

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

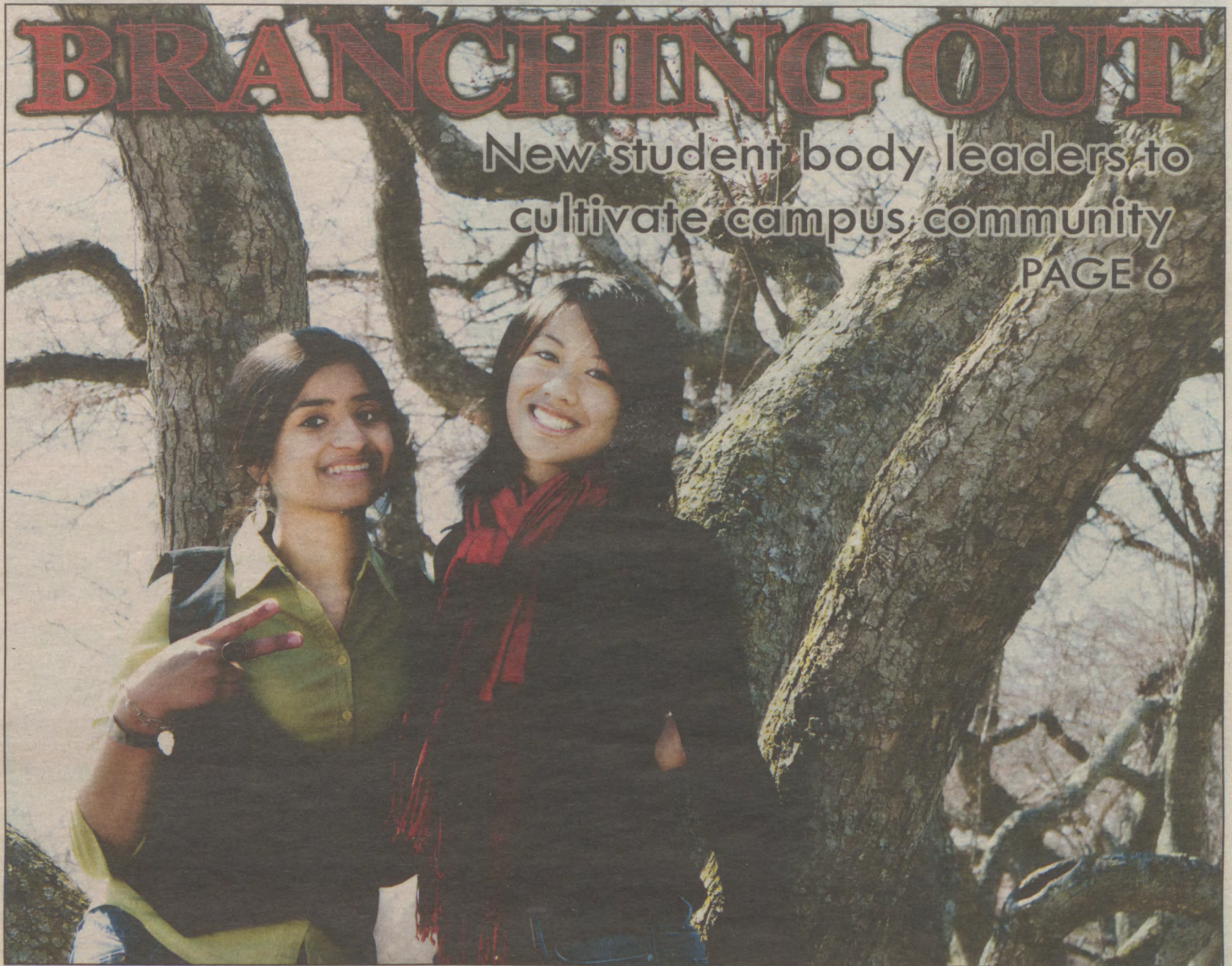
April 1, 2009

Volume 35, Number 26

BRANCHING OUT

New student body leaders to
cultivate campus community

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CAMPUS

Phi Sigma Sigma crowns Mr. PhiSignificant
at a 1950s-themed male charm pageant
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Cover photo by BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

Greek Gods

Did you miss the Mr. Phisignificant pageant last weekend? Don't worry we got you covered. View our photostream.

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Ex-mayor Kwame Kilpatrick has the last laugh as he begins his \$100,000-a-year job at Compuware. Page 5



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After a two-week long campaign, students try to raise awareness of global issues such as nuclear arms, torture and Middle Eastern policies. Page 7



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Millennial students keep in touch as opportunities grow for social networking.



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President Barack Obama sets schedules for the auto industry after forcing GM CEO Rick Wagoner to step down.



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As the economy takes its toll on the performing arts, music, theatre and dance students prepare themselves for future endeavours.



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Co-captain Julie Owen discusses her softball philosophies as she continues her statistically significant senior campaign.



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She may be merely a freshman, but Jessica Gordon already has definite plans for an artistic future.



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April 1, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Pop the bubble, join democracy

Imagine living in a place where nothing you ever said made a difference. Where from your childhood to the end of your adult life, none of your opinions and ideas ever made it farther than the people who have either once tucked you into bed or shared one with you.

Chances are, you are living in this place. It's your little bubble. Maybe you're socially and politically conscious; you come up with ways to fix the problems of the world over coffee or taco salad with your closest friends. But unless it's election season, your senator or representative won't be knocking on the door during your gabfest to hear what you have to say.

Perhaps you're just one of those people who prefers to complain about the issues as opposed to actually doing something about them. Or maybe you are motivated but the massive problems confronting the world — everything from world hunger to the cost of a double cheeseburger — overwhelm you.

Since we are all in college ("your mom goes to college"), how about some practice? The student body (well, less than one-eighteenth of the student body) just elected two new leaders to Oakland University Student Congress, Kristin Dayag and Saman Waquad. Their platform is based on bringing the OU community together and one of the ways they want to do that is by being accessible to students who have problems and concerns.

But if less than 5 percent of the student body voted, even less are going to take advantage of all the student organizations, including OUSC, on campus.

Let's put this into an economic perspective, since students are struggling to pay tuition among other bills like unlimited Internet access on your Palm Treo. In fall 2008, \$454,225 was collected for student activities fees from all of the 18,169 students who paid tuition. \$431,925 of that is from students who didn't even vote in this last student election and it's going toward events, food and other goodies that only involved students will enjoy.

So come on night class students and under involved, yet strong-minded traditional students. Let's take them up on their offer. What better way to get a feel for maneuvering around the political system than to practice with our peers?

Getting to know student leaders and others involved in campus organizations can also give you a network of friends in countless areas, and with Facebook, you can take them with you wherever you go.

Once you wet your feet, don't stop there. Branch out and network with local and state leaders. You would be surprised how government officials whose jobs depend on your vote are influenced by their constituents' (your) opinions.

OUSC and government relations sponsored their 12th annual OU Day at the Capitol Tuesday, which allowed students to travel to Lansing and meet with State Representatives and Senators about issues and ideas that most of us only talk about over coffee and taco salad. The difference is, the students who network with student and state leaders aren't in their bubble anymore.

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JEFF PARKER/Florida Today, Cagle Cartoons

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CORRECTIONS CORNER

• In "Bill Ayers stresses equality," on page 6 of the March 25 issue, Andrew Bashi was incorrectly called the President of Students for a Democratic Society. Bashi said although he is its main organizer, SDS doesn't have hierarchical positions.

• In "Legislators speak up" on page 7 of the March 25 issue, Eric Sturgis was incorrectly called a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He is not a SAE member.

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

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

— The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Kwame laughs last

By DAUD YAR
Guest Columnist

April Fool's Day brings many laughs and this year nobody will laugh harder than Kwame Kilpatrick. The ex-mayor of Detroit was recently released from Wayne County Jail after serving only 99 days of his 120 day sentence. He now pulls down a six figure salary under employment with Compuware. Kilpatrick started his new job in Texas a couple weeks after his release with a \$100,000 salary plus commissions.

How does this happen? How is it that Kilpatrick is employed while so many Americans are jobless? The answers are not logical and the reasons cannot be justified. They need not point to reason but rather lunacy.

Kilpatrick's two terms produced much controversy for the city. The incident in the fall of 2002 set the tone early on. And it did not end well.

Kilpatrick hurt Detroit financially, as well. His appeal to the whistleblower case cost Detroit millions of dollars. Appeals should be for the wrongly accused; not for men like Kilpatrick who use public funds for a Lincoln Navigator, family trips, obstructing justice, etc. The list goes on, but I have little time. Why does society tolerate these shenanigans? Are we afraid to speak out? Maybe we just don't care? Either way, Kilpatrick can kick back, knowing he had the last laugh.

Now I give the newspapers a lot of credit for going to great lengths to uncover the truth. I am disappointed

at the timing, however. Why did it take so long to have any kind of justice? It's not as if Kilpatrick was subtle about his exploits. He practically shoved it in everyone's face; but we just stood by, not a care in the world.

Kilpatrick received the best of care serving out his sentence. He was separated from the general population. He had his own shower in a 15 x 10 foot cell. If ever there was a jail suite, this was it. I wouldn't be surprised if shuffle board was a daily activity. The man lied under oath. That should be enough to at least guarantee a normal cell.

Kilpatrick was released from jail in no time. But at least he's Compuware's problem now, or so that's what we thought. After securing a well paying job, what's the first thing that Kilpatrick did? He filed a lawsuit against SkyTel for releasing personal text messages. The man has a chance to start anew but instead decides to open up the same can of worms that cost him his last job. Even if Kilpatrick somehow succeeds in the lawsuit it won't change the fact that everyone already read his text messages. It's public knowledge.

In the end, Kilpatrick is out. Don't worry. I'm sure he'll run for mayor again; probably in Austin, Texas. He'll get elected and make fools of Austin's finest. This will happen because justice has been kicked to the curb. Who cares about justice when we can be bought? Kilpatrick knew it just as any other politician. We stress building a just society yet no one puts in any effort. That's why the joke's on us.

