

A SHOT AT TRUE LOVE

Music, Theatre and Dance department performs 'Sweet Charity', a romantic musical.

Page 19



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Find out how OU's former president is spending his retirement.

PAGE 9



GET READY TO VOTE

See who is running to be the next president of OU Student Congress.

PAGES 10-11



MAKING A SPLASH

Tricia Grant is OU's first female swimmer to reach NCAAs.

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thisweek

March 26, 2014 // Volume 40. Issue 25



ontheweb

Go for the Gold was held Saturday, March 22 and allowed high school students, transfer students and families to check out what OU has to offer.

www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

WHAT THE DUCK?// Chief Copy Editor Haley Kotwicki decided to get artsy and place a rubber duck in a water-filled pothole in front of Pontiac High School. Notice the vibrant colors of the little ducky's feathers and smiling beak in contrast to the stark grays of the asphalt. We wonder what the drivers of these cars were thinking as they careened past this birdy. Our bets are "Awww... how adorable." *Haley Kotwicki/The Oakland Post*

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

What are your plans for the OUSC election?

- A) I am going to vote.
- B) I don't really care, so I'm not voting
- C) I am still iffy about what I will do.
- D) I have no idea what OUSC even is.

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What are your thoughts about the construction?

- A) It's very inconvenient and I don't like it.
27.3%
- B) I think it's great. It showcases OU's growth.
36.4%
- C) I have hardly noticed it and have no opinion.
4.5%
- D) The new parking structure has my heart racing.
31.8%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MARCH 25, 1969

Over 400 students took over campus, storming out of classes in North Foundation Hall in a demand that Oakland become a "leol" university to "the benefit of those who have come to be educated."

MARCH 26, 1979

In a protest on office space shortage, five Biology Society members turned a Dodge Hall restroom into a study lounge. It was intended as a joke before turning into a legitimate operation.

MARCH 27, 2002

OU's food service provider, Aramark, was in talks to renew their contract for a five year extension. Eleanor Reynolds, food service director, stated OU wanted changes ranging from meal plans to extended cafeteria hours.



7

ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN

OU's annual piano sale was held in the Shotwell-Gustafon Pavillion on campus. The varieties of different pianos included Yamaha, Kawai and Baldwin.



8

THE POWER OF SCIENCE

OU alum Kevin Grazier has worked as the science adviser for 'Gravity' as well as the television series 'Eureka'. He shares his experiences as well as a little science.



20

WAFFLES ARE NOT TACOS

Copy editor Brian Figurski mouth offs about Taco Bell's latest invention of their breakfast menu. He seems to think Jack Daniels should be offered as well.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sweet Charity!

1966

Year Sweet Charity musical premiered in Broadway

9

Tony Awards it was nominated for

18

musical numbers in original production

1969

Year Sweet Charity was adapted for the screen

24

Cast members in Oakland University's production

STAFF EDITORIAL

OU couples get legally married, court stops recognizing it

Hundreds of same-sex couples, some from OU, flocked to courthouses to tie the knot after U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman ruled the Michigan Marriage Act unconstitutional, Friday, March 21.

The lift on the ban allowed the state of Michigan to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples.

OU Associate Communication Professor, Kathleen Battles was finally able to marry her partner of 21 years, on Saturday.

"I was surprised by how emotional I felt," Battles said. "How moving it was. How amazing it was waiting in line. Just to have that moment of recognition was pretty powerful and it was pretty amazing."

Grace Wojcyk is the coordinator of OU's gender and sexuality center. She also waited in line and married her partner Saturday morning.

"We both had this overwhelming feeling of relief" Wojcyk said. "It just made it seem like it was validating, to have that piece of paper."

Wojcyk and Battles were but two members of 300 couples who were wed Saturday morning.

We at The Oakland

Post applauded this monumental step forward for gay rights in Michigan. Unfortunately, our applause was cut short.

