

Battle of the ballot



**A guide to Student
Congress elections**

PAGES 10 & 11



MANIC MONDY

Men's basketball junior
Duke Mondy makes
O'rena his new home

PAGE 12



LESSONS LEARNED

English professor shares
experiences as a step-
mother in a memoir

PAGE 18



WTF MPG

Brian comes to terms
with fuel efficient parking
at Oakland University

PAGE 20

this week

March 6, 2013 // Volume 39 Issue 20



on the web

In Duke Mondy's as a Golden Grizzly, he has proven himself to be a precision passer and a high-scorer. Check online for a video of his passing drills: <http://bit.ly/Z8UIYg>

www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

VEST KNOWS BEST // Oakland University Men's Basketball Coach Greg Kampe tweeted a proposition that he would bring back the sweater vest if he reached 1,500 followers by the start of the team's last home game. After the game, Kampe invited all of the attendees who wore sweater vests to join him on the court for a picture.

DYLAN DULBERG // *The Oakland Post*

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

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you think Michigan should legalize same-sex marriage?

- A** Yes, every American deserves equality
- B** Yes, because of the benefits with marriage
- C** No, civil unions should be enough
- D** I don't care

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

How did you spend your Spring Break — what did you do while away from school?

A) Vacating out of state

6 votes | 16%

B) Doing homework

11 votes | 29%

C) Working/volunteering

9 votes | 24%

D) Enjoying down time at home

12 votes | 32%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MARCH 10, 1967

OU's student magazine, "Contuse," was banned from the campus bookstore and was deemed no longer sponsored by the university for its use of "four letter words." The publication became an independent student project.

MARCH 13, 1978

Drs. Harold Zeplin and Alred Stransky conducted a sleep study on campus. Student volunteers received \$10-15 a night for five nights to sleep in a supervised lab in Hannah Hall. In addition to the human studies, a duck was observed as well.

MARCH 9, 1981

Joseph Champagne was inaugurated as OU's fourth president. A University of Purdue graduate in industrial psychology, Champagne hoped to expand OU's programs in economics, management, engineering, educational studies and allied health.



6

A NEW UNION

Oakland University recently sponsored a student trip to visit other local universities and their student unions. The trip allowed students to give their input on student center renovations.



15

CHEERS

Lake Orion is home to the newest local brewery — The 51 North Brewing Company. Located in the city's downtown area, all their beers on draft are handcrafted with their in-house brewing system.



16

HATS OFF

Students show off their youth with knitted animal hats. The colorful and playful twist on the regular winter accessory is gaining popularity on and off campus. Popular styles include cats and cartoon characters.

BY THE NUMBERS
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

2011

Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage

39

states have banned same-sex marriage

5

states allow same-sex civil unions, not marriage

1,100

number of federal benefits offered with marriage

11

countries world-wide with legal same-sex marriage

STAFF EDITORIAL

It's time for change: Make marriage obtainable for all

Support for same-sex marriage is growing and this week, there's a chance it will gain some momentum here in Michigan.

Thursday, Judge Bernard Friedman of the U.S. District Court is expected to rule on some motions that could include a local gay adoption case.

We hope he will make progressive decisions.

April DeBoer and her partner, Jayne Rowse, both registered nurses, are seeking joint custody of their three special needs foster children.

They want to challenge the state's definition of marriage, which is the underlying issue in their quest for joint adoption.

Friedman will make several motions at Wayne State University Motion Day in front of the university's law students Thursday, March 7.

One of those motions will be DeBoer and Rowse's case, according to the Huffington Post.

In 2004, Michigan voters approved a same-sex marriage ban. Since its approval, it has been challenged in court several times.

As a state, it's now our opportunity to overturn this law and grant equality for everyone. It's time for change.

As a state, it's now our opportunity to overturn this law and grant equality for everyone. It's time for change.

Currently, amendments to the U.S. Constitution give states the right to determine their own gay marriage laws.

As a nation, we've started to successfully alter our views. But it's still not enough.

Same-sex marriage is prohibited in 41 of the 50 states, even with support from President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

It's time for change.

Oakland University faculty in same-sex relationships don't receive the same benefits as those in a traditional relationship.

OU employees may claim same-sex partners as "qualified adults," and a number of faculty do that, according to AAUP President Karen Miller.