Letter to the Editor:

RESPECTFUL DISAGREEMENT

In response to the recent Perspectives column in the March 25 issue, "Pope wrongly condemns condoms," by Katie Wolf, who stands by her decision to call Pope Benedict XVI an "idiot," I take serious offense to your choice of words on behalf of Catholics everywhere.

Why is it that people tiptoe around Judaism and even radical Islam, but make no qualms about disrespecting the Catholic faith? Catholicism has been an acceptable punching bag for decades, specifically in a time of widespread social liberalism in the U.S. Certainly radical Islam is far more worthy of a seething column topic, but it's unlikely we'll see one of those because it could offend believers of Islam here on campus. However, because Catholics are not in the oppressed minority, they are consistently considered fair game.

The basis for the column about the pope's comments is sound and reasonable. It's true that staunch Catholics oppose the use of birth control, a method of use that could save lives in Africa. It's an issue, among others, that causes serious internal discourse within the religion.

That aside, it's unnecessary and insensitive to degrade a man who has earned more than to be called an "idiot" by a flippant young woman who clearly can't disagree with someone and respect their position of religious leadership at the same time.

Katey Meisner
Senior journalism major

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New leaders reach out to students

By COLLEEN J. MILLER
Managing Editor

For the first time in Oakland University's history, women were voted into the top two executive positions of student congress.

It was announced at the Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge Friday, March 27, that Kristin Dayag and Saman Waquad are OU's 2009-10 student body president-elect and vice president-elect after receiving just over 45 percent of the total 892 votes.

The other 55 percent of the votes were split among four other tickets, with the closest competitor, Janelle Arbuckle and Nick McCormick, drawing just over 25 percent of the votes.

While the percentages have a higher spread than last year's student elections, with Steve Clark and Dan Evola winning by a mere seven votes, this year's voter turnout was roughly half the volume.

Evola will be officially handing over the reigns Monday, April 6, and is confident in the new leadership.

"I know [Dayag is] going to do a great job ... She's been on the executive board for two years and she's always just been a really hard worker, extremely dedicated," he said.

Arbuckle also expressed her support for Dayag and Waquad when they were announced as the winners.

"They're going to do a fantastic job, no matter what, you know they're our president you have to support them," she said.

Once Dayag and Waquad's term officially begins, they will start working on several initiatives geared toward increasing student involvement, interaction and awareness of the resource that student congress can be.

Coming together

"We are first and foremost trying to integrate our community as best as we can. The way we're going to do that is work with the student organizations, work with faculty and staff," Dayag said.

In order to integrate the OU community, they want to open up the lines of communication among the different offices, departments and the administration.

"I think that's one of the avenues where student congress sometimes tends to lack based on the administration," Waquad said. "The more open those lines of communication are, the more we can help improve student life at OU."

As part of creating better communica-

tion, Dayag and Waquad said they will continue meeting with members of the OU community as they did during their campaign to learn about specific problems affecting students.

One idea they have is to create a mentor program where faculty, staff and professors volunteer to help students who are involved in the social aspect of the OU community to keep up their grades.

"The student leaders are the people that really make a difference on this campus and we need them," Dayag said.

Dayag also said she wants to incorporate some of the things she's doing now, as OUSC's multicultural affairs director, into her goals as student body president. For instance, she is trying to get student organizations in a specific category to collaborate with one another.

"I know we do have a diverse campus but at the same time it's very segregated," Dayag said. Getting organizations to work together will not only connect student leaders, but it will also promote more, bigger events that can reach more students and create a stronger community, she said.

Getting involved, whether by joining an organization or attending the events made available, can be just as beneficial to the academic experience as attending class. Waquad, who used to hire and train people for a marketing firm, said somebody's GPA wouldn't guarantee them a \$33,000 salary.

"I don't care about your GPA, what is your GPA going to do for my company?" she said. "For me, it's very important to have students at OU realize that we do go to a university for the academic experience but what you gain outside the classroom is what will carry you through life: the leadership skills, the teamwork skills that you attain, the appreciation for diversity."

Another program that they want to get going is one designed to encourage more students to attend on-campus events so they can take more away from OU than their degree.

"A lot of people complain, 'there's nothing to do here, there's nothing to do.' When you look around there's so much to do, there are so many different kinds of events that we have here and a lot of people don't realize it," Waquad said.

So Dayag and Waquad want to initiate an incentives program, where every class offers extra credit for on-campus events that relate to the study.

"For example, if you're a health science major or a biology major you could have



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post
Student Body Vice President-elect Saman Waquad and President-elect Kristin Dayag celebrate the news that they won the election in Fireside Lounge Friday, March 27.

gotten extra credit for something like Dr. Ben Carson," Waquad said. "[Students] will be able to experience a lot more at OU."

One other initiative that is in the planning stages is getting textbooks for every single class to be available in Kresge Library so students who cannot afford to buy books can still study.

Dayag and Waquad also said they will look further into getting Kresge to have more accommodating hours. The library is open 7:30 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, but is only open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

In their campaign, Mark Medaugh and Ashley Marthen said they would work toward getting Kresge to stay open 24 hours. Dayag and Waquad said they didn't want to promise something that is not likely to happen.

"Given that it is a commuter school and you don't have people utilizing the 24-hour area in the OC, if we don't have demand the university's not going to provide us with a 24-hour library," Waquad said.

They will be looking for student input on the issue to see if there really is a demand.

"I actually do want to look more into that to see what steps we can take in order to essentially get to that goal," Dayag said.

'Hold us accountable'

While in office, Dayag and Waquad want to be visible and accessible to the student body.

"I could ask 10 people, more than half of them probably don't even know that we have a student congress," Dayag said.

It might be hard to go to somebody with problems when you don't know they exist.

"My overall vision is for people to be able to feel and know that they can come to us with their problems and their concerns with this university," Dayag said. "And we want to keep an open communication with not just departments, not just student leaders, but every single student that may have a problem and we want to hear all of those problems."

"Basically anything and everything that has to do with student organization and student life and representing student interest comes back to OUSC and we want people to know of that any time they have an issue they can come to us," Waquad said. "They don't have to just stop by to get a Scantron."

In order to make students aware of OUSC, Dayag and Waquad said they will be more proactive in their approach to helping students solve problems.

See "New President" on page 18

Panel and films focus on global issues

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

The Global Issues Awareness Campaign at Oakland University kicked off Thursday with two esteemed professors discussing some of the most relevant international issues with the student body.

Political science special instructor Alan Epstein and professor Paul Kubicek spoke in front of an audience of roughly 30 people, mostly OU students, in the Fireside Lounge in the Oakland Center on topics including nuclear development in Iran and North Korea, the use of torture in Guantanamo Bay and President Barack Obama's aggressive policy toward Afghanistan.

The presentations drew considerable interest from the curious students in attendance. A large number of the questions asked by the students were focused on President Obama's amendments to the foreign policy of his predecessor, George W. Bush.

President Obama has said he plans to significantly draw down the number of American troops in Iraq and redeploy a larger force into Afghanistan. Kubicek said Obama might be speaking out of both sides of his mouth.

"He did critique the surge [in Iraq]

when Bush announced it at the end of 2006," Kubicek said. "It seems to me that he is [advocating] almost the exact same plan for Afghanistan; more troops, change in tactics, changes in strategy will allow us to win hearts and minds better ... I do think there is some inconsistency here."

Kubicek also said that President Obama's policy toward Iraq might not be strong enough for many liberals who want to see that war concluded as quickly as possible.

"I think he's conceded in some respects that the current surge and the current trajectory, and I think everyone would concede, that it is better than it was two years ago," Kubicek said. "His critique of the Iraq policy is much more tempered than it was when he started running."

Epstein talked about and fielded questions on issues involving the rise of China and nuclear development in Iran and North Korea, to name a couple, before he exited early to teach a class. Epstein said the United States might have trouble gaining credibility when it denounces the proliferation of nuclear technology in Iran and North Korea due to its own refusal to abide by anti-nuclear weapon international law.

"As far as being on the moral high ground, no they can't really make that

claim," Epstein said. "A lot of other countries talk about the U.S.'s refusal to encourage Israel to become a member of the non-proliferation treaty or to formally acknowledge that they (Israel) have nuclear weaponry as being a double standard."

The forum marked the first event of the inaugural Global Issues Awareness Campaign put on by OU Student Congress. Saman Waquad, the legislative affairs director of OUSC, said that she hopes the event will alert students that international issues are playing a bigger part in everyday American life than they have in the past.

"We do live in a global village," Waquad said. "We want to make students more aware of what is going on around the world and not just in their little community. What goes on around the world does have an impact on us at home."

Waquad noted that, while the campaign tackles salient and controversial issues, none of it is designed to espouse a particular political persuasion.

"Nothing that we do here at student congress is political," Waquad said. "We try to remain very non-partisan, and as far as the whole campaign goes, it is a human rights awareness campaign. Human rights awareness does not have

to be political. You don't have to be a Democrat or a Republican or part of the Green Party to do that."

The campaign had other events this week, like the "Language for Rights" poetry contest on Monday, March 30 and showing the documentary "Made In China" on the same day.

There is also an art exhibit called "Through Their Eyes" from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. in Fireside Lounge on Friday, April 3. E-mail arring@oakland.edu to submit artwork for a possible \$50 or \$25 prize.

The campaign concludes April 9 with the Rock4Rights concert at 5 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the OC.

For more events coming up this week, read "Coming Up On Campus" on page 10, or visit the Campaign's Facebook group page called "OUSC's Global Issues Awareness Campaign."



Visit www.oaklandpostonline.com to read about the "Language for Rights" poetry contest and the documentary "Made In China," both part of this awareness campaign.

Students get to talk with Michigan politicians

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

Nearly 50 Oakland University students exercised their civic rights and spoke to the men and women that represent them when they toured the State Capitol in Lansing Tuesday.

