogger.com** during the first week of April.

Students apply for marriage licenses as peaceful protest

By RHIANNON ZIELINSKI
Campus Editor

Four Oakland students were denied a marriage license Wednesday. The reason? Same-sex unions are not recognized in Michigan.

As a peaceful protest against the illegality of gay marriage, junior psychology majors Kelly Shaw and Alexa Van Vliet, and freshman linguistics major Mark Martinez and junior Japanese major Paul Pontois arrived at the Oakland County Clerk's office to apply for marriage licenses as same-sex couples.

"We were denied," Shaw said.

Shaw and Van Vliet were asked to provide their driver's licenses and birth certificates, leading them to believe they might succeed.

"She ended up going to talk to someone and they printed out the law in Michigan that says same-sex unions are not legal and brought it to us," Shaw said. "They only recognize the unique relationship between one man and

one woman."

Pontois and Martinez experienced a similar rejection to their request.

"The woman gave us a look because we were holding hands, and she's like, 'I'm sorry, we don't do that here,'" Pontois said. "So I asked, 'If I came here with this girl and didn't even know who she was, right off the street, I could marry her?' And she said 'yes'. That's really a kick to the face."

He said that this sort of answer is one of the reasons why they participated in the peaceful protest.

"It made me angry because I have to conform to the heterosexual norms in order to marry the one that I love," Pontois said. "It doesn't make any sense to me. I could pick up a hooker off the street and get married in the same night."

The two couples that participated are just friends, not actually dating, but held hands while in the courthouse.

"As we were standing there we did get a lot of looks because we

were holding hands," Van Vliet said. "I felt very sad because we're good people. We went there for something that seems easy enough. It wasn't like we were criminals. We didn't do anything wrong. But they said no."

All four students are active in the Gay Straight Alliance and frequent visitors of the Gender and Sexuality Center at OU. They said that some fellow students didn't participate because of scheduling conflicts, while others felt nervous about the idea.

"Unfortunately, not everybody can be out in the Center and so a lot of them are kind of afraid that somebody, maybe parents or friends, will get wind of it," Shaw said. "That's understandable."

They said they hope to make this an annual event so that more people can be involved.

"Next year we want to get as many people as possible so that we take up the whole line and person after person can say, 'We want to get a marriage license,'" Van Vliet said. "I think it would make a



Photo courtesy of Kelly Shaw

Alexa Van Vliet, Kelly Shaw, Paul Pontois and Mark Martinez gather outside the County Clerk's office prior to applying for a marriage license.

stronger statement if we had a lot of couples."

Pontois emphasized that even though he may not be ready to actually get married right now, he wants the option in the future.

"It's about visibility and making

sure that people know we exist and we're out there," Pontois said. "We're just college kids who want to get married one day and have families just like everybody else. Hopefully by the time we're ready to do that, we can."

End of the road for Oakland Grizzlies can't catch up to Texas in NCAA Tournament loss

By JAKE THIELEN

Sports Editor

It seemed so close. After trailing for much of the game, and by as much as 17 in the second half, a three-pointer by senior guard Larry Wright brought No. 13 seed Oakland University within just five points of No. 4 Texas with 1:22 remaining in the game.

However, it was not to be as another captivating season for the Grizzlies came to a disappointing end Friday afternoon as the Longhorns held on for an 85-81 victory in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Grizzlies had a chance to make it a one-possession game, but junior guard Reggie Hamilton's three-point attempt with 47 seconds left rattled in and out, allowing Texas to put the game out of reach at the foul line.

"All throughout the game you've got to have the confidence that every shot's going in," Hamilton said. "That's how the ball rolls sometimes. Unfortunately, that ball rimmed out."

Oakland coach Greg Kampe was particularly disappointed because he felt this team had a chance to make a postseason run.

"This is a team that I thought could get to the Sweet 16," Kampe said. "Our league's gotten so much better. Our league's good and people don't know it. The way they're going to find out is if a team like Oakland goes and wins in the Tournament. That's where the disappointment comes from."

Kampe said he was still surprised that Oakland drew the Longhorns for its opening game.

"We just got a bad draw," Kampe said. "We play everybody in the country. I know who

is good and who isn't — and that Texas team is as good as anybody. Texas can win the National Championship."

Kampe said Texas' defense and ability to bother Oakland's shooters was the difference in the game.

"If you would have told me that we were going to hold them to 85 points and we'd have 17 offensive rebounds and they'd have 15, I would tell you that we were going to win," Kampe said. "We just didn't make shots, and I think we might not have made shots because of their defense. Every shot we took was contested."

The Grizzlies took an early 7-4 lead, but Texas went on a 6-0 run and never relinquished the lead. Oakland trailed 46-38 at halftime, and saw that deficit climb to double-digits early in the second half.

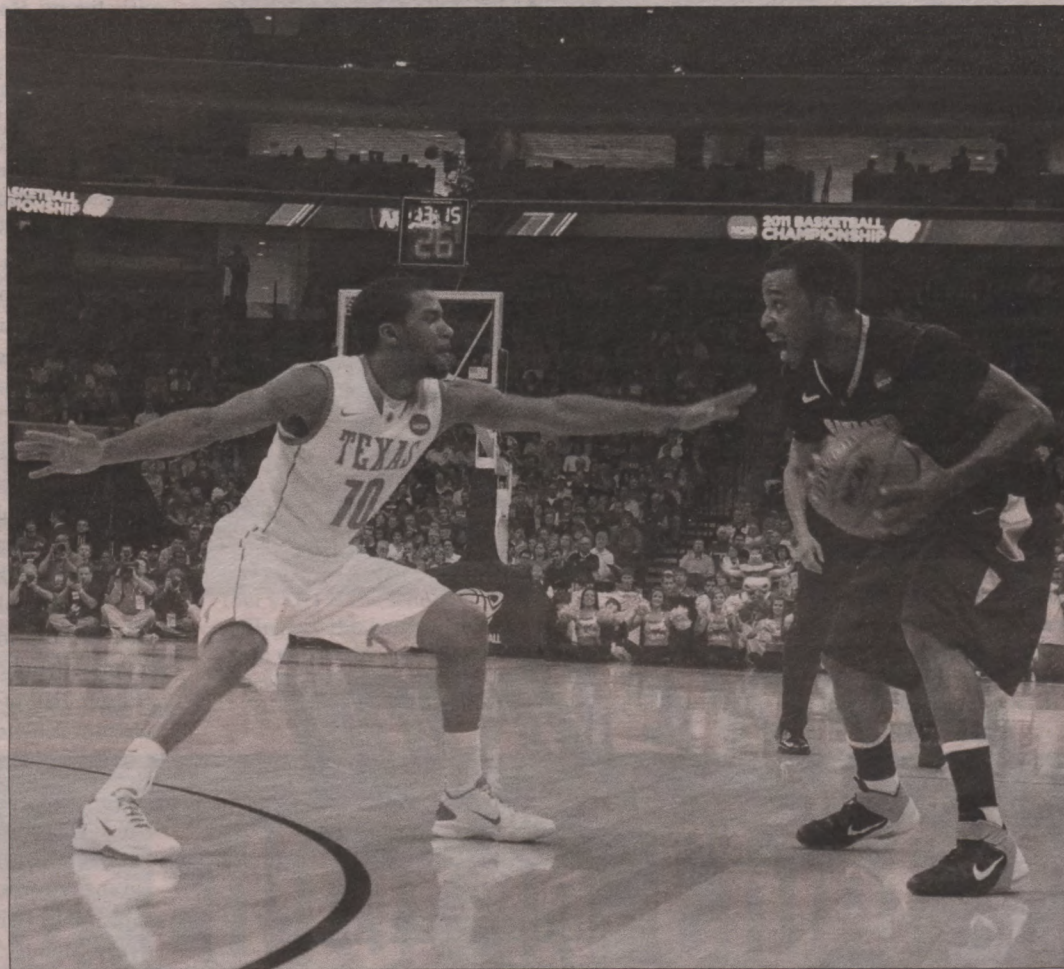
"Texas is a tough, great team," Hamilton said. "It all started in the first half. You know you make runs, everyone's going to make their run. Unfortunately, our run came too late."

