

INSIDE:

- Students, national icons honored at banquet — A3
- Initiative tries to put emergencies on ICE — A6
- 'Dormrooms to Boardrooms' addresses issues recent college grads may encounter in the workplace — B2
- First female president of Chile takes office — B4



■ Check out OU's latest ride — A3



THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

March 15, 2006

www.theoaklandpost.com

50 cents

When election time rolls around ...

Candidates prepare to vie for office



By JEFF KRANITZ
Senior Reporter

The two candidates running for the office of student body president had their first chance to officially take on each other's ideological differences Tuesday during a timed debate in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms.

Incumbent Student Body President Michael McGuinness, together with challenger Peter Vitale, Oakland

Incumbent: Student Body President Michael McGuinness
Challenger: Legislator Peter Vitale
Issues: Budget management, accountability, unified Student Congress

Election period: Monday, March 27-Wednesday, March 29

University Student Congress legislator, fielded questions related to items such as budget management and selecting an executive board staff for just over hour.

McGuinness, an active member of several student organizations, said he would continue to work toward enhancing current policies and programs, as

well as introducing new ideas.

"One of the things I want to start anew, if elected, is definitely focusing on civic participation in the upcoming general election," McGuinness said before an audience of approximately

Please see **DEBATE** on B3

FOR MORE:
Invalidated candidates call election process into question — A2



Vitale

Birds on their way north

Next month, birds migrating from Asia will start showing up in Alaska. They may carry the H5N1 virus to the breeding grounds, and pass it along to other birds that will then bring it southward this fall when they fly to their winter grounds.

SOURCE: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, Wetlands International
N. Rapp • AP

PUBLIC HEALTH

Bird flu could appear in months, official says

By LARA JAKES JORDAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A deadly strain of bird flu could appear in the United States in the next few months as wild birds migrate from infected nations, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Thursday.

Chertoff said "there will be a reasonable possibility of a domestic fowl outbreak" as migrating birds mix with ducks, chickens and other birds in the U.S. But he cautioned against panic, noting that the Agriculture Department has dealt with other strains of bird flu for years.

a domestic chicken that gets infected with avian flu, we're going to be able to deal with it, because we've got a lot of experience with that," Chertoff said, speaking to newspaper editors and publishers.

"I can't predict, but I certainly have to say that we should be prepared for the possibility that at some point in the next few months, a wild fowl will come over the migratory pathway and will be infected with H5N1," he said.

The H5N1 strain has killed at least 95 people since 2003, mostly in Asia, according to the World Health Organization, and has devastated poultry stocks. Scientists are concerned

Please see **FLU** on A2



Caffeine brews disputes

Coffee might spell heart trouble for slow caffeine metabolizers

By LINDSEY TANNER & KELLY L. REYNOLDS
The Associated Press/The Oakland Post

Can't live without your morning coffee ... or your afternoon soda, mid-afternoon tea or you nightly mocha?

Well, here's a real caffeine jolt — heart attacks might be a risk for coffee drinkers with a common genetic trait that makes

Please see **HEART** on B3

Beverage report funded by tea company stirs trouble for scientists

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

Some prominent nutrition experts put out new guidelines last week urging Americans to cut back on calorie-rich sodas while allowing lots of room for tea and coffee — up to 40 ounces a day.

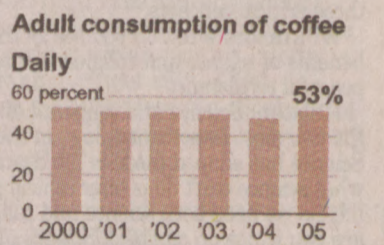
That's more than three tall cups at Starbucks, although that might bust suggested limits on caffeine.

The report was paid for by the corporate parent of Lipton Tea,

Please see **TEA** on B3

Coffee consumption

More than 172 million adults in the U.S. drink coffee daily.



TECH TEST

Comparing Apples to oranges

Apple Computer's switch to Intel processors means the guts of its new MacBookPro are now similar to other high-end laptops running Microsoft Windows XP Professional.

	Apple MacBook	Acer TravelMate 8200
OP. SYSTEM	Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger	Windows XP Pro
PROCESSOR	Intel Core Duo; 1.83-2.16GHz	Intel Core Duo; 2.0GHz
RAM (MAX.)	512MB (2GB)	2GB (2GB)
HARD DISK	80GB - 120GB	120GB
BUS SPEED	667Mhz	667Mhz
PRICE	\$1,999 - \$3,199	\$2,399
INCLUDED	Bluetooth; 802.11b/g; digital audio	Bluetooth; 802.11a/b/g; modem; card reader
DISPLAY	15.4 in. 1440 x 900 pixels	15.4 in. 1680 x 1050 pixels
WEIGHT	5.6 lbs.	6.6 lbs.

