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Grand Valley State University

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# Grand Valley Lanthorn

Grand Valley State University

www.lanthorn.com

Monday, March 27, 2006

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## WEATHER UPDATE

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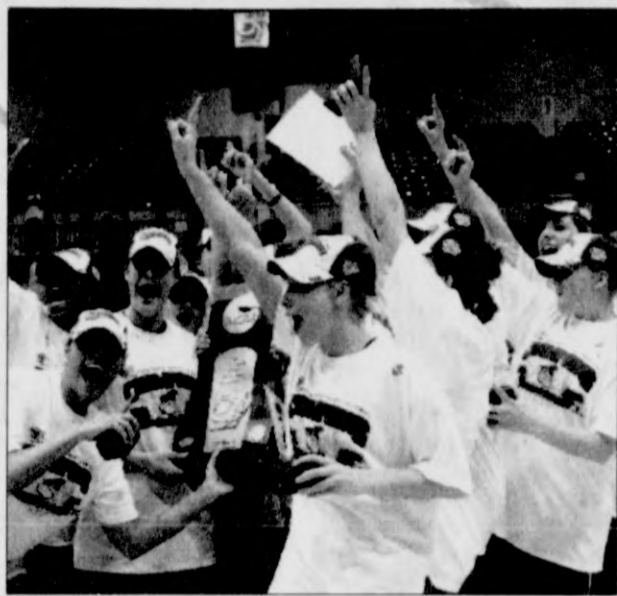
### WEDNESDAY

H/L  
51/41



## First-time champions

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team won its first-ever NCAA Division II National Championship Saturday night for in Hot Springs, Ark. See special section C for coverage.



GVL/Matt Butterfield

## GVSU may receive 7 percent funding increase

By ANGELA HARRIS  
GVL News Editor

Grand Valley State University may receive an increase in funding from the Michigan State Legislature.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved on Tuesday the appropriations budget for 2006-2007 that would grant Grand Valley State University a 7 percent increase in funding per student, said Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations. The bill will be brought before the Senate this week.

"There is still a long way to go," McLogan said. "This is just the first step."

He added the 7 percent increase may seem like a large number, but it is only brings GVSU to \$3,200, which is short of the \$3,750 per student goal established by the Senate.

"It is a measure of how far behind we are," he said.

Based on the bill to be proposed to the Senate, each of the 15 public universities in Michigan will receive at least a 1.8 percent increase in funding, while four schools — GVSU, Saginaw Valley State University, Central Michigan University and Oakland University — would receive extra funding, McLogan said.

GVSU will receive the highest increase out of all 15 schools, McLogan said. Every other university in the state will now receive at least \$3,750 per student, he added.

Originally, the bill proposed by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm called for a 2 percent increase for all students, but it was altered by the Senate Appropriations Committee, McLogan said. Even under the governor's bill, GVSU would have fallen short of the \$3,750 per student, he added.

GVSU President Mark Murray said in an e-mail that the Appropriations Committee recommends the full Senate pass the increase during its hearings within the next week.

"I'm hopeful that by the end of June, we'll have a final bill passed by both the House and the Senate that improves the fairness for GVSU students," Murray said.

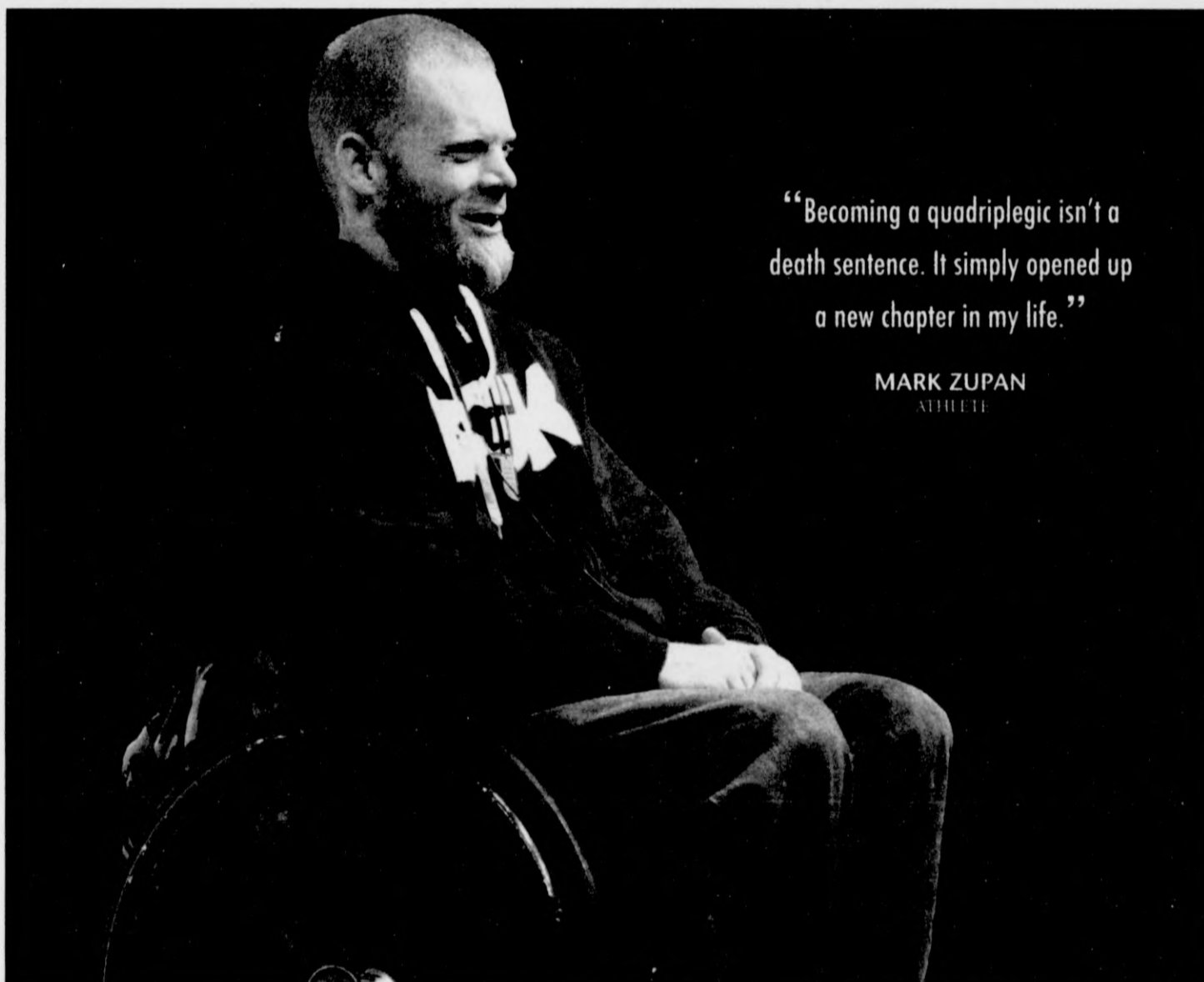
He added that even during tough times, the legislature has improved fairness in the past couple of years and hopes it will continue this year.

"Every student should have the basic grant

SEE FUNDING, A2

## Living able-bodied

Athlete breaks wheels off stereotypes



"Becoming a quadriplegic isn't a death sentence. It simply opened up a new chapter in my life."

MARK ZUPAN  
ATHLETE

Seeing the bright side: Mark Zupan, one of the main characters in "Murderball" and a member of the U.S. Quad Rugby Team, said without his friend's humor, he would not have made it through recovery. Zupan spoke during the Professional of Color Lecture Series on Wednesday in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

By SHAWN ZALEWSKI  
GVL Assistant News Editor

Outspoken, goateed and athletic may not be the first words that come to mind when thinking of a person in a wheelchair.

However, for the 400 Grand Valley State University students and faculty present in the Cook-DeWitt Center Wednesday afternoon, one man's speech on his life experiences destroyed some of the stereotypes of people with disabilities.

Mark Zupan, a paralympic athlete, civil engineer and star of the documentary film "Murderball," used his words and a non-verbal swagger

during his presentation to let the audience know, "I can do more in a wheelchair than I did when I was able-bodied."

Prior to his speech, the audience watched a portion of the 2005 film "Murderball," directed by Dana Adam Shapiro. The film, starring Zupan, chronicled the United States Quad Rugby team as it battled for the 2002 quad rugby World Championships in Stockholm, Sweden, and the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. The film, Zupan said, showed real emotion and disappointment in players and fans, as the team finished with a silver and bronze medal, respectively.

Quad rugby — or to many,

murderball — is a sport invented in Canada that combines the speed of basketball with the aggression of football.

Seated in wheelchairs similar in structure to gladiator chariots, four players per team face off on a basketball court. The object of the game is to cross the end line while carrying a ball with both wheels completely crossing the line. The ball must be in-bounded, may be passed between teammates and must be dribbled every 10 seconds.

The ball is turned over when a player is stopped by an opponent, which in many cases involves a high-speed chair-to-chair collision,

knocking the player to the ground.

Driving a car, living independently and having sex are three misconceptions about quadriplegics the film proved wrong.

Zupan explained what "quadriplegic" really means — an impairment, not a loss of the use of one or more of a person's limbs, he said.

"I could tell it was going to be a long day," Zupan said as he reflected upon the day of his life-changing accident that left him a quadriplegic at age 18.

After leaving a bar in celebration of a soccer victory, Zupan entered the

SEE ZUPAN, A2

## 'Crash' producer shares insight into movie

Summit on Racism discusses what is being done to fight it

By ANGELA HARRIS  
GVL News Editor

While acts of intolerance continue to happen on Grand Valley State University's campuses, a group of students traveled to Calvin College Friday to attend the Summit on Racism.

GVSU Student Senate Multicultural Affairs Committee members and Housing and Residence Life multicultural assistants attended breakout sessions focused on both people who influence and community

consciousness.

Mark A. Harris, producer of the Academy Award-winning film "Crash," took part in a guest interview during the afternoon session, answering questions about the movie and racism.

Harris said while about 1 percent of the Grand Rapids population was at the summit, racism is a great thing to work on.

"Like Jesus Christ said, 'from a mustard seed,'" Harris said, illustrating that big change begins with small steps.

He said he made the movie because it was different from the normal movies Hollywood makes.

"It's a good story and I want to tell it," Harris said.

Parts of the movie were based on real events from various people working on the film, Harris said. For example, the car-jacking scene was based on a car jacking that screenwriter Bobby Moresco experienced while living in Canada, he added.

While it may seem to some that the movie left out certain racisms, Harris said the screenwriters did not purposely leave any group out. They just could not put every group in.

Moresco said in a recorded interview that the snow during the movie was meant to symbolize hope because many people might view the movie as a downer, but it is showing that society has not made any strides since the 1960s.

"We wanted to say that when



GVL/Angela Harris

In the hot seat: Two presenters from the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism interview Mark Harris, producer of the Oscar award winning film "Crash," during the Summit on Racism at Calvin College on Friday afternoon.

we strip back the surface and look at what's underneath, (we are) really truthfully honest as human beings and characters in this movie," Moresco said. "We

wanted to touch on that." He added that while writing the movie, he and Paul Higgins

SEE SUMMIT, A2

# New programs, lounge may be available to students

Lounge in Kirkhof, University Club may be converted for the fall

By Shawn Zalewski  
GVL Assistant News Editor

Students at Grand Valley State University may have access to additional lounge space for the fall 2006 semester, according to preliminary discussions among university officials.

Changes to rooms in both the Kirkhof Center in Allendale and the DeVos Center on the Pew Campus in Grand Rapids are in the beginning stages of planning.

While some rumors have circulated about the construction of a sports bar in Kirkhof, there are no immediate plans for such a facility, said Bob Stoll, director of Student Life. Instead, one

room will be partially remodeled to create an additional space for recreation and programming on campus, he said.

If there were to be a bar in a campus building, it would have to operate within a "controlled environment," said Andy Beachnau, director of Housing and Residence Life. Such an environment would be within a room with one door, accessible to 21-year-olds only with valid ID as checked by a bouncer at the door, and service from professional bartenders unrelated to an event.

"You could not book a room to throw a party with just you and your buddies," Beachnau said.

Alcohol is currently served in three campus buildings under certain conditions, he said. The Alumni House, the Kirkhof Center and the Meadows restaurant are multi-use facilities that accommodate groups wishing to

allow alcohol consumption during banquets and other celebrations. Other occasions, such as tailgating in the fall and other special university functions, require special permits, he added.

Currently, room 051 in the lower level of the Kirkhof Center is in the early stages of remodeling for the creation of a sports viewing lounge, said Fred Mooney, assistant director of Event Services.

Mooney said many students visit the Kirkhof Center to find a place to hang out, while others come to study. For those looking for a place to lounge while watching television, the new layout of the room would provide a different and comfortable setting, he added.

The lounge, upon completion for the fall semester, would have a "sports bar feel," and would contain a large home theater screen, two additional television screens, and GVSU sports paraphernalia lining

the walls, Mooney said. The room would be open to anyone, and could be used for larger gatherings or events such as the Super Bowl or NCAA basketball tournament.

Although the big screen theater on the main level provides a lounge atmosphere, it offers a limited appeal given the frequent scheduling of films, Mooney said. The new lounge would be available for campus events, presentations and the special screening of documentary or student films, he added.

Larger broadcasts, such as those that took place in the Fieldhouse for the football team's National Championship game, would continue in various other locations, as the new lounge would not accommodate hundreds of students, Mooney said.

Another preliminary development is taking place on the Pew Campus to replace the

University Club with a coffee shop. The club contains a bar setup, but is primarily used for business or alumni gatherings.

The Student Senate passed a resolution Thursday supporting the conversion of the University Club into Barons Coffeehouse, the working title of the proposed space.

"It could be a place where students can gather for group projects or for a cup of coffee, while right now it's used to bring in a person from outside the GVSU community to speak for a half hour and then is empty for the rest of the day," Beachnau said. "In my opinion, frequent student use always wins over occasional use."

If it gains support among university administrators, the coffeehouse could be up and running by the fall semester, Beachnau said.

"The room isn't inviting for students, despite its open seating policy," said Michael Doxey, director of Business Services. "The addition of a coffee shop would offer increased hours of operation and a more conducive environment for studying."

The addition of the coffeehouse would involve adding coffee and espresso machines behind the counter in the University Club, in addition to the sale of small food items such as bagels or muffins, Doxey said.

Tom Minor, general manager of Campus Dining, said the Gazebo beverage center would continue its services if the Barons development is put into effect.

A complete renovation of the room would be impractical and expensive, Doxey explained. He added the current infrastructure space is inadequate for food preparation.

## A sign of his work



GVL / Ashley Comstock

**Leaving his mark:** Retired faculty member Dan Anderson (left) talks to President Emeritus Arend "Don" Lubbers and his editor Stephen Rowe (right) during a book signing for Lubbers' book, "Old Hopes for a New Place" on Wednesday.

## The inside scoop on money and business

**Q:** I chose several mutual funds for my employer's 401(k) retirement plan but didn't really know what I was doing. How can I tell which funds are best?



Dimkoff

**A:** Your concern is a common one. Most workers make random selections, never fully understanding what they have done. Here are a few general rules to help you choose mutual funds:

- Three or four funds are enough. Since each fund may consist of more than 100 companies, you will be well-diversified.
- Avoid cash and short-term investment funds. These are meant to hold an employee's money for only a few days. The return will be so low — perhaps less than 1 percent — you won't be able to stay even with the inflation rate.
- Stay away from significant investments in bond mutual funds unless you are super conservative or super old. Historically, they have barely outperformed the rate of inflation.
- Stay away from international funds. The political and economic risks are not worth it. You also have to worry about unfavorable exchange rate

movements which can wipe out your gains or magnify your losses.

- For all other funds, concentrate on the annual fees charged and the fund's performance relative to its peers. While the average mutual fund charges annual fees of 1.6 percent, look for funds charging less than 1 percent. There are lots to choose from. The difference seems small, but over many years the dollar difference will be enormous.
- The Wall Street Journal ranks mutual funds each month. One of the rankings shows how funds have performed relative to other funds with the same goal (growth, balanced, high-tech, etc.). A ranking of A is outstanding, while E is terrible, same as at Grand Valley. Look for mostly A and B rankings. An occasional C is okay. Otherwise, reject the fund and keep looking.

**Q:** What percentage of income should you save?

**A:** When you are in college, it is difficult to

save anything. You should concentrate on graduating with as little debt as possible. Keep a small amount of savings to handle emergencies, of course, but do not borrow money just so you can have a savings or investment account.

After you begin your career, your goal should be to save at least 10 percent of your gross income. That will take discipline, but it is not as difficult as it may seem. If you contribute 6 percent to a 401(k) plan and your employer matches the first 6 percent, you're up to 12 percent. If you receive an income tax refund, invest part of it and spend the rest. Likewise, invest a portion of other windfalls such as gifts of money, money collected from garage sales, and the like. It is possible. For most people, the secret is to control spending, not hope to earn more.

Dr. Dimkoff is a finance professor in the Seidman College of Business. He is a Certified Financial Planner and a Chartered Life Underwriter. Do you have a question for Professor Dimkoff? If so, send your question to dimkoffg@gvsu.edu or to The Lanthorn (Lanthorn@gvsu.edu).

## FUNDING

continued from page A1

behind them when they go to college," Murray said. "It is the way we fund K-12. It makes sense for higher education as well."

The benefit of improved fairness would allow GVSU to meet various critical needs on campus, such as adding staff in advising and counseling, as well as hiring more faculty members

to uphold GVSU commitment to small class sizes, Murray added.

"This will be a story that will unfold in the months ahead," Murray said.

The final decision regarding funding is up to the state. Funding for a public university can come from two places — state funds and tuition, McLogan said. The two funds are directly related because when one is high, the other is low, he added.

To help secure funding for

GVSU, Murray will testify at the Higher Education Appropriations sub-committee on Wednesday in Lansing, McLogan said.

"I will be the first of the 15 public university presidents to testify," Murray said.

In addition, members of the GVSU student senate will travel to Lansing to visit the Senate members from the Michigan State Legislature and speak with them on behalf of GVSU about issues of funding.

## ZUPAN

continued from page A1

back of a pickup truck driven by his friend Chris Igoe, who had been drinking, Zupan said. After he fell asleep in the back, rain and erratic driving caused Igoe to hit a fence, sending Zupan flying over a fence and trees into a roadside canal.

Zupan said he credits his survival to his excellent conditioning at the time and the cold water, which numbed his body and kept him floating as he clung to a branch. He was discovered after 48 hours by an office worker eating lunch in his car. A rescue involving a dilapidated boat ensued.

When his father arrived at the scene, the fire chief at the site told him, "I don't know why your son's alive."

"We used to talk about what would happen if one of us ever

got seriously hurt, or if one of us died," Zupan said. "I found out quickly just how many brothers and sisters I had."

Throughout his college years, Zupan said he faced some of his most difficult moments in re-learning how to drive, navigate city streets and to go to bars. After his girlfriend broke up with him, he said he hit rock bottom, only to be lifted up by the support of his friends.

However, Zupan was introduced to quad rugby during the long rehabilitation process he endured, he said. He was more than happy to get back into sports and meet people, he added.

"You can't say to someone 'you're not gonna walk again' and have them accept it," Zupan explained. "They have to figure it out for themselves and move on."

While at a bar overlooking the Aegean Sea in Greece during the

paralympics, Zupan said he and Igoe made amends for the accident that had changed both of their lives years earlier. He said neither of them had ever expected to be where they are today.

Zupan said he is already training for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. If everything goes as planned and the U.S. team wins gold, he said he could hang up his uniform and move on in his life.

"Becoming a quadriplegic isn't a death sentence. It simply opened up a new chapter in my life," Zupan said. "If I had made a checklist of 'things that might happen' and a list of 'there's-no-way-in-hell-this-is-going-to-happen' moments, the latter would be filled."

He concluded, "You're gonna face a lot of shit in your life, but you have to see through the hard times. I've learned just to have fun with it."

## SUMMIT

continued from page A1

also wanted to create a story that explored the way strangers affect each other as well as the fear that drives people to ugly places.

While audience members asked Harris about the possibility of cleaning up the movie and making it available to be used as a teaching tool, Harris said he would not do that because it would take away from the honesty of the film.

"Any time you tell an honest story, this is what happens," Harris said. "This is the language people use on the streets in L.A., and that is what we are showing. Without that, you are cheating what is real."

Sen. Nick Harry said it was interesting to see what people from Grand Rapids were doing to help fight racism, and he felt out of place as a college student.

"I would like to see them have one for just college kids or a section for them," he said.

Junior M.A. Alicia Steeme said while she expected more college students, she liked the demographic of the turnout because it allowed her to see

outside the GVSU bubble that many people see through.

"It was good to see the outside perspective," Steeme said. "They really care about the issues. It was nice to see them take time out of their day to talk about it."

While Steeme said she was glad she went, she would like to have walked away with solutions on how to handle the various events happening on campus.

"I needed solutions," Steeme said.

