

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 18, 2009

Volume 35, Number 20

QUIET PRESENCE

Senior playwright to showcase one-page play in off-off-Broadway festival in Manhattan page 16

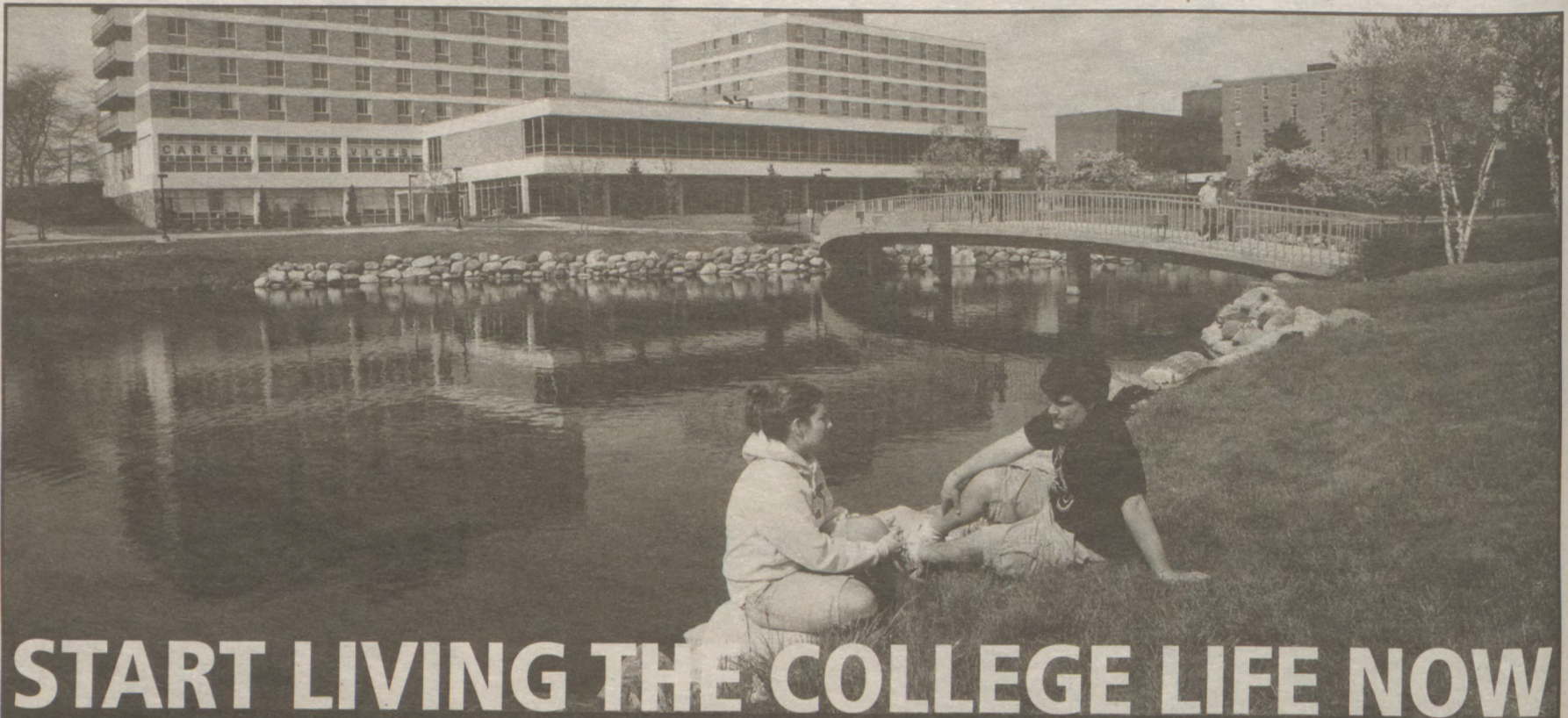


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Sports: Swimmer brings talent and success to the pool, from across the pond [page 19]

Mouthing Off: Soaking up the sun in not-so-hot spots over spring break [page 25]



