

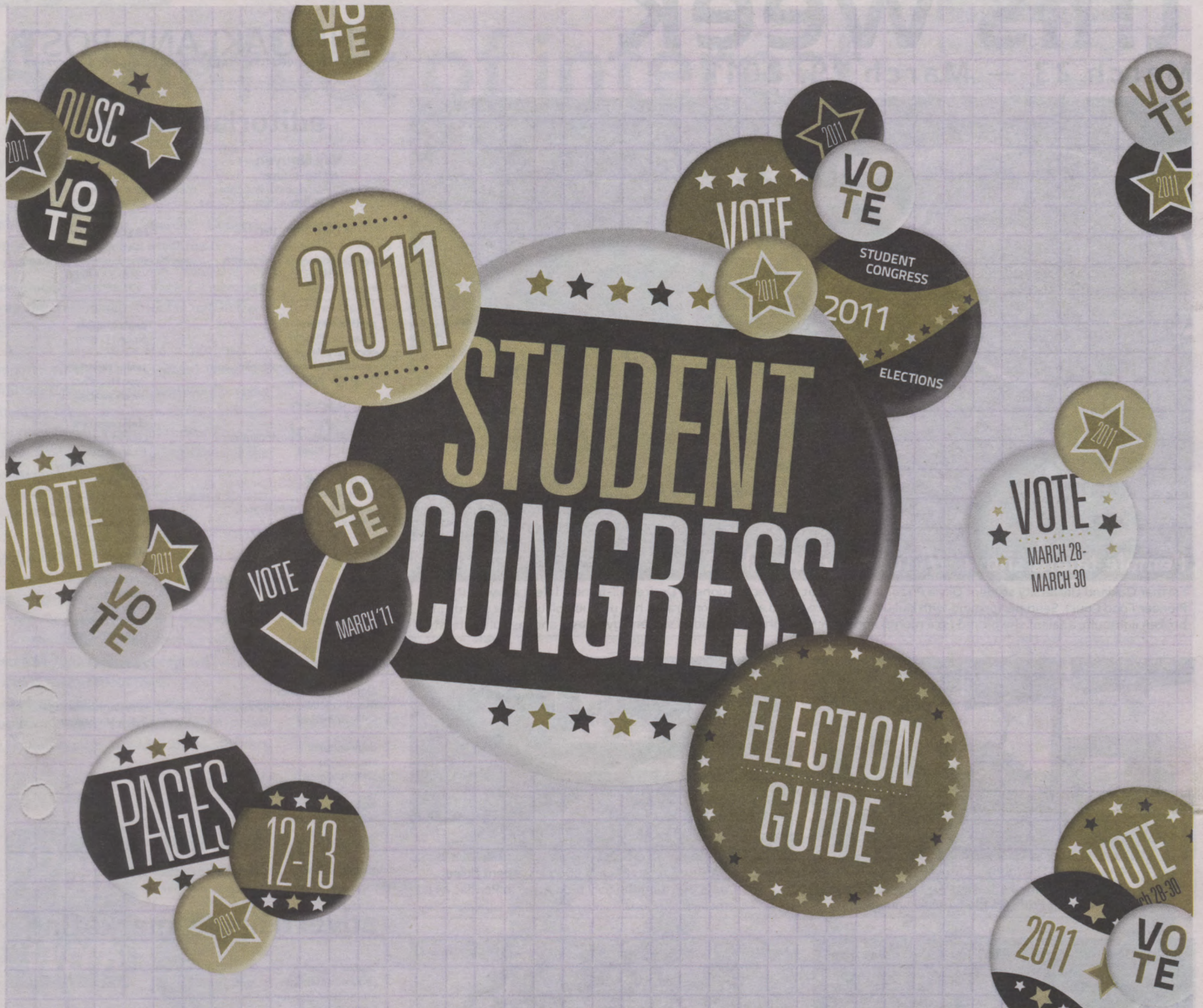
THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 23, 2011

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Volume 37 // Issue 27



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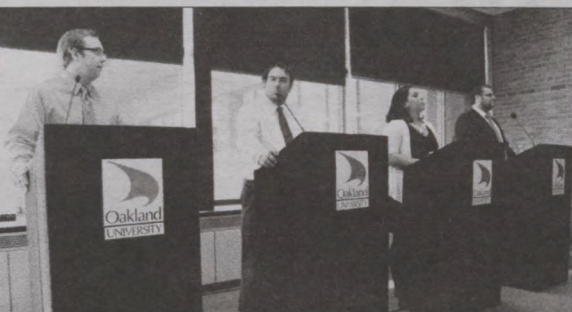
March 23 — March 29, 2011



Female talent show // Tuesday, March 22

NICHOLE SEGUIN/The Oakland Post

Former Oakland University student Olivia Pizzo performed at the Declarations of Desires all-female talent show in the Pioneer Food Court. Seen performing with Hula-Hoops here, Pizzo also demonstrated her unique ability to eat shards of broken lightbulb, a talent she picked up a month ago. Other performers included singers, gymnasts and instrumentalists.