## Grand Valley Lanthorn

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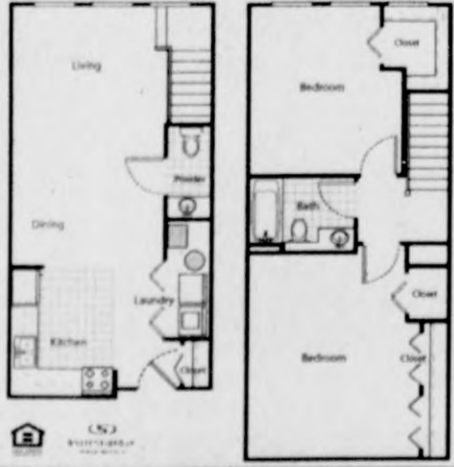
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Angela Harris, News Editor  
news@lanthorn.com

## GVL digest NEWS

### DPS investigates possible shots fired

The Grand Valley State University Department of Public Safety is currently investigating a report of possible gunshots being fired in Parking Lot H at approximately 1 a.m. on Sunday, said Capt. Brandon DeHaan, assistant director of DPS.

No weapon was seen, and no shell casings were found, he said. There were not any injuries or reported damage, DeHaan added.

### Final Relay for Life team captains' meeting tonight

The last Relay for Life team captains' meeting will be held tonight at 9 p.m. in Loutit Lecture Hall 103.

C.A.R.E. President Kelly Weir said the meeting will provide teams with a time schedule and information about the night of the event. Captains will sign up for their team's "base" site and receive information on any last-minute concerns, such as the luminary ceremony, Mr. Relay pageant or bank night, she added.

Bank night will be held on April 4, and the Relay for Life event will be held April 7 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. at the Cook-Carillon Tower.

### Engineering students, faculty to break ground on new 'green' house

Grand Valley State University students and staff representing the School of Engineering will break ground on an environmentally-sound, energy-efficient house in Grand Rapids at noon on Wednesday.

As part of the university's community involvement program, students and staff will construct the house at 845 Watson SW in Grand Rapids. Using solar panels, low-flow plumbing and thick insulation, the house will be certified under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design.

GVSU will partner with Westown Jubilee Housing and Heartland Builders on this project, the largest the engineering school has undertaken.

### Leadership Capstone helps students transition from college to career

The Advanced Leadership Capstone Roundtable, offering students information on carrying campus leadership experience into a life-long process, will take place on April 4 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 215/216 of the Kirkhof Center. This collaboration is the concluding event of the semester-long Laker Leadership program, facilitated by the Office of Student Life.

Registration for the free, interactive roundtable is available online at <http://www.studentlife.gvsu.edu/signmeup>.

The deadline for registration is Friday.

### Lecture to discuss impact of Chinese economy

Bruce Dickson, professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University, will discuss the present and future of China's economy during his presentation tomorrow night.

"Turning Wealth Into Power: The Political Impact of China's Private Entrepreneurs" will examine the relationship between the Chinese Communist Party and private entrepreneurs, also known as "red capitalism."

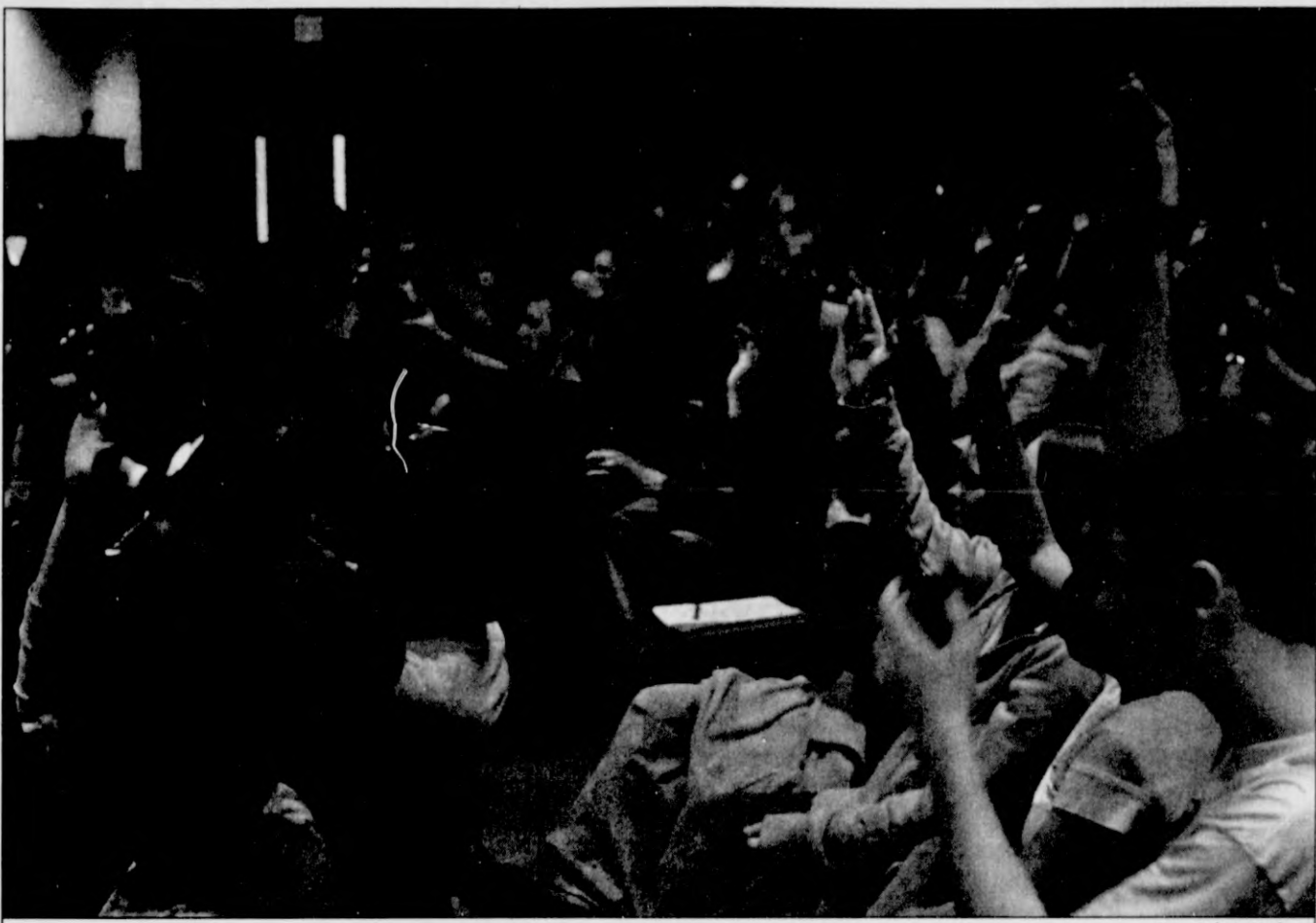
Dickson will speak on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium on the GVSU's Pew Campus in Grand Rapids.

### Spaghetti dinner to benefit arthritis

The sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi are hosting a spaghetti dinner Wednesday night to raise funds for arthritis research. The all-you-can-eat dinner will run from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Alpha Omicron Pi house located at the Grand Valley Apartments Tuscola building.

Tickets are on sale for \$3 from any sister, or \$5 at the door.

# Finding stereotypes



**Hidden stereotypes:** Students participate in activities before hypnotist Chuck King brings up volunteers to be hypnotized. Culture Shock, hosted by C.L.O.U.D. N.I.N.E., addressed racial stereotypes and was meant to educate people about cultural differences and bridge the gap between them. The event was held on Thursday in the Pere Marquette Room of the Kirkhof Center.

## Students get exposure to the stereotypes of various ethnicities through hypnotism program

By BRANDON HUBBARD  
GVL Staff Writer

The student equality organization C.L.O.U.D. N.I.N.E. took a new approach in tackling racism — hypnotizing students.

At first, it may have looked like another hypnotist and his show. Fifteen students were pulled onto the stage on Friday, and participants were calmed and slowly dropped into a sleep-like state by a hypnotist.

Renowned hypnotist Chuck King gave what he calls "suggestive reflexes" to his subjects. The entranced students began to shiver when

told they were cold and sweat at the mention of heat.

He convinced them they had lost their belly buttons and even gave the males a taste of what it feels like to go through childbirth. The crowd roared as student participants were made into vampires, movie stars and drunks.

The show took a more serious turn when King applied what he called "waking hypnosis," where the person's eyes are open and appear to be normal.

"You are going to be on the Jerry Springer Show because an alien just landed on your house," King said.

He allowed members from C.L.O.U.D. N.I.N.E. to suggest a race in which the participants were to adopt. King then asked each of the participants questions in their new ethnic persona.

At the mention of each suggested ethnicity — Mexican, Asian or African-American — the students changed their attitude and language.

Afterward, Jennifer Stewart, an assistant professor at GVSU and sociologist, took the stage to discuss the stereotypes and ask questions about what was seen in the program.

Stewart asked the audience how many members felt uncomfortable when they heard people were about to portray another race. The majority of audience members raised their hands.

The whole point of the program was to be a little offensive to see people's reactions to stereotypes, said Patrick Wilson, co-founder and president of C.L.O.U.D. N.I.N.E.

"We specifically added these tensions to

SEE HYPNOTISM, A7

# Male contraceptive may be released

By RACHEL ROLPH  
GVL Staff Writer

A new type of birth control pill may be available within the next few years, but this one is for men.

Researchers at Edinburgh University in Scotland found a way to suppress daily sperm production while maintaining normal testosterone levels.

"I heard something was in the works, but I had no idea that they were already doing clinical trials of the drug," said Patty Feenstra, a registered nurse at Grand Valley State University's Campus Health Center.

Since men have fewer options when it comes to readily-available contraception than women, the pill may provide them with another alternative to using a condom or having a vasectomy, she added.

"I think a lot of the responsibility of preventing pregnancy has been put on women," Feenstra said. "Besides providing condoms, there is not much else men can do."

Women may use a pill, a patch, a shot every three months, contraceptive rods implanted under the skin, diaphragms and female condoms.

"I would like to think that they would be compliant in taking the drug," Feenstra said. "Maybe with both males and females using a contraceptive, we will have less unwanted pregnancies."

Birth control for men is much more difficult to create than birth control for women, according to an online Columbia University Health question-and-answer service. A man's reproductive system is always producing sperm, meaning they are constantly fertile, whereas women are only fertile for about 48 hours a month, the survey reported.

The fact that men are always fertile means there are three approaches to temporarily decreasing or ceasing sperm production: preventing sperm production, interfering with sperm function and interrupting sperm transport, the service said.

The most promising of the three is preventing sperm production, according to the online service. To achieve temporary infertility in a

man, a hormonal contraceptive would need to interfere with the pituitary glands signals to the testes. However, interfering with these hormones causes negative side-effects like weight gain, increased risk of liver tumors and cancers, breast growth and a reduction in healthy cholesterol, it added.

Organon, a pharmaceutical company in the Netherlands, has developed a form of the pill that

is set to go on the market by 2007. The pill has proven to be 100 percent effective in preliminary clinical trials, the online Columbia University Health service said.

However, marketing of the product in the United States may be much farther away.

"It usually takes about five to ten years for a drug to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration so I doubt we will be hearing anything soon,"

Feenstra said.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, the condom has a failure rate of about 14 percent in typical conditions, while the failure rate of the female pill is less than 1 percent. Although the male pill was proven 100 percent effective so far, the results of the current clinical trial are necessary before any definite conclusions can be drawn, the FDA said.

SEE RATIO, A7

## Gender ratio unchanged at GVSU

By LESLIE PERALES  
GVL Staff Writer

The ratio of females to males on Grand Valley State University's campus has remained relatively the same since 2002, as it is between 61 to 65 percent female and 35 to 39 percent male.

This semester, the female population is at 62 percent, said Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations.

He said there is a gender division because generally speaking, more women go to college than men.

This trend started in the mid-1970s, according to the U.S. Department of Education. In 1976, the total male population in colleges and universities nationwide was 52.7 percent, while the female population was 47.3 percent. By 2002, the male population was down to 43.4 percent, while the female population rose to 56.6 percent, the department reported.

McLogan said he believes more women choose GVSU because of the programs offered at the university, such as nursing, physical therapy, teacher education, occupational therapy and social work. Programs such as these usually attract more women than men, he added.

"The practical impact is that we want to make sure the campus is built and that student services are available in ways that match up with the university's gender split, and generally speaking, I think we've done that," McLogan said. "It's something we always want to be mindful of."

He said when it comes to opportunities available for men and women in the classrooms, athletic programs and student activities, the university does a good job. He added that he has not noticed an effect on students when it comes to the gender division on campus.

Susan Carson, a professor in the college of education, said that while GVSU has many programs that attract women, she would love to see more men in those programs and the fields that go along with them, such as nursing and education. She said not only would it be helpful to

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## Grand Valley Lanthorn

The student-run newspaper of Grand Valley State University

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Jennifer Hoewe  
John FaarupEditor in Chief  
Managing Editor  
News Editor  
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Laker Life Editor  
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form

*The women's basketball team displayed a passion for winning, teamwork and the game in its quest to capture the school's first-ever National Title in the sport.*

The Lakers ended their season on a 22-game winning tear, achieving a school-record 33 wins and only three losses. They strived to perform at the highest possible level game after game, ultimately resulting in their champion status.

During their final two playoff games specifically, the Lakers showed a love for the game of basketball through their high energy and positive attitude on and off the court. They warmed up with smiles on their faces, often making each other laugh, even though the two games were arguably two of the biggest of their careers.

Throughout the season, the women worked together to achieve a common goal. That sense of teamwork is admirable, especially in today's society where people are often too concerned with their own individual well-being and not that of others. Players on the team did not battle for individual recognition, but rather for the championship honors they hoped to receive together.

Grand Valley State University's teams continue to display these and other admirable qualities throughout their seasons. The women's basketball team's success is just an example of what can happen when all the right pieces come together.

The GVSU community should be proud of its athletic program. This is the third NCAA Division II National Championship the Lakers have brought home so far this school year. The success of Laker athletics continues to give GVSU national attention, ultimately showing the school's dedication to excellence.

Congratulations to the GVSU women's basketball team for an outstanding season. Their commitment to each other, the game and the university is something to be admired.

*"There is just something about watching someone get smacked in the face with a ball that never gets old."*

David Soukup  
Dodgeball Club President

## GV OPINION

## Not in our house

By H. BART MERKLE  
GVSU Vice Provost and Dean of Students

Regrettably, two incidents of intimidating, racial graffiti have occurred at the university recently (scrawled in Living Centers on North campus in Allendale). Acts of hate/intolerance have no place at Grand Valley State University and I urge all students, faculty and staff to view this abhorrent behavior as an attack on all of us.

It is important for our community to know how the university is dealing with these cowardly, hateful acts. Staff from various offices (Housing, Counseling, Multicultural Affairs, etc.) are providing support to the victim(s), Public Safety has launched an investigation, "community" meetings are being held in living areas and de-briefing and counseling are offered to students that desire services.

Most importantly, we are informing our community about these acts of hate to solicit everyone's assistance in identifying

the perpetrator(s). We will be persistent in following leads. Intimidating acts of hate/intolerance hurt and demean people, and none of us should accept this bigotry. We all need to do whatever we can to stop this. Let me be very clear, the university will use both the student judicial system and/or the criminal courts to confront behavior that violates either university policies or the law (local, state or federal).

Together, we can identify the person(s) terrorizing our housing community. I invite all of you to "do something!" If you witness or have knowledge of acts of intimidation, hatred or intolerance, please report them to Public Safety at (616) 331-3255 or Silent Observer at (800) 825-0221.

I extend my concern and sympathy to those individuals who were targeted with this harassment. I will assist them in any way I can so that they can begin to rebuild their trust in our community, and I hope that others will do the same.

Will this behavior be tolerated in our community? I hope that we all shout a unified "Not in our house!"

## GVL OPINION POLICY

The ultimate goal of the Grand Valley Lanthorn opinion page is to stimulate discussion and action on topics of interest to the Grand Valley Community.

The Grand Valley Lanthorn welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three vehicles of expression for reader opinions: letters to the editor, guest columns and phone responses.

Letters must include the author's name and be accompanied by current picture identification if dropped off in person. Letters will be checked by an employee of the Grand Valley Lanthorn.

Letters appear as space permits each issue. The limit for letter length

is one page, single spaced.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters and columns for length restrictions and clarity.

All letters must be typed. The Grand Valley Lanthorn will not be held responsible for errors that appear in print as a result of transcribing handwritten letters or e-mail typographic errors.

The name of the author is usually published but may be withheld for compelling reasons.

The content, information and views expressed are not approved by nor necessarily represent those of the university, its Board of Trustees, officers, faculty and staff.



## GVL STUDENT OPINION

This week the Grand Valley Lanthorn asked four community members:

## If you could have any establishment built on campus, what would it be and why?



"An art gallery. I think it's important that kids expand their culture and students display their work to gain perspective."

Katee Stahl  
Senior  
Liberal Studies

"A movie theater for film students to show their work. They do it now in a lecture hall, and there isn't enough room to show their work to anyone other than film students."

Parker Wallace  
Freshman  
Film and Video

"Nothing really. Everything is pretty much built here."

Steven Foley  
Freshman  
Pre-pharmacy

"It would be more fast food restaurants on campus because there are a lot of foods from my hometown that I can't get up here that I miss."

Ambre Wade  
Senior  
Film and Video

## How teaching makes an impact

By BRIAN PERRY  
GVL Columnist

Four hundred and sixty miles is a long way. One is quickly isolated when faced by that distance.

When Roger Finlan is around, Yoopers feel anything but. It is impossible to walk anywhere with Roger. I tried to get from Mackinac Hall to Au Sable Hall with him one afternoon, and the round trip took nearly an hour.

Dozens of students gave a hello, and Roger responded genuinely. He wanted to know how their families were, how classes were going, if the Cubs were going to make the playoffs.

He greeted students by name, remembering them from years past. As if Roger does not make the campus atmosphere better, he extends his warmth to his home.

He held a barbecue for



a group of Yoopers one sunny afternoon. He had us over for pizza the next year. His cooking ability is stellar, and

his work in the classroom is excellent as well.

He has seen plenty, and he shares it with his classes in an honest way.

One semester I had a professor who demanded to be addressed as a professor. He was not a doctor, and sneered that he had no intention of becoming one, so we had to call him "professor."

We called him "hey you." On the other hand, I had a professor invite me to call her Amy from the very beginning, but I could never address Dr. Masko that way.

Maybe it was because she assigned projects much larger than any other professors in the same

class. Maybe it was because she expected my absolute best on those projects, and knew when I was not giving it.

I am sure both of those facts contribute to my respect for Dr. Masko. She helped me develop and then clarify my beliefs about education. She helped me discover the multitude of opportunities that exist in the field.

She was an adviser, but not the one who tells you what classes to take. She tells you what you can truly become. In the classroom, she challenges her students in ways that most of my professors did not. I loved it.

For three straight semesters Dr. Masko invited me to take her classes. I had to accept. I knew that no one would bring out my best the way that Dr. Masko did.

Then there is the lady who fed me and brought out my best. What do you do when you're about to begin

student-teaching, and the one woman who controls 12 credits of your semester tells you that you will hate her? You cry, and you wait until she tells you that you will love her.

Priscilla Hill Gregels promised and delivered both. She made me work really hard. And she told me when my teaching stunk.

When it was over, she took me out to lunch and told me that she loved me. She loved every one of us. And we loved her. She met us when she was sick. She corrected lesson plans without sleeping, then delivered them to Lansing so students could improve immediately.

She read every last comma. She e-mailed daily. She called if we did not. She cared until it brought her to tears.

Someday I will be a real teacher in a full-time classroom. If I am decent at it, it will be because of these three.

## Gadgets cause societal disconnect

By CHELSEA WREDEN  
Daily Evergreen (Washington State U.)

(U-WIRE) PULLMAN, Wash. — Our society advances technologically seemingly by the minute. Cell phones are now so small they make people look like they are talking to themselves.

Not only cell phones, but iPods and other portable music devices have created a whole new world in music lovers' lives.

Palm Pilots, laptops and Blackberries have all helped organize and simplify tasks in our daily lives. These, along with the many other technological miracles, have benefited many of us, maybe even making our lives better.

It is reasonable to assume this is why innovators

originally started and still continue today to create these miraculous devices.

For instance, a walk through a city street would show a large quantity of people passing through, chatting on their cell phones, fidgeting with their Palm Pilots, or deeply engaged in their music generated through their iPods.

Comparing our current environments to the way people lived before this multitude of technology existed, technological advancements manage to engage people so much that they often block out the noise of the outside world with these gadgets. In other words, it seems that as the years go by, technology continues to advance, but it is also pulling us away from interacting with others, disconnecting us

individually from society.

The irony is that technology was originally created to connect people in society, and although it generally does, it also seems to have the opposite effect.

For example, even though portable music devices are very enjoyable to have available, the communication level between people may have been altered since their origin.

These products may have lowered our personal etiquette with one another. When did it start being considered polite to talk to someone with your headphones on or to talk to someone on your cell phone while you are also talking to someone in person?

Walking through Glenn Terrell Mall on campus between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., one would see a mass, many

disconnected with each other, due to their connections with technology. It seems easy to assume that the social norms in our own community are generated around these types of accessories.

We are very lucky we have access to an immense amount of technology. However, it may be hard to realize at times that the more advanced technology becomes, the more socially independent society will become.

The concept itself may be considered inevitable since our world seems to be heading in the direction of unlimited possibilities in the field of technology. However, if we all turned our cell phones to silent and paused our iPods to acknowledge one another the old fashioned way, there may still be a chance to become connected once again.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Editor's note:** Letters are printed as submitted, without editing.