By Saturday afternoon an appeals court placed a stay on the lift. The postponement was originally supposed to be in place until Wednesday, but has since been suspended indefinitely. This means that although the act was ruled unconstitutional and same-sex couples were allowed to get married, no more marriages can take place until the issue is settled in the Sixth Circuit Court.

Battles saw the postponement coming. "My reaction to that is not entirely surprised," Battles said. "I feel frustrated for myself. Angry for the other people in the state who are waiting to get married and now can't."

Couples still waiting to get married aren't the only problem the postponement has caused. There still hasn't been a statement on whether the federal government still recognizes the marriages of the 300 Michigan couples who were wed Saturday.

According to Wojcyk, she has friends who went to the Secretary of State to

change their names, but were still turned away.

"It's like we aren't married, but we have the paper that says we are," Wojcyk said. "It's messed up. Completely messed up."

Battles is still unsure what the state thinks of her marriage.

"I'd imagine we're in some kind of strange legal limbo," Battles said.

We at The Post believe that postponing the overturning of the Michigan Marriage Act is unfair and intolerant. It is time to recognize equal rights for all mankind. In Michigan, same-sex marriage was recognized for less than a day and 300 couples found happiness. Now, due to the postponement, they are left frustrated and confused. They will stay that way for an indefinite period of time. Stand up for those who do not have the same rights as you.

"I want everyone who wants this to have it," Battles said. "To have that feeling of recognition. Not just me or the 300 couples who showed up Saturday, but everybody."

The staff editorial is written by members of The Oakland Post's editorial board.



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-The photo on Page 11 was taken by Michael Ferdinande

Letters to the Editor

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.



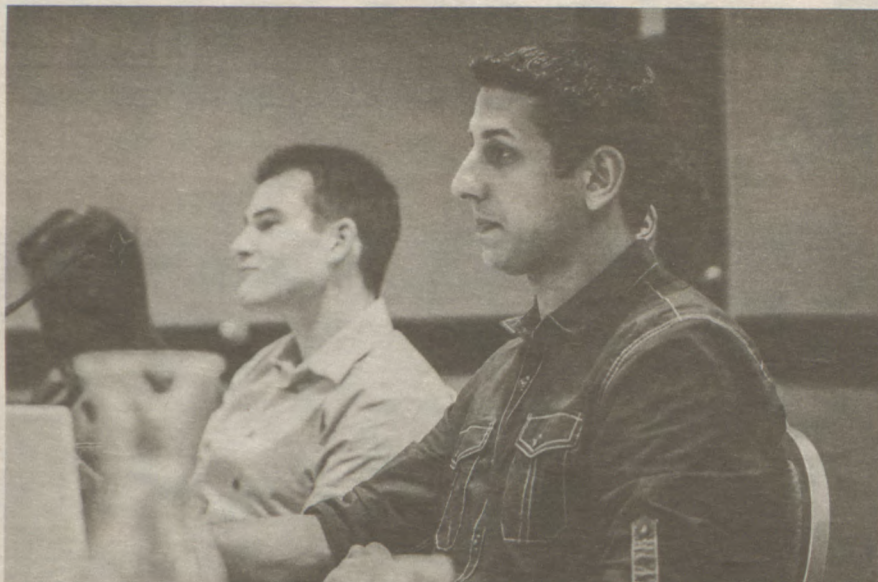
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Salwan Georges / The Oakland Post

Student Body President Brandon Hanna has been involved in the OUSC for four years

Hanna prepares path for the next OUSC president

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

On Monday, March 24 voting started for next year's Oakland University Student Congress Student Body President. When voting ends tonight, one of the three candidates will be chosen to take the place of current president Brandon Hanna.

The senior biology major said he has been involved with the OUSC for four years and doesn't regret a thing.

"It's made my time at OU a million times better," Hanna said in a phone interview. "I never thought I would be this involved but I've grown so much from it as a person and as part of the OUSC."