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THIS WEEK 2.18.09

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Guest Columnist Katie Wolf is frustrated with TV shows that rely on stereotypes of gay men when they have a writing block. Page 5



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"Kongs Night Out" performances feature "Laverne & Shirley" actress Cindy Williams. Page 8



Local page 12

Underdogs in the Detroit mayoral race participate in televised debate. Page 12



The Mix page 14

Spring break is right around the corner, and students talk about their vacation plans and their idea of an ultimate break.



you page 16

An OU musical duo talks about developing a band and playing local venues. Page 18



Sports page 19

Undefeated at the O'Rena, OU men's basketball demonstrates depth. Page 20



the Scene page 23

The Oakland Post's editor in chief reminisces about her trip to see Conan O'Brien, and how she feels about him taking over a new time slot. Page 20



MOUTHING OFF page 25

Soaking up the sun in not-so-hot spots during spring break has many perks and unexpected adventures.



Nation | World page 27

GM said it might need more money to stay alive, up to \$30 billion total.

Quietly coming alive

Like many of us, you may not have the opportunity to see senior Franco Vitella's play "The Quiet Present" live in New York City. However, The Oakland Post delivers an exclusive slideshow of Tuesday's rehearsal.

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Perspectives

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February 18, 2009

STAFF EDITORIAL

Journalism 2.0 = @ your service

Newspapers are a dying, yet cherished icon of our past, like carburetors and landlines. They're possibly the most fail-safe way to get news, but are becoming obsolete in a push by mainstream media to find faster, cheaper and easier ways to reach mass audiences.

As early as a 1981 report on KRON San Francisco, the media has been reporting on the inevitable demise of printed newspapers as the world goes digital. Even then it was acknowledged that we would get "all of our newspapers and magazines by home computer."

Twenty-eight years later, professional and college journalists alike are still reporting on the uncertain direction of journalism with a touch of irony via Twitter feeds, Flickr Photostreams, Tumblr blogs and other applications.

Meanwhile, mainstream media is embracing new media and its potential for story telling and interactivity with readers. The New York Times gave example on how to effectively accompany traditional newspaper reporting online in its coverage of the US Airways Flight 1549 crash landing on the Hudson. They posted online updates, invited witnesses to submit photos and linked to video from MSNBC all on the day of the incident. The online reports were followed by a polished piece in print the next day. In doing this, The Times kept itself relevant and competitive with radio and TV news outlets that can deliver on the spot. All of these techniques reach out to different groups of news consumers.

Most other mainstream media are taking note and making adjustments to the old business model. The Detroit Free Press, for example, cut its home deliv-

ery to three days a week to accommodate younger readers that get their news online. Although the average age of The Oakland Post's readers is presumably much younger than that of the national average, 50, we aren't going to be putting a stop payment on the check to the printer. Being a free weekly newspaper put out by and for the Oakland University community puts The Post in a unique position.

But that doesn't mean The Oakland Post should be complacent. We are making partnerships with WXOU and SVP to bring students more information and entertainment without duplicating or competing with what other students are already creating. Look for web exclusive stories, videos and other alternative story telling on **Oaklandpostonline.com**. Post reporters will be on the air Fridays at 2 p.m. on 88.3 FM WXOU, discussing the biggest stories on campus. These are just a few ways The Oakland Post is thinking outside the print edition.

With that in mind, The Oakland Post is looking for feedback on its ventures into the World Wide Web and partnerships with other student organizations. For journalism to truly go 2.0, there needs to be a constant and robust discussion among journalists and readers.

What would keep you coming back to the website, what types stories do you like to read in the print edition? Twitter or ISSUU? Sports or satire? Your comments and suggestions could be general or specific, philosophical or logistic.

The door is literally open on Mondays and Tuesdays for your feedback and suggestions. Help guide us towards a solution for the next generation of news.



MIKE KEEFFE/The Denver Post, Cagle Cartoons

What do you think? Send your comments to The Oakland Post or stop in the office, 61 Oakland Center.