### Disappointed with drag show

Dear Lanthorn,  
I am amazed and profoundly disturbed by the newspaper's and university's support of such a heinous event - a drag show on campus. Not only did you support it, but glorified it with a one page spread portraying grown men stooping to a new low...gallivanting around in women's clothing. It's not cute, it's not cool, it's not funny; rather it's a disgusting and ridiculous spectacle. Congratulations Lanthorn, now you have also stooped to the same low through your acknowledgement and glorification of these "divas in drag." As far as the university's support of this event is concerned, I am not only disturbed, but also terrified by what's coming of its values, judgment, and overall moral infrastructure. If John Henry Cardinal Newman, author of *The Idea of a University*, were to come back to life and witness such debauchery on a college campus, he would be appalled and deeply dissatisfied, much like a strong contingent of the student body, including myself. If a student or faculty member

desires to witness and glorify men dressing up as women, they can go to the seedy clubs that openly condone such intolerable activity - not the Cook-DeWitt center, a place commonly used for worship.

From a deeply concerned student,  
**Tadas Kasputis**

### Concerned with comments

Dear Editor,  
I am responding to a letter that appeared in the March 20th edition of the Lanthorn. I was appalled at Mr. Alderink's comments regarding President Bush. While certainly everyone has a right to their opinions, Mr. Alderink's comments show his radical views, but beyond that, show a dangerous trend in the American education system. Firstly, Mr. Alderink presents several of his opinions as if they were facts. President Bush lied? Depends on who you ask. Many informed people admit that it is more likely that he himself was misled by his intelligence personnel. President Bush tortures people? I've never seen him at Guantanamo Bay. Perhaps members of the military have engaged in illegal activities, but it is highly doubtful the President engaged in any of this activity, and just as doubtful

any President would order it - someone somewhere in the chain of command would eventually squeal. Too much of a risk. He illegally constructed prisons around the world? The legality has yet to be challenged by any authority. He illegally spies on Americans? Again, that has yet to be proven or decided upon by any court. Mr. Alderink cannot say something is illegal just because he thinks it is or wants it to be. He is unable to protect Americans from a hurricane? Show me one who can. Perhaps Mr. Alderink meant "during and after the storm." In that case, he needs to brush up on his Federal Law. The Federal government is legally prohibited from acting until officially asked by the state and local governments affected in most circumstances. Perhaps Mr. Alderink's beef is with Mayor Nagin (of New Orleans) or Governor Blanco (of Louisiana) who neglected to ask for assistance until the eleventh hour. There's little anyone could have done by that time, except perhaps use hundreds of busses to evacuate the city (which Mr. Nagin failed to do). He does not uphold the environmental laws of this country? Again, I must ask, which court of law has determined this opinion of Mr. Alderink's to be true?

Then, for all to read, the call for the impeachment begins. Congressman Conyers "report" is cited. However, Mr. Alderink failed to mention that many liberals in Congress also rejected this "report." The reasons vary, but are all related to two main reasons: Congressman Conyers is viewed (even by members of his own party) as one of the more radical members of Congress, and his "report" was more along the lines of an op-ed piece about the Administration - not a factual, unbiased report of facts.

None of this, however, is what is most disturbing about Mr. Alderink's letter. Mr. Alderink, a professor in the College of Health Professions (not, curiously, Liberal Arts and Sciences - to which Political Science belongs), is attempting to use his influence as a professor to sway opinions of students the university has entrusted to his teaching. I firmly believe this is a bastardization of this trust. While everyone is and should remain free to form and express their own opinions, Mr. Alderink has chosen to inappropriately use his position as a bully pulpit. He is not alone, sadly. Many like him around this great nation have decided that their view is the correct view. They have taken it upon themselves to "educate"

the leaders of tomorrow by taking undue advantage of their positions. In this case, it is disturbing that a Health Professions professor felt the need to let the campus in on his radical liberal views. It is disturbing because it illustrates the larger trend of a liberal bias at the head of a classroom.

For the record, I am not a registered Republican. If a radical

conservative was dictating to campus what is right and wrong, I would be equally disapproving. Let people make up their own minds. Focus on what you're here to focus on: Health Professions. Leave the politicking to politics, put away your soap box, get out your lectern, and teach - don't preach.

Sincerely,  
**Jamie Leyndyke**

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## STUDENT OPINION

## Consumerism increases student debt after college

By **LEILA RODRIGUEZ**  
*Daily Collegian (Penn State)*

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — American consumerism seems to be at an all-time high.

A few years ago, people cared mostly about buying brand-name clothes. Today, we would not be caught dead without furniture from Ikea, kitchen utensils from Williams-Sonoma or makeup from Estee Lauder. Among young adults, this tendency is especially worrisome.

College students often graduate with large debts. And while everyone is quick to point out those pesky student loans, they are not the sole culprit. The growing need to buy — and buy fashionably — is killing our wallets.

Do not get me wrong. I appreciate nice things just as much as the next person. I love to cook, and I am obsessed with salt and pepper grinders. I decided to treat myself to a nice set, and was prepared to spend about \$10 for them. How naive of me. At Williams-Sonoma, I found out, they range from \$30 to more than \$100. Unless you are planning on becoming the next Emeril Lagasse, there is really no excuse to buy such overpriced items.

Some people are certainly able to afford such material luxuries. But for the majority, having the money in the bank — or worse yet, on a credit card — does not necessarily mean you can truly afford something. When I think of people's spending, it reminds me of when I was a teenager in Costa Rica. My cousins and I were chased by a gigantic white bull while picking guavas in a field. I grabbed my 5-year-old cousin and ran for the fence, while my brother and another cousin ran up a tree. Big mistake. Everyone knows that running up a tree is the last thing you want to do because the bull will wait patiently for hours for you to climb down. And he did.

Financial debts often act like that bull, charging after us until we end up doing irrational things like using one credit card to pay the minimum on another, even though we know better than to do that.

So why do we do it? One reason is a need to show others we "made it." After college you get a job, and with a job (or even an internship) comes all sorts of displays of success. While driving a new car or sporting the latest fashions might be more visible to others, having no financial debt is a more accurate measure of success.

Another reason is relative deprivation. If everyone is carrying the newest Coach handbag, then we might feel embarrassed to still be

carrying one of those horrible tiny backpacks that were incomprehensibly stylish eight years ago. Humans value aesthetics, and I love people who dress with style. But style and price do not always go hand-in-hand. The clearest example are Louis Vuitton products. I never understood why so many people are willing to pay hundreds of dollars for bags the color of excrement with vomit-colored monograms. We also shop because shopping often fulfills emotional needs. We are all familiar with the term "retail-therapy." Who has not turned a bad day into a good one by buying a little something?

There is a difference, however, between a bit of self-indulgence and the kind of shopping that leaves your bank account with a negative balance.

Reliance upon material items as substitutes for emotional feedback we could receive from other humans is at an all-time high. Everything from the dummies people buy to being able to drive in the high occupancy vehicle lane to the Japanese pillow-shaped-like a male torso and arm for lonely women to cuddle with at night bear witness to this.

While the real world provides plenty of reasons to shop, that is not the only place we receive these signals from.

Television also contributes to our insatiable need to buy. TV shows present lifestyles that many wish to imitate and falsely believe they can.

A Jan. 11 CNN article argued, however, that the lifestyles portrayed by TV characters are often unrealistic given the jobs they hold. If Sex and the City's Carrie Bradshaw brings home \$57,000 a year, the average salary for a columnist in New York, she should not be able to live in a one-bedroom apartment in Manhattan, constantly dine out, drink cosmopolitans at fancy bars, hop in taxis and buy Manolo Blahnik shoes.

Young Americans in debt is such a hot topic — and a serious one — that many organizations and Web sites have sprung up to offer some advice. One such Web site, <http://www.youcandealwithit.org>, offers all sorts of useful information about credit cards, budgeting, consolidating loans, paying off student loans, etc. It even lets you calculate how long it might take you to become a millionaire. With the salary I hope to make after I get my doctorate, and the amount of money I am willing to invest, it claimed I could be a millionaire by the time I am 97. So I might never be a millionaire. But if I can go through life without owing large sums of money, I will probably sleep better at night anyway.

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### A sample of organizations:

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For more information, contact GVSU Career Services at 331-3311  
of [career@gvsu.edu](mailto:career@gvsu.edu)

## GVSU Greek Week becomes Greek Games 2006

By JENNIFER HOEWE  
GVL Laker Life Editor

Greek organizations celebrate their unity annually with seven days of competition known as Greek Week.

This year, the event was condensed to one day and dubbed Greek Games 2006. The games took place on Saturday.

Due to poor planning and lack of organization, several annual events were cut from the schedule with all the remaining ones held on Saturday, said Grand Valley State

University junior and Sigma Pi Sergeant at Arms John Stocki.

"There are hundreds of people in Greek life on campus," Stocki said. "The week is now only one day because organizers lacked to ask for help."

Five Greek council members were a part of the Greek Week Committee and in charge of organization.

"It all comes down to planning," Stocki said. "This year they just threw some stuff together — horrible planning."

An overall winner of the 2005 Greek Week competitions, Stocki

added Sigma Pi was proud of its accomplishment last year.

"Right now the luster of winning has definitely decreased since it's basically just Greek day now," he said.

GVSU's sororities and fraternities gather every year to unite their members and promote organizations through Greek Week, Stocki said.

"It's important because it creates awareness for Greeks and non-Greeks," he added. "This is our chance to come together and compete as Greek organizations in a Greek community."

GVSU senior, President of the Interfraternity Council and Delta Sigma Phi member Brandon Shelson said more people needed to be involved in planning this year's events.

"It was partly due to a lack of funding, but the biggest part was a lack of planning," he added. "Five people is not enough to plan something that big."

Shelson said Greek Week is an opportunity for all Greek organizations to join together and show GVSU their unity.

"This helps us get more noticed throughout campus and show that

we all do get along," he said.

GVSU junior and Alpha Omicron Pi President Elizabeth Doyle said Greek members were not able to show the campus their community involvement this year because of the event reduction.

"I'm disappointed because this is something we all look forward to," Doyle said. "This is when we get to show the community what we're all about."

She added Greek Week was condensed because of a lack of communication, which will be addressed next year.

"This week is about showing

the campus how unified we are as a Greek system," Doyle said. "We do come together for issues that are bigger than ourselves and our individual chapters."

In order to make the event successful in the future, GVSU sophomore, Panhellenic Council Vice President of Academic Affairs and Alpha Omicron Pi member Rachael Williams said Greek Games 2006 is a good thing.

"I hope the lack of emphasis this year will motivate us to make it that much better next year," Williams said. "We need every single Greek to be unified and come together."

## Tunnel exposes oppression



GVL / Jessica Wood

Adopting a role: GVSU students act as sweat shop workers in the Tunnel of Oppression on Wednesday in the Kirkhof Center.

Interactive Tunnel of Oppression raises awareness through skits

By MATT MARN  
GVL Staff Writer

Despite tormenting many lives, oppression sometimes goes unmentioned.

Through Wednesday's Tunnel of Oppression, several multicultural assistants of Housing and Residence Life attempted to end the silence.

In the tunnel, students witnessed skits and other examples associated with oppression. The event addressed rape, sex trafficking, immigrant intolerance, racial stereotypes, appearance issues, intersex individuals, sweatshops and domestic violence.

Grand Valley State University junior and Neimeyer Living Center Multicultural Assistant Endrit Yzeiraj participated in the skit addressing American immigrant oppression.

"People are trying to cross the border just to get food to eat, and this is their welcome ... they were being shot at," Yzeiraj said. "Equal opportunity has been the foundation of American success, and negating it would be negating the history on which this country was built."

After being led through the different rooms in the tunnel, students were sent to debriefing rooms to discuss their reactions to the skits.

Eric Klingensmith, a counselor at the Counseling and Career Development Center, said the multicultural assistants tried to raise awareness through realistic scenarios and situations. He added the

event brought situations to life better than numbers and facts.

"I think it is really important to debrief the students, so they don't take these emotions with them," Klingensmith said. "It lets them leave their thoughts and feelings here in the room."

Events such as the Tunnel of Oppression take learning outside of the classroom, he added.

"If you're not personally involved in these situations, you can experience them personally (through this even)," Klingensmith said. "You can't get that in a lecture."

GVSU junior and Event Coordinator Pat Patterson said GVSU's multicultural assistants worked all year to put the event together.

"The main hope I have is for people to appreciate who they are, no matter their background," he said. "People

you would not normally expect are oppressed, and we hope people realize that."

GVSU freshman D'Angela Pitts said the event showed her that she and her fellow students unknowingly participate in oppression.

"Oppression is all around us in everything we do," Pitts said. "Walking to the bus stop, going to the dorms, eating in Kleiner — sometimes you take part in it, and you don't even realize it."

GVSU freshman Ashley Stickney said while the information presented was very interesting, some was unbelievable.

"The tunnel was very good at increasing my awareness of how big these problems are even in America," Stickney said. "I would say it is an experience everyone should have."

Encouraging white males to attend similar events, GVSU junior and North A Resident Assistant Alecia Dillon said everyone on GVSU's campus needed to go.

"It really hit home ... these oppressions of every sort happen every day," Dillon said. "It happens in our communities, in our homes, and no one does anything about it. It just gets pushed under the rug."

Dillon said because the Tunnel of Oppression raised awareness, she hopes it will start a chain reaction of changes against oppressions.

"You see things in a new light, and you would never know," she said. "It is first-hand, in your face; it is real. It is time to get the word out, time to make a change in Grand Valley's community. People need to start standing up for each other."

## Students collect donations for local library

Students work to restock the shelves of the Burton Middle School library

By JENNIFER HOEWE  
GVL Laker Life Editor

Hundreds of chocolate chip cookies and 1,652 pages later, a group of Grand Valley State University students continue to raise money for the Burton Middle School library.

These individuals hosted a reading marathon and bake sale to accumulate funds.

Sponsored by the GVSU College of Education and the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation, both fund raisers worked to reach the \$25,000 goal needed to restock the shelves of the BMS library.

"Burton is entering a rebuilding phase and will be relocating its library and expanding it," said Liberal Studies Program Chair and assistant education professor Nancy Patterson. "A good library

is essential for meaningful instruction, increased literacy and an increased sense of belonging to a larger world."

Beginning at noon Thursday, GVSU students, staff and community members gathered to read "The Chronicles of Narnia." Alternating every 15 minutes and lasting for 24 hours, Patterson said 80 readers volunteered their time to entertain people who passed by and listened to the story.

Expecting to raise between \$4,000 and \$5,000, she added that until the library is restocked, students who are capable of making a difference in the world are being deprived of an adequate education.

"I would hate for our culture to lose a brilliant mind, a thoughtful writer, a teacher, a physician, a cellist because a child's school library did not have enough books to help that child imagine a different future," she said.

GVSU junior and fundraiser participant Katie Noftz said the BMS library currently has only

7,500 books, many of which are outdated.

"That is the minimum suggested collection for a library," she added. "A school that size should have more than twice that."

Noftz and four other GVSU students teamed up on Tuesday to raise money for the BMS library through a bake sale. The group sold baked goods made and donated by four GVSU professors in honor of the upcoming World Book Day on April 23.

Among the \$486 collected through the sale, Marge's Bakery and Family Fare also contributed to the event with all proceeds donated directly to BMS, said associate professor of Spanish Natalia Gomez.

"The bake sale was only the beginning," Gomez said. "Throughout the rest of this month until April 14, there will be boxes in various departmental offices where everybody may

SEE DONATIONS, A7



GVL / Ashley Comstock

Lending her voice: Caryn King takes a 15-minute turn reading from "The Chronicles of Narnia" during a 24-hour reading marathon of C.S. Lewis' seven-book series (including "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe"), which began on Thursday at noon on the Pew Campus.

"Our history has been created through outstanding women who provided leadership on many fronts. ... We must be diligent in our efforts to confront those issues that still exist."

MARGARET SELLERS  
WALKER  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sharing the moment: Elizabeth Eubanks receives a hug after accepting her Impact Award at the Celebration of Women Awards Ceremony, which was held in the Kirkhof Center's Grand River Room on Wednesday afternoon. The awards were given out to female students and faculty who have made an impact in 2006.

GVL / Kyle A. Hudecz

## Awards ceremony honors GV women

Female students, staff are recognized for their accomplishments at GVSU

By JENNIFER HOEWE  
GVL Laker Life Editor

Bringing together community leaders and dedicated students, the Celebration of Women Awards Ceremony spotlighted the accomplishments of some women at Grand Valley State University.

Hosted by the Women's Commission, Women and Gender Studies, Positive Black Women and the Women's Center, Wednesday's luncheon recognized 14 attendants for their work at GVSU.

"Through this ceremony, we are given a sense of personal responsibility to continue those works," said Women's

Center Core Member Angela Baldi.

GVSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Gayle Davis introduced keynote speaker Margaret Sellers Walker as the epitome of women's success.

In her speech, Walker gave a brief history of women's rights, emphasizing the changes made since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"Our history has been created through outstanding women who provided leadership on many fronts," she said. "We must be diligent in our efforts to confront those issues that still exist."

Following Walker's presentation, several of the awarded women received individual recognition. Presented by last year's recipient — assistant professor of nursing Gayla Jewell — associate professor of communications Kathleen Underwood received a silver bowl in

recognition of winning the Maxine Swanson Award.

"The silver bowl is a concrete symbol of what the Maxine Swanson Award reflects," Jewell said. "It is shiny and reflective, strong and firm, holds its shape, stands up and is round and curvy just as all women should be."

Associate professor of communications Karen Libman then received the 2006 Barbara Jordan Award for her involvement in the community and her influence in GVSU's theatre department.

"It's what you do that's really important," Libman said. "Go out there and not only do things for yourself but for others as well ... go out and make a difference."

Encouraging attendants to challenge themselves, she added that having more questions than answers can often create an

uncomfortable, yet desirable situation.

"This university is fertile ground for questioning, which leads to change for the better," Libman said.

Seven GVSU students were given Positive Black Women Scholarship Awards to help pay for the remainder of their undergraduate education.

"These awards show the amount of work everyone on campus is doing," said GVSU senior and scholarship recipient Erica Powell. "It keeps others from getting discouraged and continues spreading knowledge."

GVSU junior Judy Trice received the scholarship because of her involvement with the African American Women Support Group.

"It's so nice to be recognized," she said. "It pulls you back and makes you feel more a part of the community."

The Women's Center Student Awards were given to three female students who fulfilled the requirement of making a difference in the community through campus involvement and academic excellence.

"I am very grateful to have been nominated and even considered with these other two women," said GVSU senior and award recipient Annie Funke. "This sets a standard for future generations to strive to work harder."

Concluding the ceremony, the Women's Commission presented its annual Impact Award to Information Technology Computer Supervisor Liz Eubanks and assistant professor of business law Star Swift. This award is given to individuals who made outstanding contributions at GVSU and in the surrounding community.

## GVSU to celebrate Cesar Chavez's accomplishments

By ELBISA HODZIC  
GVL Staff Writer

Several Grand Valley State University students, staff and faculty are preparing to celebrate the successful advances made by Mexican-American labor activist and United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez.

The week's events will be held from today until Friday. The celebration week will feature the PBS documentary film "The Fight of the Fields," a panel discussion on immigration issues, a candlelight vigil and ofrenda, a Cesar Chavez reception and a Latino Student Union March.

"Cesar E. Chavez is an icon to Chicanos across America and even

in Mexico," said Paulla Sandoval, Office of Multicultural Affairs special projects coordinator.

GVSU honors his life and legacy annually to highlight the awareness of the social injustice that farm workers faced, Sandoval said. She added that GVSU students could benefit by being exposed to issues they may not realize exist.

"Our goal is that students gain a better understanding of the issues and learn what they can do as a student to help better the cause," Sandoval said.

The week's events are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Women's Center, Modern Languages and Literature, Latin American Studies, Career Services and the Latino Student

Union.

The documentary film "The Fight of the Fields" will be shown today at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

"The film will feature a tour through his (Cesar Chavez's) life as a migrant worker, how he started to serve his community and his successes trying to unionize the farm workers," said Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs Sandra Fernandez-Terdani.

Highlighting a social history of Cesar Chavez, the documentary will show the stories of people who were involved in his life.

"The film will also focus on the tremendous advances made by Cesar Chavez and all the men and women of the United Farm

Workers Union," Fernandez-Terdani said.

She added that students can find out why Cesar Chavez was a hero for the Hispanics and how he made a difference in improving the conditions for the farm workers.

A panel discussion with GVSU Latin-American Studies professor Russell Rhoads on immigration issues will take place on Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. The discussion will focus on immigration issues and their impact on the Midwest communities, Fernandez-Terdani said.

The candlelight vigil and ofrenda will take place on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

"Ofrenda is a Mexican tradition

to commemorate their beloved ones," Fernandez-Terdani said.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in the candle vigil around the clock tower as a spiritual celebration of Cesar Chavez's legacy, she added.

"I would like to see a multicultural group of students, faculty and staff learning about another culture, being curious how we commemorate our dead ones and why we consider Cesar Chavez an American hero," Fernandez-Terdani said.

The Cesar Chavez reception at the Alumni House on Thursday at noon will feature two keynote speakers, Joaquin and Julian Castro. These brothers have helped the community through their work as representatives and attorneys,

Fernandez-Terdani said.

"They represent the commitment to serve the community — an aspect that Cesar Chavez highlighted though his life," she added.

Sandoval said the speakers will talk about the HR 4437 Bill, Affirmative Action and the Dream Act, which are governmental bills that affect the Latino population.