While being president, Hanna said he has had a great many accomplishments, such as the free scantron program, the push for better WiFi on campus and the push for more parking on campus, among other things.

"Also pushing for the expansion of the Oakland Center – that was huge," Hanna said. "We got over 4,000 responses in our survey. That survey was the most filled-out survey on Oakland's campus ever."

Hanna said the OUSC will be making the OC expansion case at the next Board of Trustees meeting on May 7.

"We don't want to make any decisions without students hearing and having a say," Hanna said.

Some of the largest events Hanna enjoyed were the Rock For Rights event and the Tibetan Monks event.

"I never thought I would be this involved but I've grown so much from it as a person and as part of the OUSC."

Brandon Hanna
OUSC Student Body President

"We've done a ton of really great things this year," Hanna said. "We also did two BYOB tailgates – we're currently working on pushing for another one in mid-April."

One of the most challenging things Hanna has had to face is the amount of work it takes to balance being both a leader and a student.

"I guess I would say that it's been trying to do as much as I possibly can on behalf of the student body," Hanna said. "I've loved every second of it."

When it comes to the next OUSC president, Hanna said he hopes to see someone who is open-minded, dedicated to serving the student body and who is very passionate for the position and for Oakland.

Hanna said he thinks all three tickets that are running have the qualities that will make a good president and that he encourages students to go check them out and vote at www.oakland.edu/voteou.

"Really make an informed decision because voting is extremely important in letting your voice be heard," Hanna said. "Every vote does count. Every vote does matter."

OUSC revisions cause unrest

By Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

Tonight elections for the next Oakland University Student Congress president will close.

Voting to approve or strike down the latest OUSC constitutional amendments will end as well.

Some of these amendments are no small deal, according to OUSC Student Body President Brandon Hanna and Residence Hall Association President Franklin Kennamer. One will take away voting rights from the RHA representative who sits on OUSC council – in this case, Kennamer.

"RHA, I feel, is the voice of Housing, and by taking voting rights away you're taking the voice away," Kennamer said. "They let me speak, they let me give my opinion on things, but what good is a voice if you can't vote?"

Kennamer said he had only just found out he had voting rights when they were taken away not two weeks later.

On March 17 Kennamer motioned to amend the constitution to give him his rights back. He said the OUSC voted to keep it as is before he could argue his case, however.

"Basically all the legislators were saying this is a waste of time," Kennamer said. "It was pretty insulting."

This caused much unrest at OUSC's March 24 meeting.

"I was very upset, so I took this issue to the general body who attends the RHA meetings," Kennamer said. "Residents were all very upset, some were even outraged."

Hanna said that he is currently doing everything he can to work with Kennamer, the RHA and other OUSC members to "find a middle ground" and "make sure that every student on campus has their voice heard".

"The legislature of OUSC decided when reviewing the constitution that the RHA representatives did not need a voting right since they are technically not voted on, they're appointed," Hanna said. "RHA did not lose their spot on OUSC. OUSC took their voting right away, but not their speaking right."

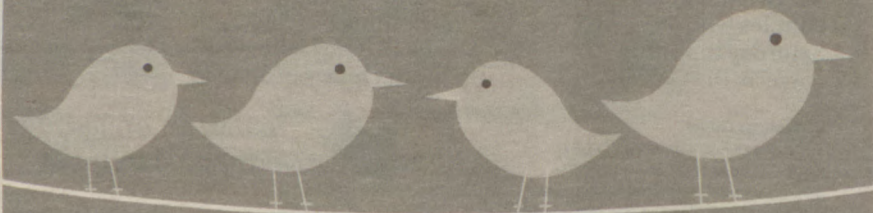
"It's hard to put it into words," Kennamer said. "I guess I'm not saying that OUSC is wrong and RHA's right, I just want people to be informed so that people can form their own opinion on it."

Other revisions to the constitution will establish the Student Activities Funding Board and the Student Program Board as separate organizations outside of the OUSC's jurisdiction, according to Hanna.