Hamilton led Oakland with 25 points on 10-of-19 shooting, but he was just 2-of-9 from 3-point range. The Grizzlies shot only 24.1 percent as a team from beyond the arc.

"We had two or three go in and come out, but (Texas) really contested the three, and they can do that because if you get by them they can block shots, similar to at our level how we contest teams in our league," Kampe said. "If they get by us, (Keith) Benson's there to block shots."

In what turned out to be his final collegiate game, Benson scored 15 points and had 11 rebounds, his 20th double-double of the season.

Benson finishes his career as the Summit League's all-time lead-



KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post

The men's basketball team finished its season March 18 with an 85-81 loss to No. 4 seed Texas in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Grizzlies' 25-10 record was the second best in school history.

ing shot blocker with 371, and he ranks second all-time in rebounds.

Benson was matched up with the Longhorns' dynamic freshman center, Tristan Thompson, for most of the game.

"(Thompson) has long arms and he goes hard to the offensive boards, so as a team we really had to focus on him a lot," Benson said. "He had some good shot blocking skills, so I just tried to battle with him and keep him off the boards."

Senior forward Will Hudson had a double-double of his own with 14 points and 10 rebounds,

while Wright added eight points.

Kampe said saying goodbye to Benson and the other seniors will be difficult.

"Our university owes (the seniors) a great debt," Kampe said. "I'm so fortunate to have coached them."

"To see a kid like Benson come through, and when David Stern yells his name with the whatever pick in the first round, I'm going to be the happiest Oakland University employee in America because these guys have done great things for our university."

The loss dropped Oakland to 1-3 all-time in the NCAA Tournament, and 0-3 in its last three tournament games.

"Last year I was upset about the way we finished against Pitt, and I watch coaches at these things and how they look like they're going to cry and all that," Kampe said. "It's a tough business, but I'm going to tell you something. I love this basketball team. It was a great year for Oakland University, just a great year. So I guess I'm going to cry too, because I hate that it's over."

festival WRITERS

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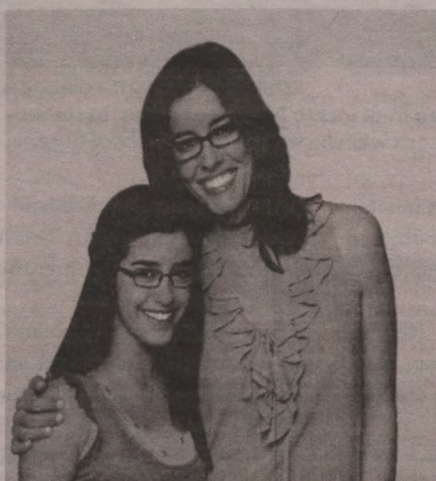
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Wings' goaltending not a pressing issue

COLUMN

The Red Wings will win a Stanley Cup with Jimmy Howard as their goaltender. There, I said it.

Yes, it is true that Howard's numbers are down from last year. He ranks 32nd in the NHL with a 2.79 goals against average and 29th with a .908 save percentage.

But let's not forget that last year Howard ranked in the top five in the NHL in both categories when he posted a 2.26 GAA and .924 save percentage. Oh, and that was his first full season in the league.

This year, despite the down peripheral numbers, he also leads the NHL in wins with 34.

Much of the blame for Howard's inconsistencies can be placed on the team surrounding him and the defense in particular.

The Red Wings currently only have one defenseman with a plus/minus rating over 10 — Brian Rafalski with a +12 rating. Rafalski has also missed significant time this season with injuries.

Future Hall-of-Fame defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom's offensive numbers are up, but he has a -1 rating after finishing at +22 last year.

Jonathan Ericsson has been a disappointment this year, while Ruslan Salei has been solid but unremarkable.

In many cases this season, the team has simply looked tired or uninterested.

Take Monday's game against Pittsburgh for example. For the first two periods of the game, the team was unmistakably awful. The Red Wings stood by flat-footed as the Penguins raced out to a 4-0 lead.

Howard was pulled after allowing four goals on 15 shots. However, it was only the second time in eight March starts that Howard gave up more than three goals, and the Wings earned points in six of those starts.

Despite struggling with injuries again, the Red Wings still rank second in the Western Conference at press time, eight points behind Vancouver and three points ahead of San Jose. Howard has been a big part of that success.

More encouraging is the fact that Howard now has a year of playoff experience to build on.

Howard's numbers in last year's playoffs are very similar to the ones he has



Jake Thielen
Sports Editor

posted so far this season — a 2.75 GAA and a .915 save percentage.

Those numbers don't seem remarkable, but consider the numbers of the two goaltenders who led their teams to the Stanley Cup Finals in 2010.

Philadelphia's Michael Leighton had a .916 save percentage, which was only slightly higher than Howard's, and a 2.46 GAA.

Chicago's Antti Niemi posted a 2.63 GAA and a .910 save percentage.

Going into last year's playoffs, did anyone think either of those goalies could carry a team to a championship?

Similar concerns seem to exist this season among Red Wings fans who are used to the likes of Mike Vernon, Chris Osgood or Dominik Hasek leading the team to playoff glory.

But if Leighton and Niemi can lead their teams to the Finals, why can't Howard?

It's not like those two are setting the world on fire this season.

Niemi ranks in the middle of the pack in most goaltending categories this season, while Leighton currently plays for the Flyers' AHL affiliate after being placed on waivers earlier in the season.

It's reasonable to believe that Howard's numbers will improve in the playoffs now that he knows what to expect.

If the team in front of him can stay healthy and play to its full potential, Howard is capable of leading the Red Wings to their 12th Stanley Cup.

After all, it's not always about having a big-name goaltender (see Curtis Joseph). It's more about having a goaltender, like Leighton, who can go on a hot streak at the right time.

Will Howard have to step up his game for the Red Wings to hoist the Stanley Cup in June? Absolutely, but so will the rest of the team.

OU softball begins 11-game homestand

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

After playing games exclusively on the road for the first month of the season, the Oakland University softball team is finally headed back to Rochester.

The Grizzlies hope the home opener on March 23 against a University of Toledo squad that has seen its own struggles will be a boost to a group that has battled through the first 20 games with a 5-15 (1-5 Summit League) record.

"The (home) opener is important because that's where the fan base really starts to come in. You start winning a few games, grabbing everybody's attention and getting them to the games," said head coach LaDonia Hughes. "The more fans there are, the more pumped up the girls are; they know there are supporters and that Oakland softball is on the right road to being successful."

Offensive production is sure to be a point of emphasis for Hughes during the team's 11-game home stand. Through 20 games, OU has been outscored 89-64 and has scored three or fewer runs in 12 games.

Leading the team in runs batted in is junior Kylie Schalz with 14, including a grand slam in an 8-7 loss against Morehead State on March 4.

Last season, junior Kelsey Krych broke the school record for stolen bases in a single season. She could break the record again this year, as she has been successful on 16 of

17 attempts this year.

Defensively, the Golden Grizzlies have a .911 team fielding percentage with 173 assists, but have also committed 53 errors.