Those denied the ability to marry miss out on many things — the Social Security benefits of their partner, hospital visitation rights and even the ability to jointly file taxes.

Sentiment in favor of same-sex marriage is growing. Currently, 48 percent of Americans support same-sex marriage, while only 43 percent strongly oppose it, according to the Pew Research Center.

If anything, same-sex marriage is a constitutional right protected under the First Amendment, which protects both speech and religious practice.

The Oakland Post's editorial board encourages Judge Friedman and the State of Michigan to embrace equality. Stop denying fundamental rights based on who someone chooses to be with.

Martin Luther King said, "if one of us is not free, then none of us are free."

We hope the right choice is made. It's time for a change.

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



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The Oakland Post is always looking for fun and talented students to join our staff. Visit us in the basement of the Oakland Center or send a résumé, cover letter and clips to editor@oaklandpostonline.com to get involved.

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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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EDITORIAL

Election? More like popularity contest

Student Congress elections work to enhance résumés, not campus life

Everyone likes having a say in any sort of election.

A vote gives someone power, self-gratitude, and a right to feel responsible for the direction of a country, state or even a university.

Living in a system where democracy is strongly encouraged, you always have those who either embrace their freedoms or typically shy away from the banter that these

officials of higher importance tell us.

Here at Oakland University, it's nice to see that our Student Congress takes such an active approach to binding the school together with its many events and

campus organizations.

In fact, I would say that they don't shy away from cohesively working with these groups and it's truly a great thing considering the discord that most other forms of government we witness today.

While it's all fine and dandy that the Student Congress works with the other student organiza-



GARRETT KOLODZIEJ
contributor

tions, a student government must truly represent the entire campus, with varying opinions and people who are involved or choose to not participate.

Our university has failed to do so.

Why you may ask?

It's because of the lack of representation of the entire student body.

The candidates given to us do not represent our diverse needs on campus and the direction that a whole community can agree upon.

Instead, the student election acts as a mere popularity contest.

Egregious amounts of money have been spent on large campaign signs in the OC, campaigning that really becomes a true nuisance and elaborate events that only sugar coat the person's ego — and also flaunts their campaign colors.

Quite frankly, it's getting to a point where they should just recruit you to join their sorority or fraternity and other various campus activities while putting their name on your ballot.

As you can tell, I am not a fan of the student elections.

I was a member of a student body congress back at my high school and I enjoyed the experience.

The experience also opened my eyes to the lack of will to change and try to stand up for the

“odd man out.”

Congress members are only concerned with bettering their social group and leaving the others to just deal with it.

Student elections remind me a lot about that.

The entire debacle is all just a contest of who's wearing what color and what symbols one is admonishing at any time.

It's become more about the celebrations and getting people involved with a process that they really don't want to be a part of.

You think most people like to get solicited with campaign ads while walking to class?

If you think they care, check your nearest trash can to see who cares about your policy. You will find a lot of your hard earned money put where it belongs.

Come March, I will still participate in the Student Congress elections.

While I don't agree with the hype surrounding it, I feel it's my right as a student to at least show I care.

I might need to spend some time thinking about my vote, but I know that a potato, SpongeBob SquarePants, The Grizz and Detroit City Council are among my final vote possibilities.

So remember to just stand up for whatever you believe. Especially if that means being facetious and voting because you just want to show you care.

Garrett Kolodziej is a junior communication major. Email him at gkolodzi@oakland.edu

EDITORIAL

Oakland is full of life lessons — embrace them

As a senior, I can't help but to reflect on my time spent here at Oakland University for the past four years — remembering the good times and the bad.

It occurred to me that at the end of all of this — in exchange for my time, money, stress and more money — I get a piece of paper saying I'm educated.

But really, the diploma is only half of what Oakland has taught me.

The things students, myself included, often complain about have taught me my most valuable life lessons outside of the classroom in ways completely unrelated to my degree.

I'll begin with the most obvious — Oakland's apparent love for all things aesthetic.

The new, extravagant Human Health Building is undeniably beautiful. It's fully equipped with state-of-the-art technologies, and even has a bridge to trot over the man-made river.

Meanwhile, South Foundation Hall and Hannah Hall of Science are falling apart.

However, when new students are coming in to tour the campus, they wouldn't know the conditions of the interior of South Foundation Hall or Hannah Hall of Science — they only see the beautiful Human Health Building.