SOURCES: Apple Computer; Acer America AP

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Carbon dioxide rises to record level in atmosphere

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere climbed to a record 381 parts per million last year, an increase sure to spark further debate on

FOR MORE:
Pesticides have been found throughout many of the nation's streams — Read on B4

global warming. The reading was up 2.6 parts per million, according to preliminary calculations, David

J. Hofmann of the Office of Atmospheric Research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Tuesday. Final calculations from reporting stations around the world won't be available until

Please see **CARBON** on A8

The Oakland Post is not owned nor operated by a media conglomerate. Our copy is generated by writers, not shareholders. Our stories are determined by editors, not investors. Our commitment is to our campus, our society and our environment. Our goal is to report fairly and accurately the events and issues of our community, fulfilling the vital role a newspaper plays in a vibrant democracy.

Enter for a chance to win a \$25 cash prize: Test your knowledge of current events with our quiz on B2

For fresh daily news and exclusive stories, visit our Web site at www.theoaklandpost.com

INDEX

Volume 32, Number 24

Campus News	A3	Nation/World	A4
Features	B3	Perspectives	A5
Local News	A6	Sports	C3

News tip? Call (248) 370-4268



■ Turn to A4 for the latest happenings across the nation and throughout the world

Election process called into question by invalidated candidates

By KELLY REYNOLDS
Managing Editor

This year's Student Congress Elections are heating up. While some candidates recently presented their campaigns at the Candidates Meet and Greet and the OUSC Debates, others, like the libertarian candidate hopefuls, have posted signs around campus claiming wrongdoing.

Libertarians Eric Perich and Mike Palmer have been invalidated as candidates for the presidential and vice presidential positions. They say their problems with the election's process started the day they received their presidential packet from the Center for Student Activities.

The packet should include sheets for the candidate hopefuls to collect signatures — 377 were needed this year — and also a copy of the official OUSC bylaws, which include rules for campaigning.

Perich and Palmer said they received the signature sheets, but didn't receive the bylaws until three days later.

Perich said he thinks that it was this lack of bylaws that got their campaign off to a late start.

They were supposed to have an orientation to the elections during one of the two sessions the week before spring break, he said.

Instead, their orientation was the day the packets were due,

Palmer said. "She was very difficult in getting me the bylaws, she didn't really seem that concerned in getting them to me," he said of Crystal Allen, Election's Commission chair.

Allen said the delay in handing out the bylaws was a printing error, and that she got the team the information as quickly as possible. "I'm working under the guidelines, and I can only do so much," she said.

The packets were turned in with over the required amount of signatures with the team's platforms, Perich and Palmer said.

Perich says he received an e-mail from Allen on March 6, stating that only 277 of the signatures were valid, "which works out to 85 or 90 of the signatures were thrown out."

According to Allen, she personally checked Perich and Palmer's signatures four times, two of which were with other members of the Election's Commission, to try to validate more names. She said that a total of 10 of the signatures had no Grizzly numbers at all, which is a required field on the signature sheet, and most of them were unable to be read.

The process of checking these names, however, seems by both Allen and Perich to be flawed.

According to Allen, the Election's Commission is provided a list of every Oakland University

student. The list is arranged alphabetically by last name. When validating signatures, Allen must go through the list, find each student by last name, and make sure the Grizzly number provided matches the G-number on her list. When asked if an electronic database to search by both name and G-number would help the validation process, Allen said, "It would be a lot more helpful."

Perich also thought there should be another way to help in validating signatures.

"Rather than assuming that they are all invalid, there should be some way for us to appeal the process so that we can say, 'this is who the people are,'" he said. "You would think you would explore any resources possible to see if these were valid students."

After learning that their candidacy was invalidated, Perich said he then thought, "Ok, that's fine, we can still be write-in candidates, but we were very upset at the same time. I think we have reasons to question her interests in the election process."

Allen also mentioned in the e-mail that Perich and Palmer could see the packets with the invalid signatures if they choose to, and also stated, "Feel free to campaign as a write-in candidate."

Perich said it was nearly impossible to reach Allen in order to see the invalid signatures.

"Between the two of us, on Monday and Tuesday we probably stopped by the Student Congress office five times," he said.

"Tuesday she was only there for a couple hours and it conflicted with our work or class schedules. Basically no one could stop by the couple hours she was in the office."