The team primarily features three starting pitchers. Senior Marisa Everitt has allowed a team-low 16 earned runs. Senior Alison Tansel is second on the team with 36.1 innings pitched, and junior Brittany Doyle is sporting a 2:1 strikeout to walk ratio.

Despite the sub-.500 record, Hughes said effort has not been a problem with this team.

"Our girls are very relentless. It's just that sometimes we aren't sure when to use it," Hughes said. "We're having our battles right now with finishing games, but strengths will come."

With 10 incoming freshmen, learning to play at the collegiate level has been a key focus for Hughes and her coaching staff.

"Our freshmen class is going to be interesting because we have some that are stepping up and some that go out and are a little nervous with this being their first year," Hughes said. "It's tough for them sometimes, but I think with the help of the upperclassmen, they've relaxed a little bit and know that it's okay to make errors — you just have to work through it instead of putting more pressure on yourself."

Hughes is in a similar situation to the freshmen with this being her first year at Oakland. She was an assistant coach on a Western Illinois squad that won the Sum-



File photo by BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post

The Oakland University softball team will look to improve upon its 5-15 record when home games begin this week. Summit League play will resume April 1 vs. Centenary.

mit League conference title in three of her four years at the school.

Hughes thinks that coming to Oakland from within the conference has both advantages and disadvantages.

"It definitely helps but it also can get a

little complicated because you think you know each and every team, but they all get better each and every year, so you have to improve no matter what," Hughes said.

The Grizzlies will also play a doubleheader against Detroit Mercy on March 24.

Now hiring: Editor-in-Chief

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2011-12 academic year.

The EIC is responsible for managing The Oakland Post independent student newspaper and reports to the board of directors.

Applicants should possess superior oral and written communication skills, a working knowledge of news media and have a solid command of digital technologies. Proficiency in Adobe publication software and Wordpress is required. Prior experience in a newsroom is preferable. Applicants need not be journalism majors.

Job duties include supervision of staff, oversight of production of weekly print publication and daily online news site, writing and

editing, staff recruitment and training and facilitation of necessary university and community relations.

Compensation includes weekly salary and a tuition stipend.

Applicants should send a digital portfolio including a cover letter, resume and work samples to Holly Shreve Gilbert, shreve@oakland.edu

Applications accepted through March 28, 2011



2011 STUDENT CONGRESS VOTING GUIDE

BALLOT PROPOSAL

Do you support a \$5 per semester student activity fee increase?

A student activity fee of \$25 is currently taken from each student's tuition every semester they are enrolled in order to fund various student organizations on campus.

A vote of YES would simply signify support of the initiative. It is up to the board of trustees to implement such a change. A vote of NO means the proposal is not supported.

LEGISLATOR CANDIDATES

There are 29 declared candidates vying for 25 open legislative positions. Students are also allowed to run write-in campaigns.

- Jonathan Ajlouny
- Louie Alkasmikha
- Emilia Allen
- Michelle Alwardt
- Rachel Boye
- Steve Cox
- Jason Dunn
- Darrell Boyd
- Wesley Gamble
- Alexis Halsell
- Courtney Herbert
- Alejandro Herrera
- Natalie Juronoc
- Hasan Kaakarli
- James Kaminski
- Meri Maka
- Mark Martin
- Nick McCormick
- Matthew Parks
- James Sklar
- Richard Spiegel
- Amber Taschereau
- Darias Thompson
- Lauren Tibbitts
- Robert Turo
- Michele VanFleteren
- Lisa Vecchio
- Maria Willett
- Blake Williams



ERIC STURGIS & SHAKITA BILLY

NAME: Shakita Billy
RUNNING FOR: President
CLASS: Junior
MAJOR: Political Science

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- Congressional archivist chair and legislator for OUSC
- Member of Eco-Interest team
- Member of Student Alumni Association
- Participates in OUSC multicultural affairs committee
- Legislative affairs committee on OUSC

NAME: Eric Sturgis
RUNNING FOR: Vice President
CLASS: Junior
MAJOR: Secondary Education – English Major, History Minor

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- Club Tennis Vice President
- OUSC Legislator
- Student services committee
- Legislative affairs committee on OUSC
- Club sports



BEN EVESLAGE & ELISA MALILE

NAME: Ben Eveslage
RUNNING FOR: President
CLASS: Freshman
MAJOR: International Relations

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- Legislative affairs director for OUSC
- President of International Allies
- Member of Volunteer Africa

NAME: Elisa Malile
RUNNING FOR: Vice President
CLASS: Junior
MAJOR: Sociology

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- Member and fundraising chair of Phi Sigma Sigma
- Treasurer for Albanian American Student Organization



TOM CRUZ & BRETT MCISAAC

NAME: Tom Cruz
RUNNING FOR: President
CLASS: Junior
MAJORS: Political Science and History with minors in Economics, Communications and International Relations

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- OUSC multicultural affairs director
- District secretary-treasurer for Mich. district of Circle K
- Educator for TKE fraternity
- Member of Phi Alpha Theta

NAME: Brett McIsaac
RUNNING FOR: Vice President
CLASS: Junior
MAJOR: Biomedical Engineering

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- Student services director for OUSC
- Member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity



TYLER GLEN & RYAN ROTT

NAME: Tyler Glen
RUNNING FOR: President
CLASS: Junior
MAJORS: Political Science and Economics

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- President of Sigma Pi
- Social Chair of Inter-Fraternity Council

NAME: Ryan Rott
RUNNING FOR: Vice President
CLASS: Junior
MAJOR: Political Science; Minor in Economics

CURRENT CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

- Executive Board of Sigma Pi
- Jewish Student Organization
- Honors College Student

CANDIDATE PLATFORMS

Billy/Sturgis

KEY POINTS OF PLATFORM: Lower food prices

Resolve parking issue – Possibly building a parking structure outside of the Oakland Center

Increased funding for student organizations – “We want to make the whole funding system a lot better. There are ways we can make it easier for student orgs. That way we can have more student events on campus and more student involvement and interaction on the weekends.”

PHILOSOPHY REGARDING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS:

Shakita Billy: “Each student is different and each student has to find their own niche ... Student involvement enhances your overall college experience. Without me being involved in the several student organizations I am involved with, my college experience would probably be really boring. I believe that student involvement is very important and it helps to enhance student’s overall college experience.”

Eric Sturgis: “I think student involvement goes as far as the organization is willing to push it ... In our administration we would want to promote student involvement. We are in the OC all the time and we’re going to be pushing.”

AS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, WHAT CAN YOU PROVIDE FOR OU STUDENTS?

Shakita Billy: “I can provide on a weekly basis, interaction with the student body. I will actually be interacting face to face with students. A lot of students who know me understand that I am an average student who comes from an average background. Eric and I will definitely follow through with what we believe in providing for the students. Our three biggest initiatives are trying to educate students about their different opportunities that they have as a student at OU, and positive representation on campus with administration and also in Lansing. Those are all things that as the student body president I will be able to offer to the student body.”

Cruz/McIsaac

KEY POINTS OF PLATFORM: Security – added security on campus

“Realistic” Parking Goals

Campus Savings – “Campus savings through different programs like the printing software.”

Student Handbooks – We want to make fun student handbooks to tell them about the campus community so students are not so bored on nights and weekends.”

“Little things” – “To make life here more convenient, we would like to give you little things to make campus life easier. We are fighting to try and get some angled parking lots (like malls and other places with mass traffic) for more parking in the space we have. In addition we’d like to take two feet off of our sidewalks to make for a bike lane, push towards building a staircase from Elliot Hall down to the parking lot and other things of that nature.”

PHILOSOPHY REGARDING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS:

Tom Cruz: “Student involvement on campus will be born from the understanding that things are happening and that people know about them.”

