



Tibetan monks craft a 4 feet by 4 feet sand mandala in the Fireside Lounge to bring strength and energy to OU's campus.

THE POST

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March 23, 2005

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Complete OUSC election guide



Bryan Austin



Charity Jones



Michael McGuinness

The Post covers the OUSC presidential and vice presidential debates. Turn to A2 for the full story.

Find out about the issues students raised and how candidates responded to them at Monday's Open Forum on A6.

Campus News Editor Roqaya Eshawi gets answers from the presidential and vice presidential candidates concerning their opinions and platforms on A3.

Vote online at www.oakland.edu/voteou
Voting begins at 12 a.m. Monday, March 28 and ends at 10 p.m. Wednesday, March 30.

Dancing woes continue on campus

By ALLISON BRUNNER
SENIOR NEWS WRITER

Former NFL coach Vince Lombardi once said "football isn't a contact sport; it's a collision sport. Dancing is a contact sport."

If Lombardi came to OU's campus, however, he would not find those sports, because there is no football team at OU and dances are still banned until the end of the winter semester.

A month after the dance ban was put into effect, members, leaders and advisors of student

organizations have the opportunity to voice their opinions on the dance ban and the closing of events to the external community.

Their concerns will be addressed in a formal meeting by Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, Glenn McIntosh, dean of students, and other campus administrators.

McIntosh said the primary goal of the "Town Hall Meeting" is to see what students think is the best way to ensure the safety of people who come to campus events.

Cressie Smith, coordinator of

student organizations and Greek life at OU, sent an e-mail Monday to student organizations informing them of the meeting during which they can discuss current and proposed policies for dances and major social events.

They are also encouraged to recommend strategies to "curtail the inappropriate behavior experienced at the dances this semester," Smith said in her email to student organizations.

She said they also hope to create positive change to "improve the social climate on OU's campus and eliminate the violent

behavior exhibited at and after the dances."

In regards to the closing of events to the general public, McIntosh said the primary purpose of student organization programming is to meet the needs of current students.

"If a student organization feels they need to open their event up to the external community, then it is a sign they are not meeting the needs of the current students," McIntosh said.

Facilities on campus are being paid for in part by current students' dollars.

For this reason, McIntosh said, when there is an event in a facility with a capacity of 600 that is open to the external community, OU's 16,000-plus student body cannot be served.

To gain maximum attendance and participation, two meeting times have been set.

Both are Wednesday, March 23. The first is from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Lake Superior Room A of the OC and the second will be in the Oakland Room of the OC from 5 - 6 p.m.

Students make long trek to Charlotte

By LIBBY BAKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Tamara Kukuk, a freshman communications major, said she's never seen OU have so much school spirit.

Kukuk was one of more than 100 students who traveled to Charlotte, N. C. by bus last Friday to cheer on the OU men's basketball team in their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Two buses, paid for by the Student Activities Funding Board, left OU's campus around 11 p.m. Thursday evening and arrived in Charlotte over 12 hours later.

Elissa Tamm, a freshman pre-nursing student, said the ride was long, but worth it.

She missed three classes to attend Friday's game against the University of North Carolina.

Student Body President, Jonathan Parks, helped arrange the transportation to Charlotte for students and said some waited in line for more than two hours to reserve their spots on the bus.

"I called a bunch of times and they said they couldn't hold tickets ... so I left work early," said Luke Williams, a fifth year mechanical engineering and Spanish major.

Williams enjoyed the ride down and met lots of new people.

"We tried to sing the fight song, but it didn't work out so well, because we didn't know the words," he said.

Instead they watched movies including "Enemy of the State," "Training Day" and "Above the Rim."

The Student Program Board and the Dean of Students Office paid for half of each \$50 student ticket.

The Grizzlies finished the first half down 59-33, but OU students weren't disappointed.

"I'd like to see them in it more, but it's just cool to be here," Williams said.

"They've got to be really nervous out there, but they're doing the best they can," Tamm said. "It's a great opportunity for us overall."

Despite Oakland's 96-68 loss to the Tar Heels, students were already hopeful for what this season will mean for both the men's team and the university in the future.

"(This showed) this is a goal they can reach and they can accomplish," Kukuk said. "I think it will get students more involved (and get) more student pride."



Dante Ciullo/The Oakland Post

Senior forward Cortney Scott goes up for two in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Turn to B8 for more information on the game.

Ticket expense causes fuss

By ROQAYA ESHAWI
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

A suggested change to the OUSC bylaws prompted a lengthy debate at Monday's OUSC meeting.

Legislators Katie Miller and Saman Waquad were concerned with President Jonathan Park's discretionary expenditure of \$500 for a plane ticket to North Carolina to attend the men's basketball game.

They proposed amending the

bylaws to read that the president's discretionary funds may not be used for personal expenses.

Parks' original plans to attend the game fell through at the last minute; by then the OUSC-sponsored buses were full, and as a last minute decision, he booked a flight.

Jackie Claiborne, legislative affairs director, said she doesn't believe the funds were utilized in a personal manner and doesn't see a reason to amend the bylaw.

Legislator Kori Lynn Caver

agreed. "It was not personal use, it was last minute," Caver said.

"We're spending too much time on a small issue," Legislator George Nahas said, adding that the student body president should arrive at the game with pride, not "bushed out of his brains" by a 12-hour bus ride.

"Let's give our president the leeway," he said.

Legislator Stefen Welch said the issue was "minute" and that the meeting should move on.

Sometimes OUSC engages in

behavior that makes the members look "stupid," he said, "especially when there's press in the room."

Parks was concerned that no one had brought their concerns to his attention.