The final festivity, the Latino Student Union March, will be held on Friday at 11:45 a.m. The march will start at the Zumberge Library and end with a reception in the Kirkhof Center.

"This march signifies the celebration of Cesar Chavez's 350-mile march from Delano to Sacramento, Calif.," Sandoval said.

### RATIO

continued from page A3

have more men in those fields, but a larger blend of cultures as well.

Carson said a perfect balance is difficult to achieve no matter what type of diversity is taken into consideration. While the ratio of females to males may have a negative affect on students, it could be positive too, she said.

"I think the main point that I really want to make is that no matter who we are, a man or a woman, I hope we've reached

the point where we can address our students' needs in a full fashion and that we don't draw gender lines," Carson said. "I would hope we've gone beyond that."

Andy Beachnau, director of Housing and Residence Life, said the ratio worked well during the past few years for on-campus housing, and workers in the department try to mirror the class ratio. He added more women attend college directly after high school than men, and said this trend is true for returning students as well.

said.

"There is isolation among the students racially," Stewart added. "But it is to be expected when these students come from the most segregated schools in the country."

Even if it is frustrating for some people, some students are pushing the boundaries to act against racism, she said. These students and C.L.O.U.D.N.I.N.E. are amazing, she added.

Stewart and other members of the GVSU community will perform "Act on Racism" this Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Wealthy Street Theater.

### DONATIONS

continued from page A6

contribute, donating money."

She added that GVSU students need to be aware of the needs in the local community.

"This particular school's library and others in GR are in desperate need to obtain books," Gomez said. "It is our duty to help our community and also to promote reading in our schools."

While having a highly literate society, Patterson said many members of that same society are excluded because they lack necessary literary skills.

"By far the biggest factor in literacy acquisition is access to books," Patterson said. "Yet, schools that serve lower socio-economic populations traditionally have smaller and older library collections than schools in more affluent areas."

Making the world a better place is the responsibility of GVSU students, staff and faculty, Patterson added.

"Everything we do to help build a stronger community beyond the boundaries of GVSU only strengthens the GVSU community," she said.

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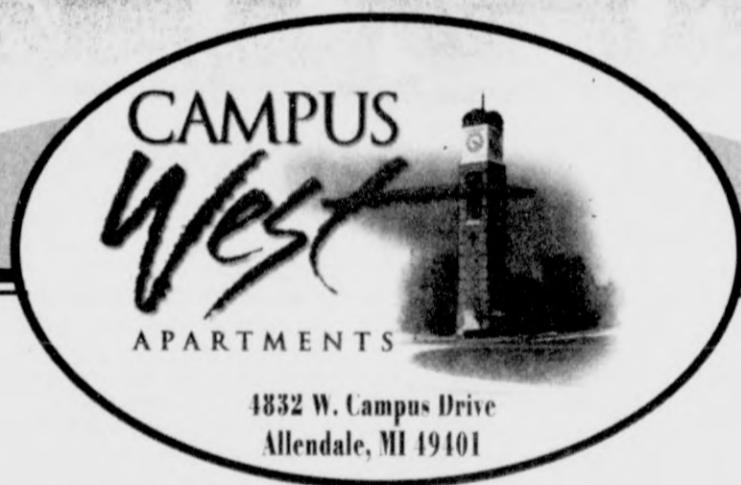
CELEBRATING SOME OF THE

# Outstanding Women

AT GVSU

Photos by Kyle A. Hudecz

Grand Valley State University staff and students were honored at the Celebration of Women Awards Ceremony on Wednesday. Fourteen women received awards and scholarships acknowledging their work at GVSU and in the surrounding communities. Each woman was individually recognized in front of an audience of her peers.



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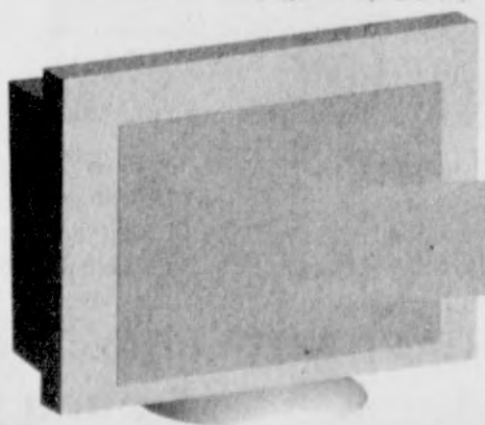
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## GVSU drops two on road

The women's softball team loses its first games in the Quincy tournament

By **MATT PICKEL**  
GVL Staff Writer

The Grand Valley State University women's softball team lost the first two games of the Quincy tournament this past weekend.

The Lakers suffered their first loss of the day to Wartburg College by a score of 4-1. Sophomore Kristin Moleski, who lead the team in batting average and took second in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, went 3-4 with the only GVSU run batted in.

"We didn't hit the ball like we hoped," said head coach Doug Woods. "We've been struggling with getting hits back to back, that's the problem. We'll get one here, one there, but we can't string anything together. If we can get

our hitting just a little bit better, we'll be all right."

Moleski also leads the team in hits with 26 and total bases with 36. GVSU's struggles continued as the team failed to score any runs in the second game against Nebraska-Omaha. Home runs were the theme of the Nebraska-Omaha team as it belted out three, two by third baseman Leslie Svoboda, to beat the Lakers 6-0.

"Defensively, there are a few things we have to do," Woods said. "I think basically we don't do much in the season, but we will do it now."

The Lakers have been up and down in the win column, losing a double-header last weekend to Lake Superior State University, then taking two games from Olivet College last week. Woods said he believes freshman shortstop Nichole Woityra has settled in and will help the team at second base.

"I think Nichole is getting a little more comfortable in the field and doing better defensively for us," Woods said. "You have to be strong

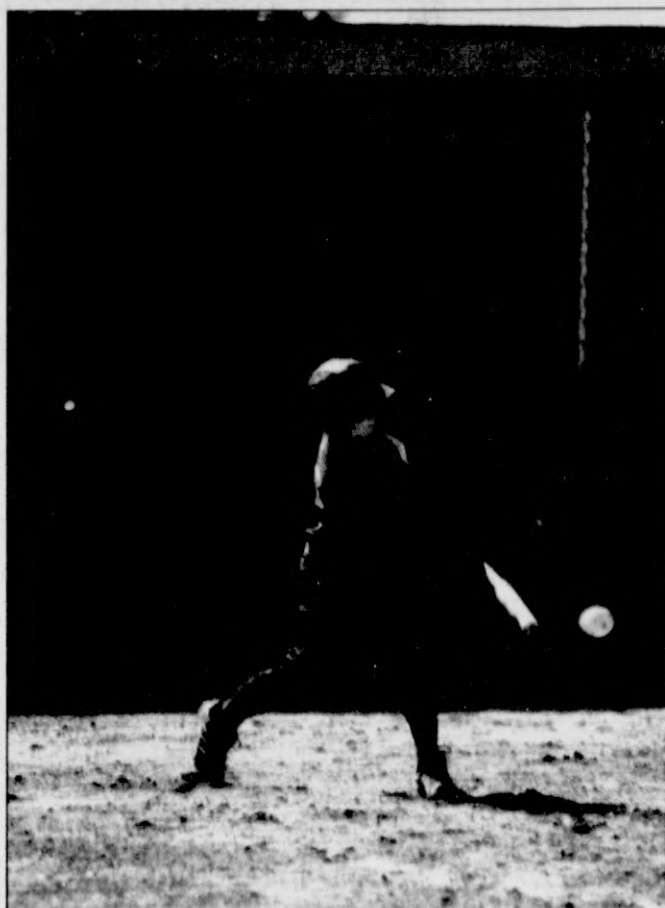
up the middle, so I think in the long run that's going to help us."

When the Lakers come back home, Woods said he knows what he wants to do with the team during practices.

"We'll go live, our hitters hitting live off our pitching because we don't play again until the following weekend," he said. "Our pitchers will throw live to them at practice ... you can hit off the machine from dawn to dusk but it throws it right in the same spot, so they need to see pitches in different locations."

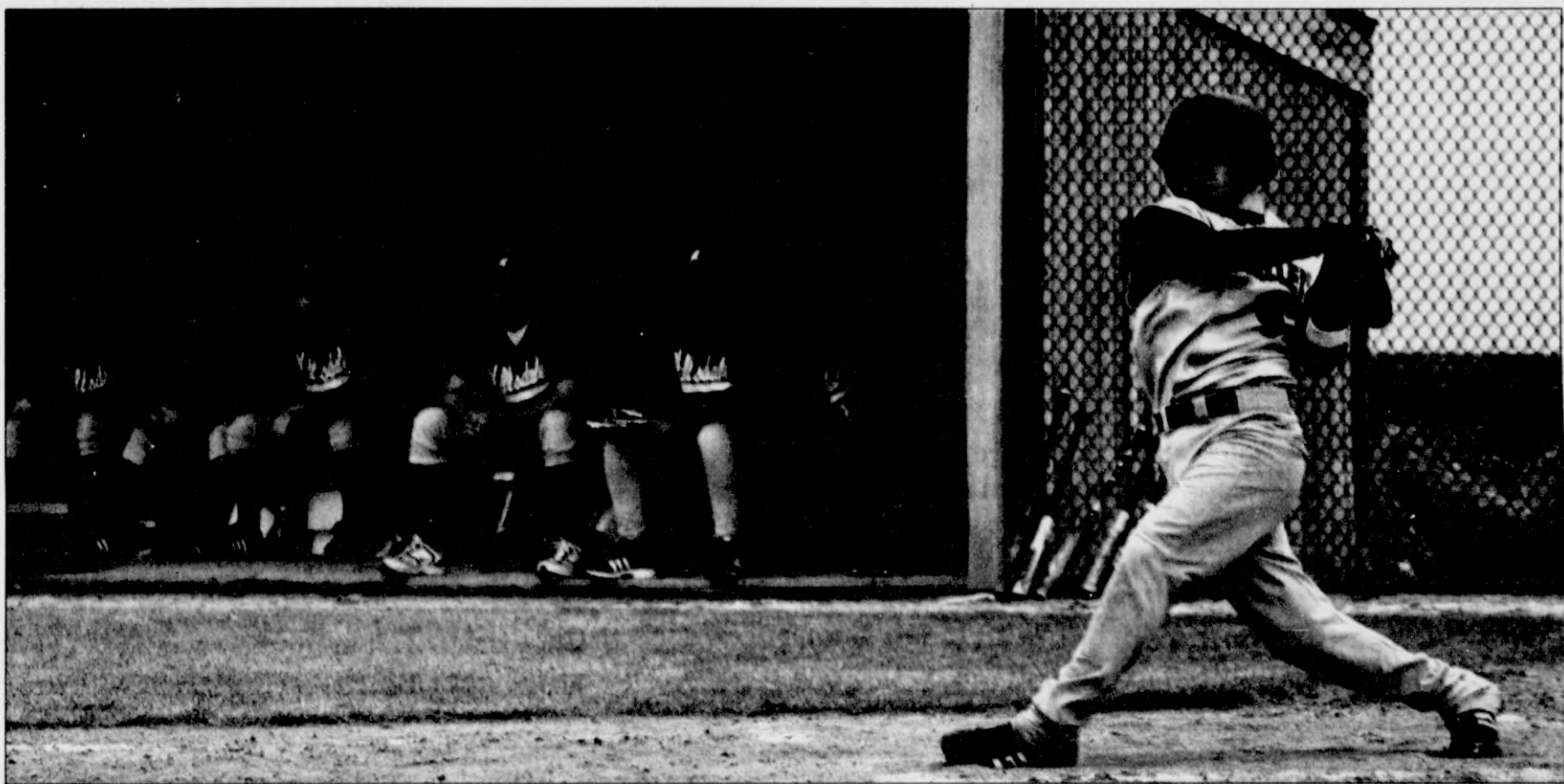
In their last four games, the Lakers have only put up three runs while giving up 21. They are currently 11-9, ranked third in the GLIAC standings. The team is third in the GLIAC in batting average (.272) and fourth in team pitching with an ERA of 2.61.

GVSU now has a 5-5 record on the road. They will have less than a week off before returning to action against Northwood University on the road on Friday.



Taking a swing: Freshman Nichole Woityra makes contact with the ball during the home game on March 18 against Lake Superior State University.

## Baseball team opens GLIAC



Batter up: Senior infielder Ryan Lyster bats during last year's GLIAC Twinbill against Hillsdale University.

Pitching, defense helps GVSU win conference double-header

By **DAVID LUTHER**  
GVL Staff Writer

Grand Valley State University opened the 2006 Great Lakes Conference season last weekend with a pair of double-headers against the University of Findlay. The No. 11 Lakers improved to 15-3 after Saturday's action against the Oilers.

Senior pitcher Jeremy Dow allowed just four hits in game one,

with 11 strikeouts and no earned runs or walked batters. GVSU jumped out to a quick lead in game one, going up 3-0 in the first inning. Two Lakers scored off of a misplayed hit to center by senior right fielder Nick Sandy. Senior designated hitter Chad Rohacs followed the scoring drive with an RBI single, driving in Sandy. Dow was able to pitch himself out of a jam in the bottom of the first after Findlay cut the Lakers' lead to two runs after an error and an RBI double allowed the Oilers one run.

That was all the scoring the Lakers would allow in game one, however. GVSU went on to win

game one, 5-1. Head coach Steve Lyon said his team forced the issue with Findlay.

"The official scorer was a little hard on them," Lyon said. "A couple of the errors could have been called a hit or an error."

He added the Lakers hit the ball well, and it was backed up by good pitching.

In game two on Saturday, the Lakers' runs came in bunches. The game began as a battle between the pitchers, and GVSU was able to break through with three runs in the fourth inning when the Lakers capitalized on two errors by the Oilers. The first error allowed one

GVSU run to score. Junior third baseman Lee VanStrain drove in two more runs with a single to left field.

Findlay knotted the score at three in the bottom of the fourth by taking advantage of a GVSU error. The Lakers would not be denied, however, with another three-run inning in the fifth. After back-to-back ground outs, the Lakers began a rally. GVSU hit two singles, followed by an intentional walk of power-hitter Nick Smith.

With the bases loaded, the Oilers tried to pitch themselves out of the jam they created. However, two more errors by Findlay

allowed three GVSU runners to score. Senior pitcher Grant Payton kept the Oilers off the scoreboard for the rest of the game with five strikeouts during the complete seven innings.

GVSU returned to action on Sunday against the same Oilers squad, but results were not available as of press time.

"It's always tough to come out against the same team after you beat them twice the previous day," Lyon said. "It's hard to play tough four games in a row, but these are the types of series that will determine the (GLIAC) championship down the line."

## National title in sight for dodgeball club

By **JENNIFER HOEWEL**  
GVL Laker Life Editor

Ranked first in the nation and preparing for nationals with an undefeated record, the Grand Valley State University Dodgeball Club may take home its first national title.

"Really, the club started as somewhat of a joke, but we never thought it would get this successful," said GVSU junior and Dodgeball Club President David Soukup.

Beginning last year, the club started out with only eight members and has now grown to more than 95, Soukup said. Though only 20 are allowed on a roster, GVSU supports a varsity and junior varsity club dodgeball team to accommodate its increasing numbers.

"We started out with a group of people that had never played dodgeball competitively ... and became one of the best teams in the country in little under a year," he said.

Having won every game this season, the club was invited to

become a member of the Midwest Dodgeball Club. While competing in this league, the Lakers took home the equivalent to a state championship title — the Michigan Dodgeball Cup.

"The Michigan Dodgeball Cup was a huge accomplishment for us, especially in the first year," Soukup said. "The fact that we have obtained the respect of other colleges and are ranked number one in the nation has been a real accomplishment of our hard work."

The club began through the work of Soukup and Dodgeball Co-Vice Presidents Josh Thurman and Jon Horstman.

"We have become one of the biggest sports clubs on campus right now," Horstman said. "People are interested, and this could grow into a strong part of Grand Valley sports."

He added that three club organizers tested new practice and game techniques to refine the team's skills.

"Grand Valley relies heavily on a cross-court shot, which is incredibly deadly, especially when it hits the head," Soukup added.

"Headshots are legal, and due to the fact that we have players who have incredibly strong arms, we use that to our advantage."

Reviewing video tapes of games and recorded practices, Soukup said his team has established a more aggressive style of play. He said the Lakers decided to convert their approach after watching a more conservative play of their competition.

"By noticing this tendency, we converted our style into an all-out assault that has gotten teams completely out of their element and attributed to our success," he said.

Horstman said Soukup invented practice drills to fix problems that arise in the team's play.

"No real coaching, strategy or plays exist in the world of dodgeball right now," Soukup said. "This has made it particularly tough, because we have had to learn everything through trial and error."

Using their skills and altered game plan, Soukup said the dodgeball national championship is favored to go home with GVSU this year. Held at Michigan State University on April 8 and 9, the



Undefeated: Dodgeball team celebrates after winning the Michigan Dodgeball Cup on Feb. 26 at Michigan State University.

tournament will draw teams from across the country.

"Currently we are favored, but we've learned not to be overconfident," he added. "Every opponent we have played has come into a game not truly respecting what we are capable (of) and has found out the hard way."

GVSU freshman Joe Woods said he predicts a GVSU victory at the national tournament championship.

"I'm definitely expecting a win," Woods added. "I didn't think

we'd get this far, but we practice hard and deserve a win."

The competitive nature of the collegiate-level game and its childhood novelty aspect attract interested spectators, Soukup said. As the team drew a crowd of more than 500 to the team's only home game, he added that dodgeball is a game every person can play and enjoy.

"There is just something about watching someone get smacked in the face with a ball that never gets old," he said.

**1**  
The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team finished its season off as the undisputed No. 1 team in the nation as it captured the National Title on Saturday against American International College.

**21**  
With 21 seconds to go in the national championship game, sophomore guard Crystal Zick knocked down a three-pointer to put the Lakers ahead by six points, sealing the victory for the Lakers.

**14**  
Sophomore forward Erin Cyplik grabbed down 14 rebounds in the title game for the Lakers. It was a career high for her.

**22**  
The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team finished the season off on a 22-game winning tear. The last loss recorded against the Lakers came on Jan. 5 against Michigan Technological University.

**1,698**  
It took 1,698 miles to travel to and from Hot Springs, Ark. for the Division II Women's Basketball Elite Eight Tournament.

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### 2006 BASEBALL STANDINGS

TEAM | GLIAC | OVERALL

GRAND VALLEY	2-0	15-3
HILLSDALE	2-0	8-6
WAYNE STATE	1-0	2-13
ASHLAND	1-1	19-4
MERCYHURST	1-1	12-7
WILSON VALLEY	0-2	10-4

### 2006 SOFTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM | GLIAC | OVERALL

GANNON	0-0	13-5
ASHLAND	0-0	13-8
GRAND VALLEY	0-0	11-7

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NEWS

## March Madness lives

By JAYSON BUSSA  
GVL Sports Editor

March Madness always lives up to its billing. This year was no different.



Bussa

While Cinderella teams have been limited to only a handful, there were still memorable moments in the tournament that have trumped previous feats. With the national championship teams still waiting in the wings, the tournament has already given college basketball fans a big bang for their buck, while wrecking a few brackets along the way.

### 1. No. 14 Northwestern State stuns No. 3 Iowa at the buzzer

There is always that one buzzer-beater in the tournament that they replay again and again. It essentially becomes the play of the tournament. In the first round, Northwestern State University made the play of the tournament as it nailed a three-point shot from the corner of the floor with time expiring, allowing the team to knock off No. 3 Iowa in what was the biggest upset of the

tournament. While Northwestern St. later received a pounding from No. 2 Texas, the team made its mark on the tournament.

### 2. George Mason runs deep in the tournament

As locals, we all gave Michigan State University the benefit of the doubt that it would at least get out of the first round, but little did we know that George Mason would become the upset special of the tournament. Blowing by MSU, the University of North Carolina, Wichita State University and the University of Connecticut, George Mason makes fans wonder if they are a Cinderella team, or the real deal.

### 3. Boston College vs. Pacific

The double-overtime thriller gave the Northwestern State University game a run for its money. With Boston College erasing a six-point deficit with very little time to go, the game had fans clenching brackets in their hand in hopes that Boston College would not be the first bracket buster of the event.

### 4. Syracuse run in the Big East tournament

Ok, maybe this was not officially a part of the national tournament, but it was one of the greatest displays of determination that I have seen in college basketball in quite some

time. Senior Gerry McNamara did not want to end his season as he carried his Orangemen through the Big East conference tournament, with a thrilling buzzer-beater along the way, to put them in the national tournament. However, 'Cuse used up all their tricks in the Big East tournament as they lost in the first round of the national tournament to a lower seed Texas A & M.

### 5. Duke and Gonzaga eliminated

It was the match-up everyone wanted to see, pitting the two leading scorers of the National Collegiate Athletic Association against each other. Duke's J.J. Redick and Gonzaga's Adam Morrison did not get the chance to compete against each other as they both fell in the Sweet Sixteen portion of the tournament, leaving fans gypped out of an opportunity to see two ball-hogs in rare form.

Those are the highlights. The lowlights of the tournament will include the fact that I didn't predict a single Elite Eight finisher in my bracket. This year was so bad, that when people ask me who I had in my Final Four, I reply "Oh, I didn't fill one out." That is just what makes this tournament beautiful.

## GVL digest SPORTS

### Reams named All-American

On Tuesday night in Hot Springs, Ark., 10 Division II women's basketball players were named as All-Americans at an awards banquet.