OU Student Congress sponsored the annual trip to the halls of the Michigan state legislature as part of its "OU at the Capitol" campaign.

Students had the opportunity to sit in on sessions of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as participate in small group meetings with legislators of both houses. OU also sponsored a luncheon in which legislators ate with and informally talked to OU students, faculty and staff.

For Kenyetta Smith, a senior communications major, the trip represented an opportunity to observe firsthand the intricate details of a profession she hopes to call her own in the future.

"I want to be a politician, so this was just an opportunity to look behind the scenes, and get a feel for that," Smith said.

One of the behind-the-scenes glimpses Smith had the fortune to witness came when she and group of roughly a dozen other OU students held a discussion with Senate Majority Leader Michael Bishop. Bishop, a Republican who represents Rochester and its surrounding areas, fielded a number of questions from students, most of which were centered on curbing rapidly accelerating rises in tuition.

Bishop said creating affordable higher education is a bipartisan issue and one that virtually every member in the legislature views as one of the chief priorities of higher education.

"This [tough economic period] is a good thing for government to go through, because you go back to the basics of figuring out what your core principles are and then set priorities for your spending," Bishop said. "It speaks directly to the quality of life in our community."

Bishop pledged to the students that he would do everything in his power to "look out for students."

"The university and I have been developing a great relationship over the years, and I think we've got a good thing going."

Smith said that, while her political ambitions remain strong, she does not believe her encounter with Bishop will have an impact on the cost of tuition.

"This gave me kind of a small perspective on how things work, and basically I think it is a bunch of malarkey," Smith said. "I still have a lot of interest in it, but I don't think coming here is going to make a difference in higher education at all."

Jordan Twardy, vice president of OUSC, said the event was much better run than it has been in the past and gave students a more valuable experience.

Twardy said the casual atmosphere of the luncheon provided students with an opportunity to engage with important decision makers and better relate to the people that represent them.

"I think it was really important, because how many times in your life are you going to get to talk to politi-

cians like that," he said.

"Most of the time, when you're talking to your representative, it's scripted, it's structured. Just being able to talk to them back and forth just really puts a human face on the whole representative government thing," Twardy said.

Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, differs with Smith in that she is hopeful that the dialogue between OU students and the state legislators will move government to address escalating tuition costs more urgently.

"I hope they see how genuine the students are about wanting to complete their education," Miller said. "I hope they see how important [education at OU] is to the big scheme of things — the state of Michigan, Oakland County — I hope that really came through."

"We keep hearing things about people not being able to get jobs here, or they get an education and they move out of the state," she said. "Hopefully they realize that [these students] want to get their education in Michigan and are committed to Michigan."

Twardy, who ran for city council in Warren last year, said he wishes to pursue politics in the future and hopes other students will be inspired to do so after visiting the Capitol.

"With the way it is organized now, I am sure it will continue," Twardy said. "This is hugely important for students. It gives them a window inside their government. A lot of the people I spoke to hadn't been to Lansing before. So for them to have this experience, it is huge."

Continued from page 6

NEW PRESIDENT

"We're not going to wait until somebody comes to our office asking to speak with someone" Dayag said. Instead, they said they will probably put out suggestion boxes in the residence halls, the recreation center, different academic departments and advising as well as revamping the website so people can blog about their concerns.

"Hold us accountable. Feel free to contact us with any concern, any issue."

Looking to the future

The low voter turnout this year is a concern for OU's new student body president and vice president.

"I think the most important thing though is to get the word out because having [892] votes out of 18,000 is not OK. Having less than one eighteenth of the student body vote is not OK," Waquad said.

The winning candidates were not the only ones to notice the lacking turnout.

"This is a campus where our biggest

problem is people not getting involved, so you can kinda see that by this low voter turnout that it's still a problem and it still needs to be fixed," Medaugh said.

The low turnout may impact how the elections are run next year.

"We should have polling locations in every single building during the entire time," Dayag said.

The new OUSC leaders are now seeking applicants to fill the executive board as well as four open legislator seats.

Some candidates that ran for president want to keep working in OUSC.

Medaugh said he is considering applying for the student activities funding board chair position or being a legislator.

Arbuckle, the current OUSC public relations agent, said she also wants to be on the executive board again. Anthony Ivone said he wants to be involved too.

Evola, who did not run for reelection, has secured a spot as a legislator for next year. He, 21 new legislators, and Dayag and Waquad will be sworn in on April 6.

More language options coming

By RORY MCCARTY
Senior Reporter

Oakland University students may soon be able to take Aramaic language courses, and have Arabic as a minor.

Lawrence Mansour, vice president of the Chaldean American Student Association, said that Aramaic is something he and other students would like to see offered at OU in the future.

Aramaic is the root language of Hebrew and Arabic, so linguists studying those languages would likely be interested in learning some Aramaic as well, Mansour said. In addition to its religious and linguistic applications, Mansour said that Aramaic has many practical uses as well. As recently as 2003, it is one of the recognized languages spoken in Iraq. Mansour said that the FBI and the CIA have begun hiring Aramaic linguists.

In an effort to get Aramaic courses available to students, Mansour said CASA worked with a group of faculty to put together a course for the University of Detroit Mercy. The UDM courses take a look into the cultural backgrounds as well as the language of Aramaic.

Mansour said that although CASA has made progress in talking to Ron Sudol, OU's dean of the college of arts and sciences, currently Aramaic credits from UDM are not recognized at OU.

OU administrators said they are interested in accommodating students interested in Aramaic and Arabic.

"From the standpoint of the College of Arts and Sciences, I can say that we are very interested in pursuing the possibili-

ty of offering Aramaic in our Department of Modern Languages," Sudol said.

"Contemporary Aramaic is surrounded by a rich cultural heritage, which makes it a good fit for other languages such as French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese that we offer for general education credit as well as majors."

On the prospects of getting Aramaic courses at OU, Mansour said he's more optimistic than he was two months ago. In the meantime, Aramaic studies will begin to be offered online in May through UDM.

Those aren't the only changes that may be coming to OU's language programs.

Since 2005, there have been requests to have an Arabic language minor at OU. Because OU already offers introductory level Arabic language courses, the addition of a new minor would have many considerations, such as adding a wider range of courses and hiring new faculty, said Kathleen Moore, associate dean of the college of arts and sciences.

"To move that program toward a minor and then a major, we will need to put in place some full-time faculty with specialization in Arabic," Moore said. She said in requesting new faculty, the departments have to weigh competing needs.

Last year, the Department of Modern Languages launched a new major in Japanese, which built off of the existing minor. Moore said she expected that the next program to authorize a major will be Chinese.

"Hopefully, within the next year or so, a position in Arabic will be authorized," she said.

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Columnist asks women to mentor young girls

By LINDSEY WOJCIK
Editor in Chief

Stressing the power of women and the importance of mentoring young women, Detroit Free Press metro columnist Rochelle Riley concluded the Gender and Sexuality Center's Women's History Month celebration in a keynote speech in the Oakland Center's Gold Rooms Thursday, March 26.

Riley acknowledged she was asked to speak on behalf of author Bell Hooks' cancellation and also joked that she had big shoes to fill.

Prior to her speech, Riley said she researched feminism of all races. "With everything I read I came to the sad conclusion that women have for decades, no centuries; [they] are fighting separate race, class and sexual battles and that all women all want the same thing — freedom."

Riley listed off things that have affected women negatively in the past that angered her.

"What I'm most angry about is ... our girls are descending into an abyss of self loathing for self-esteem and ambition and freedom and power," she said. "And

we are not paying attention to that kind of struggle."

She stressed that women should work together to fight for their power. "Women should not apologize for what they want and desire," Riley said.

Discussing the Gender and Sexuality Center's theme of sex and love, Riley talked about her work leading weekly teen discussions during her time as a columnist at the Louisville Courier-Journal. "Our teenage girls don't know love," she said. "These girls don't know these boys [they are sleeping with] at all."

She said she is trying to reach sexually promiscuous young girls and said making changes on a small scale by being good role models for young girls is key. "If you're looking to help someone, talk to the 13-year-old girls who will sleep with any guy who says 'let's do it,'" Riley said.

Riley said the new feminism is teaching young girls their power. "What is the point of feminism if there are no women left to benefit from it?"

A 15 minute question and answer session followed her speech along with a book signing of Riley's book "Life Lessons: Essays on Parenthood, America, 9/11 and Detroit."

During the question and answer portion a student asked Riley what advice she had for sexually promiscuous young girls, to which Riley said, "You know that Beyonce song 'Put a Ring on It?' Close your legs until he puts a ring on it."

GSC coordinator Joann Bautti-Roche said in light of Hooks' cancellation, Riley was very gracious in coming to Oakland University to speak. She said she was pleased with Riley's speech as the conclusion to what has been a successful year for the GSC Women's History Month celebration.

"I think it was an excellent, excellent finale," Bautti-Roche said. "She gave a really good message."

Riley's message reached several students. Senior Rena Yousif, who attended the event, said she was glad she did. "It was inspirational especially when she was talking about females and how one person can make a difference," Yousif said.

Junior Eryn Montgomery was also inspired by Riley's speech. "I've never heard of her before but I was really inspired. She says the simple things that everyone should know but you gotta keep it in your brain," Montgomery said.

Musical 'Follies' entertains

By DAUD YAR
Contributing Reporter

"Follies," a musical adapted from a James Goldman book with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, played to a packed house Sunday, March 29 at Varner Studio Theatre.

The musical set around New York in the late 1950s, focuses on relational flaws between the four major characters: Phyllis and Benjamin Stone, played by Katie Hardy and Joey Bybee, and Sally and Buddy Plummer, played by Alexandra Zorn and Alex Pedica.

The cast consisted of about 30 Oakland University students.

"I never anticipated doing 'Follies' for a college cast," said director Michael Gillespie. "There are a lot of elderly and middle-aged people in it."