Brett McIsaac: “Students will be as involved as you let them let them. We’re out here promoting to have a main campus calendar that has everything rather than having to look through an organization calendar and an athletics calendar. If we let the students know what’s going on, they’ll show up.”

AS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, WHAT CAN YOU PROVIDE FOR OU STUDENTS?

Tom Cruz: “I will push towards everything mentioned in my platform and more.”

Brett McIsaac: “I’ll be able to provide everything that I’ve learned and experienced over the past two years. I know OUSC inside and out and I’m going to be able to forward that on with all of the student concerns. We can get it done and students can expect an honest and reliable administration. We’re not going to promise them anything that’s not going to happen.”

Eveslage/Malile

**KEY POINTS OF PLATFORM:
Extended Partnerships** – “We want to partner with housing, athletics, Greek life and commuters to be more united so we can give students that Oakland University feel.”

Collaborated events on weekends – tailgates, sports, multicultural

Re-vamp public relations and advertising – “So students are more aware of what is going on.”

“Embrace self-expression”

“Promote Greek life”

PHILOSOPHY REGARDING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS:

Elisa Malile: “Student involvement to me means that whatever organization you’re involved with, you did it with pride and you do it with passion. It doesn’t matter if you’re in the Quidditch club or if you want to be in OUSC. I think that whatever you take away from what you’re involved with, that is the most important part. It could be something very minimal or it could be something extraordinary...you should take away a piece of OU with you.”

AS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, WHAT CAN YOU PROVIDE FOR OU STUDENTS?

Elisa Malile: “I can provide them with an open communication. I am very approachable and I want to make sure that each student has their voice heard and I can provide them with that. Our platform lays out exactly what we can do, how to be proactive in student life and how to be proactive in making the university better and reaching out to our community. That’s what I can give students is the community feel and the university experience. Students don’t have to feel like they have to go to east Lansing on the weekends to get that experience, it should be here.”

*Ben Eveslage and Ryan Rott could not be reached for comment

Glen/Rott

KEY POINTS OF PLATFORM: 24 hour Library

Campus Spirit – Two tailgates a month; at least one pep rally a month

Grizzly Link Program – Partnerships with area restaurants

Additional Meadowbrook Balls

Athletics versus Greek Sporting Events

Text Books sales tax exemption

Parking Improvements – Improvements to parking lots P37 and P38 and possible additional parking garage

PHILOSOPHY REGARDING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS:

Tyler Glen: The five points for our platform are about student involvement. Obviously we’re a commuter school but that’s not an excuse to just go to class and then just go home.

AS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, WHAT CAN YOU PROVIDE FOR OU STUDENTS?

Tyler Glen: “I’ve had a chance to review a lot of the platforms, one of them has a lot to do with helping the political science department. I’m a political science major so that’s great but it doesn’t help the rest of the school. Our main thing is we want all students to be benefited. The 24-hour library — all students will like that. We don’t just have ideas on how to help, we have an actual plan and program that we would want to install right away. When I set goals, I usually achieve them. I work hard at doing it. There are things that I think could be improved. If I’m elected, I think I could help student involvement and Oakland University as a whole move forward as opposed to just remaining stagnant. The fraternity is one of the reasons why now I am running for student president because I have helped out our fraternity a lot and I think I could do the same for the school.”

Visiting for the veggie vibe

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

Switching to vegetarian, vegan and raw diets can lead to plenty of questions for people looking to change up their food regimens.

This Sunday, March 27, however, VegMichigan aims to answer these questions at the annual VegFest.

Taking place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, the vegetarian taste fest and expo will feature over 50 local vendors and exhibitors of meat-free cuisine.

Admission for this year's VegFest is \$10 at the door \$5 for students and VegMichigan members have free admission. Parking will also be free for the event.

Previous to changing the event name to VegFest, it was called The Great American MeatOut and has been an international event since 1985, Wendy Jones said, event chair for the festival. Last year, VegFest was held in Ferndale and had more than 2,100 attendees. The move to Novi's Showplace is expected to boost that attendance to almost 3,000.

"We're hoping to gain some people from Ann Arbor," Jones said. "One thing that was a source of frustration for people last year was that there wasn't much good parking at Ferndale High School. This year we will have lots and lots of free parking. We're hoping that encourages more people to come."

Jones hopes that visitors and newcomers will gain a fresh perspective of what a vegan or vegetarian diet means, as well as trying out something different in a culinary sense.

"I certainly hope that anyone who eats meat or dairy would learn a little bit more about the impact of that choice,

whether it is to their health, the planet or to animals," Jones said. "To those that are already vegetarian or vegan, I would hope that they learn more tools to explain to others how it is such a beneficial diet."

VegFest will feature, among other local and national speakers, two well-known headliners: celebrity chef and best-selling author Tal Ronnen and former Detroit Piston John Salley.

With the unique appeal of each guest speaker, Jones expects the event to attract many different types of people.

"Chef Tal has an association with Oprah (Winfrey), and she's got a huge following. She tends to try and explore things that are healthier, so I think (Ronnen) will really draw in the people who are interested in a healthier diet," Jones said. "John Salley, of course, used to play in Detroit. He's not someone you would expect to be a vegan; he's a really big guy. That really turns some heads and gets people thinking, 'well if John Salley is exploring this diet, maybe I should find out more about it.'"

Beyond the appeal of discounted ticket prices and free food, Jones hopes that college students who attend VegFest gain knowledge they might not have otherwise obtained.

Jones said a key draw for college students to the event is the want to make a positive difference in the world by learning different ways to help animals and protect the planet.

"Health may not be the number one thing for students, but health care costs are something that have affected all of us. I think all of those things would draw in a college student."

For more information about VegMichigan and VegFest, visit www.vegmichigan.org



Photo courtesy of Matt Prescott

Celebrity chef and bestselling author Tal Ronnen will visit Michigan for the annual vegetarian taste fest and expo this weekend at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

police blotter

Rochester

OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED:

On Tuesday, March 15, Rochester police stopped a vehicle for a traffic infraction in the area of Main Street and Woodward Avenue. Upon investigation, it was determined that the, 26-year-old male driver from Rochester, was operating the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The driver was subsequently arrested, booked, and released when sober.

BURNING BUST:

On Saturday, Feb. 26, Troy officers observed smoke rising from a neighborhood located on the 1200 block of Cambria Drive. Investigation

revealed a contractor burning trash and construction debris. A citation was issued for violation of the open burning ordinance.

Troy

MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALLS:

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, a complainant reported that while her husband was hospitalized at Troy Beaumont Hospital, located on Dequindre Road, his cellular telephone was discovered missing.

She has subsequently received a statement showing over 65 calls made to Iraq during that time period. Investigation continues.

— Jen Bucciarelli, Local Editor

Former campus leader indicted for perjury

Former Oakland University student Michael McGuinness has been indicted on charges of perjury and forgery. McGuinness, 27, a former Oakland County Democratic Party chairman, and party employee Jason Bauer are implicated in an alleged fraudulent scheme that involved attempting to place fake candidates onto Michigan ballots last fall.

"I loved my time at Oakland University and was pleased to make a positive impact on the campus. I intend to clear my name and am cooperating with the legal process underway," McGuinness said.

The two men appeared in court Wednesday, March 16. McGuinness was charged with three counts of falsely swearing to register or vote and two counts of uttering and publishing. He posted bail, which was set at \$25,000.

The charge for perjury stems from McGuinness or Bauer allegedly

swearing under oath while posing as false candidates.

The Detroit Free Press reported that Johnson noted that Bauer was listed as the notary on several filings.