Niki Reams, senior forward for the Lakers, was named to the All-American first team for her accomplishments on the court this year. This is the second consecutive year that Reams has taken home the honor. Reams led the Lakers in scoring, rebounding, steals and shooting percentage on the year.

She averaged 17.2 points per game along with seven rebounds and 2.1 steals. Reams also dropped a season-high 34 points in the Regional Final game against Drury University (Springfield, Mo.) that brought the Lakers to the Elite Eight tournament.

Reams is one of three seniors along with center Jaida Bourke and forward Dawn Maynard who will depart from the team.

### Baseball takes on Division I opponent

On Wednesday, the men's baseball team of GVSU will travel to East Lansing, Mich. to take on Division I Michigan State University.

The Lakers will be coming fresh off of a four-game road series against the University of Findlay that was held this weekend.

The game against the Spartans is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. pending the weather. The Spartans are regulars on GVSU's schedule.

### Welcome home

Family and friends of the GVSU women's basketball team received the players on Sunday at the GVSU Fieldhouse Arena to show their support of the latest GVSU National Champions.

The Lakers flew out of Arkansas on Sunday with a new piece of hardware for the trophy cases.

Their national championship win over American International College on Saturday afternoon was the first women's basketball title in school history.

## Men's golf team travels to Kentucky



GVL Archive / Kate Brown

Lining up a shot: Golfer Steve Larson uses his putting form at a tournament last season. The men's golf team is Kentucky-bound this week as it travels to Louisville for the Bellarmine University Invitational. Two weekends ago, the Lakers were in Dry Ridge, Ky. where they finished third at the Northern Kentucky Invitational. The Lakers will continue on in action in Kentucky as they take part in the Great Lakes Region Invitational No. 2 on April 1 and 2.



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## GVL digest

### WORLD

**AP Exclusive: In tense Baghdad, U.S. Embassy shifts to hiring Jordanians, not Iraqis**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The U.S. Embassy, a diplomatic fortress in central Baghdad's isolated "Green Zone," has begun hiring its local staff from neighboring Jordan, rather than recruiting Iraqis.

An internal embassy notice obtained by The Associated Press says the "Jordan Hiring Program" was devised because Iraqis face "unique security and safety risks" in working for the embassy, a reference to the threat of violence facing Iraqis associated with the U.S. occupation.

Embassy officials would not answer questions about the unusual program, including whether they were having difficulty hiring Iraqis or whether they had concerns Iraqis might pose security risks as possible sympathizers with the anti-U.S. insurgency.

Housed in the huge, semicircular Republican Palace of the ousted Baathist Party regime, the embassy is the largest U.S. mission in the world, with a total staff of more than 5,700, including 2,300 in privately contracted security jobs, according to a U.S. Senate report.

### Gunman Kills Six, Self in Seattle Home

SEATTLE (AP) — A gunman opened fire early Saturday in a home, killing six young partygoers and critically injuring at least one other before committing suicide when confronted by police outside.

The heavily armed shooter, dressed in black, fired repeatedly as he made his way into the house, killing four men and two women, police said. He then went upstairs and tried to get into a locked bathroom where a young couple were hiding. Unable to enter, he fired through the door before leaving the pair unharmed.

### Hong Kong firm defends plans to help screen U.S.-bound ships for terror threats

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong company that has won a federal contract to screen U.S.-bound cargo in the Bahamas is being defended by the U.S. government, saying it was not a liability for American officials to look for ports of origin.

Some U.S. officials and security experts have expressed concern about the contract for Maritime Security, Inc., because the company's agents will be working with the screening equipment, designed to detect unexploded radioactive materials.

The Hong Kong company is in the final stages of being awarded a no-bid, \$6 billion contract from the United States for screening at the Proport Container Terminal in the Bahamas, just 65 miles from the American shoreline.

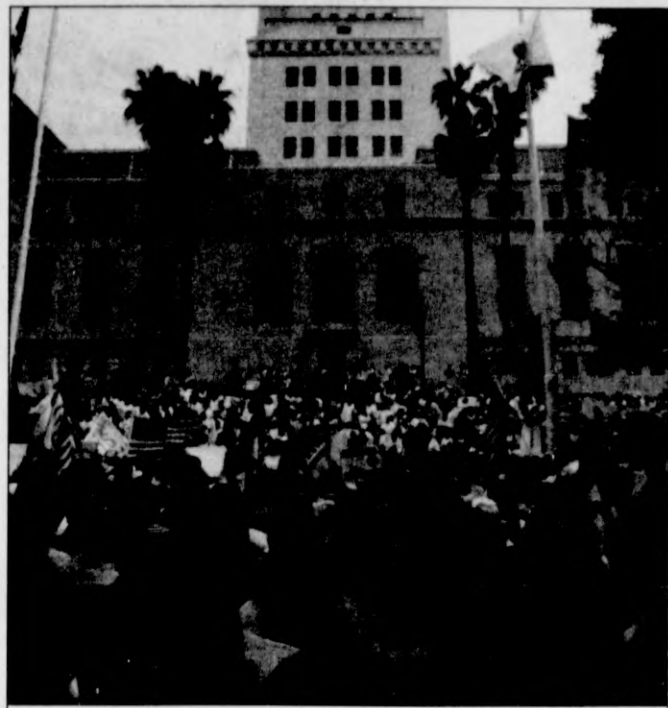
### Bush's wartime powers again under review at Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP) — His wartime powers undercut once before by the Supreme Court, President Bush could take a second hit in a case in which Osama bin Laden's former driver is seeking to head off a trial before military officers.

Salim Ahmed Hamdan, after nearly four years at the Navy prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, goes on trial for war crimes before a special military commission. Analysts say if the high court rejects Bush's plan to hold such trials for the first time since the aftermath of World War II, it could rein in the president's expanded powers in pursuing and punishing suspected terrorists.

In addition to special military trials for Hamdan and others, the Bush administration has claimed it has the authority to eavesdrop on telephone conversations without court oversight, aggressively interrogate foreigners and imprison people without giving them traditional legal rights.

## Advocates protest new bill on immigration



Causing controversy: A crowd of workers march in downtown Los Angeles to city hall on Saturday in Los Angeles. The U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 4437 bill that would make it a felony to be in the U.S. illegally, impose new penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants and erect fences along one-third of the U.S.-Mexican border.

By PETER PRENGAMAN  
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Immigration rights advocates more than 500,000 strong marched in downtown Los Angeles, demanding that Congress abandon attempts to make helping illegal immigrants a crime and to build more walls along the border.

The massive demonstration, one of a half dozen around the nation in recent days, came as President Bush prodded Republican congressional leaders to give some illegal immigrants a chance to work legally in the U.S. under certain conditions.

Saturday's march in Los Angeles was the largest in a series of demonstrations across the country. Police Cmdr. Louis Gray Jr. said aerial helicopters estimated the crowd.

Many marchers wore white shirts to symbolize peace and waved U.S. flags. Some carried the flags of Mexico and other countries, and wore them as capes.

Elger Aloy, 26, of Riverside, a

premed student, pushed a stroller with his 8-month-old son at Saturday's Los Angeles march and called the legislation "inhumane."

"Everybody deserves the right to a better life," he said.

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation that would make it a felony to be in the United States illegally, impose new penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants and erect fences along one-third of the U.S.-Mexican border. The Senate is to begin debating the proposals on Tuesday.

President Bush on Saturday called for legislation that does not force America to choose between being a welcoming society and a lawful one.

"America is a nation of immigrants, and we're also a nation of laws," Bush said in his weekly radio address about the emotional immigration issue that has driven a wedge into his party.

Bush sides with business leaders who want legislation to let some of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants stay

in the country and work for a set period of time. Others, including Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, say national security concerns should drive immigration reform.

"They say we are criminals. We are not criminals," said Salvador Hernandez, 43, of Los Angeles, a resident alien who came to the United States illegally from El Salvador 14 years ago and worked as truck driver, painter and day laborer.

In Denver, police said over 50,000 people gathered downtown at Civic Center Park next to the Capitol to urge the state Senate to reject a resolution supporting a ballot issue that would deny many government services to illegal immigrants in Colorado.

Elsa Rodriguez, 30, a trained pilot who came to Colorado in 1999 from Mexico to look for work, said she just wants to be considered equal.

Associated Press writers Bob Jablon and Kim Nguyen contributed to this report.

## Charles Taylor faces trial

By MICHELLE FAUL  
Associated Press Writer

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria said Saturday it is ready to hand over Liberian warlord Charles Taylor to be the first former African head of state tried for crimes against humanity, making a reluctant move that will be a strong warning for other warmongers on the continent.

Taylor is accused of starting a civil war in his homeland that brutalized tens of thousands of young boys and girls drafted as rebel fighters. He also is blamed for a savage war in neighboring Sierra Leone where rebels — including child fighters — terrorized victims by chopping off arms, legs, ears and lips.

An international tribunal indictment says Taylor is criminally responsible for the destruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone and for the murder, rape, maiming and mutilation of more than a half million Sierra Leoneans. An additional 2.5 million people were forced from their homes.

Each of the 17 charges he faces in the indictment carries a sentence life in prison. Taylor is also accused of harboring al-Qaida suicide bombers who attacked U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

The former Liberian leader has been in exile in the southern Nigerian city of Calabar since being forced from power under a 2003 accord that ended a rebel assault on Liberia's capital. Nigeria had resisted extraditing him, arguing he was given refuge under the internationally brokered peace deal.

Many African leaders are leery of trying former presidents or dictators, apparently worrying they could be the next to be accused of human rights abuses or other crimes. Others fear a push to try toppled leaders would encourage those in power to more fiercely resist democratic change.

But in a statement, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said he had informed Liberia's president that "the government of Liberia is free to take former President Charles Taylor into its custody."

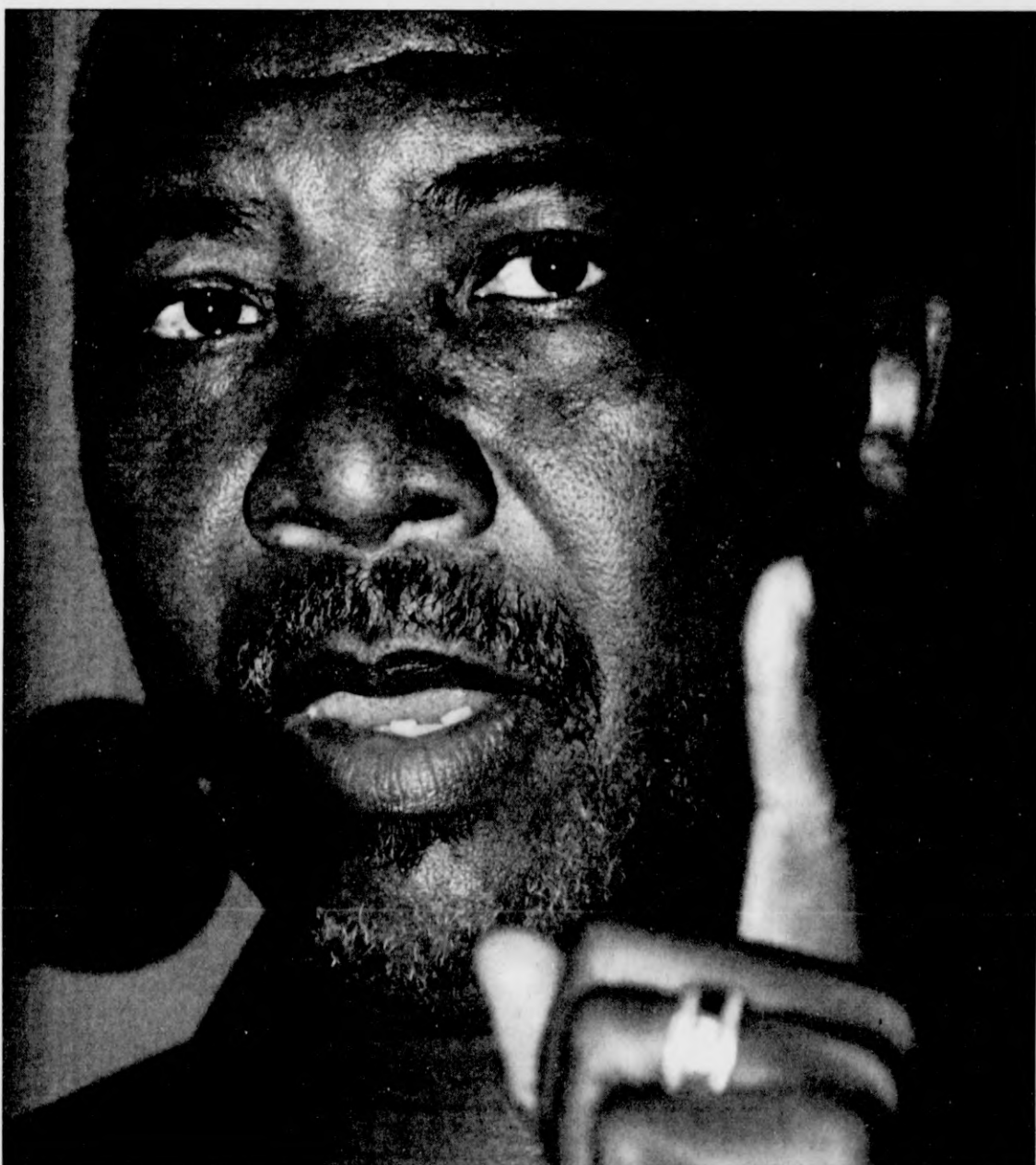
After her inauguration in January, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said a trial for Taylor was not a priority. But she made a formal request to Nigeria after an official visit to Washington, which is the source of aid needed to rebuild Liberia, Africa's first republic founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

There was speculation Taylor would be sent directly to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone rather than be taken to Liberia, where there are worries his presence could destabilize the country trying to recover from 14 years of war.

Liberia's government had no immediate comment, and neither Taylor nor his spokesman could be reached for comment. Taylor reportedly warned this week that Liberia would suffer if he was extradited. After meeting with the deposed leader in Nigeria, Indian evangelist Kilari Anand Paul quoted Taylor: "There is no question in my mind that there will be chaos."

David M. Crane, the American prosecutor who drew up Taylor's indictment, said his extradition would send a powerful message.

"Certainly African leaders, members of the good old



Speaking out: Liberian President Charles Taylor talks to an audience of church leaders at the Executive Mansion in the capital Monrovia, in this file photo from July 4, 2003. Nigeria said it will hand over the exiled warlord who was indicted by an international court for crimes against humanity and war crimes. He would be the first former African head of state to stand trial for war crimes.

boy network, are under notice that you cannot destroy your own citizens for your own personal gain and you don't go after women and children — don't rape women, don't turn children into monsters," Crane said. He said a trial for Taylor would "crack the wall against impunity."

Taylor allegedly started the Sierra Leone war to get his fighters access to its rich diamond fields. In Liberia, he enriched himself from diamonds, timber and rubber.

"This was unique in history," Crane said. "It was criminals for their own criminal purposes using traditional

methods of warfare for their own criminal gain which resulted in war crimes against humanity."

The case could set a precedent for those living in comfortable exile as well as sitting leaders, such as those in the Sudanese government that the United States accuses of genocide in the Darfur region.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Paye-Layle in Monrovia, Liberia, and Clarence Roy-Macaulay in Freetown, Sierra Leone, contributed to this report.

## Rioters protest new Bulgarian president

By YURAS KARMANAU  
Associated Press Writer

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Black-clad riot police clubbed demonstrators as government opponents marched Saturday in defiance of a show of force by authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko that has drawn U.S. and European Union sanctions.

A week into protests set off by the disputed election that handed Lukashenko a third term, opposition leader Alexander Milinkevich told a crowd of thousands that momentum is growing to bring democracy to Belarus.

"We are starting work against dictatorship, and this work will sooner or later bear its fruit," he said.

But Milinkevich also urged a month-long recess in protests, arguing hoping to calm tensions and gain time to build opposition forces, which have fallen far short of the huge outpourings that peacefully overturned governments in Ukraine and Georgia.

Milinkevich spoke at an impromptu rally in a park after hundreds of police blocked protesters from gathering on the central square that had been the focus of anti-Lukashenko demonstrations until riot squads swept in before dawn Friday and arrested dozens of people. Demonstrators held flowers, waved the red-and-white flag of the opposition and shouted "Milinkevich!" and "We are not afraid!"

Police didn't interfere with the 7,000 people in the park, raising hopes that security forces' long history of violence against dissenters was softening.

But authorities showed their tolerance had limits after part of the rally's participants marched off toward a jail holding some of those arrested during demonstrations against the March 19 presidential election that the protesters consider fraudulent.

Cheerily chanting "police be with the people" as they passed officers along the way, the crowd of about 3,000 suddenly grew somber when a three-deep phalanx of riot police with shields confronted them at a railroad underpass.

Banging truncheons on shields, the officers advanced on the marchers, causing some to scurry away. Police herded other protesters back along the street, beating some bloody and arresting about 20, as demonstrators shouted "Fascists!"

At least four percussion grenades were detonated, adding to the chaos. Interior Minister Vladimir Naumov later denied the explosions were set off by police, but did not say what caused them.

The United States criticized the use of force.

"We call on Belarusian authorities to refrain from further use of force and arrests against those exercising their legitimate rights to assembly and expression," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack in a statement. He also urged the release of those jailed.

The rally at the park was the biggest since the first protest on election night, when about 10,000 people turned out.

"The people have come out today, they have come out in the face of truncheons, in the face of arrests," he said. "The more the

authorities conduct repression, the closer they bring themselves to their end."

Still, he acknowledged opposition numbers are not enough to defeat Lukashenko's government.

Saturday's rally came on the anniversary of Belarus' first independence declaration in 1918, which Milinkevich hoped would spur a big turnout of discontented Belarusians.

"I am tired of being afraid, and the fear is leaving me," said Yelena Sokolovskaya, 44, an accountant who listened to his speech. She said the government's claims that the economy is thriving are "a lie — Milinkevich speaks the truth."

The confrontation at the march came a day after police stormed a tent camp in the central October Square where around-the-clock protests began after Lukashenko won a new five-year term by a landslide.

Responding to the crackdown on government opponents, the European Union and the United States said Friday they would impose sanctions on Lukashenko.

# McCain to Iraqi leaders: Americans are impatient

By VANESSA ARRINGTON  
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — As a gunbattle raged south of Baghdad, Sens. John McCain and Russel Feingold told Iraqi leaders Saturday that American patience was growing thin and they needed to urgently overcome their stalemate and form a national unity government.

It was the second high-level U.S. delegation in less than a week delivering the same stark message to Iraqi politicians as the Bush administration steps up pressure to overcome the political impasse that threatens to scuttle hopes to start an American troop pullout this summer.

"We need very badly to form this unity government as soon as possible," McCain, R-Ariz., said at a news conference after meetings with President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari. "We all know the polls show declining support among the American people."

The U.S. delegation also voiced alarm about increasing sectarian violence in Iraq showing itself in the daily count of drive-by shootings, bombings and dumped corpses, victims of execution-style killings in the shadowy Shiite-Sunni settling of scores. Seven people — most civilians killed in their homes by mortar fire — died and several others were wounded in a gunbattle between forces of the Shiite Mahdi Army militia and Sunni insurgents near Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of the capital.

At least 13 other people were killed in scattered violence Saturday, and two more bodies were found dumped in the capital, shot in the head with their hands and feet bound.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, who has patiently shepherded negotiations to form a new government, already was looking beyond that task to the

need to cap the sectarian, militia-inspired killing.

"More Iraqis are dying today from the militia violence than from the terrorists," Khalilzad told reporters during a visit to a sports complex refurbished with American aid. "This will be a challenge for the new government — what to do about the militias."

The country's leadership must "overcome the strife that threatens to rip apart Iraq," he said.

Nevertheless, a sixth session of multi-party meetings Saturday failed to overcome the logjam that has snarled formation of a government for more than three months.

Feingold, of Wisconsin and the ranking Democrat in the U.S. delegation joined McCain in pressing for the quick formation of a government, but he spoke bluntly of his concern that the continued presence of American forces was prolonging the conflict.

"It's the reality of a situation like this that when you have a large troop presence that it has the tendency to fuel the insurgency because they can make the incorrect and unfair claim that somehow the United States is here to occupy this country, which of course is not true," Feingold said. With November's midterm congressional elections drawing nearer and American voters increasingly disenchanted with the Iraq war, the two visits in quick succession by high-powered U.S. politicians signaled deep concern over potential fallout from a lack of progress in Iraq.

"We are very concerned about the sectarian violence that is happening out there and how that erodes not only the confidence of the Iraqi people in this process, but certainly also the confidence of the American people and their commitment to this effort," Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said.

Talabani, a Kurd, has formed a coalition with Sunni and secular

politicians against a second term for al-Jaafari, a move that only deepened the government stalemate more than three months after the Dec. 15 parliamentary elections.

The U.S. politicians met separately with each of the men, as well as the U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. George Casey.

On Tuesday, a delegation led by Sen. John Warner, the Virginia Republican who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee, delivered the same tough message, saying the uneasiness back home could force U.S. lawmakers to press for a reduction in American troop strength if the government delay were prolonged — regardless of the consequences.

McCain agreed that the damage could be enormous.

Failure in Iraq, he said, would leave "this part of the world in chaos. Not just Iraq, but all of the surrounding countries as well."

