

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 30, 2011

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Giving faces to names

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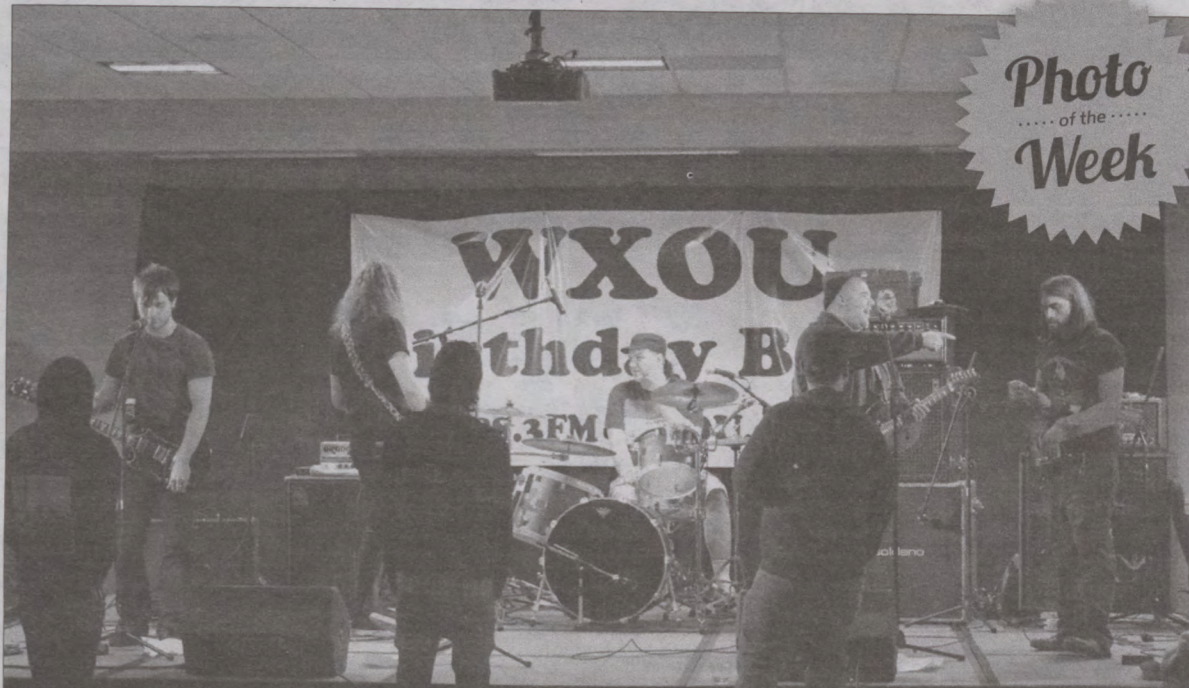
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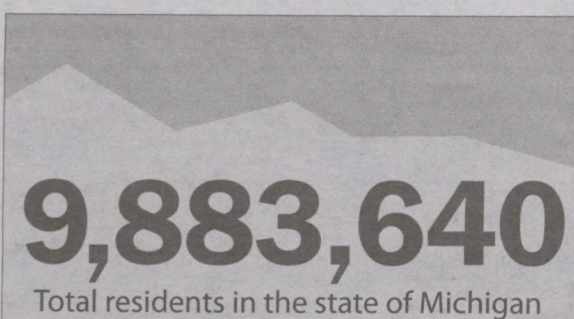
WXOU celebrates 45 years // Monday, March 28 KEVIN ROMANCHIK/The Oakland Post

Oakland University's student-run radio station, WXOU, celebrated its 45th year with a birthday bash Monday in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center. Five musical acts performed, including Against the Grain (pictured above). While providing students and guests with food and entertainment, the event had booths to help raise money for Japan tsunami relief.



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STAFF EDITORIAL

Editorially speaking

The editorial board recently stumbled across old copies of the 1960s student publication Outcry. We were enthralled by its snarky nature and sass — two qualities we possess large quantities of. We also saw some parallels between Michigan State University-Oakland and present-day Oakland University. Outcry and its “Editorially Speaking” section inspire this editorial.

July 24, 1964 — “PRAISES TO THE OAKLAND CENTER. THE NEW PATIO IS GREAT!!!!”