McGuinness was running as a write-in candidate for the county commission when all this unfurled, but withdrew from the race. An arraignment date is set for April 13.

The grand jury investigation, which has been going on for six months, is continuing to look at further charges.

McGuinness served as the OU student body vice president during the 2004-05 school year. He was elected as student body president the following year.

Christine Stover, an adjunct instructor who sat on a board with McGuinness, described him as "fair, thoughtful and thorough" during the time she knew him.

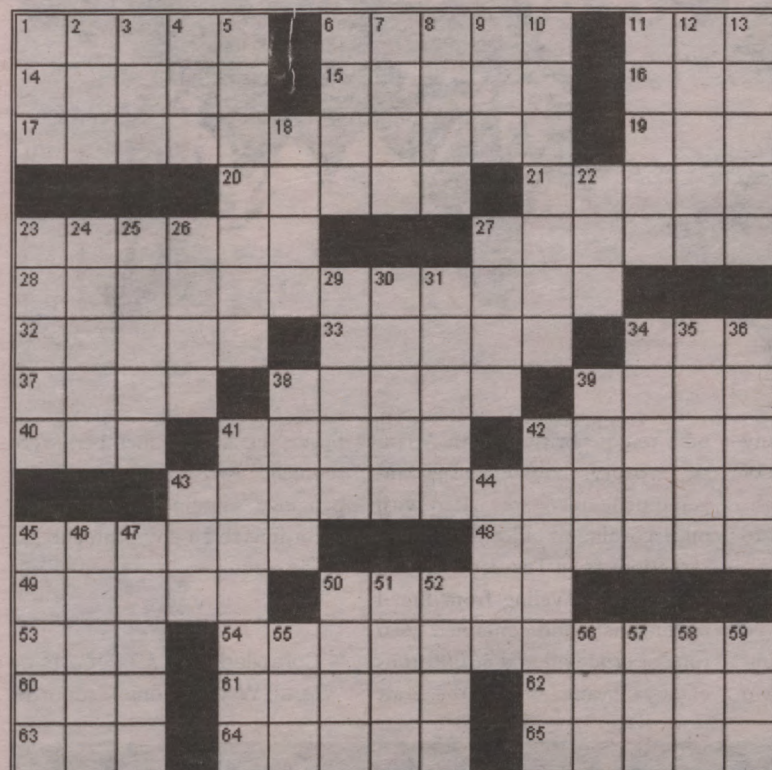
— Kay Nguyen, Editor-In-Chief



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ACROSS

1. Outspoken
6. Spread around
11. Sixth sense
14. Silly
15. Angered
16. American Medical Association
17. Perseverance
19. Collection
20. Horse
21. Beams on ships
23. Soft thin paper
27. Allegiance
28. Sporadic
32. Without company
33. Challenged
34. French for "Wine"
37. Apartment payment
38. Stupefy
39. Not yours
40. Consumed food
41. Breakfast bread
42. Hindu social division
43. With unconditional devotion
45. Dad
48. Not bright
49. Mistake

50. Choral work
53. Missing In Action
54. Test
60. Angry
61. Covered with thin linoleum squares
62. American actor Clark _____
63. East southeast
64. Sheeplike
65. Chip away at

DOWN

1. Very Important Person
2. Half of two
3. Automobile
4. Autonomic Nervous System
5. Time off
6. Location
7. Tall woody plant
8. South African monetary unit
9. And so on
10. Saturday and Sunday
11. Artist's workstand
12. Refine, as metal
13. Sucker
18. Flower stalk
22. Dine
23. Crown

24. Part of a body of water
25. Rock
26. Dispatched
27. We have two
29. Model
30. Piece of armor for a thigh
31. Engagement
34. Panorama
35. _____ alia
36. Destitute
38. Rude person
39. Filly's mother
41. To that
42. Hauling
43. Which person?
44. Biblical garden
45. French for "Woman"
46. Operatic solos
47. Exchange
50. French Sudan, today
51. Portent
52. Neap, high or low
55. Fourteen in Roman numerals
56. Black gunk
57. Nigerian tribesman
58. Not young
59. Born

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NEWS BRIEFS

A look at significant current news events from around the globe:

1. Libya

The U.S. military warned that it was "considering all options" in response to Moammar Gadhafi's recent increase in attacks. In the coastal city of Misrata, snipers and tanks have left people cowering in darkened homes and scrounging for food and rainwater, according to a resident. In Tripoli, Gadhafi broadcasts optimistic, nationalist statements such as, "O great Libyan people, you have to live now, this time of glory, this is a time of glory that we are living."

2. Japan

In Japan's hard-hit city of Natori, the bowling alley has been converted into a makeshift morgue

where bodies lay in rows of coffins. Family members in search of loved ones can come to the alley and check a list of names as well as a description of the unidentified bodies. In the eleven days since the tsunami, more than 9,000 bodies have been found, but around 13,000 are still missing. Japanese police estimate that more than 15,000 deaths are likely just in Miyagi province.

3. Colorado, U.S.

A 2-square-mile wildfire, suspected to be human-caused, broke out in Colorado Sunday. Two helicopters, two aerial tankers and 200 firefighters fought the blaze in the foothills west of Denver on Tuesday. The windy conditions are proving to be a challenge to firefighters. Seventeen homes have been evacuated of residents



so far with hundreds more ready to flee. The wildfire is the result of eastern Colorado's worst drought in nearly a decade, according to officials.

4. London, England

As a result of a cargo ship running aground and breaking in two

on a remote British South Atlantic territory, thousands of endangered penguins were coated with oil, according to officials and conservationists on Tuesday. The MS Olivia was traveling from Brazil or Singapore and contained 1,660 tons of crude oil and 66,000 tons of soya beans. Before the craft

broke, the 22 crew members were rescued. An estimated 20,000 penguins might be affected, according to an environmentalist at the scene.

— Compiled from AP Reports by Sarah Wojcik, Senior Reporter

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ALMOST FAMOUS

Students share names with celebrities

By **NICHOLE SEGUIN**
Features Editor

Move over, Kelly Clarkson. There's a new girl in town.

Her name is also Kelly Clarkson, and she doesn't like the attention you've given her.

Although the junior majoring in communications also shares an interest in singing, she doesn't have anything else in common with the first "American Idol" winner. But that doesn't stop her from being called out during routine checkups and just in general.

"My life having a famous name has gotten me attention I really don't want," she said. "I get called out in class or in public. Even at a dentist office, I was asked to autograph a piece of paper for the receptionist's daughter. On the other hand, people remember who I am, and my name."

In one instance in particular, Kelly was asked to sing karaoke at a restaurant without anyone having prior knowledge of her name. Once the man in charge made the name connection, she felt pressured into singing.

"It's all in good fun though," she said. "I think my friends get more things brought up to them because if I comment on Facebook, their friends say (things like) 'I didn't know you knew Kelly Clarkson.'"

A similar fate is at hand for Kevin Durant, a sophomore majoring in occupational safety and health. His story is a little bit

different though. Instead of agonizing over the name coincidence, he doesn't mind it.

"A lot of people don't believe me when I tell them my name," he said. "I usually end up having to show them my ID."

For Durant, his biggest problem comes when he's online, even though the only thing he shares with the Oklahoma City Thunder forward is the same jersey number.

"I get a lot of emails on Facebook," he said. "People also try to add me on Skype pretty frequently. My name was also on a wall at school for an award and people thought the real Kevin Durant went there."

Most recently, Durant was recognized by the bus full of students that attended the NCAA basketball trip to Oklahoma. When he was late for the bus, his name was called out and students started to ask if he was the famous basketball player.