"Everyone's talking about it, no one's talking to me," he said. "There's a lack of trust."

"If you don't want the power and authority and scrutiny," he added, "don't elect me into office, and don't elect the next person

Please see OUSC on A8

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WEEKEND OUTLOOK

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CANDIDATES DEBATE

Presidential candidates

BY NICK COTTA
THE OAKLAND POST

Three Student Congress presidential candidates made their cases to the student body as they debated in the Fireside Lounge last Thursday.

This year's Student Congress has not been doing a good job representing students, said Bryan Austin and Charity Jones.

"A lot of students felt that Congress has not represented them," Jones said.

Austin said he believes OUSC needs to "just help students" rather than focus on politics.

Michael McGuinness, the current vice president, disagreed.

Austin, Jones and McGuinness defined their platforms as they made cases for why they should be the next student body president.

It's not possible to make everyone happy, McGuinness said, adding that leaders sometimes have to make decisions and take stands that not everyone will agree with.

He emphasized his prior experience, and said his platform is a "positive platform for progress."

Austin finds that Congress is too political and bureaucratic.

"I'd love to make it more volunteer-based," he said, referring to a letter to the editor which stated that \$85,000 of the \$225,000 Student Congress budget goes to paying Student Congress position salaries.

Jones is a commuter student, and she said she feels that commuters are underrepresented in OUSC.

If elected, she wants to bring back the commuter council, similar to the current residence council.

One of McGuinness' main goals is to set up a Gender and Sexuality Center at OU.

He also advocates a strong Student Congress with a hard-working and experienced staff that can continue the work OUSC has been doing.

Jones said she believes that character and integrity are the most important qualities of a staffer.

And Austin said that he is "looking for non-political members that care about students and not agendas."

Jones said her main motivation for running was that she felt she and so many other students have been ignored, and she wanted to "give every student a

sense of ownership."

McGuinness pointed out that he has gone outside his box to become a member of the Women's Issues Forum as well as the Association of Black Students.

He also noted his lengthy resume of Congress experience.

Austin used a hockey analogy to tout his skills as a leader.

As a goalie, his job on the team was to sacrifice his body for the team, and that is what he is about, a candidate "willing to sacrifice."

Jones expressed more fiscal responsibility.

She said she feels that an examination of the PrintWise system is in order, because it might overstep its grounds as students already pay a technology fee as part of their tuition.

The debate consisted of opening statements, then four questions where each student has three minutes to respond, and an open session at the end to respond to other candidates' statements.

More information on each set of candidates and the referendums can be found at <http://www.oakland.edu/voteou>.

Vice presidential candidates

BY CHRISTA ELAINE
BADON
THE OAKLAND POST

Three students vying for the position of OUSC vice president duked it out in an open debate held Friday in the Fireside Lounge.

Juniors Kori Lynn Caver and Danny Johnston, and senior Brendan Stevens stated their cases of how they would assist their presidential-hopeful counterparts junior Michael McGuinness, graduate student Bryan Austin and senior Charity Jones, respectively, in making OU a better school for students.

Throughout the debate, the word passion was used as each candidate stated their position.

"Passion is key," Johnston said, adding that with an Austin/Johnston ticket, the goal would be "representing all students, all the time."

"We want what the students want," he said. "Helping students is all I know how to do. It's all about the right student leadership."

"Representing students is what's most important," Stevens said in his opening statement, adding that he has passion for OU and its students.

"Charity and I want every student's voice to be heard. We want to have a greater focus on academics and hope to bring a new style to OUSC," he said, adding that Jones and he "want to make things happen."

Stevens advocated a commuter council, similar to the residence hall council, that would address the needs of commuter students.

Caver credited her qualifications for vice president on her experience as an OUSC legislator this year.

"Mike McGuinness and I want to provide, for all students, a greater focus on academic success, Gender and Sexuality Center advocacy, financial aid improvements, engaging uninvolved students to feel a part of the university and having a more distinct campus flavor," she said.

"With your vote, we can make that happen," she added.

When asked if executive board members should be paid for their positions, Johnston said he believed volunteering would be more beneficial, adding that the excess funding should go toward scholarships for students.

Both Caver and Stevens said they believed executive board members should be paid.

"Some positions can be rid of and even cut down," Stevens said.

"We should also look at the spring and summer budgets and cut there, too."

Stevens expressed that it was vital to receive some type of compensation, relaying his experiences as former editor in chief of The Oakland Post.

By receiving some type of compensation, staff members are shown that the work they do is important.

The candidates were asked to provide details of experience heading meetings, since the vice president oversees and leads the OUSC meetings.

Johnston said he wants to learn how to master chairing a meeting and values that his residence advisor and Connections peer leadership

gave him the experience.

Stevens said he has had experience heading meetings at The Oakland Post.

Caver said her experience involves being a Student Congress legislator.

Candidates were asked how they would resolve an issue in Congress if there was an even or split decision of support.

"I would resolve the issue by listening to what everybody has to say," Johnston said.

"We have to work with the e-board. Students voice their opinions at OUSC meetings and we have to take into account that Student Congress influences the students," Stevens said.

"I would encourage legislators to listen. It is very important to not shun or turn away a student who has something to say," Caver said.

At the end of debate, candidates were asked what the priority for their ticket was.

"Equal representation for the student body is most important. We need some form of change, and this is a huge issue," Johnston said.

Stevens said complete student representation is tangible.

"The formation of the commuter council needs to be led by someone who cares and believes in it," he said.

"Financial aid is the biggest issue," Caver said. "There must be a training process for employees (in the Financial Aid Office)."

The candidates agreed that students should make their voices heard by voting at the election.

Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, was the moderator.

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