The play brought a different atmosphere to theatre. The doors opened a half hour before curtain, and audience members could watch four cast members putting on makeup on stage.

"This is to show the audience that there is no illusion," Gillespie said.

The musical opened with a reunion after the club Follies has been shut down for about 20 years. Follies once was a place for showgirls, booze and good times. But now it's only fit for a reunion.

The story centers on Sally Plummer's love for Benjamin Stone. Benjamin, who has never felt love before, is married to Phyllis Stone. While most of the main characters have extramarital relations, Sally is trapped between her love for Benjamin and her obligations as a wife.

"My character has been married for

30 years. His wife has never really loved him. He does go astray but he truly does love Sally," Pedica said. "This show was somewhat difficult because it is very deep. I was always finding more about the character every show."

During the second half of the musical, the setting changed from Follies to Loveland, a fictitious land where true feelings are revealed. While there were mere glimpses into the past in the first act, the four main roles confronted their past selves through a medley of songs.

"I think vocally, that was our best performance," Zorn said after Sunday's performance. "Sally has a lot of emotional issues but with this performance, I felt really connected to her."

The music was challenging for some.

"Sondheim is well known in musical theatre and it is very hard to follow. We had to know the music backwards and forwards," Zorn said. "The band is behind us, which presented another obstacle."

Some audience members were entertained by the play.

"My favorite number was the tango number toward the middle of play with no singing but just dance," said Joseph Leang, a freshman undecided major.

"My favorite part was the whole Follies bit, the four dance numbers in a row," said Andrew Kalinowski, a sophomore Chinese history major. "I thought it showed the thoughts of the actors coming out in a very artistic way."

"Follies" is playing April 1-4 at 8 p.m. and from April 4-5 at 2 p.m. in Varner Studio Theatre. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$16 for the public, and can be bought in Varner Box Office.

POLICEFILES

On March 20, OUPD responded to a report of a sexual assault in O'Dowd Hall. The victim said she came from Detroit to meet a man she had met on Facebook.com. The victim said the man had promised by phone to give her money. When the man went into a restroom in O'Dowd, he suggested the victim come join him. She refused. While the victim was using a stall in the women's bathroom, the man busted in her stall and demanded she strip so that he could masturbate. The man threatened to revoke a \$150 gift card he gave her if she did not remove her clothes. The victim claimed she had dialed 911 three times but was hung up on each time. A 911 operator said that on one of the calls, the victim had said she was at Oakland on University and Square Lake, at which point the operator attempted to contact Oakland Community College on Square Lake. The Oakland County Sheriff's Department had tried to call the victim twice after the battery in her

phone had lost its charge. The suspect is described as a medium height male with dark curly hair, possibly of Arabic descent with no noticeable accent. A search revealed that the victim had three arrest warrants for larceny, in Dearborn, Madison Heights and Harper Woods. Three days later, a review of security camera footage showed no footage of the victim meeting the suspect.

On March 23, OUPD met with a female who reported being followed off campus by a tall white man in a blue hooded sweatshirt as she left Pawley Hall six days earlier. The female said that she had been followed by the man in a silver Ford Fusion. The female said the Fusion followed her from I-75 North off University Drive to I-475. When the female exited the highway, the man in the Fusion slammed his brakes to try and exit, but he had already passed the exit. The female said she has no idea who the man could have been.

Fellows fight it out for PhiSignificance

By KATEY MEISNER
Contributing Reporter

Freshman Josh Snell was crowned this year's Mr. PhiSignificant by the ladies of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority after a 1950s-themed male charm pageant.

Eighteen men competed in the event that judged each contestant on their charm, creativity and effort. The contestants dressed for three categories: OU spirit gear, 1950s wear and formal wear. For the OU spirit gear portion of the pageant, wearing OU gear took on new meaning for some.

One contestant ripped off his T-shirt to display "I love Phi Sig" in body paint on his back. Not to be outdone, another paired a gold, OU T-shirt with a black mini-skirt, carrying a black and gold pompon.

But it was Snell's charm and wit that ultimately won the judges over.

"If I win Mr. PhiSignificant, it would prove that you don't need a body like Jose [Cesar]," Snell said during the question and answer portion of the pageant. "Everybody has a chance."

Top five finalist, Jose Cesar, proved to be a tough competitor for Snell. Cesar named his deceased grandfather as the person he'd most like to have dinner with as he struggled to hold back tears. Snell considered Cesar to be the obvious frontrunner.

"I'm extremely surprised. It's unexpected," Snell said, having just been crowned Mr. PhiSignificant. "I thought Jose had it in the bag."

The night closed with a celebratory dance to Abba's, "Dancing Queen," at which time the ladies of Phi Sigma



Photos by KATEY MEISNER/The Oakland Post
(Above) Runners up Jose Cesar shows off his formal wear.
(Right) Mr. PhiSignificant Josh Snell struts his 50's wardrobe.



Sigma joined Snell on the stage.

"I think he's going to do a good job with it," said Dan Evola, previous Mr. PhiSignificant winner.

The annual pageant, now in its 10th year, brought back Phi Sigma Sigma alumni to judge contenders.

"I had the opportunity and privilege of being a judge this year. I was definitely ready to step up and do my job as an alumni," said Sarah Redlawski.

The event was free to attend, but sorority members sold baked goods and raffle tickets to donate to their national philanthropy, the National Kidney Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

April 6-8

A nine-member evaluation team from the

Learning Commission of the
North Central Association of
Colleges and Schools

(<http://ncahlc.org/>)

will be visiting the campus. This visit is a part of the comprehensive evaluation that Oakland undergoes every ten years to receive university wide accreditation.

Monday April 6th:

The team will be hosting an open meeting for students—to allow students the opportunity to provide feedback on their Oakland University experience to the accreditation team.

The meeting will be held in
South Foundation Hall in room 268 from
3:45-4:45.



Web Exclusives this week:

- Global Issues Awareness Campaign held a "Language of rights" poetry contest on Tuesday, March 30. Which two poets won?
- What did students think about the film "Made In China," part of the awareness campaign?
- Three Oakland University Student Congress members visited the U.S. Congress last week. What did they lobby for?
- An OU professor went to Congress last week. What did he lobby for?
- See photos and read about International Night on Thursday, March 26.
- See more photos from the Mr. PhiSignificant male charm pageant. What did some male OU students do to try to win the title?

Find out on www.oaklandpostonline.com.

- Blogs on 10 different topics
updated Monday-Friday.

Coming Up On Campus

- "Black Gold" — Wednesday, April 1, 5 - 6:30 p.m., Oakland Center's Fireside Lounge. This documentary is about international coffee growers and free trade, as part of Oakland University Student Congress' Global Issues Awareness Campaign.
- "The Global Nature of the Current Economic and Financial Crisis" — Thursday, April 2, 3 p.m., Elliot Hall room 242. Dr. Michael Musa to talk about economics.
- "FLOW (For Love Of Water)" — Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m., OC's pioneer food court. The documentary will show "how a handful of corporations steal our water" and depict the global water crisis, as part of the Global Issues Awareness Campaign.
- "End Sexual Assault" — Monday, April 6, 4 - 5 p.m., Macomb University Center, Building UC3, Room 120. A community conversation about sexual assault.
- Lecture on religion — Monday, April 6, 7 p.m., OC Banquet Rooms. Renowned philosopher Daniel Dennett to talk about why and how religion shaped so many lives so strongly, and other aspects of religion, in relation to biology, history and psychology.
- "S.A.F.E. on Campus Ally Training" — Wednesday, April 8, 12 - 1:30 p.m., OC rooms 129-130. Become an ally of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community. Email Joann Bautti-Roche at jbauttir@oakland.edu to register.

WXOU celebrates its 43th

By MACKENZIE ROGER
Staff Reporter

It's rare to see a 43-year-old celebrating their birthday with live rap music and a dance floor outside of Los Angeles, but on March 25, that's exactly what happened.

Don't worry, it wasn't a knock-off of Entourage star Jeremy Piven's last birthday. WXOU, Oakland University's student radio station celebrated their 43th year on the air with live musical performances and free giveaways.

Oakland Center's Gold Rooms, normally reserved for lectures and presentations, was turned into a concert stage, with flashing lights and surround sound.

The Birthday Bash was designed to increase student listenership and involvement in the station.

Over 200 students visited the party throughout the night, some of whom left with complimentary WXOU T-shirts and movie posters. One student won a Batman doll from a raffle.

Several of the musical bands were made up of OU students, including Royalty Entertainment, a newly-formed rap group composed of freshmen Josh Finney (aka J-Fin) and Jayson DeRiso (Trade). Finney also hosts a Saturday-

afternoon show on the radio station, playing current hit music.

OU senior Rob Lauzen, also known as Robo-Robb, showcased his rap and dance skills, taking the stage after a last-minute cancellation by another group.

Other performers were Citizen Smile, Tripple Crown and Oscillating Fan Club.

With the live music, strobe lights, and dance floor, the party took on a progressively more club-like atmosphere as time passed, with more students dancing.

"My favorite part of the night was the performances," said freshman Aiana Scott. "Especially Royalty Entertainment, they just killed it."

A booth was set up along one wall, with pictures, a show schedule and plenty of excited staff to answer any questions. They encouraged people to get involved with WXOU.

"If you're interested, come down, put in an application, and hang out," said WXOU program director junior Erik Anderson. Other staff spoke favorably.

"I love the station," Scott said. "Students can relate, and it can give the people working there exposure."

WXOU is located on 60 Oakland Center, and can be tuned in on campus on 88.3 FM, and streams live from anywhere at www.wxou.org for free.

Evening of Ethnicity



BRAD SLAZINSKI/The Oakland Post
Members of OU's Albanian American Students Association perform a dance during OU's International Night on Thursday, March 26 in the Banquet Rooms in the Oakland Center.



Go to www.oaklandpostonline.com
to read an article about International Night, and
see more photos from the night.

