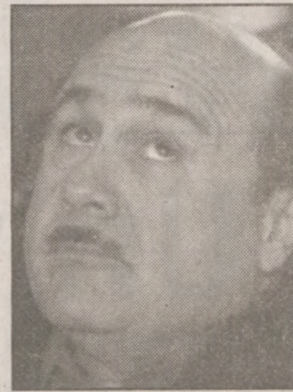




OU athletics loses friend

Truth behind the death of Smoochy



Meadow Brook Theatre, the cultural hub of OU, is facing funding problems

Today:
Cloudy
High 42°F
Low 21°F

Tomorrow:
Mostly Cloudy
High 42°F
Low 22°F

B1

B5

THE OAKLAND POST

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The EDGE

• Today the Rec Center is hosting another Wellness Wednesday. From noon-1 p.m. in the Rec Center, Dr. Robert Jarski will discuss the mind-body connection. The event is free and open to the public.

• Don't forget to register for spring and summer semesters. SAIL registration is open until April 5.

• A sexual assault awareness lecture will take place at 7:30 p.m., April 8 in 401 Hamlin Hall. OU Police Officer Nan Gelman will speak.

• The fifth annual Winner's Circle reception will be held from noon-1:30 p.m., April 8 in the Fireside Lounge, OC. Hosted by Student Affairs and Center for Student Activities, the event will honor all students who have been nominated for an award between fall '01 and winter '02.

• OU Day at the Capitol, the annual trip to Lansing, is next Wednesday, April 10. Call Kimberly in the Office of Government Relations at 248.370.3504 to sign up for free.

• Nominations for the 2002 Alumni Awards must be made by April 26. All forms must be completed and returned to the John Dodge House, east of campus, by Friday, April 26, at 5 p.m. Stop by Alumni Relations to pick up a nomination form.

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One vote decides

Tomina new president

By Lisa Cali
MANAGING EDITOR

In the year 2000, OU students clenched their teeth while waiting to find out who would be the next president of the U.S. This year, OU students had to wait four extra days before the 2002-2003 student body president and vice presidential team was announced.

At 4 p.m. Monday, OU Student Congress Elections Chair Kelly Lee announced that Brian Tomina and Michelle Jamian won the election by a mere vote. Their 382 votes had just squeaked by Kristina Ivanovic and Kenton Lewis' 381.

This year marked the first online elections for OU, as well as the first year the number of votes was more than 1,000. After the elections drew to a close, a total of 1,250 ballots were cast, which is about 10 percent of the full time registered student population.

The number was significantly more than last year's total of 921 ballots and more than doubled the 2000 elections' total of 543.

Candidates Amir Emami and Matthew Fionda finished with 215 votes, while Avis Choulagh and Elvis Saloum received 115 votes. There were also 116 write-in votes for president and vice president.

All eight legislative candidates on the ballot were elected, as well as write-in candidates Andy Baker, Kelly Cole, Jeff Habib, Jonathan Parks, Thor Rasmussen and Mike Ginger, who each needed two percent of the vote to be elected.

The announcement of the election results was stalled because the elections validations committee had to investigate charges that were brought up on each of the teams running for president and vice president. The committee only validated two of the charges, which were against Tomina and Jamian and related to the posting and removal of campaign materials around campus.

"The validations committee is charged with the obligation of



WELCOME ABOARD: President Brian Tomina and Vice President Michelle Jamian won the OUSC election by one vote. member of the validations candidates and making a decision," Student Body President and

TOMINA continues on A4

Comcast, Aramark contracts pending

Cable deal reworked

By Cara Plowman
EDITOR IN CHIEF

University contracts with Comcast Cablevision and Aramark food services are up for a vote today at the Board of Trustees meeting.

Under the agreement with Comcast, which is the only cable television company in the area, service would extend into the 133-unit student apartments.

The 10-year agreement would increase the unit fee, the cost of each individual connection, from \$8.09 to \$11, for an annual cost of \$139,920.