They have no idea that parking at Oakland is more dreadful than a root canal — they notice the landscaping and will soon notice the gorgeous clock tower.

Oakland markets itself well.

Similarly, when going to a job interview, you must market yourself well. Only air the negatives on a need-to-know basis, which Oakland is teaching students by example.

Speaking of the parking situation, we have all experienced it and, consequently, have all become victims of it.

Believe it or not, this actually teaches students more than just how to prey on innocent bystanders trying to leave class — there's a couple lessons. The world, much like the parking lots, is a competitive place, and people have to fight for what they want.

I live across the street and leave an hour early to find a parking spot — therefore, it also teaches time management. The early bird gets the worm, or in this case, the parking spot.

Lastly, if you haven't noticed by now, the sidewalks here take you anywhere except where you need to go.

It can be eight degrees outside, and I either have to walk on the sidewalk that takes me around campus and then to the Oakland Center, or I can cut across through a foot of snow.

Some people choose the easy way.

Now, whether the easy way is the cleared path that takes longer or the path with more harsh conditions that is quicker — that's up to the person.

Some people think about which path to take, and some people just go.

The point is that you can debate about which path to take, but once you make a decision to go in the direction you choose, you will be able to get to the destination.

So the next time you are walking on the sidewalk in circles, looking up at the clock tower that will soon exist, remembering when you were able to park right where it stood, you should also remember these lessons, and there is always something you can learn from anything.

Kimberly Rooker is a senior studying health sciences at Oakland University. She is a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority-Delta Omega Chapter, and will be graduating from OU in Spring 2013.



KIMBERLY ROOKER
contributor

The entire student congress debacle is just a contest of who's wearing what color and what symbols one is admonishing at any time.



KATIE WILLIAMS/The Oakland Post

Oakland University entered a partnership with Oxford Community Schools and Beijing Channel Consulting International Education Group. The partnership will create a program allowing student teachers from China to complete a Master's of Art in Teaching degree at Oakland.

By **Katie Williams**
Life Editor

Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services has partnered with Oxford Community Schools and Beijing Channel Consulting International Education Group to establish an educational partnership.

Teaming up

The partnership will create a program allowing student teachers from China to complete a Master's of Art in Teaching degree at OU while teaching Mandarin Chinese to students in Oakland County.

Louis B. Gallien, dean of the School of Education and Human Services, BCC Executive Director Xuyang Yao, Ox-

"WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO PREPARE OUR KIDS TO COMPETE IN A GLOBAL WORLD. WE NEED TO LEARN THE (CHINESE) LANGUAGE AND THE CULTURE FLUENTLY."

William Skilling,
Oxford Schools Superintendent

ford Schools Superintendent William Skilling and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, among others, spoke about the partnership at Oakland March 4.

"Yesterday was too late," Skilling said. "We need to do something to prepare our kids to compete in a global world. We need to learn the (Chinese) language and the culture fluently."

Building competition

The program will start this fall and will include the county's 28 school districts.

All of the districts currently offer Mandarin Chinese language classes, and the program hopes to enhance the existing curriculum.

The integration will help students develop a broader worldview, according to Patterson.

"There are more people speaking English in China than there are people speaking English in America," Patterson said. "The Chinese are educating their children to compete in the world market. They're going to be global competitors."

He said China is projected to become the world's largest economy in 2016

and views the partnership as beneficial to posterity. He supports cultural exchange through foreign language, cultural, religious, political and economic education.

"If we don't appreciate the size and scope of the global challenge presented by China, our kids and grandchildren will simply be left behind," he said.

Expanding the program

For the past five years, the Oxford Community School district has hosted Chinese-teaching students from 11 partner schools in China. Their program will be used to develop similar ones throughout the county.

Skilling emphasized the sustainability of teachers in Oakland County, noting that most teachers at Oxford were OU graduates.

"Oakland University has a huge presence in the educational community," Skilling said. "There's a lot of trust and a lot of partnerships between the Oakland schools and the university."

Contact Life Editor Katie Williams via email at kjwilli2@oakland.edu or follow her on Twitter @kj_willi

POLICE FILES

Student reported missing

Police officers were dispatched to West Vandenburg Hall Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. because a student's father had not received contact from him since Jan. 29.

They were unable to find the student in his room, but another resident said he had moved to Hamlin Hall. At the new dorm, officers did not locate the student, but they asked his roommates to notify the police and the student's parents when they saw him.