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Do you feel the increased reliance and use of social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook is positive or negative?



"Positive, because Facebook isn't like MySpace, people usually don't friend strangers and I think it's easier to find people from your classes."

Angelina Bray
Sophomore, nursing



"Positive. Allows you to stay in touch with old friends and make new ones with the same interests. It's also good for future job opportunities."

Kevin Swift
Sophomore, information technology



"Positive, because you can interact with other students who go to OU and other schools."

Valentina Yousif
Senior, elementary education



"It has a positive affect over all. Makes it easier to keep in touch with people."

Max Simler
Freshman, undecided



Twitt•er•ati:
Similar to the paparazzi, known as the "Tweet Elite" post random tweets from prominent Tweeters.

Many Twitter accounts are created for fake people, or people pretending to be celebrities. A man from Michigan recently made a Twitter account for Dina Lohan.

News organizations like the Free Press and The Oakland Post utilize Twitter for posting up-to-date news and events.



Do you have a blog?



"No. I don't want my whole life all over the Internet."

Christina Quigley
Sophomore,
secondary education



"I don't, but my band does and I post info on our MySpace."

Andy Bird
Senior, English

Would you rather...

Call or text someone?



"Depends, usually text if it's something short."

Whitney Pearse
Junior, sociology



"Both. Depends on where I am at."

Latoya Thompson
Sophomore,
information technology

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Obama's plans for auto industry

By DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama asserted unprecedented government control over the auto industry Monday, rejecting turnaround plans from General Motors and Chrysler and raising the prospect of controlled bankruptcy for either ailing auto giant.

Eager to reassure consumers, Obama also announced the federal government would immediately begin backing the warranties that new car buyers receive — a step designed to signal that it is safe to purchase U.S.-made autos and trucks despite the distress of the industry.

In a statement read at the White House, Obama said he was “absolutely committed” to the survival of a domestic auto industry that can compete internationally. And yet, “our auto industry is not moving in the right direction fast enough,” he added.

With his words, Obama underscored the extent to which the government is now dictating terms to two of the country's iconic corporations, much as it has already taken an ownership stake in banks, the insurance giant AIG and housing titans Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

In an extraordinary move, the administration forced the departure of Rick Wagoner as CEO of General Motors Corp. over the weekend, and implicit in Obama's remarks was that the government holds the ability to pull the plug on



ASSOCIATED PRESS
In this Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008 picture, from foreground to background, General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner, Chrysler CEO Robert Nardelli, and Ford CEO Alan Mulally testify at a Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on the automotive industry bailout on Capitol Hill.

that company or Chrysler.

Ford Motor Co., the third member of the Big 3, has not requested federal bailout funds, and was not included in the president's remarks.

The Bush administration late last year approved \$17 billion in federal funds to help GM and Chrysler survive. It also demanded both companies submit restructuring plans that the Obama administration would review.

Even as he pronounced their effort

unsatisfactory, the president said the administration will offer General Motors “adequate working capital” over the next 60 days to produce a reorganization plan acceptable to the administration.

He said Chrysler's situation is more perilous, and the government will give the company 30 days to overcome hurdles to a merger with Fiat SpA, the Italian automaker. If they are successful “we will consider lending up to \$6 billion to help their plan succeed,” Obama said.

The president also said the government will now stand behind warranties issued by the carmakers, a guarantee that some in Congress had sought.

He noted that the economic stimulus legislation he recently signed allows the purchasers of new domestic cars to deduct the cost of any sales and excise taxes. Obama said this provision could “save families hundreds of dollars and lead to as many as 100,000 new car sales.”

Obama spoke at the White House with U.S. automakers at yet another crossroads. As the president noted, the industry has shed more than 400,000 jobs in the past year as the recession took hold. Officials announced last week bailout funds would be made available to companies that supply the automakers, an attempt to keep them afloat.

Obama said he is committed to the survival of an auto industry — on terms that will allow it to compete internationally.

“But we also cannot continue to excuse poor decisions,” he said. “And we cannot make the survival of our auto industry dependent on an unending flow of tax dollars.”

He also said some of the industry's progress has scarcely been noticed. He mentioned that the North American Car of the Year in 2008 was produced by GM.

“Let me be clear: The United States government has no interest in running GM; we have no intention of running GM,” Obama said.

Sports apparel stores struggle in down economy

By BRADLEY JEFFERS
Contributing Reporter

A few lights provide enough comfort to those who park their cars in a dark parking lot. It's a Saturday night in Roseville, and the only sign of life is the fact that a few dozen cars are huddled close to the nearby mall. Inside, a business owner quietly wonders how much longer he will be able to stay in business.

This is a reality that is faced by Bob Roberts, owner and purchaser for Home Teams, a store that specializes in sports apparel and accessories. Due to recently difficult economic times, he was forced to close one of his three stores, and at this rate, he's not sure how much longer the others will last.

“You know, I never thought I'd see this day. It's not

that we expected to compete with national chains, but I really thought we were secure. It's not Macomb Mall's fault that we're not getting business ... there's no business anywhere.”

As of 2008, Roberts' business had three locations: inside Macomb Mall, near Lakeside Mall and one in Port Huron. Poor sales and elevating rent costs forced the Port Huron location to close in early 2009.

Despite the situation, Roberts remains optimistic. “I mean, I know anything is possible, but we've done really well selling Tigers merchandise the last couple of years. If they have another season like they did in 2006, I'm sure a lot of local businesses will benefit from it.”

Home Teams' employees are trying to avoid thinking about what could happen if they lose their jobs. Sarah Klein fears she would have to drop out of college.

“I really need this job so I can continue to go to school. I know a lot of my friends aren't able to find a job right now. It's not easy right now, but we're all making sacrifices right now.”

Customers are anxious as to what this will mean for them.

“I think this is great. I mean not that I want anyone to lose their jobs, but if everyone is hurting, businesses are going to have to be a lot more competitive. So instead of paying 20 bucks for a shirt, now I might only have to pay 15,” said Robert Camargo.

Unfortunately, there is only so much that business owners can and are willing to do. For Roberts, he has a motto he's lived by his entire life, and he feels is more relevant now than ever.

“We can only live one day at a time.”

News Briefs

Insurance fees to rise for Michigan motorists

LANSING — Michigan motorists will have to pay \$20 more this year to a fund helping support seriously injured accident victims.

The Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association on Monday raised the annual assessment to about \$125 per vehicle.

The assessment is passed on from insurance companies to drivers' annual insurance bills.

The MCCA reduced the charge by \$18 last year after getting more from investments than expected and seeing medical costs not rise as fast as projected.

But the fee will rise starting July 1.

The MCCA said investment returns fell in the last year while claim costs continued to rise.

Michigan is the only state to offer unlimited lifetime medical benefits for people seriously injured in car accidents.

Patterson works to bring Auto Show to Oakland County in the future

PONTIAC— The Detroit Auto Show in the suburbs?

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said he'll work to lure the big winter car show away from downtown Detroit if a deal to change control of Cobo Center collapses.

Patterson told The Detroit News he's talked to three convention halls in Oakland County. He didn't name them.

The Detroit City Council is suing to block the transfer of Cobo Center to a regional authority. A judge could make a decision Monday.

Council member Barbara-Rose Collins says Patterson is "bullying" the city with talk of bringing the North American International Auto Show to Oakland County. Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano isn't excited, either.

Source: The Associated Press

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A peek behind Varner's curtain

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

On an average day, Varner Hall is brought to life by orchestral music that can be heard emanating from music majors practicing. Dancers and actors fill the hallways as they mentally prepare for their next performance.

Pursuing a career in the performing arts can be risky business, especially with the limited cultural venues in Michigan.

Theatre

But a beacon of hope lies on the horizon as the state of Michigan continues to woo the film industry, in its attempt to promote Michigan as the Midwest hub for Hollywood.

Chris Rozanski, a 20-year-old senior musical theatre major said that there has been a lot of talk about how to survive in the "real world," ever since the economy started to take its dive.

"The economy has affected the theatre just as much as it has affected any other type of business," he said. "[Professors] have talked about the fact that many actors are out of work, and many theatre companies are being forced to cancel shows or entire seasons."

After graduation, Rozanski plans to move to New York City, but he is encouraged by the possibility of a thriving movie industry in the state of Michigan.

"I feel that I need to see what New York holds for me, but it is still early and you never know. I could very well find my self back in my hometown being in feature films," he said.

Kerro Knox, the director for the theatre program, believes that the movie industry will be able to thrive in Michigan. Since the program began offering a Bachelor of Arts for both theatre and dance two years ago, students are walking away more prepared than ever.

"The added courses have increased [the] level of professionalism for our students, and how they're looking at what they can do with the profession," he said.

Knox said the arts are always on a "shoestring," so the economy doesn't worry him too much because it's unpredictable.

"The economy ebbs and flows, its



Music, theatre and dance students ride the tides of the unpredictable economy. Draping costume design instructor Leslie Littell, with Eileen Rozycki, a theater production major.

always a cycle, and a deep dip like this is going to have some repercussions."

Just because the economy is in a downturn, Knox doesn't feel the program needs to lecture too much about what isn't out there today, when things can change so quickly.

"We have to be, A, hopeful and, B, have to be planning for the future and not just for the immediate problem which probably only last a few years," Knox said.

Dance

Over in the dance lounge on the first floor, 22-year-old senior Samantha Bingham and 20-year-old junior Ciarra Forsyth take time between classes to catch up with homework.

Bingham came to OU on a dance scholarship, and Forsyth is a transfer student from Hope College; both are pursuing their Bachelors of Fine Arts.

Bingham said OU is great for preparing students for the infinite number of dancing positions; including administrative, performing, choreographing, teaching, and for jobs in physical health and injury prevention.

"There are so many nooks and crannies within the dance profession that people aren't aware of, and OU can prepare you for a career in any of these fields. But ultimately talent will only set you apart

from those within the department, but you need the drive to put yourself out there to market yourself to get you that job," Bingham said.