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have to say.

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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STAFF EDITORIAL

A conflict of interest

There's a reason parents don't let kids decide their own bedtimes. They'd never go to bed.

The same logic should be applied to Oakland University Student Congress' control over the student activities fee.

On March 7, the Student Activity Fund Assessment Committee passed a proposal to up the student activities fee to \$30 from \$25.

A week later, it passed a proposal to support giving The Oakland Post an additional 1 percent of the fund—0.2 percent would be taken each from OUSC, Student Activities Funding Board, Student Program Board, Student Video Productions and the special projects fund.

The 0.2 percent transfer from the special projects fund was approved.

At its Monday meeting, the OUSC legislature voted to prevent the rest of the proposal from appearing on the upcoming election ballot.

Only the former proposal, however, will be on the ballot during student elections March 28-30 (see our center spread on pages 12 and 13 to read about that).

Student body president Brandon Gustafson argued that multiple proposals on a similar issue would confuse students

and that we should stick to a "straightforward" ballot.

Understandable. But it shouldn't be up to OUSC what would or would not confuse students.

What's really confusing is why it's up to OUSC, which takes a 16 percent cut of the student activities fund, to determine the future of a SAFAC proposal anyway.

A proposal's fate should not be decided by a group who has a stake in the issue.

We have no reason to believe OUSC's vote was financially motivated, but regardless of who would be gaining or losing percentages, a proposal's fate shouldn't be left up to a group who has a stake in the issue. That's a clear conflict of interest.

If a proposal reaches the ballot, students would then vote on it, but students won't get that opportunity with this SAFAC proposal.

Are you following this process clearly? Don't worry. We couldn't either as it unfolded before us.

This editorial isn't about whether The Oakland Post deserved an additional 1 percent; it's about the convoluted process of placing items similar to it onto the ballot.

The committee is made up of eight voting members who represent each of the directly funded organizations.

In addition to The Oakland Post and OUSC, WXOU radio, SVP, SPB, Student Life Lecture Board, the Student Activities Funding Board and club sports each have a representative on the committee.

Each year, the committee meets in order to update other organizations and their advisers. It is an evaluation of sorts of how student activity fee money is used.

All changes to percentage divisions must first be approved through a vote done by SAFAC. If passed, it then goes to OUSC's legislature for further approval.

Granting OUSC that authority is as arbitrary as allowing the members of any of the other SAFAC organizations to decide on the fate of a measure proposed at these meetings.

There is no need for an intermediary between SAFAC and students.

Did you ever have to ask your siblings for five more minutes of TV time before your parents decided on that bedtime?

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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.

Poll

- of the -

Week

3.23.11

Last Week's Poll

Who should have the responsibility of accommodating test takers with special needs?

- Classroom Instructors
20 votes / 23%
- Disability Support Services
65 votes / 75%
- Other
2 votes / 2%

This Week's Poll

Are you voting in next week's OUSC elections?

- YES
- NO

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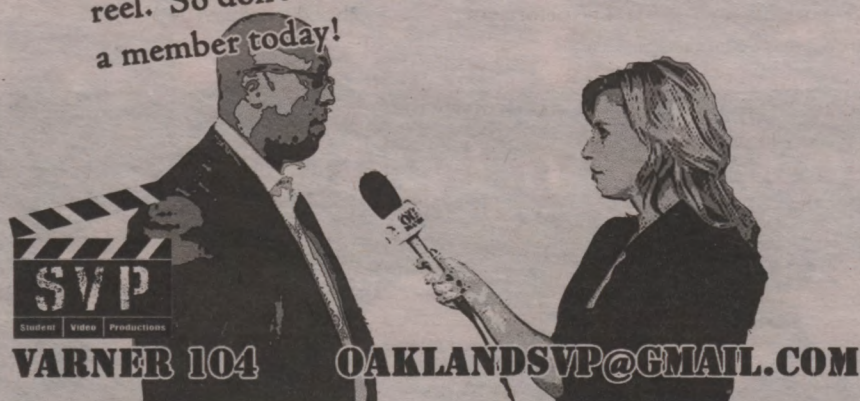