In response, Allen said, "We did give them two more days to come and meet with us. I'm not saying that nothing could have been worked out. There is only so much reaching out that I can do."

Palmer said, "She was in the office for a very limited time slot. She was not willing to work with us ... basically making us harder and harder for us to see the signature sheets."

According to Allen, however, Perich and Palmer made no such attempt to contact her. "I received a letter saying that 'we wanted to meet with you,' I received no e-mail or call or anything. If they wanted to contact me, they could have. I tried not to do too much election work in the office. I tried to keep my election work away."

Because Allen had mentioned in the previous e-mail that they could continue to campaign as write-in candidates, Perich and Palmer went to the Candidate Meet and Greet, Wednesday, March 8, in order to continue their campaigning. When Allen

arrived, Perich said she immediately demanded they remove their materials from the table which had been provided for candidates.

"She told us 'you're not allowed to be here or campaign in this area because you're not official candidates,'" Perich said. "It struck me as a little strange especially after she encouraged us to participate in the events and I think I remembered reading in the bylaws that there is no restriction in participating in other events beside the debates. I didn't fight her initially, but I went outside and looked at the bylaws and couldn't find anything that prohibits us from being there, so I went back to her with the bylaws in my hand and said 'can you please show me where it says I'm not allowed to be here?' She didn't even look at them handed them back to me and said, 'well you're allowed to be here you just can't use that table,' so I stayed there and handed out my flyers and campaigned around the table."

Allen referred to the official University Student Congress Election Guidelines, and said that she technically didn't even have to let them campaign at all at the Meet and Greet.

According to the guidelines, a balloted candidate may attend the official campaign kick-off event

hosted by the Elections Commission. Since Perich and Palmer weren't official balloted candidates, they may have been barred completely from campaigning at the event, according to Allen.

Perich said he also wanted to be validated in time for the debates. He said, "As far as the debates, you have to get the signatures by the deadline, which is two weeks before the debate ... so if you get invalidated before, you have enough time to make it up. But we only found out eight days before the debates that we were invalidated, which leaves us out of the debates."

Allen said she reviewed the bylaws with her advisor, Samantha Hardenburgh, and found that the guidelines only state that the original signature packet is due two weeks before the debate, and never mentions make-up signatures of any sort.

According to Perich, the best possible outcome for the team would be to get on the ballot and win the elections, but with his flyers and Web site, he is just hoping to raise awareness that the election process may be flawed and open the door to a future third party.

Allen agrees that things could be better, but stand by her actions saying, "I did everything in my power to get them validated."

Speaker addresses religion, science

By DAN WILKINSON
The Oakland Post

When Oakland University was born, the first faculty member hired was philosophy professor Richard J. Burke.

Now retired, Burke has watched the institution mature over the years from its promising beginnings to its present day position as one of Michigan's fastest-growing universities. In an effort to continue the rich tradition of nurturing the educational community here at OU, Burke has established the annual Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society.

The inaugural Burke Lecture took place yesterday, featuring Holmes Rolston III, a distinguished professor of philosophy at Colorado State University and a distinguished visiting professor of bioethics at Yale University. He has written several books and has given lectures on all seven continents. Among other honors, Rolston received the Templeton Prize in Religion in 2003. Considered by many to be the father of modern environmental ethics, Rolston has been a pioneer in the effort to bridge the gap between religion and science. The lecture was titled Challenges in Environmental Ethics and dealt with questions of the human duty towards the non-human world. In addition to the first annual Burke Lecture, Rolston also gave a lecture on Monday at noon titled Genes, Genesis and God in which he discussed the scientific and philosophical debate about order and disorder.

The Oakland Post had the opportunity to spend a few minutes with Mr. Rolston.

Dan Wilkinson/The Oakland Post: You have been studying, writing and teaching for many years. Why do you do what you do? What is your mission or purpose?

Rolston: I do what I do because I believe in inquiry and in the success of the power of the human mind to penetrate and understand the meaning and significance of the universe, and I've been fortunate enough to have a reasonably successful career doing that. I think it's important for us to think critically and creatively. I think that much of the meaning and significance of life comes in our capacities to understand who we are, where we are, and what we ought to do, so I've been trying to help people understand those critical concepts.

Wilkinson: What do you see as the primary benefits of science and religion having a more peaceful coexistence?