Forsyth is taking advantage of the opportunities OU offers by keeping her options open.

"Personally I don't know if I want to dance with a company, I'm perfectly happy being on the production end of it because I like costuming, so I can always do that."

According to Bingham, dancers can pursue two options after graduation: through commercial dancing or touring with a company. OU also offers two different student dance companies: Oakland Dance Theatre for dancers of various skill levels, and Oakland University Repertory Dance Company which is for more experienced dancers.

Bingham said that the small size of the department allows for accessible faculty.

"I love this dance lounge that is connected to the offices of the faculty members, and they are always open to help us out," she said.

But Forsyth's experience as a transfer student has given her a frame of reference to compare the two departments. She feels the biggest difference between the schools is that the instructors at Hope were older and past the phase of wanting to pursue outside interests,

where instructors at OU still have their sights on side projects.

Her overall assessment of how well OU prepares students pursuing a career in dance is that it is helpful for those who are just beginning.

"This department is helpful in getting you started, in presenting all of the choices you have. They're good at saying, 'Here's all these possibilities, you choose which one, and you drive yourself where you want to go.'"

Music

The third floor of Varner Hall is where music majors spend their time. Within the music department, students concentrate on either music education or performance.

For music education majors, the outlook goes as the education industry goes. But for most schools, art programs are the first to be cut.

Debbie Blair, assistant professor and coordinator of the undergraduate music program said that a lot is riding on what affect the stimulus package will have.

"We are looking forward to see whether or not the package is going to enable veteran teachers to take buyouts, which will enable the younger teachers to take the vacated positions," said Blair.

She said that the students know they have to look for work outside of the immediate area, but many students have jobs lined up before they are finished student teaching.

"We enable them the whole way through the program to be the strongest musician and the strongest teacher they can be. When they are seniors we talk about general job search strategies, interviewing and resume building, but our biggest focus is, of course, being excellent teachers."

The department is in continuous contact with the Michigan Department of Education and various fine arts organizations that update the faculty of what is going on.

"You can't be alive and not be worried, but I don't get really worried because we've had such a great percentage of our kids finding jobs," Blair said. "Our students are good candidates for the jobs that are available, their problem is, will there be jobs?"

The leader of the pack

Senior Julie Owen speaks about her captaincy for the 2009 season

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

During Oakland University's softball game against the University of Missouri-Kansas City on Saturday afternoon, the Golden Grizzlies entered the top of the fifth inning leading 8-0.

Needing just one more out to invoke the mercy rule, UMKC's lead-off hitter Kalene Curry came to the plate. Oakland senior Julie Owen was stationed at her familiar second base position, drawn in as if the winning run was threatening at third awaiting the squeeze home.

Meanwhile, over in the visitor's bleachers, two fans huddled under a blanket, shielding themselves from the swirling winds. Pointing at Owen, one of them said, "Look how close the second baseman comes in. She's risking a liner to the head. If I were the hitter I would be afraid of hitting her with her standing so close."

Grizzlies Head Coach Glenn MacDonald is well aware of Owen's dedication in situations like this.

"We have a motto to play the game for seven innings and not ever watch it, and Julie Owen truly is a player that plays the game for seven innings," he said. "There is not a moment that she does not play the game of softball."

Owen is the embodiment of MacDonald's softball philosophy. She leads the team in batting average (.408), home runs (3) and RBIs (22). But the stat that best defines Owen's value as a player is her .521 on-base percentage. A major contributor to this statistic is the fact that she's been hit by a pitch 10 times already this season.

"There are 26 girls on this team, and if you ask each one of them which player they would want to be, I bet 20 of them would say Julie Owen," MacDonald said. "She pumps everybody up, she leads by example, and she has a very good way of being able to talk to the players without talking down to them."

In her 2006 freshman campaign, Owen led all other freshmen in batting average, hitting .282 in 54 games. Her sophomore season saw her lead the team in most significant offensive categories, including

home runs, RBIs and runs.

But the team faltered in the Summit League Championship game that year, with Owen on the bench with a broken collarbone.

Aside from her statistical output early in her career, MacDonald said that her "cockiness" really showed how strong she was, and what type of leader she was going to be.

"There were times that me and her butted heads, but she's the first one to admit that if she does something wrong," MacDonald said.

What her coach saw as cockiness, Owen said, was just a case of her standing up for what she believes was in the best interest of the team.

"I am not good at brushing off the little things," Owen said. "It's not always a good quality to have, it's just that I have to speak out. But there is a boundary between speaking out and still respecting someone's position. I like to keep that boundary, where I can speak my mind to the extent where it doesn't challenge his authority."

According to MacDonald, it's Owen's accountability that made her a good leader because "if you can't admit when you are wrong, or you step out of line and accuse a teammate of not hustling when they are, that can hurt the team."

This intuition developed through personal experience with her coaches, so she treats her teammates the way she wants to be treated herself.

"I've played around people in the past that I haven't enjoyed playing with, and there have been times when I've been that person that I don't like to be, so I try to stay away from being like that," Owen said. "So when I try to teach or help another player, I observe how they react to criticism and approach them accordingly. Some players you just can't yell at."

Owen serves as a team captain, along with Caitlin Lynch, for the Grizzlies this season.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Julie Owen has a career batting average of .308 in her four years as a starter for the Grizzlies.

See Owen on page 18

THE SPORTING BLITZ

By DAN FENNER
Sports Editor

NCAA Swimming Championships

The 2008-09 swimming season came to a close last weekend, concluding with the NCAA National Championships in College Station, Texas. Oakland University was represented by freshman swimmer Anders Jensen, who competed in three events: the 100 and 200-yard backstroke and the 200-yard butterfly.

At weekend's end, Jensen received All-American Honorable Mention accolades, capping off a highly celebrated first season with the Golden Grizzlies. His time of 1:41:83 in the 200-yard backstroke was good enough for 12th place overall, and was just a few tenths of a second short of his career best time.

Oakland finished 35th in the final NCAA swimming championship standings.

Wrestler Earns All-American Honors

Oakland University's Garrett Johnston became the school's first All-American wrestler earlier this month, in just the second year since the program was established. Johnston, who weighs in at 184 pounds, finished in fourth place overall at the National Collegiate Wrestling Association's individual national championships. He was one of four OU wrestlers to travel to Virginia to compete against many of the nation's best wrestlers. Johnston placed first in the North Central Conference during the season. This was his second trip to the individual nationals. He will be looking to improve on his accomplishments when he returns for his senior season next year.

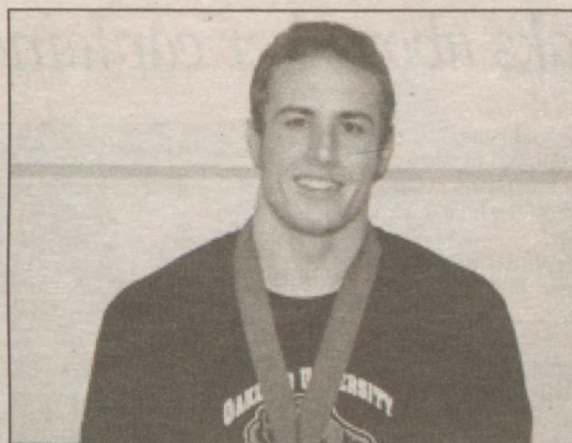


Photo courtesy of Kyle Nieporte
Garrett Johnston compiled a 19-3 overall record this season.



BOB KNOSKA/The Oakland Post
Friday's win was Dan Augustine's first of the season.

Oakland baseball defeats Concordia

The Oakland University baseball team won its second home game of the season Friday, defeating Concordia by a 10-8 score. The Golden Grizzlies powered their way to victory behind the strength of five home runs. Seniors Justin Wilson and Jonathan Zalenski, each with two home runs, led the charge for the OU offense, while shortstop Andrew Stafford contributed three hits and a stolen base on the day. Starting pitcher Dan Augustine picked up the victory for the Golden Grizzlies.

The team will play two road games against Western Michigan and the University of Michigan this week before beginning a 10-game home stand. They will play host to Western Illinois for four games on April 4-5.

Continued from page 17

OWEN

"She's always wanted her coaches to do different things, and she got frustrated because they didn't know how to do it or didn't make the time," said Ann Owen, Julie's mother. "So we have kind of encouraged her to take that initiative to help out her teammates, to improve the team."

Owen admits her role as a co-captain can be a bit of a burden because it can be tough to know when not to say too much, but she accepts it.

"Sometimes you like it, but all in all I feel like it's my job," she said. "It's nothing I would ask for, but it's something I feel I need to fulfill, especially being a senior."

Listed at five foot, four inches, her height doesn't seem to hinder her in any way.

"She's just filled with piss and vinegar," MacDonald said. "There's nobody who sweats more than her, there's nobody who's dirtier than her at the end of a game. She's not afraid of hard work, and she doesn't ask anyone to do anything that she wouldn't do herself."

Owen admits that she is somewhat of a perfectionist, which her father, Phil Owen, said runs in the family. "She always said, 'If you're going to do some-

thing, do it right."

He said that sometimes this kind of attitude can be a curse, but he has worked with her when she's been frustrated. What irks Owen the most, she explained, is when she sees somebody with a lot of talent but isn't living up to it.

"I'm sure she is envious of [other players' talent]," her dad said. "She says, 'man if I had that talent, what could I do?' But we tell her that you can't make somebody else do anything they don't want to, so if you try to set the example, maybe people will follow you."

Because of her smaller stature, Owens said she knows she hasn't had the advantage of size and strength, but her work ethic and hustle has put her ahead of her peers. This is what she feels has had the biggest impact on her leadership skills.

"I still don't see myself as the best person out there, but that's what helps my leadership because I hustle and work so hard, and that is how I have developed into the player I am," Owen said.

MacDonald said he is confident that Owen could play professionally when she's done at Oakland.

"You may watch her and say, 'yeah she's good,' but once she plays for you, once she's on your team, you wouldn't give her up for a million dollars because she's just that good."