At the working session meeting on March 6, the Board was asked to approve the contract so that cable wiring could be installed to the apartments while construction was



MOVIN' ON UP: The new student apartments are well under construction and will open in the fall. If the Board approves the revised contract, Comcast will provide cable services to the apartments.

occurring so as to save money. But soon after Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder presented the recommendation to the Board, Trustee Henry Baskin objected to four main points of the deal.

First, he asked that the university discuss the annual rate increases that Comcast would be allowed if the new contract passed. In that agreement, which has since been revised, Comcast was free to raise rates for an undefined amount once a

year. In the revised agreement, Comcast is not allowed to exceed a yearly increase of 3 percent or the percent increase imposed on Comcast's residential customers in the area.

The second objection Baskin brought up dealt with the lack of control the university would have in program and channel selection. Baskin said the contract did not prohibit the company from dropping and adding channels freely.

In the renegotiated contract, Comcast will promise to provide students with the same programs provided to residential

customers in the area.

Another point Baskin brought up was the lack of an out-option in the contract. The agreement would bind OU to the cable television provider for 10 years.

Although the revised contract does not include an out-clause, it does state that Comcast shall agree to provide the university with service comparable to that received by surrounding communities.

Also, before the contract was renegotiated, some of the trustees noted that the program package quoted in the

BOT continues on A4

Female panelists shatter glass ceiling in workplace, discuss troubles they endured during rise to top

By Adam L. Neal
THE OAKLAND POST

Warming up the Fireside Lounge last Wednesday, OU wrapped up Women's History month by hosting a panel of female keynote speakers during "Beyond the Glass Ceiling."

The discussion was a continuation from last year's topic "Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling."

With the women's job fair going on in the background, the term "glass ceiling" was described as artificial barriers that prevent qualified individuals from advancing in their

I had to convince them that I could lead this department better than anyone else.

Doreen Olko
Auburn Hills Police Chief

fields of expertise. These barriers are often highest for minorities and women.

Three women who have broken and exceeded beyond the glass ceiling are

Auburn Hills Police Chief Doreen Olko, publisher and owner of Metro Parent Magazine Alyssa Martina and OU's own Dean of Kresge Library Elaine Didier.

Each panelist talked about struggles she faced while pursuing her dreams and goals. Olko discussed the struggles she faced when she was promoted to chief of police in 1996. She is currently one of only six female chiefs in Michigan.

"I had a no confidence vote by fellow officers at first," Olko said. "I had to convince them that I could lead this department bet-

CEILING continues on A4

Theatre running in deficit

By Jennifer Decker
COPY EDITOR

The 35-year-old Meadow Brook Theatre, currently cast in a sea of red ink, may face eventual shutdown if a ballot proposal expected to go before Oakland and Wayne County voters this August doesn't pass.

The ballot initiative, Proposal A, would fund regional cultural and recreational activities and could generate \$600,000-\$700,000 annually for the beleaguered theatre.

According to box office reports, ticket sales dropped by more than 15,000 between the 1999 and 2000 seasons. The biggest change occurred between the 1999-2000 season when 105,015 tickets were sold compared to 2000-2001 when only 89,100 were sold.

By February 2002, 59,421 tickets had been sold, with three productions left in the season. Ticket prices range from \$26-40, depending on performance time and day of the week.

"We've been seeing a dramatic rise in the sale of discounted tickets, most at discounts of 15-20 percent, but also some at 50 percent," Gregg Bloomfield, MBT managing director said.

The number of productions was reduced during the 1991-1992 season from eight to seven, naturally accounting for a drop in ticket revenues for that season and thereafter. Currently, MBT has seven productions per season and at least 27 performances for each production.

While ticket sales account for 70 percent of MBT's production and outreach costs (the other 30 percent comes from outside gifts), Peggy Cooke, OU director of auxiliary services, said, "We need to raise the level of contributions and face a potential shortfall. We need to work on being able to raise funds. Our concern is with contributed revenue."

She attributed the shortfall in contributions to the economy and corporate cutbacks made

MBT continues on A4