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Letter Policy:

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

CORRECTIONS CORNER

• The Police Files on page 9 of the Feb. 11 issue should have said that one minor resident had a PBT of .08.

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.

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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

Hey TV, there's no one way to be gay

Katie Wolf
Guest Columnist



Is it OK to invite gay men to baby showers? According to ABC's "Brothers and Sisters," the answer is yes. For clarification, here is a rundown of the characters: Nora Walker is the mother. Tommy, Sarah, Kitty, Kevin and Justin are the Walker children. Scotty is Kevin's husband, and Saul is Nora's gay brother. Robert is Kitty's husband.

Now that you're caught up — or as caught up as you possibly can be with a word count — Kitty and Robert are adopting a child, and in this episode Nora throws a baby shower. The guest list includes all the women in Kitty's life, plus Kevin, Scotty and Saul.

When asked by her granddaughter Paige why Tommy isn't invited to the baby shower, Nora replied, "Honey, it's a baby shower. You only invite girls to baby showers. That's the tradition." Paige gives her a confused look and points out that there are men being invited.

Nora gave a long pause, and a look of understanding dawned on Paige's face paired with her saying, "Ohh, I get it."

I don't get it. What's next, wedding showers? Bachelorette parties? On second thought, that last one might be completely appropriate. But I'm not alone in my confusion. Saul was unhappy with his invitation. He said, "I also happen to be annoyed and insulted ... I didn't come out of the closet to become a cliché."

I'm not entirely sure what the right way to portray gay men in the media is. But I think it's safe to say that the wrong way is to lump them into the same category as women.

In 1987 R.W. Connell studied the way we view masculinity and femininity in the media. Some of this research has become outdated, but there are still many truths to what Connell uncovered. Men that fit under the hegemonic masculinity category are men who are aggressive, ambitious and self-reliant. Heterosexuality is an important part of hegemonic masculinity. Men that fit under the alternative masculinity category are "men of color, non-native born men and gay males." Part of Connell's distinction is that men in the former category maintain dominance over those in the latter.

But who says that a gay man is any less masculine than a straight one? Who says that heterosexual men are the only ones who can display traits of masculinity? With the perpetuation of the stereotype that gay men identify better with women than with straight men, the

media is usually who is saying so. And that's not to say that there are gay men who don't identify better with women. But certainly not all of them do, and that's the problem. The media only shows a small portion of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, thus confusing the audience about who they really are.

Let's not even get started on who gets to decide what constitutes as masculine or feminine behavior. That could take a lifetime. In fact, it's taken many lifetimes to develop those social norms.

Programs like "Brothers and Sisters," "Will and Grace," or "Grey's Anatomy" have made enormous strides in depicting the alarmingly underrepresented gay community. But it seems as though whenever the writers of these programs get a little stuck, or need something juicy, they revert back to stereotypes.

As a relatively straight person, I realize that I might be the wrong person to be addressing this issue. Or maybe I'm the perfect candidate, because I have no personal stock in this. No matter what, it bothers me that people in the LGBT community — gay men in particular — get pigeonholed into a very small category, when heterosexuals get to display all the colors of their personality rainbows (no pun intended).

Probably the most important thing to take away from this "Brothers and Sisters" episode is what Scotty said: "There's no one way to be gay." The rest of the media needs to take heed. There is no one way to be gay, and there is no one way to portray gay men in the media.

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Med school progress ongoing

By SEAN GARNER
Senior Reporter

Getting accredited as a medical school is a lengthy, meticulous process, but Oakland University officials say they are confident they are on the right track.

After being approved as an academic unit by the OU board of trustees on Feb. 4, the OU William Beaumont School of Medicine is currently working towards receiving accreditation, developing the curriculum and hiring faculty.

The trustees also approved the hiring of four associate deans: Dr. David Felten, Dr. John Musich, Dr. Angela Nuzzarello and Dr. Michele Raible.

Dr. Virindir Moudgil, provost at OU, addressed the OU Senate — a secondary legislative body made up of OU faculty and administrators — on Feb. 12 and updated the senate on the progress of the medical school.