Now — It’s still pretty great — when it’s warm enough to enjoy it.

Nov. 2, 1962 — “Someday perhaps the administration should try to eat a hamburger from our Grill. We don’t mind paying high prices, unlike other schools, in order to pay off the Oakland (Student) Center bonds ...”

Now — Presumably the Oakland Center’s completely paid for by now. So why are food prices still so high?

Nov. 28, 1962 — “Thank you. The restricted parking signs have been taken down from in front of the library. How about it, students. Let’s do our part and observe the ‘Reserved for Guests’ sign which is posted for the last three spaces closest to

the library.”

March 30, 2011 — And they only had 1,259 students to worry about back in ‘62. Nearly 40 years later, students still have trouble observing parking signs. Park at metered spots without paying at your own risk, but leave the handicap spots for those who need them.

Then: We don’t mind paying high food prices in order to pay off the Oakland Center.

Now: We kind of mind.

These reflections got us thinking, so here are some more of our own “Editorially Speaking” tidbits.

Don’t drive like a crazy person around the parking lots. Do you want to be run over when walking out to your car? Didn’t think so.

Write a signed letter to the editor if you want to express your concerns. Our letter policy is in the gray box on this page.

But please note: Editorials are not articles. There is reporting, but we also are expressing opinion, which often involves

invoking emotion.

The probability of Grizznet working is about the same as a person’s chance of finding a convenient parking spot at noon.

Please stop defacing our newsstands by putting items on them or on the newspapers themselves.

Babies, cupcakes and puppies are always welcome in our newsroom. Inquiries about free food and yelling are not.

Bathrooms should not be napped in when there is a recliner lounge right down the hall. Do not nap where you crap.

We don’t take campaign materials being handed out because we have all felt the stinging rejection after someone refused a newspaper from one of us.

Votes cannot be bought or sold. Free stuff is great, but it’s the platform that counts on Election Day.

Traffic in the roundabout should be continuous. Also, lane lines should be painted.

Speaking of the roundabout: When will the statue of Greg Kampe riding a grizzly bear be constructed in the middle of it?

Fifty years from now, we wonder if expensive food and a lack of expansive parking will continue to be a problem.

Until then.

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Letter Policy:

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



Support organizations by voting for Proposal 1

Two weeks ago, I traveled 19 hours with the Grizz Gang to Tulsa, Okla., to watch the men's basketball team compete in the NCAA Tournament against the University of Texas.

Though we didn't win the game, the event was still victorious — it marked a turning point in my personal journey here at Oakland University.

Each of my two years at OU has been drastically different.

Picture me last year. I was the type of student who only ventured the 15 miles to OU just for class, sprinting out the door to return home right as class was dismissed. I made no effort to attend any of the events offered on campus, and the only friends I had were leftover from my high school years.

Fast forward to this year. I'm the features editor of The Oakland Post and the founder of The Muggle Quidditch League of Oakland University, a social organization that currently consists of 50 players and counting. I am on campus every day, often for more time than I would ever commit to, and I go to a majority of events,



Nichole Seguin
Features Editor

even hosting some of my own.

But this editorial isn't about me, it's about you.

The recent proposal to increase the student activities fee by \$5 — from \$25 to \$30 a semester — could immensely help students obtain the proper OU experience by making it easier for students to get involved.

An approval of the proposal would allow organizations to devote more to the events that are on campus almost every day like Casino Night, European Night and a celebration of the Chinese New Year, which were all free of charge for everyone.

With an increase in student funds, students will be able to get additional monetary relief from some of the more elusive trips like the upcoming day trip to Chicago, offered for only \$10 a student, \$15 for guests.

For \$35, students were given tickets to two NCAA games and enjoyed the luxury of a chartered bus all the way to Tulsa, which only heightened the appeal.

The extra money would also help bring more speakers and concerts to the school.

In the past, OU has had people including the likes of Oprah Winfrey, former President Jimmy Carter, Mitch Albom, Jimmy Fallon and Al Roker visit students, not to mention the more recent appearance of rapper Lupe Fiasco that was made possible by the Student Program Board and a group of students on Twitter.

Other than events, concerts and speakers, there are nearly 220 student organizations on campus, leaving a wide-open area for students to get involved. On the off chance there isn't a club that you are interested in, that extra \$5 would help you create an organization of your own, as I did

this year with quidditch.