Rolston: Science and religion I often say are the two most important things in the world. Science has shaped modern life dramatically. But what science can't do is offer ethical guidance for life. So we need both science and religion. They are two wings on one bird. Science gives us the

powers that we need for better survival, but religion gives us the ethical guidance that we need. The problems of life are as deep and painful that they have ever been. After 9-11, the collapse of Enron, the war in Iraq, the AIDS epidemic, it is evident that although we've had 400 years of science, we're in as much conflict about the deeper values of life as we have ever been. Science now may be giving us the power to reengineer our genetic constitution for example, but should we? If we should, what kind of people do we want to make? Do we want to make children that are more athletic? Or do we want to make women who are all blonds? Or do we want to make children who are more charitable or more just? The kinds of choices we might be empowered to make about engineering the future are ethical choices as much as they are scientific choices.

Wilkinson: Do you believe in the biblical account of creation?

Rolston: I take the biblical account of creation to be what I would call a parable. I do not take it literally. I do not think the earth was created in six 24-hour days. I think science teaches us the details of creation. The Genesis parable teaches us that the world is good, that God created a good earth and gave it meaning and significance. The general flavor of that story is that once upon a time there was a formless deep and the Spirit of God moved on the waters and said let the Earth bring forth swarms of creatures, and Earth did that. In a way that is a poetic or symbolic way of saying what, in a certain sense, science also says happened: that once there was a simple formless earth, and there was generated on it swarms of creatures of many kinds, and this was a good thing, and at length there came man and woman, who occupied a unique roll on Earth, who had dominion, power, stewardship, and responsibilities that no other creatures had, so I don't find creation and evolution to be incompatible. It's a blending of the natural history that science gives us with an ancient account of the meaning and significance of this place.

Wilkinson: What environmental issues should today's college students be most concerned about?

Rolston: There are two main issues that will be pivotal in the lifetime of today's college students. One of them deals with sustainability—the degree to which our consumption patterns today can be continued. Getting humans into a sustainable relationship with their landscape and with the Earth is the first important problem that needs to be worked in the coming years. The second issue that should be of utmost importance to college students today is bio-diversity, and specifically endangered species. There is a window of opportunity in the next 30-40 years to save many of these species that are in danger of going extinct. If a serious effort is not made in this window of opportunity, these species will be lost.

DEBATE Cont. from A1

40 which included students, administrative and faculty members.

McGuinness pointed to the Newspaper Readership Program, which provides students with free daily copies of The New York Times and USA Today, as one example of the success he has achieved during his first term as student body president.

Vitale said he would look to increase student participation in OUSC through ways such as promoting statement of student concern forms and arranging ways for students to meet with legislators outside of formal meetings.

He also said he would hold student congress more accountable to the students they represent.

"Accountability is a very big piece of the puzzle that we need to fill, and that's definitely something that me and Mark are going to bring to the table," Vitale said, referring to his running mate.

The two candidates were asked what criteria they would use to select an executive board and how they would ensure a collaborative work process with the legislative body.

"The executive board is definitely one of the key components — you can't do everything by yourself as student body president or vice president," Vitale said in response.

"The criteria is simple: making sure that the exec-

CARBON Cont. from A1

later in the spring, Hofmann said, but the preliminary numbers are usually quite close.

Carbon dioxide is a major greenhouse gas. Those are chemicals that have been increasing in the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution, raising fears of altering the planet's climate by trapping heat from the sun.

In addition to carbon dioxide, the 2004 data from WMO calculated that nitrous oxide, which has been rising steadily since 1988, totaled 318.6 parts per billion. Methane has risen the most dramatically over the past two centuries, with the total amount in 2004 at 1,783 parts per billion, but its growth has been slowing, WMO said. In September researchers at the Georgia Institute

FLU Cont. from A1

that the virus could mutate into a form easily spread among people, sparking a pandemic. If a bird flu case is confirmed in the United States, Chertoff said the Homeland Security Department would have specific plans to deal with it, including watching to see if it developed human health characteristics. "But it would not be time to push the panic button," he said.



think you're pregnant?
we can help

Crossroads Pregnancy Center
248-293-0070
www.crossroadspregnancy.com



The OU Jewish Student Organization Presents...

PURIM BASH

Hamentaschen Thursday, March 16, 2006

7:30pm

Bumpers Game Room
Free and Open to All



Questions? Contact Joey at jbabrin@oakland.edu or call 313-577-3459.



Polish Club Invites You to:

"Fire and Sword"

Polish Movie with English subtitles

A movie about love, hatred, envy and greed for power, set against the story of the Ukrainian Cossack uprising against the Polish nobility

Wednesday, March 22

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Oakland Center, Room 127

Refreshments will be provided

Free and Open to ALL!

ZAPRASZAMY