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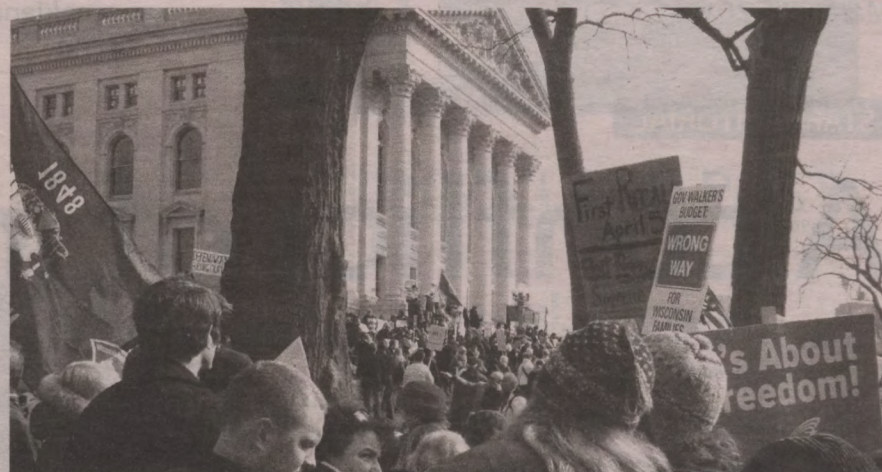
Are you a journalism major? Why aren't you a member of Student Video Productions yet? SVP will give you the field experience you need, as well as the footage you'll need for your demo reel. So don't wait until the last minute, become a member today!



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The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oakland-postonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

If you are interested in writing a guest column for the Perspectives section, e-mail editor@oakland-postonline.com or call 248.370.4268.



Wisconsin protests bring voices together and unify

It was early for a Saturday morning — 5:30 a.m. — and we were excited. It was time to get ready to return to Michigan Education Association headquarters even though it seemed as if we had just left.

The meeting of the board of directors had adjourned after 8 p.m. the previous evening and we had stopped for dinner on the way to the hotel.

It had been just midweek when MEA board members and local union presidents had received an invitation from the MEA to a rally scheduled in Madison, Wisconsin scheduled for March 12.

Three full buses departed Lansing at 7 a.m. Two were filled with board members and presidents and one with MEA staff. A fourth bus departed from the UP. Spirits were high as we sang and composed chants along the way. We arrived in Madison at 2 p.m. — one hour ahead of schedule.

Our group left the buses and joined the procession to the gathering area. Oh my, the cheers, tears and thanks we received from the Wisconsinites lining the route.

It wasn't until we walked around the capital and then onto the lawn that we fully realized the size of the crowd. We have been told it numbered over 100,000. The streets surrounding the capital were filled with people as far as one could see.

The crowd consisted of people from all walks of life — union members, students, seniors, farmers, police and firefighters. It was colorful. There were costumes and homemade signs.

The sun was shining, but it was cold and windy and muddy. The crowd was orderly and united.

Speakers included the "Wisconsin 14,"



Susan Russell
Guest Columnist /
University Employee

the Senators who had gone into hiding to try to prevent the vote to take away bargaining rights from taking place.

This was a historic event. It wasn't just a "union" issue. It was about the rights and respect of all workers. It was about awakening the voice of the silent majority — the workers that built America. It was to defend labor, sustain the middle class and prevent a plutocracy. We were proud and considered it a privilege to be a part of this event. It was solidarity at its best and it was most humbling.

We boarded the buses and departed for Michigan at 6 p.m. Many had driven their own cars to Madison, as well, after learning there were no more available seats on the buses.

We arrived at headquarters at 3:30 a.m. with two hours lost due to the rolling forward of our clocks that morning and the time zone change from Wisconsin. Participants said "good morning" and departed for home. It had been a wonderful experience and we MEA members were proud.

We had shown our strength and unity.

We had used our voices to assist others in their fight to save the middle class.