I have heard a lot of students complain about OU saying that it is "boring" or "uneventful" or that they can't make everything that's going on because they commute, but that's no excuse.

An extra \$5 per semester for student org funding will lead to an invaluable college experience for all.

As a commuter myself, I often find the time to come out to the events.

People have also complained to me about the \$25 fee saying it didn't affect them because they weren't involved in anything, but then I watched them consume some of the free food that was offered at a movie screening, food that was made entirely possible by the funding.

Already a part of every student's tuition, there really isn't a reason for students to vote "no" on the proposal. The funds are what allows OU to have the university appeal that too many students ignore.

Continuity is important for student organizations, old and new

Every year, clubs and different organizations on campus elect new officers for their open positions for the upcoming year. But this isn't always an easy process.

On Oakland University's campus alone there are over 300 clubs, organizations and Greek Councils that any one student is able to join. For clubs or organizations who have a large following such as the American Marketing Association or any of the Greek organizations, it's not a matter of finding someone to fill a position, but more a fact of who will be the right one for the right position since there are more likely a handful or so of candidates for one office.

But those clubs or organizations who have a smaller clientele will have a harder time finding people to fill their cabinet.

I am currently the president of the Asian American Association



Jomar Maborang
Guest Columnist

(AAA) and the treasurer of newly revived Street Dance Association.

The AAA has been here for about three years while the SDA was established two years ago.

With the semester about to end, AAA is searching to find people to fill the spots for its executive board. We are a small group though we are always looking for additions throughout the year to join. However, with this being my second year in the group, I may or may not run for an office since I became president

this year and I would like to have a new board in place for the group. If need be, I could stay in office for another year.

So then I wondered how many people usually go through this process wherein they need to resort to having some of the e-board from one year stay to fill spots for the upcoming year.

Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, gave some advice on elections for the new year.

She said e-boards that are larger or have more clout have an easier time finding candidates for their council. Newer boards have a harder time finding people to join the club and run for office.

One club Miller mentioned was Urban Farming. The council who founded and formed the group one year graduated the next. The club became idle until a group of students wanted to form the

group again, not knowing that graduates of OU already formed the group earlier.

The year-to-year transition for clubs is more complex than you'd think.

The process in looking for possible candidates seemed daunting with how small our group is especially with some of our group graduating or transferring to another college like Michigan State.

Miller said there are even times where some clubs and organizations on campus go to her for help with transitioning from one year to the next.

It seems that the more new the group, the harder it is to transition the e-board from one year to the next. The more established or larger groups have an easier time.

Well that concept seems simple enough, but as the clock winds down with the school year coming to a close, groups should finish their transition and not scramble to find people to fill their spots.

CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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

'Wild and crazy'

A look back at the Gustafson/Ring administration

By JAKE THIELEN

Sports Editor

Following the record turnout in the 2010 Oakland University Student Congress election, Student Body president Brandon Gustafson and vice president Amy Ring were faced with the task of overseeing OUSC's growth as an organization.

After being elected with a record 1,429 votes in the 2010 election, roughly 51 percent of the 2,796 votes cast, Gustafson and Ring came into office with a plan already in place.

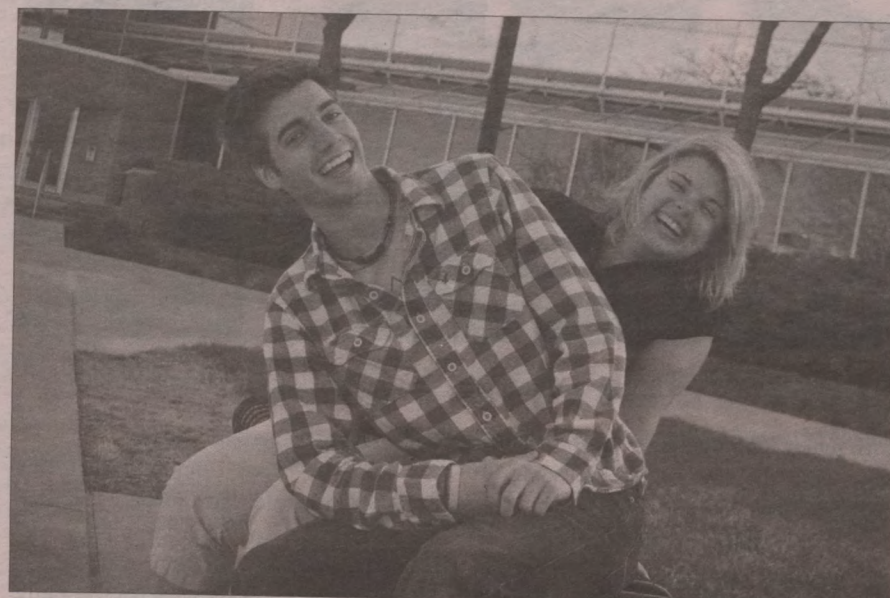
"When we first got elected, we had a lot of goals and a lot of things that we wanted to accomplish," Gustafson said. "I think right from the gate, you realize that things were going to be harder than we anticipated, but by us having goals and a plan already set up, it made some of our things easier."