In other violence Saturday, according to police:

— A female teacher was killed by Iraqi soldiers as she drove past their convoy in Baghdad.

— A Sunni mosque preacher was killed by gunmen when he stopped to have his car repaired in west Baghdad.

— Gunmen killed a man driving with his family and wounded his two sons in the capital.

— A bomb exploded in a traffic police hut near the Iraqi Finance Ministry in north Baghdad, killing four civilians and wounding five people, including a traffic policeman.

— Gunmen killed three people in the northern city of Mosul.

— A roadside bomb killed two people in Balabroz, 55 miles northeast of Baghdad.

— Drive-by gunmen killed the bodyguard of the head of Basra's Sunni Endowment, the organization that oversees the sect's religious property in the predominantly Shiite southern city.



AP Photo / Karim Sahib, Pool

**Making a point:** Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, right, gives a joint news conference with U.S. Republican Senator John McCain in Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday. McCain emerged from a meeting with Iraq's president saying all Americans wanted the democratic experiment in Iraq to succeed and hoped politicians here would quickly form a new government.

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**Taken into custody:** Baldwin Sheriff's deputies lead Mary Winkler into the Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse in Foley, Ala., on Friday after Tennessee officials filed first-degree murder charges against the wife of slain Tennessee minister Matthew Winkler. Mary Winkler was found with the couple's three young daughters late Thursday in Orange Beach, Ala., 340 miles south of their home in Selmer, Tenn. Matthew Winkler was found dead Wednesday when he failed to show up for a scheduled church service.

# Wife charged with murder

By WOODY BAIRD  
Associated Press Writer

SELMER, Tenn. (AP) — Members of the congregation planted flowers Saturday outside the Fourth Street Church of Christ as they waited for their minister's wife to be brought home to face first-degree murder charges in the death of her husband.

The gardening project and a spring cleanup had been planned weeks ago by Matthew Winkler, the 31-year-old minister who was shot to death at the parsonage he shared with his wife, Mary, and their three young children.

"We're doing this because Matthew wanted us to," said church member James Turner as he dug a spade into the dark soil of a flower bed. "It keeps us busy," said Jimmie Smith, a retired counselor.

brought her to jail in Selmer, a west Tennessee town about 80 miles east of Memphis.

Mary Winkler said nothing and kept her head down as she was taken from an unmarked police car into the building.

Police said she confessed to the killing and she was charged Friday with first-degree murder, a crime that requires premeditation.

Authorities refused to disclose a motive.

"Listen, the Mary we knew didn't do this," said Anita Whirley as she planted purple, yellow and red pansies. "She was a wonderful person. We just don't understand."

Matthew Winkler was found dead in a bedroom at the couple's home in Selmer after church members went looking for him because he did not appear for a service. The parsonage is about 2 miles from the church in a quiet, heavily wooded neighborhood.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agent John Mehr has said police know why she shot her husband, but he would not disclose the suspected motive except to say police did not believe it was

infidelity. He would not comment on whether Mary Winkler had accused her husband of abuse. Court papers offered no hint of a motive.

An Alabama judge released the Winkler children — Breanna, 1; Mary Alice, 6; and Patricia, 8 — to the custody of their paternal grandparents. Mary Winkler was at the custody hearing Friday in handcuffs.

The family had moved to Selmer a year ago when Matthew Winkler was hired for his first job as the lead minister of a Church of Christ congregation. Church members described them as a devoted couple, good parents and good friends.

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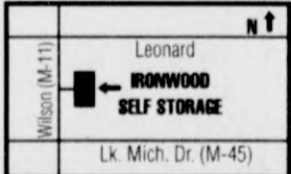
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# GV gets a 'Taste of the Arab World'

Community experiences Arab food, music, culture at annual event

By KRISTY EASON  
GVL Staff Writer

The Arab Culture Club's event "Taste of the Arab World" drew in a crowd of about 200 students and community members on Thursday night.

Arabic clothing, art, books and various other artifacts were laid out on tables for visitors to see. Ethnic music filled the Grand River Room in the Kirkhof Center as people lined up to sample the Arabic food being offered.

This was the fifth annual "Taste of the Arab World," said Arab Culture Club President Suzane Itani.

"This is my fourth year in the club, and it's my favorite event," she said. "From setting up to the food and then the dancing — I love every minute of it."

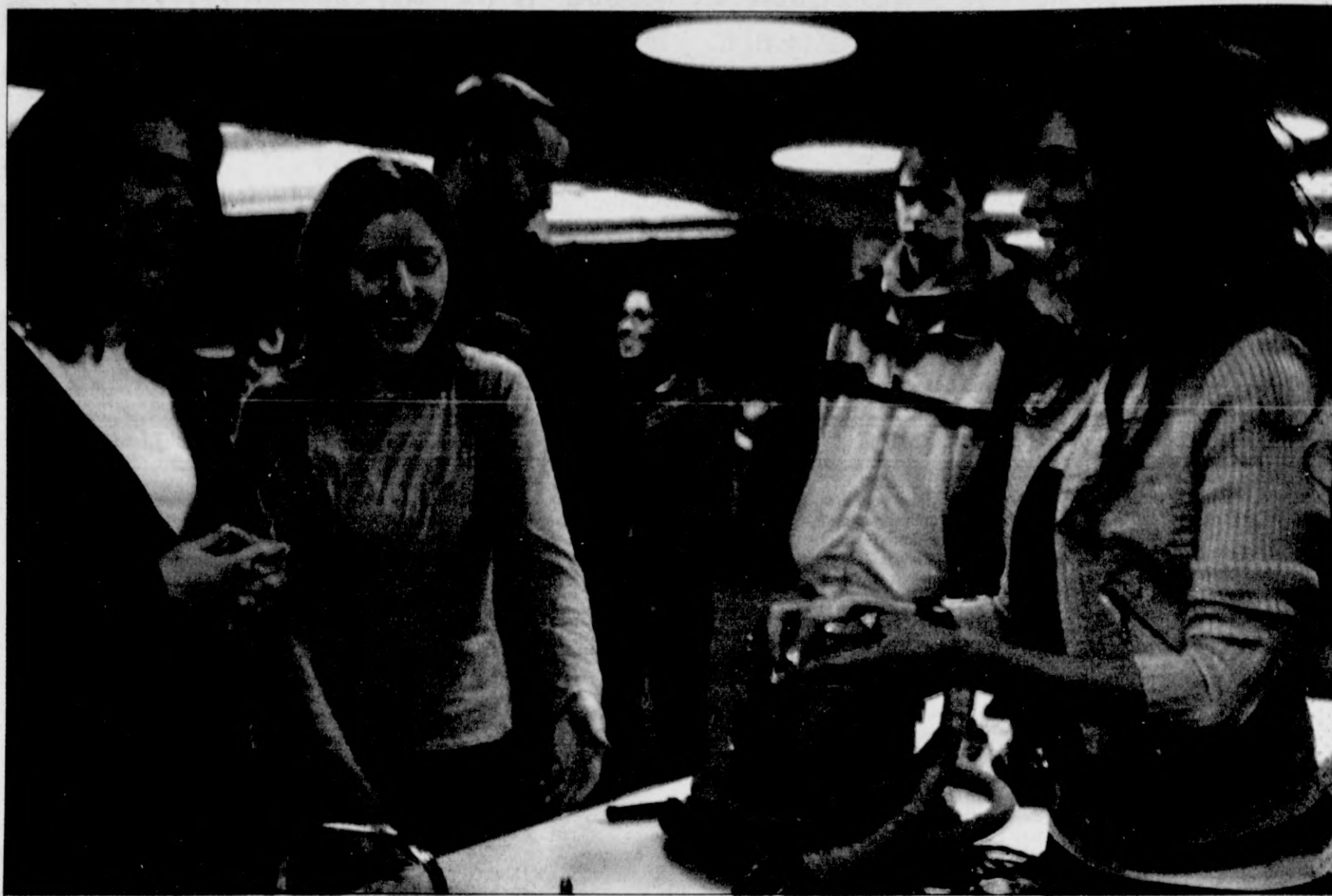
Itani added the group began planning for the event a year ago, but the last two months became stressful as the event drew nearer.

Many of the artifacts, which included tea sets, small statues and various other trinkets, were from Lebanon. The club also displayed several pieces of art by Hashim Al-Tawil, an art history professor at Henry Ford Community College, who gave a lecture on Arab culture and art on Tuesday.

"He's a great artist," Itani said.

"We have traditional pieces of clothing from everywhere," she said. There were Lebanese, Palestinian, Saudi Arabian and Islamic clothes set out on the tables, she added.

The club also hired the band "Bassam Saleh and



Sharing cultures Senior and President of the Arab Culture Club, Suzane Itani talks with sophomores Tami Teshima and Grace Tillison about about the objects on display during the "Taste of the Arab World" on Thursday. The event included food, music and artwork from the Arab culture.

Entertainment" to play traditional music for the event. The band was comprised of four members — Saleh, Fransis Batayeh, Hassan Murray and Ray Mallad.

"We've played together for five years, and we've always enjoyed this event," Batayeh said. "It's a lot of fun, especially

when the crowd is shy at first and then they start breaking out."

Batayeh said the band has played at the event for the past three years.

"I love the music," said sophomore Grace Tillison. "I came last year, and it's a lot of fun. The food is great."

After students ate, the band played until the event's end.

"Taste of the Arab World was a great success," said Vice President of the Arab Culture Club Ahmed Al-Tawil. "We had stellar attendance, great food and a great band. The night really captured the essence of the Arab world."

He added his goal was to have attendees enjoy themselves in a friendly and educating atmosphere, and Thursday's event "set the standard" for future Arab Culture Club events.

"My favorite part of the evening was not a specific event," he said. "The Arab world

is very hospitable. Everyone is treated like family. As a group, we felt that all aspects of Thursday's event should foster the family values of the Arab world. All attendees were treated as if they were guests in our own homes."

## 'Inside Man' offers a refreshing twist on genre

By JOHN FAARUP  
GVL A & E Editor

Almost 20 years have passed since Spike Lee's first feature film "She's Gotta Have It."

Though many of his projects have been misfires, there is one undeniable truth — he has never been guilty of making a boring film. From "Do the Right Thing" to "25th Hour," Lee has created some of the most provoking and intelligent commentaries on modern society. While the average filmmaker might sheepishly sidestep fragile and controversial social issues, Lee embraces them head-on without the slightest bit of fear or hesitation.

"Inside Man" is a new touchstone for the director as he helms a project reeking of Hollywood genre film, while discretely staying true to his own trademark style. Like wine, Lee has aged well and become a great judge of what works without using the heavy hand that has been so

distracting in his earlier work ("Bamboozled," "Get on the Bus"). While keeping a delicate balance of genre film and the classic Lee, "Inside Man" is set to achieve a place as a memorable motion picture.

Dalton Russell (Clive Owen) tells the audience in the beginning of the film that he has designed and set in motion the "perfect bank robbery." Okay, consider me hooked.

Russell and three other cohorts, disguised as painters, enter a bank and round up soon-to-be hostages. After all the hostages are secured, they do not start drilling to open the safe or seek out keys to unlock the millions of dollars. Instead, they wait patiently for negotiator Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington) and New York's finest to arrive on the scene. The bank robber's demands are similar to every other bank robber before them — they want a bus and a jet waiting to take them wherever they want.

As evidenced by the trailer,

Russell and his gang are seeking anything but money. Rather, they want to right the wrongs of the past, and in turn, seek justice for a man who has built his wealthy empire on the blood of others in World War II. The robbers are modern-day Robin Hoods trying to uncover truths desperately washed over by a lifetime of good deeds and philanthropy.

Put into lesser hands, this film could have been easily mishandled, but the authoritative and veteran talents of Washington, Lee and Owen render a tale ripe with authenticity and conviction.

The tale breeds no definite catharsis. In fact, the film is strikingly similar to "25th Hour" because its conclusion is not foregone or predetermined. A lot of the moral and ethical judgments are left up to the viewer to decide, and anyone familiar with Lee's record knows this is indeed a rare (but welcome) occurrence.

Everything here is pure New York from the ethnicities to the landscape, giving "Inside Man" a gritty realism noticeably absent from contemporary thrillers. Although much of the story takes place under a traditional Hollywood construct, genre clichés are treated carefully, and as a result the film is a refreshing deviation from the usual formula.

"Inside Man" opened on Friday and is rated R.



Frozen in time: In the photograph "Vietnam, 1962" (pictured above), Vietnamese Air Force T-28 Skyraiders flown by U.S. Air Force pilots drop Napalm on Viet Cong targets.

## Photographs give a snapshot of history

Films, photographs document the Vietnam, French Indochina wars

By JUSTIN WILSON  
GVL Staff Writer

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids is hosting an exhibit which displays numerous photographs taken by photojournalists who covered the French Indochina and Vietnam wars.

"Requiem: By the Photographers Who Died in Vietnam and Indochina" will run until June 4.

"The Requiem exhibit is basically an entire photo documentary of the Vietnam Conflict," said Museum Deputy Director Jim Kratsas. "The photos range from the beginning of the conflict with the French occupation to the final fall of Saigon."

The exhibit contains more than 300 photos and includes perspectives from both sides of the conflict, which can be seen on display in black and white. The photographers were a variety of different nationalities — Americans, Europeans, Cambodians, South Vietnamese

and North Vietnamese.

"The pictures are artistic documentaries and numerous pictures in the exhibit are award-winning," Kratsas said.

He added that the photos could be beneficial to college students who wish to gain a broader perspective of the conflict. The pictures are valuable in a historic context and appeal to people who enjoy great photography, he said.

The exhibit was put together by Horst Faas and Tim Page, two photographers who were wounded in Vietnam. Faas reported on the conflict for the Associated Press in Southeast Asia, and Page covered the conflict as a freelance photographer. Together, the two wrote the book "Requiem," which was published in 1997. The book inspired the exhibit that is currently on a worldwide tour.

Many events in accordance with the "Requiem" exhibit will take place at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

Beginning April 25, the museum will present a series of three films that offer perspectives on the Vietnam Conflict and the exhibit.

"Dear America, Letters Home from Vietnam," a film that features numerous letters written by soldiers involved with the conflict, will be shown on April

25. "Good Morning Vietnam," which stars Robin Williams as a radio disc jockey in Vietnam attempting to shake things up, will be shown on May 2. "We Were Soldiers," which depicts the first battles the United States fought in Vietnam and offers pertinent information from both sides of the conflict, will play on May 9.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the films will begin playing at 7 p.m. after a brief introduction. The museum offers free admission to the films with paid admission to the museum.

On May 17, former White House Photographer David Hume Kennerly will discuss his experiences as a photojournalist in Vietnam. In 1972, Kennerly won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for his photo coverage of the Vietnam War. Kennerly's discussion will begin at 7 p.m., and students are encouraged to call the museum to reserve a seat.

For information on events at the museum, students can call (616) 254-0400 or check out the museum's Web site at <http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov>. It is located near the Grand Valley State University Pew Campus and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$5.

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Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	P	A	W	E	R	B	A	L	D
T	A	L	C	A	P	E	E	W	E
A	R	E	A	G	I	S	C	L	O
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Answer

5	4	8	7	3	9	1	6	2
9	1	2	6	8	5	7	4	3
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1	8	5	3	2	6	9	7	4
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# Grand Valley Lanthorn

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Monday, March 27, 2006

## 'On top of the world'

*GVSU women's basketball captures the NCAA Division II National Championship*



CVL / Matt Butterfield

**By JAYSON BUSSA**

*GVL Sports Editor*

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team shot 578 three pointers this season, but one of the most important three-point shots in school history came with 21 seconds remaining in the championship game on Saturday.

Sophomore guard Crystal Zick squared up to the hoop and knocked down a three-point shot to seal the National

Championship win for the Lakers against American International College at the Summit Arena.

"I thought our players did a really nice job of moving the ball on that possession," said GVSU head coach Dawn Plitzuweit. "All of a sudden, Crystal's wide open and her eyes probably got as big as silver dollars. She slowed down. She took her time and hit that big, big shot."

The Zick three-point shot broke the silence of a five-and-

a-half minute scoring drought on both sides, which had left the score stranded at 55-52.

"I don't know how long the game was stuck at 52 to 55," Plitzuweit said. "It seemed like forever ... Both teams were just really digging and defending."

Zick brought the Lakers up by six points with her trey, making GVSU's first-ever trip to the national championship game a success with the final score of 58-52.

"This is what we've been

working for all season," Zick said. "And we finally got here, so it feels pretty good."

The Lakers were led in scoring by junior center Julia Braseth and Zick who both had 15 points. Senior All-American guard Niki Reams helped out the Lakers with 12 points. The threesome accounted for all but 14 of GVSU's total points.

Summing up her feelings after the game, Braseth said, "We're on top of the world."

The Yellow Jackets were fueled by Krystal Pressley

who poured in 17 points, along with leading scorer Sharmion Selman who had 15 on the game. Previously in the Elite Eight tournament, Selman had games of 26 and 21 points.

Selman drove to the hoop to score the first points of the game, but the Yellow Jackets were silenced in the following six-and-a-half minutes.

American International head coach Peter Cinella said he recognized the GVSU

SEE CHAMPS, C4



# Fans show support in Arkansas



**Lending a tune:** The Grand Valley State University Basketball Pep Band helps fans cheer on the women's basketball team as they play in the National Championship game against American International College on Saturday in Hot Springs, Ark.

GVL / Matt Butterfield

**By ALAN INGRAM**

*GVL Editor in Chief*

**HOT SPRINGS, Ark.** — Some painted their faces or waved blue foam fingers in the air, while nearly all of them wore some kind of blue and white Laker apparel.

They jumped to their feet, cheered and waved blue and white "Go Lakers!" signs every time the Grand Valley State University women's basketball team sank a shot or the official made a call in their favor, ultimately making Summit Arena sound more like the Fieldhouse Arena during a home game.

They kept their team motivated with continued chants of "GV — SU," "Defense," and "LA — KE — R — You — a — Laker? Hell yeah!"

They erupted, slapped hands, pumped their fists in the air and hugged each other when sophomore guard Crystal Zick sank a three-pointer with 21 seconds remaining, ultimately sealing GVSU's title.

Smile beamed across the faces of the more than 100 GVSU fans who flocked to Arkansas to cheer on the Laker women in the NCAA Division II National Championship game against American International College on Saturday.



**Laker pride:** Fans support the women's basketball team during the Final Four game against Chico State University on Thursday in Hot Springs, Ark.

GVL / Matt Butterfield

"I think it means a lot to us," junior guard Erika Ryskamp said of the fan support. "It gives us confidence, and we just know that they'll always have our backs."

Besides the parents and family members showing support for the women, some familiar GVSU faces — including Louie the Laker — also made the more than 800-mile trip.

The GVSU Basketball Pep Band entertained and pumped up the crowd from the Lakers' end of the court. They wore GVSU sweatshirts, and face paint showed the Laker pride on some of their faces. The trombone players also put foam fingers on the ends of their instruments.

"We of course want to be here to celebrate with the team," said Barry Martin, director of University Bands. "One of the things I always tell my kids (is that) we're 50 percent entertainment. We're also 50 percent supporting the team."

Darby Zick, Crystal's mom, said she thought it was "awesome" that the band was there because it helped get the fans involved in the game.

GVSU President Mark Murray, swimming and diving head coach Dewey Newsome, and football head coach Chuck Martin — whose team won a Division II National Championship in December — were also in attendance.

"Anybody who's watched the '05 Lakers basketball team play, it's not hard to kind of fall in love with them because no one competes harder, no one plays harder, no one wants it more, (and) no one plays together more," Martin said. "They're about as much fun a team as you'll ever get to ... watch."

He said he watched the semifinal game against Chico State University on television and wished he would have recorded it, explaining that the way the Lakers competed and played could be used as a model for any sport.

"If we played as hard as them every Saturday night and as together as the women's basketball team played, we'd never lose a game in football," he said.

As the clock ticked down, the Laker fans began chanting "National Champions."

"It's amazing," Darby Zick said of her daughter's chance to compete for a National Title. "It's a dream come true."

# Giving credit, making time for celebration

By **JAYSON BUSSA**  
GVL Sports Editor

**HOT SPRINGS, Ark.** — I was just as guilty of it as everyone else was.

While All-American senior forward Niki Reams has shattered many records and earned numerous awards at Grand Valley State University along the way to the program's first National Title, I did not give the rest of the team enough credit.

Reams weighs in as GVSU's leading scorer, averaging 17 points per game along with seven rebounds. She shot 50.3 percent from the field this year along with 80.3 percent from behind the charity stripe.

However, the numbers the Lakers put up during their run to the National Title



Bussa

that they claimed on Saturday evening at the Summit Arena were a true testament that this team truly does not have a standout player, but rather a standout team.

Going into the national championship, the Lakers had four of their starters averaging double digits in the scoring column. While Reams led the team, teammate guards Erika Ryskamp (11.1) and Crystal Zick (12.8) and center Julia Braseth (10.9) were close behind her.

Upon their arrival at Hot Springs, the Lakers defeated the University of Charleston (W. Va.) in the first round of the Elite Eight tournament, led in scoring by Braseth who had 21 points on the game. Zick added 18 and Reams put in 15.

In the Final Four round, Ryskamp caught fire, sinking shots for 22 points with Braseth, Zick and Reams also recording double digits in scoring. The Lakers toppled Chico State University in the game by a score of 76-63.

The Lakers also moved the ball

around well in the games, recording 12 assists against Charleston and 15 against Chico State.