To read the constitutional revisions or vote go to oakland.edu/voteou.

Contact Managing Editor Kaylee Kean at managing@oaklandpostonline.com.

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OU alumni is honored for theatrical triumphs

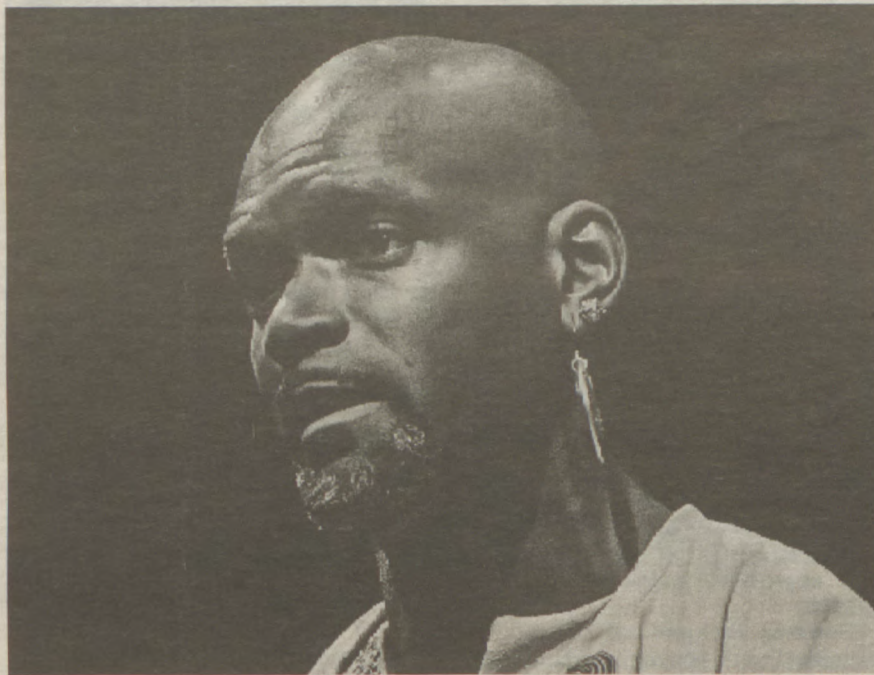


Photo Courtesy of Esau Pritchett

Pritchett has tried many acting mediums, but his favorite is performing on stage

Esau Pritchett wins the MaTilDa Award for Alumni Achievement

Kailee Mathias
Staff Reporter

Esau Pritchett, Oakland alumni from the class of 1998, will receive the MaTilDa Award for Alumni Achievement in Theater.

Pritchett said he initially was a physical therapy major, but he'd seen several of the theater department plays, which sparked an interest. After being informed auditions were coming up for "Twelfth Night," directed by Michael Gillespie, Pritchett decided to try out but didn't expect to be cast.

"It was a Shakespearean play, I'd never done anything like it before and I was absolutely positive I wouldn't be cast," Pritchett said. "Low and behold, they made me the lead of it."

At first Pritchett felt terrified. Gillespie pulled him aside and assured him that he wouldn't let him on stage if he was uncomfortable and began working with him on acting fundamentals.

"I always felt like it was such a good thing I got my training from OU," Pritchett said.

After playing lead in Arthur Miller's production of "All My Sons," Pritchett

switched majors.

After graduation, he moved to New York and began auditioning for roles. He has since done television, film and theater.

Recently Pritchett took on his most challenging role to date where he played Troy Maxson in "Fences."

"He was a very wordy character," Pritchett said. "It was an extremely challenging role for me. At this point in my career, that's what I'm looking for."