"Some people look at a name as a name, but not who it is," Durant said. "It's not really about who the celebrity is, but who the person themselves is. My name is just another name."

Elizabeth Taylor, the famous actress, is known for her many husbands, perfume label and well-known role as Cleopatra in the 1963 film. But Oakland University students may know her more personally as a sophomore majoring in nursing.

"I don't think there is a struggle

for uniqueness because everyone knows me for me, not the famous Elizabeth Taylor," she said. "If I looked like her and had the same name, then there could be a struggle, but that's not a problem for me."

Taylor, whose parents didn't name her after the movie star, didn't experience much special attention while she was growing up.

"I honestly didn't notice I had a famous name until second grade when my teacher brought it up," she said. "Since then, every year all of my teachers ask about it."

Meghan Kelly, a senior recruitment advisor in the office of undergraduate admissions, has nothing in common with the FOX news anchor, including the spelling of their names. While Megyn Kelly spends her afternoons anchoring "America Live," OU's employee hopes to pursue her graduate work at the university.

"Everyone wants to be unique and special, so sharing the same name with someone can be tough sometimes," she said. "I certainly made an effort to distinguish myself, much like younger siblings try to distinguish themselves from their older siblings ... I think that it is what you do and who you are which makes you more unique."

There are around 9,000 students at OU, and one never knows when they'll end up among the stars.



Photo courtesy of Nabil Othman
Twenty new Orientation Group Leaders were selected this winter. They help incoming students get acquainted with campus during the summer semesters. The job includes a tuition stipend and free room and board and meals.

New leaders instill spirit

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Staff Reporter

If you've ever been to a new student orientation or taken a walk around campus in the summer, chances are you've probably seen them sporadically walking backwards around campus, directing students through the orientation process.

Orientation Group Leaders are responsible for dealing with thousands of new students every year and teach incoming students what they need to know about OU, as well as helping incoming freshman make the transition from high school to college.

OGLs receive a \$2,000 tuition stipend, free room and board in the residence halls and a meal plan. Though anyone can apply, students must have at least a 2.7 GPA, leadership experience and school pride. OGLs cannot be incoming students and must have been a student at OU for at least one semester before applying.

"Becoming an OGL became a passion of mine almost immediately after my own orientation," said Grace Webster, a sophomore majoring in anthropology. "Oakland University has become my home, and my only wish was to share that love of home with future students ... Golden Grizzly pride definitely defines me. I bleed black and gold."

OGLs are required to go through four weeks of leadership training before they begin work in May.

unique university jobs

During leadership training, OGLs take a trip to Camp Tamarack in Bloomfield Hills where they complete a high ropes course to help build team dynamics.

"You are learning everything there is to know about OU, you are learning about all of the resources on campus, you are learning how the campus functions and about the hierarchy and administration on campus," said Christy van Solkema, the coordinator of orientation and new student programs. "They have to learn how to mingle and how to interact with students and get them excited."

New OGLs are selected in February and training begins at the end of the winter semester.

OGLs work at freshman orientation, transfer orientation and parent orientation, as well as other events, and help students register for classes.

"They really are the face of Oakland for new students," van Solkema said. "It's their job to try and communicate on a student level what Oakland is like and how they can get the best out of their experience here."

Applications for OGLs are accepted

in January, and the selection process is complete in February. According to van Solkema, approximately 60 students apply each year.

The number of students accepted varies each year and depends on different factors. A new staff of 20 OGLs was selected this winter.

"I love people and I love OU," said Liz Grapentine, a vocal performance major. "This University really is the best place for me, and I relish the opportunity to show incoming students all the great things about it."

When a student applies for the position, they are required to first attend an information session where they learn about the position and requirements and are then encouraged to send in a resume and cover letter.

Three interviews — two group and one individual — are conducted before the final group of students are selected. During the group interviews, students are observed for their leadership and team working skills.

"There are quite a few steps and we do it for a reason," van Solkema said. "Being an OGL is not an easy job. It is one of the most visible leadership positions on campus ... it takes a lot to be able to go through training and perform at the level that we need our OGLs to perform at."

OGLs who liked their experience can apply for an Orientation Assistant position. OAs are hired in to work throughout the entire year and help to train and mentor the OGLs.



PROFESSOR PROFILE

Keith Dye Special Lecturer, History

Keith Dye, lecturer in the Department of history, believes education is a priority.

Dye was first influenced by historians at a young age, sparking his interest in the field.

"I've always wanted to teach, I've always felt there were lessons to be learned from history," Dye said.

Although he first tried his hand at journalism — he started his own newspaper — Dye developed a strong passion for history. Growing up in an era in which movements were taking place to work for the rights of African-American people, the history of whom is very personal for him, he said. "It shaped my life."

Dye was born and raised in Detroit. He attended the University of Detroit Mercy and received a bachelor's degree in communications. He went on to obtain his master's degree in history and later attended the University of Toledo to acquire his doctorate.

Dye is currently writing a book based on the black manifesto. He believes his awareness of black consciousness is what sets him apart from other professors.

As a young man, Dye was selected to participate in an African naming ceremony in which he received his African name, Osei Bonkana, Osei meaning "maker of the great" and Bonkana meaning "fortunate".

Dye is a strong believer in education and believes that young people must continue the drive for self determination, but it must be within their own understanding. He tries to make his material relevant to his students.

"He keeps your attention by relating history to today's world," said current student, Magdelina Rosario, a give class standing and major.

Most of Dye's students describe him as funny, passionate and, most of all, caring regarding the quality of education they receive.

Although Dye acknowledges the hardships of being a college student, he feels as though when it comes to education it is worth the struggle.

"Education is not a sacrifice, it's an investment," he said.

— Delena Sanders, Contributing Reporter

From around the world

World Music Concert this Friday presents sounds of a culture

By ANNIE STODOLA
Staff Reporter

On Friday, music from Africa and the Caribbean will fill Varner Hall.

The Oakland University World Music Concert is at 8 p.m. on March 25. The concert features music from Ghana, Zimbabwe, Trinidad and the United States.

The concert emphasizes not only the types of music played in these countries, but also the instrumentation used for each. Akwaaba, an African drum and xylophone ensemble, is one of the groups performing at the concert. Others include Ngoma, Pan-Jazz and Pan-Jumbies, a steel drum ensemble.

Mark Stone, the coordinator of World Music at OU, has helped to build the program since he came to the university in 1998.

The African drum ensemble was created in the 1970s; the other ensembles are newer.

"I've continued that tradition and started to expand it among these other cultures," Stone said. "It's not just students learning about African music and culture, but now also the music and culture of the Caribbean."

Stone has studied African music for a number of years, including his time at Makerere University in Uganda. He has

also performed as a part of the Bernard Woma Ensemble at the Filmua Kukur Bagr Festival in Ghana and with the New York Philharmonic at Avery Fisher Hall.

In addition to currently leading the Biakuye Percussion Group and the Southpaw Isle Steelband, Stone teaches at OU.

In 2007, Amanda Krajenke took a Music 132 course entitled Music of World Cultures with Stone. Prior to taking the class, Krajenke intended to become a vocal music major, but has since switched to a bachelor of arts in music, which is a more general study.

She is also pursuing a World Music minor.

"In Mark Stone's classes, everyone is encouraged to get hands-on with all of the instruments," Krajenke said. "We all get to try a little bit of everything, but generally in the end we find we have a preference and play one particular instrument for most songs on the concert. I play the bass pans."

The bass pans are made up of six 55-gallon oil drums arranged in a U-shape. The musician stands in the middle and plays the oil drums, each of which is tuned to three pitches.