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

4/2 at Wayne State noon

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

4/2 vs. Michigan State 8 p.m.
4/4 vs. Toledo 9 a.m. *
4/4 vs. Calvin 12:30 p.m. *
4/4 vs. Baldwin-Wallace 1:45 p.m. *
* Games played in Toledo, Ohio

MEN'S LACROSSE

4/4 vs. Northern Michigan
(Ferris State University) 1 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

4/3 Detroit Titan Classic
in Detroit
4/4 Spartan Invitation
in East Lansing

SOFTBALL

4/1 at Central Michigan 2 p.m. *
4/3 vs. Southern Utah 3 p.m. *
4/4 vs. Southern Utah noon
4/7 at Eastern Michigan 3 p.m. *
* doubleheader

BASEBALL

4/1 at Michigan 3 p.m.
4/4 vs. Western Illinois noon *
4/5 vs. Western Illinois noon *
4/7 vs. Western Michigan 3 p.m.
* doubleheader

Pair of wins in debut

GOLDEN GRIZZLIES SOFTBALL VS. UMKC

By JOE GUZMAN
Senior Reporter

The Oakland University women's softball team (10-17, 4-4) swept a doubleheader against the University of Missouri-Kansas City (6-25, 1-10) on Saturday afternoon in their first home games of the season; defeating the Kangaroos 8-0 and 4-2.

The teams wore pink jerseys as the day was dedicated to breast cancer awareness. Coach Glenn MacDonald announced that he dedicated the games to his former sister-in-law, the late Julie MacDonald, who lost her battle with breast cancer in October 2007.

"I thought that it was only fitting to raise awareness for breast cancer since it has impacted my family and so many other families," MacDonald said in a press release.

The early game ended after just five innings, as the Grizzlies scored four runs apiece in the third and fourth innings. UMKC aided the Grizzlies, committing six errors in the game.

Centerfielder Stephanie Schall led off the third with a single, and promptly stole second base on pitcher Samantha

Hurst's first pitch to the next hitter.

Alyssa Deacon beat out a grounder, and second baseman Julie Owen followed with a bunt, which scored Schall. Three more runners crossed home plate before the inning ended.

Oakland put the game out of reach in the fourth inning by capitalizing on three fielding errors by the Kangaroos.

Game two saw OU overcome an early 2-0 deficit, after UMKC scored one run in the first inning and another in the second. Oakland quickly responded with three runs of their own, to take the lead in the bottom half of the second inning.

With two out and the bases loaded, Deacon doubled to left center, allowing all three runners to score.

"Jessica [Granger] was superb and had command all day," MacDonald said. "We had contributions from everybody on Saturday."

The team's ace pitcher started both games, giving up just two unearned runs off nine hits, while striking out 10 batters in 10 total innings.

"We had to have these two wins today to keep any chance at fighting for a league title," MacDonald said.

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April 1, 2009

Freshman poses triple threat

By JARED PURCELL
Contributing Reporter

A lot of people have big dreams. Some want to be famous singers while others want to be famous actors in Hollywood. Some feel like they are destined for Broadway. Jessica Gordon may have a shot at pursuing all three.

As a freshman at Oakland University, Gordon has ambitions beyond ambition. For her, "freshman 15" is more likely the amount of free time she has each day. Not only does she have gig after gig as a singer, she has to keep up with her classes since making it into OU's Musical Theatre Program.

Gordon talked with The Oakland Post about her different passions, influences and a defining moment in her life.

The Oakland Post: So you're a singer, model and aspiring actress. How much time do you find yourself devoting to each in a regular week?

Gordon: I do not really have a set amount of time that I spend on each. Lately, I've been focusing exclusively on music. I've been doing two to three shows a week. That in and of itself is about eight to 12 hours, plus practice.

The Post: Which is your dream job?

Gordon: My dream job would be to work in Hollywood as a professional singer. Of course I love to act. If I could do both, that would be even better.

The Post: So what came first? How did you come across the other things?

Gordon: Music definitely came first for me. I started singing in the third grade and developed a passion for it. Once I realized how much I loved music, I decided to see what the other arts were all about. I started doing summer acting workshops at Macomb Community College when I was eight. It turned out I loved that, too. Modeling was random for me, but I do enjoy it.

The Post: What artists influence you?

Gordon: When it comes to music, I love anything and everything short of death metal and polka. I am currently doing covers. We do a lot of rock and classics.

My favorite artists would be The Goo Goo Dolls, Gin Blossoms, Jack Johnson,



Photo courtesy of Jessica Gordon

Freshman Oakland University student Jessica Gordon is working on becoming a multithreat. She is a singer, actress and model, along with majoring in musical theater.

Stone Temple Pilots and the list goes on.

As for influences, I would have to say Christina Aguilera, The Beatles, Van Morrison, Idina Menzel, that's a pretty long list too.

The Post: As a freshman, how is it dealing with the work load you have from school while trying to deal with everything else?

Gordon: It is very difficult trying to keep up with school work as well as everything else. On top of school, I have roughly two to three shows a week. I also tutor, baby sit and waitress. I like to stay busy.

The Post: So how many gigs would you say you've done as a singer? Was there a favorite? A disastrous one?

Gordon: Counting gigs would be

difficult. I would say I have had over 20. My favorite gig would have to be a recent one at MoDoggies [Bar & Grill] in Fenton, Mich. with The Allies. I just love the atmosphere. I have never really had a disastrous gig. Preparation is key, so I always come prepared. Of course there is the occasional feedback, but that can be dealt with.

The Post: Do you try to emulate any actress or actors?

Gordon: When it comes to acting, I don't really try to emulate anybody. I believe you need to be unique to get anywhere in life. However, there are actors and actresses that I look up to. For example: Johnny Depp, Nicole Kidman, Kate Winslet, David Hyde Pierce and Meryl Streep.

The Post: Where do you think you'll be in 10 years?

Gordon: It's hard to say. I'm a planner, an organizer, but I also like to go where the wind takes me. I live by two sayings, "Que sera, sera" and "Carpe diem." I hope to have had my big break by then. So in 10 years, I hope to see myself topping the charts.

The Post: Was there any defining moment that set you on your current ambitions?

Gordon: In the fall of 2007, I was in the show "Annie" at Utica High School. As a senior I had a lot on my mind, but I made time to play Grace Farrel.

About halfway through rehearsals my voice began to weaken. I lost two-thirds of my range and my voice would crack and give out randomly.

At the time, I was also singing at Lelli's Restaurant in Auburn Hills. Thinking it was laryngitis, I didn't worry.

After two weeks, I decided to see a vocal cord specialist. He told me that a blood vessel in my left vocal cord had hemorrhaged and that I needed to lay off my voice for awhile.

One winter break and a white board later, I had re-hemorrhaged. By the fourth time, I went in for surgery. I had the blood vessel removed. All in all, I was out of singing for a year. But here I am, doing it all again. ... I have learned never to take anything for granted.

The Post: What makes it all worth while?

Gordon: The moment I step on stage and realize, "Wow, this is actually happening. Those people are here to see me," that's when it all hits me. It makes it all worthwhile. When you see everyone in your life proud of you, it's wonderful. It's all so surreal.

The Post: Anything else?

Gordon: I want everyone to know that if you love something, go for it. Don't let anyone or anything hold you back. I know that is terribly cliché, but it's true. I also would like to thank everyone that have supported me.

Jessica Gordon will be performing with The Allies throughout April in venues in Warren, Wixom, Fenton, Mt. Clemens and more. Gordon can be contacted through her Facebook.

Crofoot to host movie networking event

By KAY NGUYEN
Staff Reporter

Hollywood starlets tapping away at their Blackberry devices have reasons to be worried as the Michigan film industry continues to organize and expand.

The Michigan Movie Networking Event, hosted by The Crofoot Ballroom in Pontiac and Vanir Entertainment, Inc., a Rochester Hills-based multimedia entertainment company, will be held from noon-6 p.m. on Saturday, April 4 at The Crofoot Ballroom.

Representatives from many entertainment industry sectors like music, publicity, film and television are expected to attend.

"This is one of those clean-everything-else-from-your-calendar events," said Dan McGowan, owner of The Crofoot Ballroom in the event's press release.

"It's a chance to bring a hundred business cards and come back with a hundred business cards from people you might never have met otherwise," McGowan said.

The passage of the 2008 Michigan film tax credits has given way to a budding Michigan film industry.

During a time of uncertainty in Michigan's automotive industry, many are now turning to the film industry as a large source of revenue for the state.

"We have had a pretty overwhelming response of people wanting to know how to get into the industry," said Lew Smith, Vanir Entertainment chief operations officer.

"It is one of the few growing industries in Michigan."

Smith, a former operations manager of a Tier 1 automotive manufacturing business and the supply chain manager of another Tier 1 auto supplier, is only one of those people.

The state currently has the most favorable incentive to make films and many production companies and directors have already chosen Michigan as a filming location.

Clint Eastwood's blockbuster movie "Gran Torino" was filmed in the metro Detroit area. "Betty Ann Waters" starring Hilary Swank and Minnie Driver was filmed in the Ann Arbor area as well as the Michael Cera flick "Youth in Revolt."

Modeled after similar events in movie cities like Los Angeles and New York, the networking event seeks to link talent and resources together for Michigan movies.

"We are trying to create the same type of network that would allow us to be competitive with those two established networks," said Smith. "You have to start somewhere and that is the whole goal of the event."

An exhibition area will feature a myriad of Michigan businesses involved in the new film industry. Investors and distributors have also been invited to attend in order to grow the business.

Opportunities are available for anyone interested in the film industry in Michigan. A panel discussion of industry professionals will follow the networking portion.

Attendance is limited to the first 1,100 and admission is \$20. More information can be found at www.michiganmovienetwork.com.