Ring said the new administration was able to get most of its platform initiatives accomplished within the first few months of its term.

"We spent a lot of the summer in the office so that when school started we really could concentrate on specific issues that students had," Ring said. "By the end of the summer last year, we had already implemented our spirit packages in all the different local businesses and built relationships with that. When school started, we luckily had our hammocks outside, and I think that was a really great tangible thing that people remembered from our platform that they were able to actually utilize right when school started."

Ring said one of the first things she and Gustafson did was try to meet with university President Dr. Gary Russi to discuss their platform and goals, and Gustafson said building a good relationship with the university administration was key to their success.

"We were able to gain respect (from the administration) because our first meeting with Dr. Russi, we came in with solid plans and ideas and we just presented them to him," Gustafson said. "One of the biggest



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Brandon Gustafson and Amy Ring were elected to OUSC with a record 1,429 votes.

things that I've learned in this position is that the administration is here to help us, and they want our help and our input. They don't want Student Congress to fail because then that means that students aren't taking an active role in their education."

Throughout their administration, Ring and Gustafson have focused on working for the students and holding events that students would be interested in attending.

"We've really tried to create programs and events where the average student would want to go to," Ring said. "Maybe they don't want to go to a luncheon and get educated by a forum, but maybe they want to go to a tailgate, so we were able to make different events and programs that the average student would hopefully want to go to. Hopefully, that will lay the groundwork for future administrations."

Gustafson said he also focused on growing OUSC's profile within the student community. In addition to the tailgate, OUSC sponsored several events this year including a bonfire for the soccer team and a bus trip to Tulsa, Okla., for the NCAA Tournament.

"I think our underlying theme was to show people what Student Congress can do. I think we did a really good job of just

doing wild and crazy stuff just to kind of show that 'hey, we're able to do this,'" Gustafson said.

OUSC adviser Meghan Walters said Gustafson and Ring have done a great job increasing student involvement within the organization.

"This is the first time we've had a full legislature, and I'm very impressed with that," Walters said. "I think they really did try to get the message out there that they're here for the students and they wanted to bring programming here that's applicable to them and interesting to them."

Ring said she and Gustafson will help ease the transition for the new administration and offer them advice.

"I think the most important thing that we'll be sharing with the new administration is to be proactive," Ring said. "To show that initiative really shows the (university) that the new administration is going to want what's best for the students also."

Ring and Gustafson will both be graduating on April 30. Ring said she plans to attend graduate school at Kent State University for higher education, while Gustafson plans to pursue internships and a master's degree in business administration.

campus briefs

Chorus and Chorale

Oakland University chorus and chorale groups will be giving several evening performances at Varner Recital Hall this week. For more information, call 248-370-2030.

Privacy Lecture

Helen Nissenbaum is giving a lecture on Thursday, March 31 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Elliott Hall Auditorium. The lecture will involve the value of privacy. For more information, call Tom Lauer at 248-370-3278.

Ekphrasis Poetry Contest

The English department Ekphrasis poetry contest challenges anyone in the campus community to create poetry based on a work of art. Entries are due at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 1. For more information, contact Gladys Cardiff at 248-370-2259.