At the final stage of the tournament, the Lakers ousted American International College by a score of 58-52. Both Braseth and Zick led the team in scoring with 15 points each while Reams followed it up with 14 of her own.

The loss of Reams next year does indeed take a shot to the Laker squad, but as Reams said at a press conference Wednesday, the Lakers will still be in fine shape to return to the Elite Eight and beyond in upcoming years.

Reams is the only starter departing from the squad, leaving a talented and tournament-savvy starting five still intact for the Lakers.

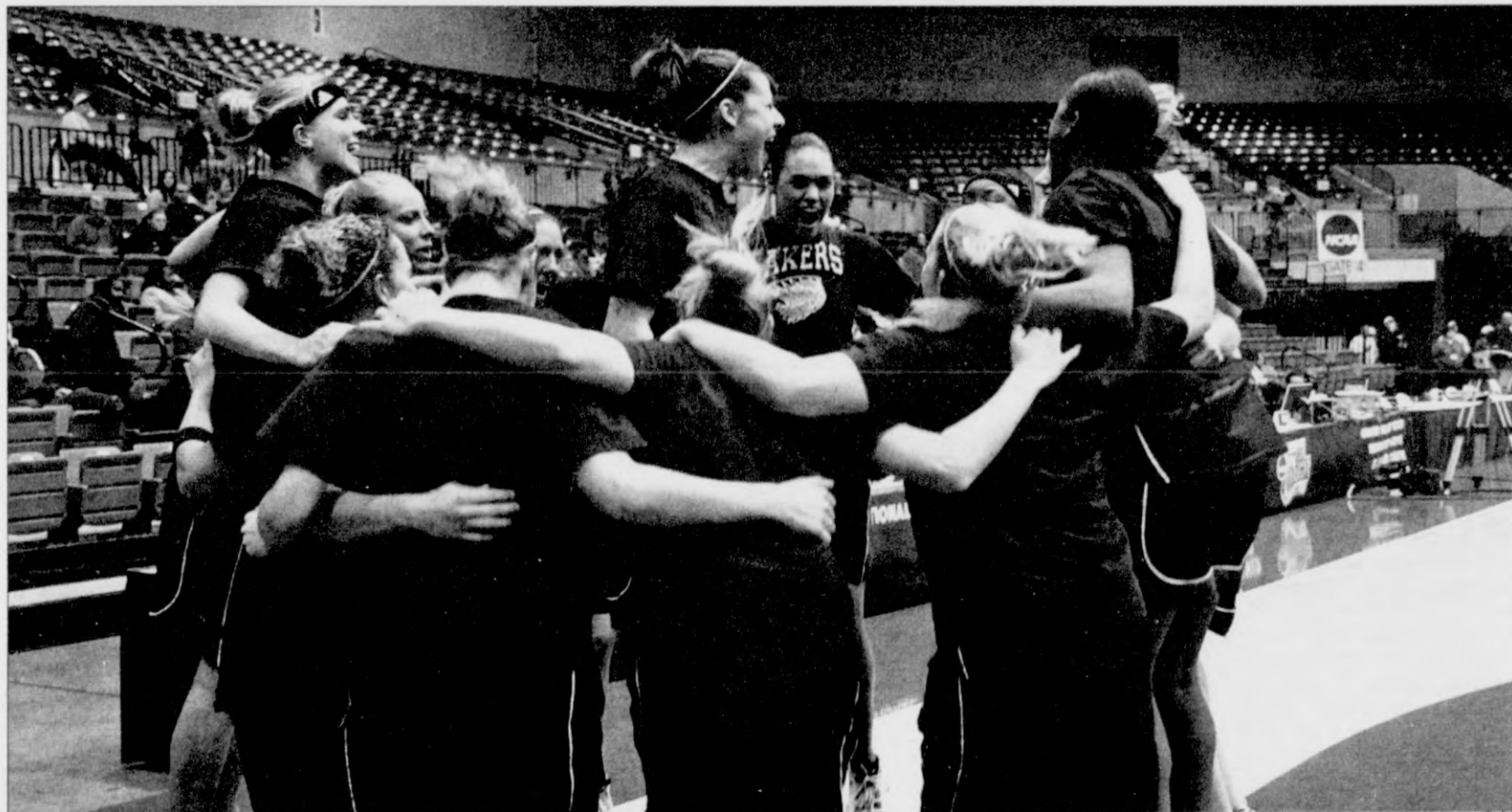
Ryskamp and Zick will return to guard positions next year. For Ryskamp, it will be her final campaign with the Lakers, but for Zick, she will still have two more years remaining. If Zick progresses the way she has, she will be the likely candidate to fill the shoes of Reams as the

top source of offensive production on the team.

Braseth, Most Valuable Player of the Elite Eight Tournament, will return to the paint where she played solid and helped muscle the Lakers through a very physical tournament stretch. Another quiet force for the Lakers, Erin Cyplik, will return at a forward position looking to boost offensive production. She proved already that she can hit shots if given the opportunity.

Their will be a lot of competition for the remaining forward spot. With recruits still up in the air and a talented bench, the front runner for the position is current freshman Kim Wyngaard, who has logged in steady minutes for the Lakers in the season and matches height and weight with the departing Reams.

Before watching game film and drawing up offensive schemes for next year, the Lakers should focus on celebrating their first-ever national championship they achieved by playing as a team and not individuals.



GVL / Matt Butterfield

**Ready to go:** The women's basketball team gets pepped up before playing in the Final Four game against Chico State University on Thursday night in Hot Springs, Ark.

# Laker seniors accomplish goals

By JAYSON BUSSA  
GVL Sports Editor

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — Saturday's national championship victory was bittersweet for three Grand Valley State University Lakers.

For these three athletes, it was the last game they will play in the blue and black GVSU uniforms.

Center Jaida Bourke and forwards Dawn Maynard and All-American Niki Reams finished out their GVSU careers at the top of Division II college basketball.

"I told coach at the beginning of the year I was going out with a 'W,'" Reams said.

Reams ended with 14 points in Saturday's 58-52 win over American International College. She also had four rebounds and three assists while only turning the ball over once.

Fighting back tears after the game, Reams said the moment was a dream come true for her.

"You're a little kid and it's something you dream of," Reams said. "To actually be able to live out your dream is pretty amazing."

For Maynard and Bourke, their roles were different for the title game, but equally as important, said head coach Dawn Plitzuweit.

"Dawn Maynard and Jaida

Bourke really weren't significant contributors on the floor," Plitzuweit said. "Yet what they did in practice and what they did in preparing their team (and what they did in the locker room ... that's as vital of a role as Niki has."

Whether it is preparing the team for games or contributing on the floor, both Maynard and Bourke said they agree that their time on GVSU's squad was a valuable experience they will always remember.

During the weekend of the Elite Eight tournament, Maynard and Bourke worked hard in keeping the team upbeat and intense during their practices, warm-ups and games, Plitzuweit said.

"We love each other, and love to feed off each other's energy," Maynard said. "So that's the main thing we do is try to pick each other up and keep each other going."

For the seniors and a number of other Lakers, it was their second trip to Hot Springs. This year, Maynard said the outcome changed because of the team's tournament experience.

"We had already known what it's like to come here," Maynard said. "Last year, we were kind of babies and the newbies here. This year, we knew what it was about, and we were more focused."

Maynard and Bourke have shared a close bond both on

and off the court for the past four years. They currently live together at GVSU and have played side-by-side on the court during their time as Lakers.

"She's one of my best friends," Bourke said. "We're really, really close."

When Reams transferred from the University of Michigan two years ago, she had no problem fitting in with the current seniors, Bourke and Maynard said.

"Obviously she's done some great things on the court," Bourke said. "Off the court, she's become a really great friend, and

all three of us are really close."

With all the attention Reams has received for breaking school records and winning national awards, Plitzuweit said she has remained incredibly humble.

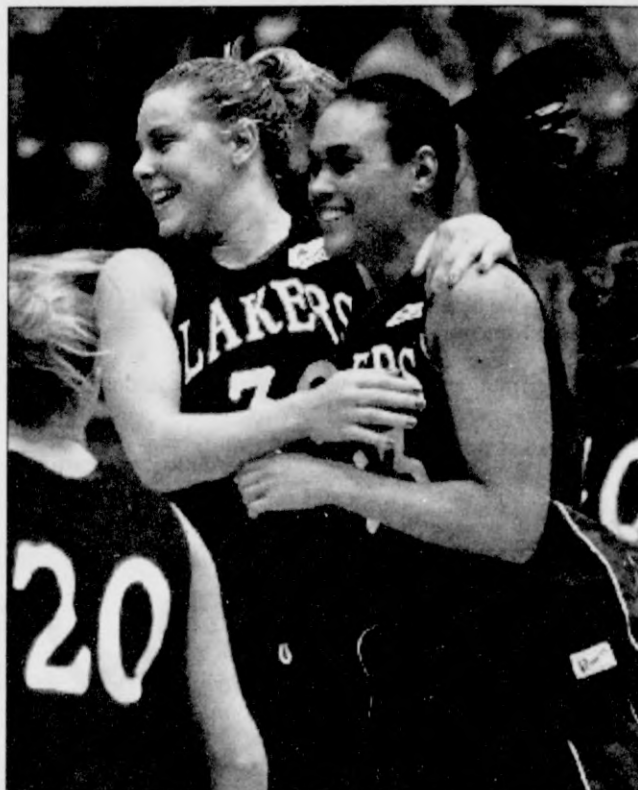
"She probably has all her trophies covered up at home,"

Plitzuweit joked. "That's how unselfish of a player she is."

For the departing seniors, they did not leave any of their team goals unfinished. They have won conference championships, regional championships and now a national championship.



GVL / Matt Butterfield  
**Controlling the ball:** Senior forward Niki Reams drives the ball around an American International College player during the National Championship game.



GVL / Matt Butterfield  
**Victory time:** Jaida Bourke (right) and Julia Braseth (left) celebrate after winning their Final Four game against Chico State University in Hot Springs, Ark. on Thursday night.

## CHAMPS

continued from page C1

defense was something they would have to get past in order to win the game. Cinella said GVSU was "probably the best defensive team that we've faced this year."

During the early drought for the Yellow Jackets, the Lakers went on a 12-2 run, capturing the early and short-lived lead.

The Lakers reached their highest lead of the half when junior guard Erika Ryskamp knocked down a long two-

point shot to bring the Lakers up by a score of 22-12 with little more than six minutes remaining in the half.

The Yellow Jackets battled back through the duration of the first half. With little more than a minute to go in the game, Yellow Jacket guard Debbie Sampson laid the ball up to tie the game at 29-29. Monique Lawrence went to the line shortly after and hit one of her two foul shots to put the Yellow Jackets up by a point, erasing a ten-point deficit.

However, the Lakers

gained the half time lead with a quick lay-in from Braseth followed by a fast break basket from Zick off of a steal from Reams. The Lakers led going into the locker room by a score of 34-30.

American International's Selman had 12 points in the first half, but it was Pressley who came alive for the Yellow Jackets in the second half to try and bury the Lakers.

Pressley stormed out of the gate and scored AIC's first 10 points, tying the game at 38-38 with 15:00 to go, keeping the Yellow Jackets in reach.

"In the first half, they defended me really well," Pressley said. "In the second half, my teammates did a better job of screening the defender off giving me some open shots."

Pressley went on to drain five more points toward the end of the half, but her two-point field goal with 6:35 was the second-to-last shot the Yellow Jackets would score in the remainder of the game, leaving the Lakers with the victory.

This was the first time the two teams have squared off

with each other. American International defeated Emporia State University in the first round (86-79) and St. Cloud State University (70-58) in the Final Four.

GVSU completes its season with a 22-game winning streak intact.

"The bottom line is that the players actually went out and played their hearts out," Plitzuweit said.

The Lakers join the ranks of the volleyball and football teams as current national champions at GVSU.

# Lakers set goals for upcoming season

The women's basketball team expects an increase in defensive effort this year

By JAYSON BUSSA  
GVL Staff Writer

Sept. 9, 2005

Before the women's basketball team of Grand Valley State University makes traveling arrangements for a return to the Sweet 16 portion of the Division II Tournament, head coach Dawn Plitzuweit and her team are looking to achieve goals on a somewhat smaller scale.

"What we really want to do is play our best, day in and day out," Plitzuweit said. "We want to be the most well-practiced team in the nation. If there were such an award like that I would want that to

be us."

After Plitzuweit's Lakers were eliminated in the first game of the Sweet 16 of the Division II National Tournament, the furthest that any Laker team had gone in school history, the squad feels a little bit of pressure to repeat their accomplishments, but it is pressure that they think they can handle.

"I think that pressure is something that you put on yourself," Plitzuweit said. "I think we're all feeling a little pressure, but we just have to focus on playing the best basketball that we possibly can."

Many eyes may be on them to see if they can repeat the feat from last year. Last year the team graduated only one senior, guard Janine Guastella.

The Laker to make the most noise last year was University of Michigan transfer Niki

Reams, who will be back for her final season at GVSU. Reams led GVSU in scoring in nearly every game while tallying a total of 647 points on the season (averaging 19 a game). She also pulled down 292 rebounds.

With the breakout season, the Lakers expect to see an increased defensive effort toward GVSU's star player.

"She [Reams] saw a lot of double and triple teams last year," Plitzuweit said. "That concept is not really that foreign to her. We have a lot of girls that are willing to step up whether that's the case or even if Niki is on the bench in foul trouble."

Behind Reams are a number

of both proven and unproven talent on the Lakers' roster.

Junior guard Erika Ryskamp returns after averaging 12.4 points a game last year, evening out the threat at the

guard position. Behind the Ryskamp/Reams combination are a number of players that, Plitzuweit said, have flown somewhat under the radar and have the potential to breakout and

have a career-best season. "That's the great thing about this team, there's so many girls like that," Plitzuweit said. "There's so many girls that are working hard and making a difference: Julia Braseth, Peaches Churchwell, Crystal Zick (and) Rachael Willett

just to name a few."

Zick and Willett were solid contributors last year as freshmen, and have a lot more time to find their rightful place on the team. Zick was the third leading scorer, averaging 8.7 points a game, while Willett gives the Lakers depth in the post position.

Braseth and Churchwell will both be juniors this year.

The Lakers will also welcome in four freshman that Plitzuweit and company hope to integrate into the system. Two of the freshmen were recruited from the state of Wisconsin.

"They're all about the same size and build," Plitzuweit said about the incoming freshmen. "They are versatile and will have a lot to offer this team."

With a national tournament run or not, the Lakers have their sights set on becoming the hardest working team in college basketball.

"... We just have to focus on playing the best basketball that we possibly can."

DAWN PLITZUWEIT  
BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

## Women's team dominates in exhibition game

The Lakers take down Valparaiso University Crusaders

By JAYSON BUSSA  
GVL Staff Writer

Nov. 7, 2006

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team did not panic when it missed a shot in its exhibition game against Division I Valparaiso University on Saturday night.

They grabbed the ball back and shot it again.

The sizable rebounding edge held by the Lakers allowed them to rout the Crusaders 71-59 in their road exhibition game.

"We did a great job of

going after the ball," said head coach Dawn Plitzuweit. "There were a number of kids that were battling with each other, tipping it and keeping it alive. Rebounding was the difference, in our opinion, tonight in the game."

The Lakers out-rebounded the Crusaders 49-23 in the contest. Eighteen Laker rebounds were on the offensive glass while Valparaiso posted three offensive boards.

"It was good for us because they were a team with size," Plitzuweit said. "So it was good for us to be able to take care of business and be aggressive in that aspect of the game."

Senior Niki Reams led the Lakers in rebounds, yanking down 17 boards on the game, six offensively. Trailing behind her were teammates

sophomore Erin Cyplik with eight rebounds and junior Julia Braseth with six.

Reams also scored 20 points for a double-double on the game. Reams went 8-16 from the field and a perfect 3-3 from the free throw line. She had one three-point field goal as well as a block and a steal.

Junior Erika Ryskamp recorded 15 points in the game and Cyplik contributed 11 points. While Cyplik was not a main offensive threat last year, Plitzuweit said she is not surprised with Cyplik's contributions, who she considers a "versatile player."

"I thought she did a nice job on the glass and a very nice job offensively," Plitzuweit said. "She's also a very good shooter."

The Crusaders started

with an early lead and held on to it for the first part of the first half. However, when the Lakers grabbed the lead with 9:12 to go in the first half via a free throw from Cyplik, they never looked back.

The Lakers held a 15-point lead against the Crusaders in the first half and they matched it again in the second half.

Reams finished the first half with 13 points. The Lakers went into the locker room at half time with a 41-30 lead.

GVSU held on to the lead for the entire second half despite a lay-up by Carrie Myers, which brought the Crusaders to within seven points early in the half.

Grand Rapids native Betsy Rietema led the Crusaders in scoring with 11 points while

Tamra Braun had 10.

"We approach exhibition games as a way for us to evaluate where we're at and figure out what we need to get better at," Plitzuweit said. "We want to be ready to go by [the] time we open up our season."

The Lakers will continue Division I competition on Sunday as they take on Michigan State University, who made it to the NCAA Division I National Championship last year.

"We're excited about it," Plitzuweit said. "You always want to play against the best competition possible. With Michigan State, you can't ask for anything better." Tip-off is set for 2 p.m. at the Breslin Center in East Lansing, Mich.

# Women fall just short at Michigan State

The Laker women's basketball team gets toppled by MSU despite its efforts

BY JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Staff Writer

Nov. 14, 2005

Two pre-season match-ups against Valparaiso and Michigan State University are not the only taste of Division I college basketball the Lakers have had.

While the Grand Valley State University women's basketball team sits at the Division II level, they have plenty of Division I experience leading their team.

Prior to her career with the Lakers, head coach Dawn Plitzuweit dabbled in the Division I ranks for five years.

Prior to Plitzuweit taking the helm of the GVSU squad, she spent four years at Division I University of Wisconsin-Green Bay where she served as the team's top assistant coach and head recruiter.

Even before her time with UWGB, Plitzuweit served as assistant coach for the University of Wisconsin for a single year.

A player for the Lakers who has grown accustomed to the Division I hardwood is senior forward/guard Niki Reams. Reams spent her first two collegiate seasons with the University of Michigan before she transferred home to GVSU. In her freshman year with the Wolverines, Reams averaged 7.9 points and 3.4 rebounds per game. In her sophomore year she averaged 5.1 points and 5.2 rebounds.

"The biggest thing to keep in mind is that basketball is basketball," Plitzuweit said. "Even though the divisions are different, the game is still the same."

After defeating Valparaiso in their second exhibition game by a score of 71-59, the Lakers continued with their competitive pre-season schedule Sunday afternoon in East Lansing

against MSU.

"We want to schedule the best possible competition," Plitzuweit said. "Whether it is Division I, II or III, we want to play the best teams possible."

The Lakers fell to the Spartans by a score of 84-77.

The Spartans took control of the game from the beginning as the Lakers did not hold a lead throughout the entire game. The Lakers did tie the game up on two occasions, including once in the first minute.

The Lakers managed to keep within five points of the Spartans early in the first half, but the Spartans mounted an offensive flurry ending the half with a score of 50-38.

At the half, three Lakers had double digit scoring totals. Junior Erika Ryskamp led with 12 while Reams, and forward Julia Braseth had 10. MSU's Liz Shimek had 18 points at the half.

The Lakers bolted out of the gate in the second half, kicked off by a three-point field goal by Crystal Zick. The Lakers mounted

a 12-4 run to pull themselves within three points of the Spartans early on.

With 10 minutes left in the game, the Lakers knotted the contest up at 60-60. Another three-point field goal by Zick brought the Lakers to within two points of MSU [77-75] with 2:21 left to go in the game.

In the last two minutes of the game, the only points the Lakers managed to put on the board were a pair of free throws by Reams, as the Spartans pulled away and ended the game with an 84-77 victory.

"I think they (Grand Valley) could beat a lot of Division I teams," said MSU head coach Joanne McCallie. "There is a lot of pride for women's basketball in this area."

