

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

May 16, 2007

Volume 33, Number 27

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OFFSEASON

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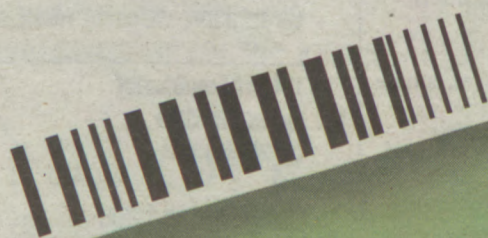
The summer issue!



*Having so much fun!
Wish you could be
here!*

60
Rochester Hills

485



CHECK OUT OUR BACK COVER
FOR THE OAKLAND POST'S
SUMMER TO-DO LIST

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At the CSA Service Window

Romeo and Juliet at the Detroit Opera House on Wednesday, June 6 and Friday, June 8 for \$30 (reg. \$65.00). Both these performances begin at 7:30 p.m. The deadline date to make your reservations is May 25.

Gounod's penchant for voluptuous harmonies suited the legend of **Romeo & Juliet**. From the balcony scene to the crypt, the lovers entwine themselves in a string of star-crossed duets.

Sung in French with English supertitles.

Disney's High School Musical at the Fisher Theatre on Tuesday June 26 (opening night) at 7:30 pm. Disney Theatrical Productions, the producers of **THE LION KING** and **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**, have created an exciting stage version of the phenomenal Disney's **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL**. It's the irresistible story of two teenagers - Troy Bolton, super-popular captain of the basketball team, and Gabriella Montez, super-smart transfer student and a genius in science class - who try to navigate the tricky currents of peer pressure to follow their dream and score the leads in the big school show. The production will include all of the favorite characters and songs from the movie, plus two new songs written especially for the stage. All this combines to make **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL** a top-drawer Disney production, and a must-see for every fan of the movie and theatre-goer alike.

Main Floor and Mezzanine: \$57.50 (reg. \$63.00)

Balcony Rows J-O: \$39.50 (reg. \$43.00)

Balcony rows P-U: \$21 (\$25.50).

There are no loge tickets reserved since they were the same price as the Main FL and Mezzanine. Because of a very limited run we have to close this show on May 17. Please order promptly if interested.

Detroit Tigers Baseball

CSA Service Window will have tickets to two Detroit Tiger games, both Fridays which means terrific fireworks following the game. All tickets are \$10 each which is the regular price.

July 20 against Kansas City @ 7:05 p.m.

August 10 against Oakland @ 7:05 p.m.

Please order early as we have to close the blocks a month in advance. We will not be able to accept any late orders.

Detroit Renaissance Festival tickets for this season will be available at the end of July. This year's festival will be open weekends starting August 18 to September 30.

The CSA Service window accepts cash, check and Spirit Cash as payment. There is a \$2.00 per ticket service charge for all shows and events in the discount ticket program.

Looking ahead to the Fall of 2007, The CSA Service Window will have tickets for:

The 25th Annual Spelling Bee for October performances

Twelve Angry Men for November performances

The Lion King for performances in November, December and January.

Oakland University June Blood Drive

Oakland University will be holding its June 2007 Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 12. It will be held in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. To make an appointment:

- 1) Online at www.givelife.org. The site will prompt for some information and then ask for the drive location and sponsor code. The Drive location is Oakland University and the sponsor code is **oublood**. The site will allow the person making the appointment to choose a day and time that is open and convenient to the donor.
- 2) Call the Center for Student Activities at (248) 370-2400. We will take down some basic information and then enter it into the computer for you.

Together we can make a difference. For each pint of blood collected, three lives can be saved.

WATCH OUT! The Oakland Post is putting out monthly issues all spring and summer. Look for the Post on campus June 13, July 18 and August 15.

We're online!

www.oaklandpostonline.com

Check out the latest on our Web site. We include stories from our print editions AND new content created exclusively for the Web. You can comment on stories, e-mail editors and get the most recent news in all the sections you've come to love in our print issues.

Oakland University

Center for Multicultural Initiatives

Vision: To promote a campus climate that is both open and receptive to multicultural initiatives by educating faculty, staff, and students and empowering students with strong academic and leadership skills.

Co-sponsoring: African American Celebration, Cultural Heritage Awareness Week, Hispanic Celebration, Welcome Week, and much more.

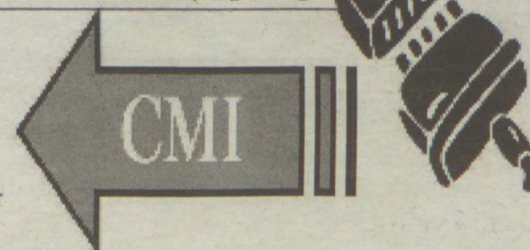
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Is Kalamazoo setting the tone for educational finance? Is proposed legislation compromising Constitutional rights?