Kicks for Kidneys

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

Summer law institute

Students are invited to apply for the free Summer Law Institute at Cooley Law School in July. Participants will be exposed to an intensive preview of law school and legal careers. Those accepted are not charged fees and a small stipend will be awarded. For more information visit www.cooley.edu

— Compiled by Kevin Graham,
Staff Intern

Presidential hopefuls debate platform goals

By ALI ARMSTRONG
Staff Reporter

OUSC presidential hopefuls made their final remarks to students Friday before voting commenced this Monday, March 28.

The candidates gathered with their running mates in the Fireside Lounge to discuss their platforms, taxes, funding from the state and sing the fight song.

Roughly four dozen students showed up to watch the debate.

The candidates were asked questions ranging from discussing the obstacles that stand for implementing their plans and how they compliment the current administration and running mates.

Junior Shakita Billy, running with junior Eric Sturgis, spoke of her OUSC experience and campus involvement when asked why she was qualified to become the next student body president.

"I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I know how the average student feels. I can relate to the average student ... I believe that my experience makes me more qualified than the other candidates," Billy said.

Freshman Benjamin Eveslage, running



SINEAD CRONIN/The Oakland Post

OUSC presidential candidates discuss topics like taxes and state funding at the debate.

with junior Elisa Malile, spoke to the audience about the keys to accomplishing his platform goals.

"We have some amazing goals that we would like to accomplish, but the biggest thing is having the support and motivation behind you to get those things done and I think we've already done that," Eveslage

said about his experiences so far.

Junior Tom Cruz, running with junior Brett McIsaac, said that professors are key to reaching out to the student body and helping them to become more involved.

"The professors want to make this more like a college campus just as much, if not more, than we do and they'll be willing to

take five minutes at the beginning of their class to advertise ... to help get the students more involved," Cruz said.

Each candidate also touched on the proposed expansion of student fees made Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee. The Student Activity Fund Assessment Committee recently passed a proposal to up the student activities fee to \$30 from \$25.

"If we're paying more money, there needs to be a direct by-product for all the students as well. We want to see events that everyone can participate in, and not have to pay \$5 to go see," said junior Tyler Glen, who is running with junior Ryan Rott

The debate ended with a series of "rapid fire" questions at the event of the debate where they were to provide one-word answers.

They were asked whether they support the 56 credit requirement to live in the student apartments, which candidate they would vote for if they were taken out of the election and were all asked to sing the OU fight song simultaneously.

OUSC Elections end Wednesday, March 30. The election results will be announced Friday, April 1 in the Fireside Lounge of the Oakland Center.

GSC room expansion ceremony spills into hall

By KEVIN GRAHAM
Staff Intern

Administrators and students packed the Gender and Sexuality Center, flowing into the hallway, last Thursday to celebrate the center's expansion.

The event, which featured several speakers, food and a ribbon cutting ceremony, was a long-awaited affair.

Located in the basement of the Oakland Center, the center is home to students of the LGBTQ community, women and genders studies students, members of the Gay/Straight Alliance and any interested students.

Recently, the room had its size doubled following the demolition of a wall that had previously limited the amount of space available.

"The expansion of the room is something we've been trying to get for a while," GSC coordinator Melissa Pope said. "This is my second year here, and the space was obviously needed. It was far too small."

Junior psychology major and President of the Gay/Straight Alliance Alexa Van Vliet emotionally discussed how much the center meant to her, even shedding tears to express her gratitude.

"Everyone is here, not just on a daily basis, but during the depressing times too," she said. "There is something wonderful about having a place like this together. This expansion is going to do great things for the student population."

Before the expansion, Pope said there were so many people

in the center that some would have to sit on the floor and some would leave because there wasn't enough room.

Director of the Center for Student Activities Jean Ann Miller shared in the students' enthusiasm.

"This expansion represents a dream come true," Miller said. "It's only going to get bigger and better in its use and usefulness."

Pope commented on the great support the Oakland community had shown for the event, expressing how much she cared about it.

"There is great joy and irony in celebrating the expansion," she said. "We can't get everyone in here. I hope it's a message to students and staff."

The highlight of the ceremony was a ribbon-cutting attended by



NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Supporters gather as the ribbon is cut at the expansion ceremony.

several university dignitaries including Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder and Provost Virinder Moudgil.

Mark Martinez, a freshman linguistics major, talked about the

happiness he felt about the number of students at the event.

"It's a great turnout," he said. "I'm glad we can all share our happiness and that it's spreading around."