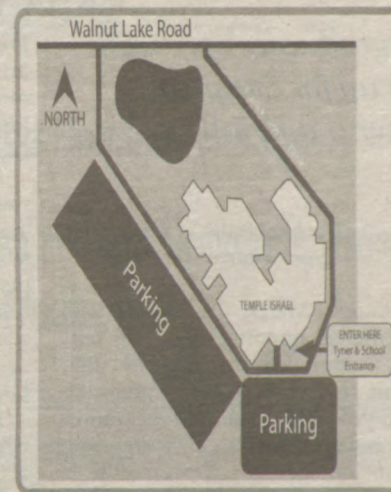
Oakland took notice of his work and dedication in his role in "Fences."

"He had always been on the list of an alum we were planning to honor with the MaTilDa but we were waiting for something big," Kerro Knox, associate professor of theater, said. "When he got cast in 'Fences' in two of the major theaters in the country, we decided this was the year to honor him."

Pritchett and other recipients will be honored at the MaTilDa Awards on Sunday, April 13.

Pritchett will be in Florida where he is currently working on Julius Caesar and will not be able to attend the event. However, he is very excited about the recognition.

"I'm really humbled and surprised, it's a great honor," Pritchett said. "We had so many people on our staff that were so passionate about what they do and it was passed onto me. I'm lucky to be a person that is excited about their job."



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Brace yourself: Here comes registration

Undergraduates can begin to sign up for Summer I, Summer II and fall classes

Michael Pulis
Staff Intern

Monday, March 24, marked the official opening of class registration for the summer, fall, and winter semesters for the upcoming academic year. However, as registration eligibility is determined by class standing and credits, not all students were able to register for classes immediately.

Office of the Registrar said graduate students were able to register for classes starting Monday, March 24.

When do you register?

Following graduate students, seniors with more than 120 credits and students pursuing a second undergraduate degree were permitted to register on Tuesday, March 25. Seniors with more than 90 credits will be allowed to sign up for classes on Wednesday, March 26. Juniors with more than 72 credits are eligible to enroll themselves in classes starting Thursday, March 27, and those with more than 55 on Friday, March 28.

Sophomores with over 41 credits could register for classes on Monday,

March 31, and those with over 27 credits on Tuesday, April 1. Freshman with more than 15 credits can register on Wednesday, April 2, and those with less than 16 credits on Thursday, April 3.

All other students that do not fit into the standard categories may register starting Friday, April 4. Honors College students, however, are given special permission to sign up for classes on the first day of registration regardless of class standing.

Changes in physics

The 2014-2015 academic school year will also bring some new changes to 100-level physics and chemistry courses, according to the registrar's office.

In the past, PHY101, 102, 151, and 152 (each four-credit courses) were combined with one semester of PHY158 (two credits) to complete the lab requirement. CHM157 and CHM158 were five-credit courses which included a lab component.

The 2013-2014 academic year saw the physics courses' lab and lecture setup change to resemble the chemistry courses'. That will now be discontinued. Instead, the physics and chemistry courses will be separated into four-credit courses with one credit lab components. PHY101 will now be combined with PHY110, PHY102 with PHY111, PHY151 with PHY110, and PHY152 with PHY111.

PHY108, 109, 161 and 162 will remain

the same as in the 2013-2014 academic year, continuing to be four-credit courses.

School of Health Science majors are permitted to take only the lecture portion of PHY108 and 109 if desired. Similarly, School of Engineering and Computer Science majors only are able to sign up for purely the lecture components of PHY161 and 162.

Changes in chemistry

On the chemistry front, CHM157, previously five credits, is now a four-credit lecture, CHM144, and a one-credit lab, CHM147. CHM158 follows the same pattern, becoming a four-credit lecture, CHM145, and a one-credit lab, CHM148.

Planning out classes ahead of time can play a huge role in determining whether or not a desired class is full when registering for the next academic year.

"This is the first year I wanted to be ahead of the game, so I'm registering as soon as possible," said senior Mitchell Johnson.

However, some prepared students expressed confusion over Oakland University's e-mail reminders stating that class registration was available starting Monday, March 24.