Officers continued to search for him in the cafeteria and through Hamlin nightwatch.

At 10:02 p.m., OUPD received a phone call from the student's father. He had heard from his son who was at a skate park in Auburn Hills.

Intimidation report

OUPD received a report that a university employee was ending her shift when another university employee threatened her Feb. 21 at 10:30 p.m.

When the employee was punching out at the time clock, the other employee placed her hand on the employee's shoulder. She turned around and the employee began to verbally threaten her.

The supervisor was a witness to the behavior. He reported that the women "have a history" and he will be working on changing one of their shifts so they won't be together.

Professor receives threatening emails

OUPD received a report from a professor who had received harassing emails from an unknown sender Feb. 28 around 10:30 a.m.

From Feb. 24-26, the professor had received emails accusing him of having sex with one of his female students. He said he had not responded to the emails.

Officers asked him if the allegations were true or if he had been in an argument with anyone. He denied both.

— Compiled by Haley Kotwicki,
Copy Editor

Vice Presidential nominees vie for votes

OUSC holds Vice Presidential Debate, candidates discuss platforms

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

The 2013 Student Congress Vice Presidential Debate between Maria Arellano and Jibrán Ahmed was held before a packed room in Gold Room A of the Oakland Center March 5.

WXOU adviser Christine Stover served as moderator for the debate. Candidates were given 90 seconds to answer each question, with 60 seconds for rebuttal. Two minutes each were given for opening and closing statements.

Arellano described what she and running mate Amera Fattah bring to the table.

"Our platform is unique. We answer how and we answer why," she said. "We have the passion, the experience and the drive for filling these positions."

Ahmed stressed that all of his and running mate Brandon Hanna's platform initiatives came from student suggestion.

"Our platform is 100 percent student-based," Ahmed said. "Our platform really is for the students because it's by the students."

Following opening statements, candidates spent the next 45 minutes answering questions.

Candidates were first asked about the role served by the vice president.

Ahmed said it was critical to serve a support role.

"The job is not only to represent students but be the right hand man of the president," he said. "OUSC is like a big machine and all of the parts must be running very, very smoothly."

Arellano said the vice president must serve as a go-between.

"The job of a VP is to serve as a liaison between students and the administration," she said. "The job is also to manage the executive board to make sure it runs smoothly."

"I think that with each individual within an org, I would love to sit down and listen to their ideas," Ahmed said.

"The job is not only to represent students, but be the right hand man of the president."

Jibrán Ahmed,
OUSC vice presidential
candidate

Arellano discussed realistic expectations and experience.

"I believe I can bring a sense of realism to the table," she said.

"I can tell them how to get things done. It's good to be there, but sometimes people need more than that."

Arellano and Ahmed were next asked what they would get out of this job.

"There's personal growth that will long term benefit me," she said. "This will be an excellent way to learn how to understand people and understand how an organization works."

Ahmed said he's grown quite a bit since becoming involved.

"When I came to OU as a freshman, I was a kid who was shy ... as I got involved, I became more personable," he said. "When I tell people about my experience, it gives me a satisfaction."

Candidates were asked the biggest issue facing the university.

Ahmed feels it's an issue of cultivating school spirit.

"The biggest issue is the lack of involvement within the entirety of the community," he said. "One thing we were looking at was more BYOB tailgates."

Arellano discussed their solution to the parking problem on campus.

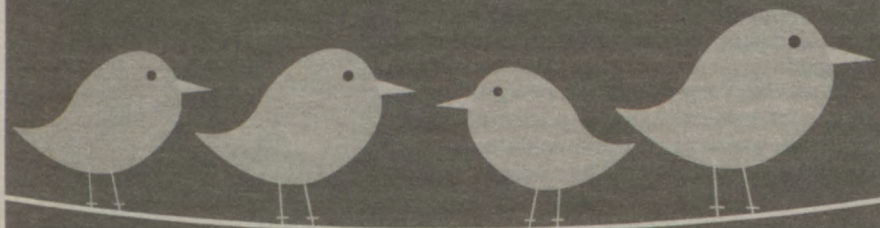
"In our platform, we address this issue by putting together a transportation office," she said. "We want to combine the Bike Share and Bear Bus into one."

The candidates were then asked about ways to affect change at OU.

"It's important to have a good relationship with the administration," she said.