'Egypt is not Las Vegas'

Pulitzer prize-winning Thomas Friedman speaks at Oakland

By KATIE JACOB

Copy Editor

Recently returned from covering the news of revolution spreading across the Middle East, New York Times Foreign Affairs columnist Thomas Friedman told the audience at the O'rena Monday night that he was going to "wing it" and talk about his trip.

"For those who think they were baited and switched" — "Hot, Flat and Crowded" was the title of the lecture — he said he would talk about that, too.

The lecture, originally scheduled for Feb. 8, had to be postponed. Friedman told the audience that he was in Egypt for the final nine days of the revolt that culminated in the fall of President Hosni Mubarak.

"Nine days at Tahrir Square was the most amazing story I've ever covered," Friedman said.

On Feb. 8 he posted from Cairo:

"... In 40 years of writing about the Middle East I have never seen anything like what is happening..."

During the talk, he explained that the incident in Egypt will not be isolated.

"Egypt is not Las Vegas," he said. "What happens there will not stay there."

Friedman, who was thrice-awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the Middle East, told an audience of students, faculty and members of the community that for the last 50 years, "America, Europe and Asia have treated the Arab world as a collection of big gas stations."

He said that what we're seeing today in the Middle East is a result of what was going on behind those "gas stations."

He said the people in the region were no longer willing to put up with the corrupt governments and the impoverished conditions under which they were forced to live.

He pointed out that Egypt had a huge population of educated young people who couldn't find jobs and that there was "no more dangerous, frustrated group than the educated unemployed."

He said that social media like Facebook and Twitter for the first time allowed youth to communicate, where before they could only gather in mosques.

Friedman said the people took down the regime, "not for us, but for themselves."

He said the election of President Obama inspired them.

He said we should help them. He has suggested that if we change our energy policy — if, for example, you put a \$1-a-gallon tax on gasoline we would buy more alternatively fueled cars — it would free Americans to openly push for democratic values in the Middle East without worrying about our oil interests.



JASON WILLIS/The Oakland Post

Thomas Friedman addresses the audience in the O'rena on Monday. He spoke about his time in Egypt last month.

Iraq War

Friedman was an early supporter of the Iraq war as a means to promote democracy in the Middle East.

Paul Kubicek, professor of political science at OU, said, "I think that he's one of, sort of, these liberal hawks who, for human rights ... got involved in Iraq so Iraq could at least have a chance at a better future in terms of our engagement."

"Of course," Kubicek said, "people disagree with him."

Kubicek said that while Friedman had been a cheerleader early on, he had tempered his enthusiasm.

"He did not exactly repudiate his views. I did not see him say that the war in Iraq was 100 percent a mistake ... Maybe he had a change of heart," Kubicek said.

Friedman said Monday night that he supported the Iraq war for democracy reasons. He said the saddest thing about Iraq was how many people wanted the U.S. to get it right.

"Do you think they like living under these regimes?" he asked. He said he never did the "I sinned, I'm sorry" (about promoting the war), but that "we made a god-awful mess of it."

Friedman said he was weary of the U.S. attacks on Libya.

"If I learned anything about Iraq from that experience, (it is) don't go to war unless you are really 100 percent commit-

ted," Friedman said.

Hot, Flat and Crowded

Friedman said the world is getting hot.

"We're caught right now, as a world, in two feedback loops," he said.

An inner loop, he explained, where higher energy prices lead to higher food prices lead to political instability leads to higher energy prices, and an outer loop, where small changes in temperature have huge climate effects.

He said the world is getting flat. There are more and more people who can see how we live and want to live like we do.

And the world is getting crowded. He said that there are 6.8 billion people on the planet today and that there will be 9.2 billion by 2050.

"The energy and resource implications will be staggering," he said.

Friedman said that the United States has no energy policy, that we need a new feedback loop, new policy.

Friedman said we need a mass emphasis on energy and efficiency.

We need pricing that will drive industry to produce the products and consumers to use them and mass investment to create clean technology.

campus briefs

Authors at Oakland

The Senate Library Committee is honoring the recent journal publications of Oakland's faculty. The event takes place Wednesday, March 23 from 2-4 p.m. on the fourth floor of Kresge Library. Jeffrey Insko, associate professor of English, and Laura Pittiglio, associate professor of Nursing will both speak on their articles.

Benjamin Pierce concert

Benjamin Pierce will be giving a free tuba and euphonium performance in Varner Recital Hall from 8-10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29. For more information call 248-370-3321.