Krajenke has been a member of each of the world music ensembles offered at OU and has focused significant attention on the steel band, performing as a "Pan-Jumbie"

since her freshman year.

Although the concert is a showcase of world music, some American songs have found their way into the program as well. Stone said compositions by Stevie Wonder and some other popular American songs have been arranged for the Caribbean and African instruments.

"Even if you don't already know the songs we'll play, you'll definitely feel all of the energy and hard work we've put into this concert."

- Amanda Krajenke,
bachelor of arts in music

"A lot of the music we have here in America borrows from these cultures," Stone said.

Krajenke said she thinks this familiarity that people may have with some of the musical traditions — whether they realize it or not — will add to the concert experience for the audience on Friday.

"You will probably hear something you know," Krajenke said. "There are a few pieces that the ensembles will be playing that will make you smile."

In addition to the student ensembles, guest artist Sulley Imoro will perform dur-

ing the concert. Stone cites Imoro as the most well-known dancer in Ghana.

Imoro performs in the Dagomba tradition, which comes from the people of Northern Ghana.

Stone said the concert is a learning opportunity for students beyond just the entertainment value.

"It's very important to expose students to music they might not otherwise hear," Stone said. "The concert is a lot of fun and the music really elicits participation so people are learning while they're having fun."

Tickets for the concert are \$11 for the general public and \$7 for students.

Through the music, Krajenke hopes the OU community will see that though the African and Caribbean cultures are different from American culture, they share fundamental characteristics.

"Yes, we're all different and we may have different methods and traditions and values, but we're all as humans out there trying to answer the same questions: Who are we and how do we express ourselves?" Krajenke said. "We are people and we dance, sing, play music, laugh, cry and love. When I see these similarities, I find the differences to be insignificant. I hope that the audience at this concert finds that there is such amazing joy in this music and that they leave carrying that joy home."

OUTV challenges knowledge of tech-savvy students

By KEVIN GRAHAM
Staff Intern

Calling all gadget hounds, gamers and self-professed tech geeks: Student Video Productions has a technology-aimed show worth checking out.

Cohosted by junior Clayton Cortez and senior Kristina Karamo, "Best Tech" is a monthly half-hour show covering the biggest news regarding computers, gadgets, movies and video games airing on Oakland University's cable access channel.

"Technology is constantly evolving," Cortez said. "We are constantly being wowed by companies with new innovations and ideas. Everyone should stay abreast of what is going on."

"Best Tech" combines news, discussion of the latest

product releases, and what's hot in video games, striving to entertain as much as inform.

Participation by the viewers is also a large part of the show's formula for success.

One segment that takes the pulse of the student body is Battle of the Tech.

"(We) ask students their opinions on different gadgets," Cortez said. "(It's) a fun way of getting other students involved."

Those looking for a test of their technology knowledge need look no further than the show's Tech Trivia segment to face-off against their dormmates in a battle for computer superiority.

Gaming junkies haven't been left out. In the Game Blitz segment, Cortez and Karamo discuss the latest releases and hype in the world of video games.

The show, on which Cortez is the producer as well as a cohost, is perfect for anyone trying to keep up with the breakneck pace of technological innovation in the modern era.

"Every product on the market now is attempting to be bigger and better or lighter and faster," he said. "Our audience is people who have a passion for innovation."

In addition to technology, "Best Tech" discusses the latest films to come out of Hollywood in order to find out if that cool preview on television became a movie worth watching.

Cortez wraps up by pointing out that technology affects all walks of life.

"There are constant improvements to things we already have," Cortez said. "How can a person of our generation not love technology?"

Fiasco develops his hip-hop niche

By RYAN HEGEDUS
Senior Reporter

Wasalu Muhammad Jaco. The name doesn't sound familiar, does it?

Combine the name of a childhood friend and The Firm's song "The Firm Fiasco," however, and you have Lupe Fiasco, one of hip-hop's biggest stars.

Growing up in Chicago, hip-hop almost pushed Fiasco out of the genre; he didn't like the vulgarity of it and actually preferred jazz music.

It wasn't until he heard "It Was Written" by hip-hop legend Nas that Fiasco decided he wanted to pursue hip-hop. He would go on to rap under the stage names Little Lu and LuLu, derivatives of his birth name, Wasalu, with his group Da Pak.

In 2003 he released "Coulda Been" and moved away from "gangster rap" and more towards lyricism.

"All of the songs before it were gangster rap records, and it was like an old white lady that really liked the song that I did. It was honest — you do that, you are that person, you are that guy that can talk to the dudes in the hood and will talk to the old white lady or the Muslim guy or the French dude," Fiasco said. "You can do that with or without hip-hop, so why not do that and let your songs represent it as well?"

'This is life'

One of the biggest influences on Fiasco's music was the immense musical collection that his father Gregory exposed him to at an early age, with albums ranging from hip-hop to Bollywood.

"Musically, I was aware from a very early age. When I got the opportunity to make my own music, I was able to go back through and have knowledge of so many different forms of it," Fiasco said. "I would listen for a beat or ask a producer to make a beat for me and think I'm going to use this Pink Floyd (sample) as opposed to just using this Biggie Smalls or Tupac beat."

Lyrics are equally, if not more, important to the rapper's music. Within each of his three studio albums, he tackles issues that most other rappers

would shy away from.

While his peers make songs about money or material possessions, Fiasco records tracks that highlight the struggles of single mothers, misconceptions of the Muslim religion and the perils of fame.

"When I turn on the TV or the radio, I see a bunch of negative stuff, so I want to talk about something positive, to tell the other side of the story," Fiasco said. "You're never going to defeat negativity in this world; it comes and goes in cycles ... I wanted to be the balance. I wanted to take everything that was inherently negative, and complete it to show 'This is life.'"

With that approach to his music, Fiasco has earned plenty of praise in the hip-hop community as being a socially-conscious artist.

"Whether it's the struggles in Palestine or the economic policies of McDonald's, I always try to educate myself on a bunch of different things so when I go in to make music, I'm able to pull from this big information pool," Fiasco said.

In "Lasers," his latest album released in early March, Fiasco moved away from making a storyline album and focused more on "The L.A.S.E.R.S. Manifesto" — Love Always Shines Everytime, Remember 2 Smile.

While it's a departure from his previous two albums, it actually fared better commercially, debuting at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 charts with over 200,000 copies sold.

"I kind of flatlined at a certain point ... Since (2006's "Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor"), it's been kind of the same thing. What was increasing has been my commercial success and my visibility commercially, but the message has stayed the same," Fiasco said.

Beyond going solo

Fiasco isn't content being just a solo artist, however. His schedule remains busy with work from three separate musical acts all with their own unique sounds.

Child Rebel Soldier, or CRS, is a tri-fecta of hip-hop royalty with Fiasco, Kanye West and Pharrell Williams of N.E.R.D. fame.

With each member of CRS currently pursuing their separate recording and producing careers, time to record anything other than the occasional song is hard to come by.

"(CRS) is just three massive people trying to get into the same space to sit down for a couple weeks and record an album — it's really hard," Fiasco said. "If the opportunity presents itself, hopefully there will be another record."

Japanese Cartoon is perhaps Fiasco's biggest departure from his three previous albums.

The punk rock band released a free album, "In the Jaws of The Lords of Death," in July 2010.

"We're learning what music we want to make, what we want our sound to be, if we even want a sound, and it's really those things of trying to figure out," Fiasco said. "That's why we're not charging for (the album). We're trying to learn ourselves and figure out what we want to do. We'll continue Japanese Cartoon until the wheels fall off."

All-City Chess Club is his newest endeavor into the "super-group" realm, with the group's roster reading like a 'Who's who' of young hip-hop artists — Asher Roth, B.o.B., The Cool Kids, and Wale to name a few.