As the debate came to a close, Ahmed reminded students that their platform is based on student input, and Arellano said it is important to come with solutions.

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M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2013 U-M Cancer Research Summer Internship Program

As part of its Cancer Biology Training Program, the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center provides exposure to cancer research for highly motivated and talented college undergraduates. This program gives the successful applicants an opportunity to explore potential careers in the field of cancer research.

Applications are due March 25, and require an online form, personal statement, unofficial transcripts, and two letters of recommendation.

Program Benefits:

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Find more information and apply online at www.mcancer.org/carsip
Contact us at cc-carsip@med.umich.edu

Pushing for a pantry

Group of students hope to create free food program

By Kevin Graham
Senior Reporter

A new initiative is looking to lend a helping hand to hungry students. The program, backed by Oakland University Student Congress, would create a student-run food pantry on campus.

The pantry would be supported by monetary and food donations, as well as students willing to volunteer their time.

Legislator Katrina Stencel said she felt a program like this was needed in light of the economic state in this country.

"Students struggling to pay for food and basic necessities sometimes have to drop out of school," Stencel said. "This way, students can focus their attention on their educational endeavors."

OUSC Student Services Director Amera Fattah said they are looking to partner with a variety of student organizations, including community service, Greek life and athletics.

"Ultimately, we do want to have fundraising efforts and initiatives to get money in order to buy shelving if we find a location for it, as well as food products, cans, toiletries, items that we wouldn't be able to gather (otherwise)," Fattah said.

Finding a location to serve as a base of operations is proving to be a challenge for the team.

"Long term, I would like to see the pantry have its own space, consistent office hours and opportunities for students to volunteer," said legislator Maria Willett. "I would also like to see the program eventually have a space for refrigerated items and a graduate assistant or a small student staff to help direct the program and coordinate donations/volunteers."

"STUDENTS STRUGGLING TO PAY FOR FOOD AND BASIC NECESSITIES TO PAY FOR FOOD AND BASIC NECESSITIES SOMETIMES HAVE TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL."

Katrina Stencel,
OUSC Legislator

Fattah knows they must show student demand for such a service before this can happen.

To that end, she is working to organize an event tentatively scheduled for the week between finals and when students must move out of residence halls entitled "Flashback, Give Back."

"We would just do a mass drive

throughout campus. You can donate clothes, carpets, miscellaneous things that you just have in your dorm that you want to throw out, (or) if you want to bring things on campus, as well as canned food, the typical nonperishable food items," she said.

Fattah is also developing a survey to gauge student interest in the project.

She said the group will contact Annual Giving with the hope of setting up a nonprofit to enable tax-deductible donations.

Although they are looking at different ways to help students in need, there are no plans to determine eligibility based on income.

"We want to open the program right now to a variety of students," Fattah said.

"We would like to prioritize to service the students that may have needs here on campus, but there's no discrimination based on income."

Stencel said she could see the program expanding beyond the bounds of OU's campus.

"My long term goals for the food pantry are to have enough inventory to meet the needs of every Oakland student in need," she said. "Furthermore, I would love to see the pantry expand enough to help the surrounding community."

Contact Senior Reporter Kevin Graham via email at kpgraham@oakland.edu or follow him on Twitter @KevinGraham88

FOOD PANTRY FAST FACTS

KEY PLAYERS

Amera Fattah: OUSC director of student services
Katrina Stencel: OUSC legislator
Maria Willett: OUSC legislator

WHAT

An initiative backed by OUSC to create a free food pantry.

DETAILS

The pantry would run off of monetary and food donations, and would require students to volunteer time to operate it.

The location is yet to be determined, according to Fattah.

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Now hiring: Editor-in-Chief

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2013-14 academic year. Applications are due Friday, March 8.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for managing The Oakland Post independent student newspaper and reports to the board of directors.

Applicants should possess superior oral and written communication skills, a working knowledge of news media and have a solid command of digital technologies. Proficiency in Adobe publication software and Wordpress is required.

Job duties include supervision of staff, oversight of production of weekly print publication and daily online news site, writing and editing, staff recruitment and training and facilitation of necessary university and community relations.

Compensation includes weekly salary and a tuition stipend. Applicants need not be journalism majors, but prior experience in a newsroom is preferable.

Applicants should send a digital portfolio including a cover letter, resume and work samples to Holly Shreve Gilbert, shreve@oakland.edu