The school's first class, limited to 50 students, is scheduled to begin their studies in the fall of 2010.

Under the planned curriculum, students will spend the first two years taking classes on the OU campus before moving on to Beaumont for the final two years of clinical training.

Getting accreditation

Moudgil said that the medical school is still in the process of meeting the requirements set by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, the major accrediting body for medical schools in the United States, before they will consider accreditation. One of these was recently fulfilled by hiring four associate deans, bringing the total up to six.

Moudgil said LCME guidelines require medical schools to hire about three full-time professors for each of the seven disciplines laid out in LCME guidelines.

He said they will need to hire roughly 20 full-time professors before being considered for accreditation. That figure increased from 14 in October when LCME revised their guidelines.

Current LCME standards require the school to have full-time backup faculty in case one of the professors can not make class or has to take an extended leave.

Hiring faculty

Dean Dr. Robert Folberg is currently interviewing candidates for the faculty positions. Lorna Bearup, Folberg's assistant, said the school has received about

400 applications to fill the full-time positions, as well as an undetermined number of part-time positions.

Folberg was not available to comment, but Moudgil said Folberg is "aggressively recruiting" faculty from Beaumont.

Felten and Musich, two of the associate deans, will work through Beaumont. Moudgil said this will help alleviate the financial burden on OU because they will not have to pay the Beaumont faculty.

"You have the expertise of someone who actually does this for a living as opposed to someone who teaches but has never seen a patient," he added.

Faculty hired by the medical school, if tenured, will retain their tenure, Moudgil said. Faculty hired by Beaumont will not be eligible for tenure from OU.

"I think it is a good measure to protect the students," Moudgil said.

"The financial pieces are being worked out relatively smoothly, but there are still some things that have to be worked out," said Ronald Mattei, assistant dean.

Working with others

Moudgil thanked OU faculty for recently voting 228-18 in favor of including the medical school as an academic unit of the university.

This vote will allow the medical school to work with the OU chapter of American Association of University Professors, which in turn, will allow OU faculty to be directly involved in the hiring of the initial medical school faculty.

Folberg has dual appointment with OU and Beaumont, and will oversee all faculty at both institutions. Moudgil said this is vital for holding Beaumont faculty to the standards of other OU professors.

"All of the physicians who claim to be academic or are involved with any teaching and research will report to [Folberg]," Moudgil said. "It is a huge implication. Beaumont faculty will be responsible to the university."

Third time's the charm

The current venture with Beaumont is OU's third attempt at establishing a medical school. The first was in the 1960s when they tried to create one with Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital. Later, OU tried to create one with Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

"This time we are making sure that we do not engage in activities and obligations that will create trouble for this program," Moudgil said.



BROOKE HUG/The Oakland Post
(From left to right) Deans Ronald Mattei, Michele Raible, Linda Gillum and Angela Nuzzarello.

Meet the new deans

Name: Linda Gillum
Job title: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Faculty Development
Duties: Develop curriculum and recruit faculty.
Before: She comes from University of Michigan's med school and has been in the field of academic medicine for 30 years.
Now: "It gives me the opportunity to be on the cutting edge as far as creating a new medical school."

Name: Ronald Mattei
Job title: Assistant Dean
Duties: Mainly overseeing the financial operations as well as recruiting and processing faculty.
Before: He was all set to enjoy retirement in October after teaching health sciences at OU, but three days later, Folberg asked him to return as Assistant Dean, and he accepted.
Now: "The university is fulfilling its obligation to the community by creating this school, and it's just great to be a part of it."

Name: Angela Nuzzarello
Job title: Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Duties: Student health and counseling services, etc.
Before: She comes from Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, where she had the same duties.
Now: "There's a lot of opportunities for collaboration [on] an undergraduate campus."

Name: Michele Raible
Job title: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education and Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology
Duties: Develop the curriculum.
Before: She practiced medicine as a hematologist and oncologist.
Now: "It seems like most physicians are teachers at one level or another."

• Associate Deans David Felten and John Musich weren't available for comment by press time.