SEHS academic forum

The School of Education and Human Services will be holding an academic forum on Thursday, March 31 from 2-4 p.m. in 220 Pawley Hall. Various speakers will be featured. For more information, contact Holly Smith at 248-370-3045.

Poetry Slam

Kresge Library will be holding a poetry slam from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 7. Poets are asked to bring two poems and prizes are available for the best poetry. For more information, contact Anne Switzer at 248-370-2475.

Kicks for Kidneys

The Phi Sigma Sigma sorority will be holding a Kicks for Kidneys kickball tournament on Saturday, April 9 from 2-6 p.m. with proceeds benefiting the National Kidney Foundation. For more information, contact Shelby Blutworth at 248-659-7111.

— Compiled by Kevin Graham,
Staff Intern

Degree in Three offers alternative

By ALI ARMSTRONG

Staff Reporter

Incoming freshmen can now plan out their college education in even quicker time. Oakland University recently launched the Degree in Three program, which is set to launch this fall.

Degree in Three is designed for students looking for a fast-track to complete their bachelor's degree. The program offers 19 majors, mostly through the College of Arts and Sciences, where students can earn their degree in three years. Some of the available majors include biology, economics, communications and political science.

"The idea here is to give students a quicker head start on their higher education or post-graduate work, and the way they do that is by taking courses throughout the year," Dave Groves, assistant director of media relations, said.

With this program, students will be taking courses through all fall, winter, spring and summer semesters. As a member of the program, a student can enjoy priority registration to ensure their registration for required courses. The program also provides cost-cutting benefits for both commuting students as well as students who live on campus.

"If you're a student who is living on campus, then this saves you a year's worth of room and board. If you're a student who is commuting, then it's a year's worth of commuting cost. Really the bigger advantage is just timeliness," Groves said.

OU has also ensured that students who enroll in the program and receive financial aid will be able to use their financial aid for all semesters, including spring and summer semesters.

Students who have earned college credits from advanced placements courses, international baccalaureate or dual enrollment can apply those credits towards their degree, possibly earning their degree in less than three years.

The program is targeted at incoming students. Participants must enter the program during their first semester. Students must also have at least a 3.6 high school GPA or higher, as well as a composite ACT score of 25 or higher.

"Because this is academically rigorous, the students need to be well accustomed. Basically right when they come to the university, they need to step in with both feet. Students who are closer to average, or who need more time study, this is not going to be an ideal program for them," Groves said.

Admissions and marketing directors are

currently communicating with high school guidance counselors and parent groups about Degree in Three.

"I think that the Degree in Three program is an excellent way for people to finish their college education if they just want to get college over with ... or miss any opportunities that may immediately come in three years instead of four," Utica High School senior Heather Rochon said.

If incoming students meet the criteria for the program, they will be considered for admission to the program, and will be set to receive information where they can decide if they would like to apply. An application deadline for the fall is yet to be determined.

Colleges and universities around the country are looking into offering programs similar to Degree in Three to students.

"We haven't been able to get a real clear picture on who's offering it and who's not, but it's limited ... this is a growing trend across the country. It's still not common by any means, but more and more colleges are looking at offering this program," Groves said.

More information on the Degree in Three program and application opportunities can be seen on the Degree in Three website at www.oakland.edu/degreeinthree

VP candidates debate Greek life, parking

By ALI ARMSTRONG

Staff Reporter

Oakland University Student Congress vice presidential hopefuls squared off Friday in the Fireside Lounge from 12-1 p.m. during the vice presidential debate.

About 20 students gathered in the Fireside Lounge for food and politics as each candidate discussed their campaign promises and plans. Christine Stover, communications instructor and faculty adviser for WXOU, moderated the debate.

In addition to all four vice presidential candidates, all of the presidential candidates were in attendance with the ex-

ception of Benjamin Eveslage, who was in Washington, D.C. for OU Day at the Capitol.

Questions were submitted by the audience as well as the moderator, and asked candidates to introduce their platform, touch on their initiatives for OU, insights to issues like parking and visible changes they would like to see made to campus.

Each candidate referenced to their platform and each spoke of changes they would initiate as student body vice president.

Elisa Malile spoke of improvement to the public relations efforts on campus, Ryan Rott spoke of a more united student body, Brett McIsaac spoke of local advertising and Eric

Sturgis mentioned increased funding for student organizations.

The candidates were also asked to address concerns of integrating OU into surrounding communities more as well as their plans to help Greek life on campus. Five of the eight candidates running have Greek affiliation.