Campus page 6

OUSC announces big plans for the future and students tell us about their favorite ways to get some summer in the classroom



you page 9

The "You" guide to summer fun, complete with trail and beach ratings, the how-tos of scuba certification and tips for the wakeboarding enthusiast



The Mix page 12

What looks are the ladies of OU sporting at the pool? Plus seven reasons why you know it's summertime on campus



Local page 14

Find out what's so funny about local comedy clubs and get the latest on crafty entrepreneurs in the urban market



Sports page 16

The Post offers its favorite sportsbar picks, OU softball calls it a season and Red Wings hockey struggles to maintain its fanbase



the Scene page 20

A movie guide to pack your summer nights with, concert listings to fit everyone's playlists and a festival schedule for the locals



MOUTHING OFF page 22

Old school rockers prove that a great show comes with age, and gas prices inspire columnist Jesse Dunsmore to take a closer look at consumerism

The Post is now looking to fill positions for the 2007-2008 school year. The following staff positions are available:

- Senior Reporters
- Campus News Editor
- Web Editor

e-mail
oakpostmanaging@gmail.com
to inquire and/or apply

Perspectives

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www.oaklandpostonline.com

May 16, 2007

STAFF EDITORIAL

Private sector needs to step up on behalf of public education

"Education is the future," is a cliché that every politician ever to run for an elected office, ever again, will use. People have heard the term so many times they seem to forget just how important it is, disregarding it as politico-speak. But, education is the future; just look west to Kalamazoo to find a promised answer to Michigan's decline.

The city is in the midst of a modern-day renaissance because of the Kalamazoo Promise, a grant from anonymous, private donors that promises free tuition to any in-state college to any graduate of the city's public school system. The Promise is already benefiting the kids of Kalamazoo, who have for years grappled with poverty and an inability to get into college. It's also having a windfall benefit on Kalamazoo's economy, which is raking in cash from upwards of \$10 million in new housing investments and one of the few housing markets in the state where a homeowner can actually expect to sell. The city is the perfect example of "education is the future," in action. It shows a belief in that ethos and a return on investment is already presenting itself only a year later.

In the next few days, politicians in Lansing need to settle a \$4 billion budget deficit, and education is expected to

suffer cuts of anywhere from \$36 to \$122 per pupil in the upcoming year. This is a sign that we can no longer look to Lansing for help in funding our schools. It's time to follow the lead of Kalamazoo and take the future of our state into our own hands. Appeal to your local representative to oppose school cuts at any cost, whether that means driving on worse than usually roads (lets be honest, they can't really get any worse) or spending less to fight a losing battle against drugs, we need education now more than ever. Michigan could face crippling circumstances decades from now if we don't have a well-educated workforce, one that can meet the needs of a global economy and attract employers to our state.

If the Promise has shown us anything, it's that an investment in education actually pays off. And, if at all possible, Michigan residents should ask why doesn't the whole state receive a public promise grant? I'm no economist and fully understand that the investment would take a sum of money that I can't even fathom, but wouldn't it be worth it? Nothing will bring the auto industry back to its old prominence, short of a miracle. But, Michigan could attract employers with an educated workforce, something that could stop the brain



Believers: Be careful when interpreting your Higher Power's will in absolute and finite terms. There might be unknown repercussions.

drain out of the state and keep Michigan kids close to home.

The problem right now is that the economy demands an educated workforce, and without actually making college affordable, many Michigan residents are effectively being priced out of a future. It is our responsibility to make sure that all of our residents at least have the option to pursue a college education, instead of limiting it to a few or leaving a student with thousands of dollars of debt right after graduation.

The corollary to something like this is increased taxes. You have to "pay the piper" if you want to dance. As nice as it would be, we can't expect a grant similar to Kalamazoo's for the whole state, it just isn't feasible for that much money to come from private donors. But,

with a mix of public funds and private money, we could make an investment in this state's future that will pay off for the long run. If Oakland University can get its upcoming medical school entirely funded by private benefactors, you think we can't get education funded if everyone works together?

So push for a Michigan Promise, and be glad to open up your wallet and pay for it. Shelling out a few dollars extra now could earn you thousands in return when you sell your house or get hired into a firm willing to move to Michigan for the talent.

—The Oakland Post

What do you think? Have a news tip? Send your comments to The Oakland Post.

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editor@oakpostonline.com
By mail:
Letter to the Editor
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Rochester, MI 48309

CORRECTIONS CORNER

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail editor@oakpostonline.com or call (248) 370-4268. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

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.