The group has only recorded one track thus far, a remix of "I'm Beamin'" from Lasers.

Fiasco's future

After five years and three successful studio albums, Fiasco has certainly carved his own niche into the hip-hop community.

"Once I found out what my purpose was and I identified what I wanted to be regarded in the music business, I wanted to be a positive rapper — a positive, socially aware movement within hip-hop — but within the commercial space," Fiasco said. "I wanted to make sure that I was always the dude going left or doing the obsessively positive messages in my music."

Regardless of his approach or which musical direction Fiasco hopes to take in the future, it's clear that his career is only going in one: Up.

records & reels



SUCKERPUNCH // PG-13
// 109 min.

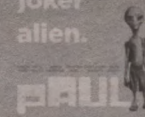
From the director of "300" and "Watchmen," Zack Snyder tells the story of a young girl named Baby Doll who is locked away in a mental asylum where she is going to undergo a

lobotomy in five days. Along with her fellow inmates, she creates an imaginary world that will be her only chance to escape.

PAUL // 104 min. // R

For around 60 years an alien named Paul (Seth Rogen) has been kept at a military base. When the space-traveling troublemaker decides to escape, he puts earthlings Graeme Wily and Clive Gollings in the middle of a cat and mouse game with federal agents.

fugitive
celebrity
slacker
joker
alien.



THE STROKES //
"Angles"

The Strokes are back with their fourth album, "Angles." After many solo efforts since their last release in 2006, "First Impressions of Earth,"

the band from New York City picked up right where they left off with their trademark hooks and edgy vocals.

NOAH AND THE WHALE
"Last Night on Earth"

The London based groups are set to release their third album, "Last Night on Earth," on Island Def Jam with ten melodic tracks. With lyrics based heavy on poetry and recorded in a synagogue in East London, "Last Night on Earth" has a cinematic feel to it.



— Compiled by Kevin Romanchik, Staff Reporter

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Glover hosts award show, increases success

By **KAITLYN CHORNOBY**
and **BRYAN CULVER**

Scene Editor and Contributing Reporter

Donald Glover has a name well-known in the worlds of stand-up comedy, acting and even the music industry. Thanks to hosting the mtvU Woodie Awards, which aired on March 16, Glover can write a new addition down on his list.

The award show, in its sixth year, celebrates the best of indie rock and hip-hop. This was the first year the Woodies were presented at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. Glover said he was looking forward to creating a unique feel for the show.

"I want it to feel like SNL, where you could just do anything," Glover said. "There are definitely bits in there that are scripted and I think they're going to be awesome. But I think there are going to be other bits that are going to truly be 'Oh, that man did something crazy, I'm going to talk about that for a bit.'"

Glover graduated with a degree in dramatic writing from New York University in 2006 and has since worked as a writer for "30 Rock" and is possibly best known for his role as Troy on the current NBC show, "Community."

Glover also spends a portion of his limited time as underground rapper Childish Gambino.

While familiar with taping episodes for television or participating in filmed work, Glover said some of the best parts of his work come from doing stand-up.

"I like to see the audience reaction," he said. "That way you can change it in the moment and have fun."

Glover said he develops his characters, whether for Community or stand-up like the Woodie Awards or his own stand-up and music tour, I AM DONALD, by capturing the best of the character that is already present in him.



Photo courtesy of mtvU Communications
Glover took his career from writer to actor, stand-up comedian and musician.

"I don't want to watch what I want to be as much as I want to watch what I am," he said.

Seeming more excited than nervous about first live Woodie Awards, Glover said the worst possible scenario would have been going on stage starting to cry.

Glover also said he was excited to meet Lil B, a Woodie Award nominee, and to showcase his music to the whole SXSW audience.

He also expressed interest in incorporating a few of his own categories to an awards show.

"The Most Likely to Have Sex with Donald Award, that's a good one," Glover said. "I want people to win a lifetime achievement for that."

Glover's I AM DONALD tour made its debut at the SXSW show as well.

His music style has been called "slightly schizophrenic" as his lyrics switch between emotional words to hardcore gangster.

For more information on Glover and his events, visit IAMDONALD.com



Visit daily.ctia.org/wireless2011 for breaking news during the International CTIA Wireless show this Monday through Thursday, then check next week's Oakland Post for all the top news.

Are lunar theories just loony?

By BRIAN FIGURSKI

Guest Columnist / Suspected luna-tic

Urgent news alert: The culprit behind the recent events affecting the planet unveiled itself over the weekend. The answer to the sudden increase in tidal surges, massive earthquakes and epic amounts of winning has come to a head.

The so-called "supermoon" lit up the night sky last Saturday, coming closer to Earth than it had been in 18 years. I am currently on a similar cycle with women, however, I do not get nearly enough press.

Twitter was at wit's end, even giving the event its own hashtag in its famed 15 minutes. Celebrities and nobodies alike were aloof and howling like Warren Zevon in quivering, moist anticipation of the supermoon's night arrival.

And then, nothing.

As usual, science disappointed every stargazer who set their expectations ridiculously high. The moon was brighter than usual. Tremendous. I cannot contain my sheer unabashed excitement.

Here's a little history on the origin of the supermoon phenomenon — it's a moon in the full or new phase that correlates with its closest distance to the Earth. Astrologer Richard Nolle coined this term back in good old 1979. In this superstate, it is the easiest for cows to jump over the moon. All according to Wikipedia, of course.

The populace of the planet inflated this moderate-to-rare occurrence like it would be a life-changing experience, one equivalent to shaking hands with Mahatma Gandhi or Charlie Sheen.

The moon still looked like the moon, a giant revolving rock hundreds of thousands of miles away. Its only notable difference to the naked eye was it shone like Robert Pattinson in sunlight. The Twilight saga didn't nearly suck as bad as the supermoon, mostly because I expected to end Twilight halfway through by severing my carotid artery with a grapefruit spoon.

But hold the telephone there, kiddies! This may have been an incredible fail for our romantic rooftop midnight make-out plans, but the effects rendered by the

moon's proximity to Earth has been tragic. It's so devastating that I may actually be edited from being funny after this point.

Scientists are piping off that the supermoon had nothing to do with the earthquake that shifted Japan, but I beg to differ.

There is no justification for holding our natural satellite at fault for Earth's inhabitants' problems.

There was even a posed supermoon risk window from March 16-22. Anything that has strayed from perfection up to this point can be blamed solely on the thoughtless actions of supermoon.

Rising tides in Japan, Texas defeating Oakland in the NCAA tournament, this is creating havoc on everything we know. Be thankful you are the property of America, moon; innocent until proven guilty. Libya would have blasted you to space dust with a rocket by now.

People are always looking for some questionably relevant reason to plop the blame for their woes on, and in this case, the large magnitude earthquake in the Pacific Ocean and the massive tides as part of the aftershock are the subjects of scrutiny. Poor old moon is the scapegoat now, staring down at pudgy fingers being prodded in its direction.

Sometimes scientific reasoning can't save us. In the end of it all, these tragedies just happen, and I guarantee similar scenes will occur again — supermoon, mega-moon, axemurderer moon, there is no justification for holding our natural satellite at fault for Earth's inhabitants' problems. If it's covered in blood, wielding a hatchet, soaked red, then perhaps it's an issue to explore.

We can all relax now though, comrades. At this point the moon will continue to orbit us and life will go back to its regularly scheduled programming. Sit back with a nice glass of scotch, kick back and watch the infamous Rebecca Black video for a 100th time and know that everything is going to be just fine.

LATE NIGHT DEALS BRING OUT THE GRIZZLIES.

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