"I noticed that I couldn't add classes first and that now I have to wait until the day of my registration," said junior Adriana Lo Piccolo.

POLICE FILES

UPDATE: Theft of keys

The ex-employee who did not return the five Oakland University keys and was convicted of a DWI in February came to OUPD at 4:45 p.m. March 14.

He returned all of the keys that were missing. He is currently on probation.

Theft at Hamlin Hall

Officers responded to a call of larceny from a dorm at Hamlin Hall 9:59 a.m. March 21.

A student said he headed to the showers at 6:45 p.m. and left his Google Nexus 7 tablet charging in his room. When he returned at 7:10 p.m., his tablet and charging cord were missing.

The student asked three of his suitemates if they had seen it, but both denied seeing it. They called their other suitemate who denied that he was in the room but said his tablet was also missing. However, the suitemates never remembered him having a tablet, but they did remember that he had a broken laptop.

They also found articles of their clothing on the absent suitemate's part of the room. They stated they never let him borrow clothing.

OUPD made contact with the absent suitemate. He allowed officers to search his backpack, which had a Google Nexus 7 tablet and charging cord. He told officers that it was his and he was planning on gifting it to another student.

He also could not explain why the student's files were on, supposedly, his tablet. Officers also discovered that the absent suitemate had visited many pornographic websites.

OUPD looked at the serial number and verified the missing tablet's number.

He was placed under arrest for a warrant for disturbing the peace. He is currently restricted from any housing facility.

Grizzlies on the Prowl: *"Who is Brandon Hanna?" (He is the current Student Body President of OU Student Congress)*



Rachel Shango, psychology

"I have no idea."



Danielle Cojocari, creative writing

"Not a clue."



Nick Herman, computer science

"He's a computer science professor, isn't he?"

— Compiled by Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki
Chief Copy Editor

Oakland comes alive with the sound of music



Andrew Wernette / The Oakland Post

"It's a pretty significant event," Dave Best said. Best is an employee in charge of used pianos.-

Evola Music-sponsored piano sale provides visitors with opportunity to purchase used instruments

Andrew Wernette
Staff Reporter

Stray music filled the air as Oakland University held its annual piano sale Friday, March 21 through Sunday, March 23, in the Shotwell-Gustafon Pavilion on campus.

Friday and Saturday were reserved for private appointments, while Sunday was open to the public.

Pianos of all shapes and sizes were displayed throughout the space.

Local music company Evola Music ran the event, complete with sales associates who demonstrated the different features of each piano to prospective buyers. The merchandise ranged from electronic to upright and grand pianos. Brands such as Yamaha, Kawai and Baldwin were represented.

Whole families came out on Sunday to examine the instruments.

"It's a pretty significant event," Dave Best, an Evola employee in charge of overseeing the used pianos, said.

He said that this is actually part of an ongoing deal between OU and two of the brands being shown: Kawai and Yamaha. Each year the companies loan their pianos to OU's Department of Music, Theater and Dance, and after a year's use, the pianos are sold at a discounted price to the public.

"At the end of the year, [OU] get[s]

"What I like to tell the people is that this is a legitimate sale with a beginning and an end."

Bob Lelli
Evola Sales Associate

another load of pianos," Best said.

In the end, it is a win-win for everyone. OU constantly has high-quality pianos for its music students, the companies eventually sell their pianos, and customers receive a fair price for an almost-new instrument.

Best said that business was looking good this year, adding that a large number of people showed up on Saturday. He commended everyone in his team for working hard.

"[The] salespeople involved put in a hard week," he said.

One of those sales associates was Bob Lelli, who described his enthusiasm for selling these pianos to ordinary families.

"I think it's been a success," Lelli said of the sale.

"What I like to tell the people is that this is a legitimate sale with a beginning and an end," Lelli said.

He mentioned that most of the people who come to the event have already been shopping around for a piano, and that this offered something unique: very good pianos at lower prices.

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For questions, please call: 248-370-4200