A new beginning for student congress

By JAMEELAH MUHAMMAD
Student Congress Vice President

I must admit, I was one of those students who quite honestly did not know who or what Student Congress was, and pretty much thought that the extent of their work included providing free Scantrons. However, for the past year I have had the opportunity to not only see exactly what services OUSC has to offer, but I was also able to see the unlocked potential to be of great service to students on campus that existed within the organization. A lot of people have asked me, why, after reaching my senior year, did I decide to become involved with the organization? There were many reasons, but the reason I hope to share with the readers of this article, I think is the most relevant at this time for all Oakland University Students.

Ever since I can remember coming to campus OUSC has had its share of scandal, politics, and extreme criticism. Because many of these events occurred

prior to my involvement I could not even share the details, and I am not here to dispute what is and isn't true. What I can say, is that for

the most part, many students were displeased with the organization as a whole. Now, I'm not going to say that I have never complained about something, but quite honestly I was starting to get tired of all the negative energy and opinions that discussion topics related to Student

Congress would generate. And although I knew of peers who were willing to become involved in order to create some change, there was still a lot of spite and

vengeance behind these aims. So I decided that instead of being that person who sits around and com-

plains about how horrible something is or how they really want something to change, I took the next step and actually decided to join the organization in order to see what positive energy and work I could hopefully contribute.

Gandhi once said, "You must be the

change you want to see in the world". With that being said, I challenge my peers to try and be involved with OUSC this upcoming school semester in some capacity. There are numerous opportunities for involvement including joining the Student Services Committee, Publicity Committee, Legislative and Multicultural Affairs Committee, SAFB Board, University Senate Committees, becoming a legislator or simply supporting some of the amazing events we will have going on in the Fall. I think students will be surprised about exactly what and how they can help and the great positive change they may be able to create.

For more information about OUSC or how to get involved, please feel free to contact me at jmmuhamm@oakland.edu, or Student Body President Rob Meyer at rjmeyer@oakland.edu.

Have a great summer!



IN SESSION

with your student congress

Christian leader Dobson needs to open his narrow mind - or shut his mouth

By PAUL GULLY
Mouthing Off Editor

Apparently Christian leader and Focus on the Family founder James C. Dobson hasn't made it a "red letter day" in a while—nor cracked open the Good Book in some time.

Earlier this week, Mr. Dobson felt compelled to share his thoughts on the newly proposed hate-crime law, which if passed, will extend hate-crime protection to, among others, homosexuals.

On May 1 Dobson warned listeners of his national radio show about the dangers the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

"There's a vote coming up on some insidious legislation in the United States Congress that could silence and punish Christians for their moral beliefs," he said. "That means that as a Christian — if you read the Bible a certain way with regard to morality — you may be guilty of committing a 'thought crime.'"

Dobson went on to say that "this legislation could pave the way for religious

persecution in this country" and that the true intent of the proposed law is "to muzzle people of faith who dare to express their moral and biblical concerns about homosexuality."

The proposed law covers hate-crimes—violent acts such as murder, kidnapping or sexual assault. The bill does not discuss or include prejudice in hiring practices, hate speech or anything of that nature. So unless Mr. Dobson or his fellow Christian brethren are planning on committing violent crimes against homosexuals, the law in no way is punishing them for their moral beliefs.

The bill explicitly guards against any perceived limitations of free speech or First Amendment rights. Section 8 of the proposed law states:

"Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to prohibit any expressive conduct protected from legal prohibition by, or any activities protected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of, the First Amendment of the Constitution."

How Dobson believes that this law

is attempting to silence Christians is beyond me.

Suggesting the law will open the doors to "thought crimes" for reading the Bible is just plain ludicrous and ignorant.

And here's some info for those who feel adding sexual orientation to the current hate-crime law is a bad idea: sexual orientation bias accounted for 14 percent of those incidents—second only to religious bias, which accounted for 17 percent, according to FBI statistics that have been compiled on hate-crimes since 1991.

There are those such as Rep. Don Hastings (R-Wash) who made a somewhat valid argument, recently saying, "If someone commits a crime, they should be punished for that crime. Period. Today the Democratic majority has chosen to end equality under the law."

However, I don't see him, nor any other opponent of the LLEHCPA, including Mr. Dobson, speaking out against the current hate-crime law that protects against violent acts against people on the basis of race or religion.

The law is not asking opponents to

accept homosexuality, or even trying to keep them from expressing their beliefs or opinions. The bill is merely imposing stiff sentencing for violent acts motivated by biases. So feel free to criticize and denounce homosexuality as you wish, Mr. Dobson.

It is irresponsible and unacceptable for a man of Dobson's stature—dubbed "America's most influential evangelical leader" by Slate online magazine—to make such careless comments.

I understand that some Christians view homosexuals as a threat and believe that homosexuals are living a sinful lifestyle.

But was it not Jesus himself who once said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-40) and something along the lines of "he who is without sin shall cast the first stone"?

The homosexual debate has no relevance to this Act. The proposed law is protecting against acts of hate. Regardless of sexual orientation, would God ever condone hate towards another individual?

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