Michigan projected movie statistics for 2009

Number of movie applications approved:

69

Number of films currently shooting:

4

Number of projects wrapped:

27

Total production expenditures:

\$148 million

Approximate rebate amount from the state:

\$40 million

According to www.mpami.org.

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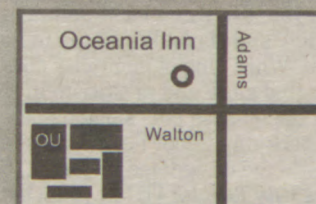
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April 1, 2009

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Virtual fantasy insanity

One reporter learns how baseball fans go nuts over online teams

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

Dear thoughtful and loyal readers of The Oakland Post,

It is with great consternation and unending regret that I inform you of a recent heinous use of judgment on my part, for I am about to travel down a path many have trekked before, but few have ever returned the same.

I was recently invited by a friend and former Postie Paul Gully to join a fantasy baseball league. In a moment of temporary insanity, that may lead to a permanent condition, I accepted.

I have a feeling that as I am lying on my death bed 106 years from now, I will look back on this as one of the most catastrophic decisions I ever made. What good is living to be 128 when your soul died when you were 22?

Now, instead of spending my summer days tanning my chiseled physique on the beaches of Lake Michigan, hoping not to get overwhelmed by incredibly sexy co-eds, I will be stuck in my basement scouring the interwebs to see if Joey Votto hit a home run or praying to the Lord that Wilson Betemit's groin pull will not be severe enough to put him on the 15-day disabled list. It is a good possibility that I, a mature, sophisticated, college-educated adult, will lose sleep over the turf toe status of a grown man named Coco Crisp.

I am entering an enterprise known for its great propensity to turn red-blooded, pilsner-swilling, barbecue-grilling, independent, no-nonsense American males into nerdy, number-crunching fanboys.

The name alone should tip you off as to the overall extremely geeky nature of this activity. Fantasy baseball. Let me tell you, I've had a lot of fantasies in my life, and David Wells was in none of them. What kind of mentality does it take to find glory and mysticism in comparing the on-base plus slugging percentage of back-up catcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates to the designated hitter for the Kansas City Royals? I'll tell you what kind of mentality — my best friend's, that's who. I speak of which I know.



Experiencing the many stages of fantasy baseball is part of owning a team. For those with a fantasy baseball team, researching who has performed well on a daily basis is essential. Moments of victory ensue but like the drop of a hat, statistics can change leaving one frustrated and eventually insane. BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post

I remember a time when Andrew Joseph Bsharah was a real guy's guy; a spry, engaging, well-liked fellow who was always willing to have a good time. It seems like only three years ago when we used to swim in the stone quarry, play a round of disc golf and go back home and kick back a couple brews.

We used to call him A.J. Now we don't call him. Not unless we want to witness a panic attack after Alex Rodriguez strikes out three times in a game. Not unless we want to see a young man cry when his ace pitcher gets traded from a pitcher-friendly park in the National League West to a hitter's paradise in the American League East.

I remember a time when A.J. used to play real sports. Remember those? Football, basketball, golf. Hell, he was even an NCAA baseball player himself. With the way fantasy sports have exploded in recent years, I wouldn't be stunned if someone owned A.J., the for-

mer Limestone Saints centerfielder, in a Carolinas Conference fantasy league.

Now, we can't even get him to go fishing without hearing, "Hold on. I gotta see if the Blue Jays called Jack McJerkhoff up from AAA today."

I can't believe that, after being exposed to such a brilliant example of the corrosive effect fantasy baseball has on one's social skills, family life and career aspirations; I have agreed to follow the same path. In a related story, I am thinking of getting a giant tattoo of a doorknob on my forehead.

Now, I know what you might be thinking. You might be thinking, "But Sean, fantasy baseball players/owners have a lot of fun doing it, and most men are able to manage this hobby and still lead a productive life." This, my friends, is a mere charade, a feeble attempt by the fantasy geek to make his destiny seem more normal and less tragic.

Trust me, when he's going through

the numbers at work, he's thinking about Edinson Volquez's ERA. While his friends are talking about "scoring" with some lovely lady later that evening, he's fantasizing about Miguel Tejada sliding head first into home plate. And never, under any circumstances, take him to a Denny's where the words on the menu "Grand Slam" are certain to cause him to break out in hives and cause him to throw up on his plate. (Even though, it is Denny's and nobody notices the difference anyway).

So alas my good compadres, I have sowed, so now I must reap. It was my choice to sojourn the land of RBIs and 3 a.m. viewings of "Baseball Tonight," and I must deal with the consequences. Wish me and my healthy brain well on our journey of trepidation. I just fear it might not be enough.

Yours now but no longer,
Sean Garner

Israel army: No charges in Gaza probe

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — The Israeli army on Monday closed an investigation into alleged killings of civilians during its offensive in the Gaza Strip, saying soldiers' testimonies were based on hearsay, "purposely exaggerated" and not supported by facts.

Allegations of wrongful shootings emerged from some soldiers speaking in a closed-door meeting at a military prep school. Their accounts, along with their reports of vandalism in Palestinian homes, were published by Israeli media earlier this month.

The army's chief prosecutor angrily accused the soldiers of harming Israel's international image. "It will be difficult to evaluate the damage done to the

image and morals of the Israel Defense Forces and its soldiers ... in Israel and the world," Brig. Gen. Avichai Mendelblit said.

Human rights groups accused the military of carrying out a biased and hasty inquiry that ignored key evidence and urged an independent body be formed to investigate Israeli army activity in Gaza.

The soldiers' accounts set off soul-searching in a country where the military is widely revered. They also echoed Palestinian allegations that Israel's assault did not distinguish between civilians and combatants, and fueled assertions by some international rights groups that Israel violated the laws of war.

Israel used unprecedented force during the three-week operation, launched against Gaza's Hamas rulers last December to halt eight years of rocket

attacks on Israeli border towns. After a week of aerial bombardments, the military launched a two-week ground offensive.

More than 1,400 Palestinians were killed, including more than 900 civilians, according to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, which published a list of names of the dead. Israel has said the toll was lower, and the "vast majority" of the dead were militants. But it did not publish a list to support the assertion.

In a joint statement, nine Israeli rights groups said the decision to close the investigation without bringing charges "only strengthens the need for the attorney general to allow for an independent nonpartisan investigative body to be established in order to look into all Israeli army activity" in Gaza.

—Ian Deitch contributed to this report



TOBY TALBOT/Associated Press

Supporters of a bill to that would allow full marriage for gays and lesbians in Vermont hold a protest at the Statehouse in Montpelier, Vt., Friday, March 27. Upset over a threatened veto by Gov. Jim Douglas, same-sex marriage supporters protested outside his office.

Vt. Gov. plans veto for gay marriage bill

By JOHN CURRAN
Associated Press Writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. — In the first two days after he pledged to veto a same-sex marriage bill, Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas' mailbag and e-mail inbox runneth over, with about 1,500 letters and messages pouring in.

Some were critical: "... your choice to veto is a slap in the face and a firm reminder that in your opinion, my partner and I are worth less than others simply because we are of the same gender," wrote a South Burlington man, saying he refuses to be "a second class citizen in this state."

Some were supportive: "Your stance is reasonable and not unkind," wrote a Burlington woman. "It must have been a difficult political decision, but right nonetheless. There are many Vermonters who are with you, but simply don't how to articulate it. Hold firm!"

Democrats in the Legislature say they plan to pass the bill, but the Republican governor said Wednesday he will veto it if they do. The state Senate has approved the measure, and the state House of Representatives is expected to vote on it Friday.

Vermont would become the third state allowing same-sex marriage.

Since the announcement, supporters of same-sex marriage have been outnumbering opponents, with 60 percent of the letters and e-mails received speaking in favor of it.

NIW BRIEFS

- Police said a customer fired one or two shots into a Salt Lake City McDonald's Sunday after the driver of the car he was in was told the restaurant was not serving lunch yet.
- A former religious cult member pleaded guilty Monday to starving her 1-year-old son to death after making an unusual deal with prosecutors
- China said Monday it plans to reopen Tibet to foreign tourists next week in a sign of Beijing's growing confidence after several sensitive anniversaries passed without any apparent major disturbances.
- North Korea's state-run news agency says two American reporters detained earlier this month will be tried for illegal entry and hostile acts.

Source: The Associated Press

N. Korean rocket stirs protest



LEE JIN-MAN/Associated Press

South Korean protesters shout slogans with mock missiles and defaced photos of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il during a rally against North's planned launch of a rocket in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, March 30. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said South Korea opposes any military response to North's planned rocket launch, while U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the U.S. won't try to shoot it down. The mock missile at left reads: "Korea."

One-a-day heart pill shows promise in study

ARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Medical Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — A single daily pill that combines aspirin and four blood pressure and cholesterol medicines has passed its first big test, potentially offering a cheap, simple way to prevent both heart disease and stroke.

The experimental "polypill" proved as effective as nearly all of its components taken alone, with no greater side effects, a major study found. Taking it could cut a person's risk of heart disease and stroke roughly in half, the study concludes.

This "one-size-fits-most" approach

could make heart disease prevention much more common and effective, doctors say.

"Widely applied, this could have profound implications," said Dr. Robert Harrington, an American College of Cardiology spokesman and chief of Duke University's heart research institute.

The polypill also has big psychological advantages, said Dr. James Stein of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"If you take any medicines, you know that every pill you see in your hand makes you feel five years older. Patients really object to pill burden," and respond by skipping doses, he said.

Results were presented Monday at the

cardiology college's conference in Florida and published online by the British medical journal Lancet.

The study tested the Polycap, an experimental combo formulated by Cadila Pharmaceuticals of Ahmedabad, India. There were about 2,000 participants at 50 centers across India, average age 54, with at least one risk factor for heart disease.

Polycap's maker sponsored the study, and one of the doctors heading the study has been a paid speaker for several makers of heart drugs. A polypill would need Food and Drug Administration approval, even though all of its components are now sold separately.

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