Rott, who is a member of Sigma Pi, said he would like to see an increase of Greek involvement on campus. Malile, who is a member of Phi Sigma Sigma, would like to see an expansion of Greek life through increased recruitment and events on Greek row. McIsaac, who is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon,

spoke of incorporating more Greek students into OUSC as well as coordinating events with Greek organizations. Sturgis said he would like to see more Greek representation in OUSC as well as collaborations with Greek organizations for campus events.

Candidates were also asked to explain the role of student body vice president, sacrifices they would have to make as a result of being elected vice president and the importance of diversity.

The presidential debate will be held Wednesday, March 23 in the Fireside Lounge from 12-1 p.m. Voting will run from March 28-30.

Students honored with awards

By **KAITLYN CHORNOBY**
Scene Editor

Established in 1965, the Wilson Awards recognize graduating seniors — one male and one female — who have contributed as scholars and leaders to the Oakland University community.

The winners for the 2010-11 school year are Marta Bauer, majoring in English, and Stephen Parker, a mechanical engineer major. They will both be officially recognized for their achievement at the board of trustees meeting on March 30.

Bauer had high hopes that she would be the recipient of the prestigious award.

"I think what really set me apart was the fact that Oakland has given me a lot," she said. "Leadership has never been for what I can put on a résumé, but how I can pay back the university for everything it has done for me."

Bauer participated in the Honors College, Career Services, orientation and new student programs as well as housing and welcome receptions, to name a few. She contributes her interaction with the OU community to the fact that she wanted to meet a lot of people.

Parker said that one could get a feel for his achievements and why he deserved the award based on the contents of his résumé.

"The piece you don't get out of it, though, is the passion, which is what I think really brought it full circle."

Parker has worked with Society of Automotive Engineers for over three years and helped change the organization completely,

growing from nine members in 2008 to 40 this year. Parker said SAE is where he flourished and continued developing his interest in delegating and bringing people together for a common goal.

"As a leader, you have the ability to be infectious and get people involved with things that they might want to get involved with but they're not sure how to give them a role or define the piece of the pie that they can be responsible for," Parker said.

Parker was involved with the Residence Hall Council, a member of Honors College as Cell Group Leader and the supplemental instruction leader for Nursing Chemistry, for which he was awarded the SI Leader of the Year award.

Parker said he hopes he has left his mark at OU, but doesn't feel like he is finished just yet.

"I don't intend to stop here," he said. "There are so many things I wanted to do while I was here that I never got to do. I'm either going to have to take classes or get ridiculously involved with the Alumni Association. I think it's probably going to be both."

Bauer and Parker both expressed great gratitude for being the recipients of the award and honored to be recognized for the things they loved to do.

"I can't tell you how great it feels to be honored for things I've done," Parker said, "but it's one of those things to say, 'Hey, this kid did something while he was here. Go do something while you're here.'"

Read the complete story about the winners of the Wilson Awards by visiting [oaklandpostonline.com/topics/campus](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com/topics/campus)

police files

Wild turkey trauma

On Sunday, March 20, the OUPD responded to a report regarding broken glass in the north hallway that connects Hannah and Dodge halls. It was reported that a wild turkey flew into one of the windows in the hallway, breaking the glass. Upon arrival, officers witnessed the stranded turkey that was unable to make its way back outside. Officers flushed the bird outside through opened doors, in a humane manner.

Bloodied window

On Friday, March 18, the OUPD received a report about a broken window in the 1000 building of the University Student Apartments. It was reported that there was blood on the glass, as well as blood splatters on the sidewalk area leading to the parking lot. The individual was not found. The ACA was notified as well as a mechanical assistant to fix the window.

Alerted to the Oakland Center

On Thursday, March 17, the OUPD assisted the Auburn Hills Fire Department on a call about a student who was feeling lightheaded and faint in the Oakland Center. Upon arrival, OUPD witnessed that the student was alert and had declined to be transported to a hospital. The student was taken to the OUPD station to be picked up by her father. While waiting for a ride, the student alerted the dispatch officer that her right hand and face were becoming numb and she felt nauseous. The AHFD returned upon request and transported the student to Crittenton Hospital.

— Compiled by Jen Bucciarelli,
Local Editor

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Women's History Month 2011: Express Yourself

Thursday, March 24 - Safe & Sound: Featuring Dr. Sylvie Lombardo
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Monday, March 28 - Women and Disabilities Forum
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