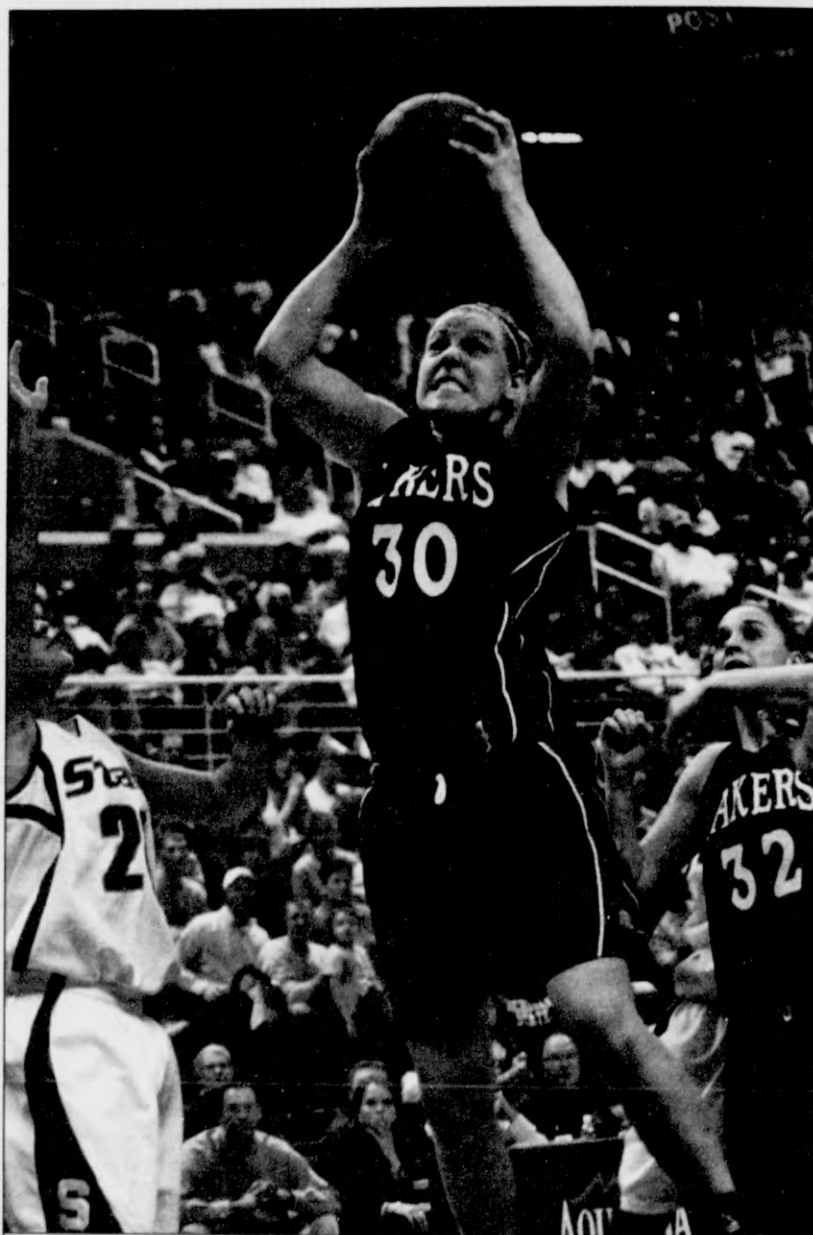
Braseth finished the game as the leading scorer for the Lakers with 22 points and 12 rebounds, while Ryskamp had 20 points.

Reams chimed in with 18 points. Shimek recorded 22 points for the Spartans.

"I think they (Grand Valley) could beat a lot of Division I teams."

JOANNE MCCALLIE

MSU BASKETBALL  
HEAD COACH



Fighting for points: Junior Julie Braseth drives hard toward the basket to score against Michigan State University. The Spartans defeated the Lakers 84-77 in an exhibition game. GVL / Misty Minna

"Hats off to Grand Valley," McCallie said. "They played tough, strong, and moved the ball well."

The Lakers will look to use their experience with the Spartans to ready themselves for tomorrow's home season opener against Division III Calvin Christian.

"Calvin is a good opponent; one of the best in Division III," Plitzuweit said. "Then after them we play one of the best teams in Division II, so

we're just trying to deal with what's in front of us and live in the precious present."

Pre-season polls have ranked the Lakers at No. 7 in the nation as well as choosing them to win the Great Lakes Conference championship.

"We don't pay a lot of attention to them (rankings)," Plitzuweit said. "We just want to play good basketball, and the rankings will take care of themselves."

# Laker women battle talented opponents

By JAYSON BUSSA  
GVL Staff Writer

Nov. 21, 2005

When the Grand Valley State University women's basketball team said they were going to schedule the best competition that college basketball has to offer, they weren't kidding.

After this weekend, the Lakers have gone against the top team that every division of college basketball has to offer.

"We just want to play the best teams possible," said head coach Dawn Plitzuweit. "These are the type of games that will get us ready for the conference play."

In exhibition, the Lakers faced off against the Michigan State University Spartans who are arguably one of the best teams in Division I college basketball after making it to last year's NCAA Division I National Championship. The Lakers fell in that contest 84-77.

A week ago, the Lakers took on Division III Calvin College, traditionally one of the best teams in their division, coming off a trip to the Elite Eight just last year. The Lakers were successful in that match-up by a score of 81-48.

This weekend, the staunch competition continued as the Lakers took on Drury University in the fourth annual TJ Sales Classic held in Springfield, Mo. The Lady Panthers came into the game ranked as No. 1 in one of the Division II national polls and No. 2 in the other poll.

The Lakers came into the contest cemented in at the No. 7 position in both polls.

With an explosive first half from the Lady Panthers, the Lakers fell in the game by a score of 76-69.

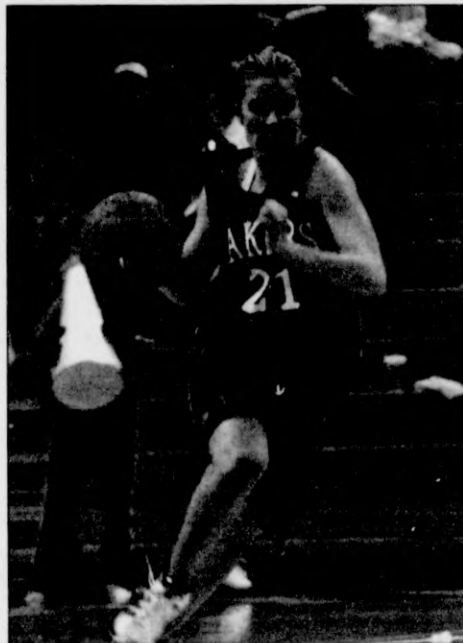
The first half gave the Lady Panthers the definite advantage as they stormed out of the gate to put GVSU in a hole that they couldn't get out of.

Drury raced out to a 16-6 lead only five minutes into the first half. The Panthers combined unrelenting offense centered around star players senior guard Kara Rutledge and senior center Amanda Newton along with a defense which caused 14 turnovers from the Lakers in the first half.

The Lakers went into the locker room at halftime down by a score of 45-24.

However, the Lakers didn't find the deficit as something they could not overcome as they came out of the gate with equal intensity as Drury in the second half to make the game tight down the final stretch.

"Our defensive intensity wasn't very strong in the first half," Plitzuweit said. "Once we turned up the defensive intensity, it in turn helped us on the



GVL / Misty Minna

**Charging for the net:** Sophomore Crystal Zick drives down the court against Michigan State University on Nov. 13. MSU defeated GVSU 84-77.

offensive side of the ball."

The Lakers started a spark with sharp three-point shooting. The Lakers finished the contest shooting 7-17 from the arc. Junior guard Erika Ryskamp netted four of those, finishing 4-7 from the three-point line.

The Lakers pulled within five points with only two minutes remaining, bringing the once one-sided score to 70-65.

However, down the stretch, the Lady Panthers hit a three-point field goal and also made a three point play to close down the game.

"I thought rebounding was what got them back into it," Drury head coach Nyla Milleson said. "We just gave up too many offensive rebounds. They hit a couple of threes off of them and made a run. I thought every run was sparked by rebounds."

Ryskamp led the Lakers in scoring with 20 while Rutledge led Drury with 22.

The Lakers followed up their loss against Drury with a win over Southern Arkansas University during their second game of the invitational. The Lakers grabbed the win 74-61.

Sophomore Erin Cyplik led in scoring for the Lakers with 16. Junior Julia Braseth was right behind with 15 points.

The Lakers continue in action on Friday and Saturday as they host the Days Inn Classic at the GVSU Fieldhouse.

# GVSU wins season opener at home

By JAYSON BUSSA  
GVL Staff Writer

Nov. 17, 2005

The first 19 points scored by Calvin College women's basketball team in Tuesday night's 81-48 loss against Grand Valley State University must have seemed easy compared to the remaining 29 they fought for.

With 6:58 left to go in the first half, Calvin's center Lisa Winkle hit one of her two foul shot attempts to put the Knights over top of the Lakers 19-12.

The Lakers then shut the Knights out for five minutes while putting 23 points on the board.

"We thought they [Calvin] were moving the ball too easily along the perimeter," said head coach Dawn Plitzuweit. "We moved out and tried to deny the ball harder."

The Lakers took a firm hold of the game in the later portion of the first half with their 23-0 scoring run that began with a two-point jumpshot by junior guard Erika Ryskamp with 6:45 to go. Ryskamp also tied the game during the scoring run as she sank a field goal while falling to the ground and being fouled. Ryskamp hit the free throw to tie the game 19-19 with 5:53 to go.

Another key force in the first half offensive surge was Crystal Zick, who scored seven of her total 16 points during the Laker run. Zick picked off a Calvin pass and layed it in to bring the Lakers up 21-19 and also capped off the run with a lay-up with 2:00 remaining to give the Lakers the 35-19 lead.

"This was one of Crystal's best defensive performances," Plitzuweit said. "Coincidentally, it was also one of her best offensive performances too."

The Knights scrounged up three more points before the half, with the Lakers leading by

a score of 39-22.

The Knights came out of halftime making another legitimate attempt to get back in the game as they out-scored the Lakers 10-4, but GVSU held firmly to the lead and closed out their home season-opener by a score of 81-48.

The Lakers caused 29 turnovers throughout the game leading to 39 of their points.

Early in the second half senior forward Niki Reams went down with an injured thigh after colliding with a fellow player on a rebound attempt and spent the remainder of the game icing it on the bench. Plitzuweit said her condition is still being evaluated for the weekend games.

Zick led the Lakers in scoring with 16 points, and she also dished off five assists. Junior forward Julia Braseth chipped in with 11 points, and after solid play in the second half of the game, freshman guard Jenny Steffen finished with 10 points.

The Lakers shot 48.6 percent from the field while knocking down 50 percent of their free throws (6-12).

Leading the Knights in scoring was Winkle, who finished with 14.

Division III Calvin is coming off a solid season last year. They made a trip to the Elite Eight just as the Lakers did in Division II. This year, however, Calvin is playing with a younger team that boasts one senior and junior.

"They were young at the guard position," Plitzuweit said. "We clamped down on them, and I think that made them uncomfortable."

This weekend, the Lakers will be continuing their regular season action in Springfield, Mo. as they'll take part in the Drury University Tip-Off tournament. The Lakers will first match up against the host school, and regardless of the outcome, they will face Southern Arkansas in the following game.

# Women's basketball dominates

By JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Staff Writer

Dec. 5, 2005

On Thursday and Saturday the women of the Grand Valley State University basketball team sent a message to the rest of the Great Lakes Conference: they are going to be the team to beat.

While opening up their conference schedule on the road last Thursday and Saturday, the Lakers posted two victories by a difference of 35 and 21 points.

"I don't know what message that sends or what it does, but we're just glad our intensity has picked up," said Dawn Plitzuweit, head coach. "We have some challenging games coming up so we hope we can keep it up."

Their explosive start gives the Lakers a 2-0 record within the conference, while they carry a 6-2 record overall. They sit at the top of the North Division of the conference along with No. 21 Lake Superior State (1-0) and Michigan Tech (1-0), who are close behind.

In the South Division, Hillsdale claimed the top spot with a perfect record of 3-0.

On Thursday, the Lakers opened up

their conference schedule at University Center, Mich. in grand fashion as they defeated the Cardinals of Saginaw Valley State University (1-2, 2-4) by a difference of 35 points. GVSU surged offensively as they won 82-47.

Every active member of GVSU's roster recorded minutes in the game as 15 of their 16 players scored a point or more. Senior forward Niki Reams led the team in scoring with 18 points in her 23 minutes of play. Also coming in with double digit scoring was sophomore guard Crystal Zick, who netted 15 points along with dishing off five assists, as well as junior guard Erika Ryskamp, who scored 11 points along with six assists.

"During our last two games we've been able to play a lot of players," Plitzuweit said. "What that does is keep all of our players fresh."

The Lakers handled the Cardinals well from the beginning as they blasted out of the opening gate with a 13-0 run. The Lakers built on that lead from there, extending it to 20 points with four minutes to go in the first half.

The Lakers went into the locker room at halftime on top of the Cardinals 24-41.

GVSU coasted through the second half

of the play to finish off the job with a score of 82-47.

"We as coaches always say that when our defensive intensity is up, it helps our offensive intensity," Plitzuweit said. "Our defense played well and we showed lot of improvement in ball control on offense."

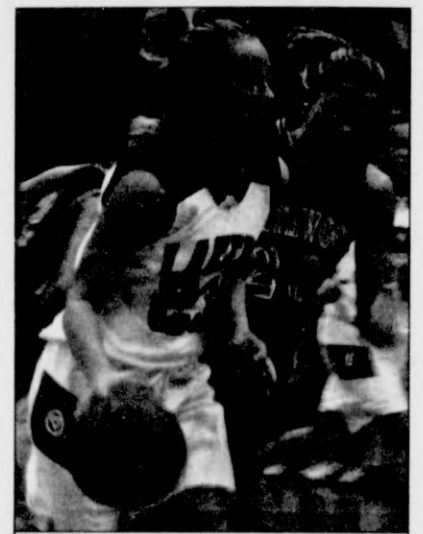
The Lakers rode their momentum into Allendale for their home conference opener Saturday against Northwood (0-2, 1-4), where they defeated the Timberwolves 75-54.

A successful midrange jump shot by Crystal Zick capped off a mid-half 8-1 scoring run for the Lakers to give them a 10 point lead. The Lakers built up a larger first half lead as Reams made a lay-up while being fouled for a three point play. Reams' three-point play capped off an additional 13-2 run for the Lakers.

GVSU rode the scoring run into the locker room where they held on to a 40-19 lead.

While the Timberwolves tied the Lakers in scoring for the second half (35-35), the one-sided first half handed the Lakers the 75-54 win.

Reams scored 26 points in the game with 10 total rebounds, giving her a double-double. Ryskamp also chipped in with



GVL / Ashley Comstock

**In control:** Junior Erika Ryskamp dribbles the ball down the court during the Dec. 3 home game against Northwood University in the Fieldhouse arena.

her double-double of 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lakers will continue their conference schedule on Thursday when they travel to Big Rapids, Mich. to take on rivals Ferris State University (1-1, 3-3).

## Lakers gear up for conference schedule

By JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Staff Writer

Dec. 1, 2005

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team dropped one of its three games over the holiday break. While the Lakers were not thrilled with the defeat to Lewis, they'd rather get the bugs out before Thursday.

Tonight, the Lakers will begin their Great Lakes Conference portion of their schedule as they open up with Saginaw Valley State University. The Lakers look to take all the challenging preparation they have gone through thus far this season and concentrate on coming out of the GLIAC as champions.

"We focus in the non-conference schedule in playing good competition," coach Dawn Plitzuweit said. "We're excited to open up the conference hunt. We want to control what we can

control. That's our effort."

The Lakers will take on the Cardinals at 6 p.m. in the University Center in Saginaw, Mich.

On Nov. 25 and 26, the Lakers hosted the Grand Valley State University Days Inn Classic where GVSU picked up a one-sided victory as well as dropping a narrow one.

On their first day of competition, the Lakers tossed Marygrove College to the side by a score of 74-47.

Despite what the lop-sided final score indicated, the Mustangs of Marygrove gave the Lakers a handful in the first half of play. Marygrove jumped on the Lakers with a quick 4-0 lead and hung tough by tying the contest up 20-20 with just over four minutes to go in the first half.

The Lakers made a quick 8-0 scoring surge at the end of the first half to send them into the locker room at halftime with a score 28-20.

The Lakers held on to the lead with an

additional 17-7 scoring run to improve their record to 3-1 on the season. Junior forward Julia Braseth led the Lakers in scoring with a double-double. Braseth scored 14 points and yanked down 10 boards. Sophomore guard Crystal Zick added 12 points while senior center Jaida Bourke scored 11, a career high.

The second day of the tournament was not as friendly to the Lakers as a 66-63 contest slipped out of their fingers to Lewis. The loss brought the Lakers to a record of 3-2 on the season.

Neither team could mount a lead over more than six points throughout the game, but the advantage was in favor of the Lakers who went into the locker room at halftime with a one point edge over the Flyers (34-33).

The Lakers fought in the second half, and with a lay-up by Zick, took the lead by five points early on. However, the Flyers bounced back with a 10-2 scoring run midway through the half to capture the lead back. Down the stretch,

the Flyers built a lead of seven points, and held the Lakers off in the waning minutes of the game.

Senior forward Niki Reams led the Lakers in scoring with 14 points. She also had five rebounds in her 28 minutes of play. Braseth added 13, while Zick netted 11.

However, the Lakers bounced back Monday night as they improved to 4-2 with a 72-50 road win over Aquinas College.

"After the weekend games, we identified that we needed to do a better job of getting hustle plays — tip passes, rebound," Plitzuweit said. "At Aquinas, we did a better job of getting those hustle plays and in turn created possessions for the team."

Reams led scoring also with 20 points, while sophomore guard Erin Cyplik scored a hefty 17 and Zick added with 14.

Sarah Hawley contributed to this report.

## GV Lakers beat Ferris, Mercyhurst on the floor

The women's basketball team prepares for its trip to Hawaii after defeating rival FSU

By JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Staff Writer

Dec. 12, 2005

This weekend, the Lakers earned their upcoming sunny vacation in Hawaii.

With the Lakers scheduled to ship out to Kilauea, Hawaii on Dec. 20 and Dec. 21 for the Hoop 'N' Surf Classic, they first took care of a little business on the mainland.

On Thursday night, the Lakers grabbed a 20-point victory against their long time rivals Ferris State University [1-2, 3-4], while on Saturday afternoon, they scored another one-sided victory at home in the Fieldhouse against Mercyhurst College [1-2, 1-7].

The pair of Great Lakes Conference wins gives Grand Valley State University a perfect conference record of 4-0 setting them atop the North Division of the conference, in front of second-place Michigan Tech, who is 3-0 after their most recent win against Northwood [63-59]. The Lakers also have a record of 8-2 overall, ranking them No. 9 in the nation.

On Thursday in Big Rapids, Mich. senior guard Niki Reams scored 33 points to power the Lakers over the Bulldogs 75-55.

Reams went 13-19 from the field, three of which were three-point field goals, as she hit all four of her free throw attempts. Reams also had nine rebounds and three blocks.

Sophomore guard Crystal Zick contributed with double digit scoring as she finished the game with a total of 17 points, dishing off nine assists. Sophomore guard Erin Cyplik finished the game with 10.

The Bulldogs fought closely

with the Lakers in the early going, keeping the game locked in a 24-24 tie half way through the first half. A mid-range jump shot hit by Zick with 2:25 stretched a GVSU scoring run into a 12-point lead. However, the Bulldogs brought it within eight at halftime with a score of 29-37.

The Bulldogs cut the GVSU lead to six early in the second half, but the Lakers distanced themselves throughout the half taking the game by 20.

Reams, who led in scoring against the Bulldogs, also led in scoring against Mercyhurst, but this time there was a long list of personnel helping her out significantly.

In the lopsided 78-41 GVSU victory, Reams totaled 16 points and eight rebounds. Behind her were four other Lakers who netted double digits in scoring.

Junior forward Julia Braseth finished the game with 15 points, while junior guard Erika Ryskamp finished with 13 points and fired off seven assists. Zick also chipped in with 10 points, hitting two three-point field goals.

The remainder of the Lakers' squad recorded playing time in the game as well.

The Lakers jumped on Mercyhurst early on, building a 42-23 lead going into the locker room at halftime. GVSU continued to clip along in the second half finishing the game with a 78-41 victory.

The GVSU defense forced 19 turnovers and out-rebounded Mercyhurst 44-32.

The next stop for the Lakers will be on the island of Hawaii as they are slated to take on Valdosta State and the Dominican Republic in a pair of non-conference match-ups.



Keeping close watch: Head coach Dawn Plitzuweit signals to her players during the home game against Mercyhurst on Dec. 10. GVL / Ashley Comstock

## Women's team takes the court in Hawaii

By JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Sports Editor

Jan. 9, 2006

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team (5-1, 12-3) made a trip to Kilauea, Hawaii, but instead of bathing in the beating sun of the islands, the Lakers labored hard against No. 11 Valdosta State University.

The event was part of the Hoop 'N' Surf Classic on Dec. 20 and Dec. 21.

"We wanted to take this trip for a number of reasons," head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said. "It was a sort of bonding experience for the girls, but we also wanted to see some of the best competition that we could."

The Lakers made the long trip worth their while as they defeated Valdosta State and also scored a win against Dominican (N.Y.). The wins expanded their winning streak to seven consecutive games.

The Lakers defeated Valdosta State handily by a score of 60-39. The Lakers had control of the game by halftime,

as they mounted a 33-18 lead. Plitzuweit said she did not think it was a matter of Valdosta State being taken out of their element, but the GVSU defense deserves a lot of credit for playing tough and having a lot of "pop in their legs."

Senior forward Niki Reams led the Lakers in scoring with a double-double. Reams scored 27 points in the game while grabbing down 12 rebounds. Reams' performance was one of the main factors that crowned her Great Lakes Conference Player of the Week.

Sophomore guard Crystal Zick also netted 12 points.

"It was nice to play them on a neutral court," Plitzuweit said. "Our defense really stepped up and in turn, our offense started to respond as well."

Before the Lakers left the island, they handed Dominican a 67-50 loss. Reams had another double-double, scoring 21 points and 10 rebounds. Junior guard Erika Ryskamp had 11 points and five assists, while junior forward Julia Braseth had eight points and 10 rebounds.

When the Lakers returned home, they kept their winning ways alive with a home-court

victory over Wisconsin-Parkside, but suffered a conference loss to Michigan Tech (6-1, 10-3) on the road.

Reams and Zick led the Lakers in their 84-46 win over Wisconsin-Parkside on Dec. 30, as they both scored 16 points. The Lakers shot 50 percent from the floor in the game.

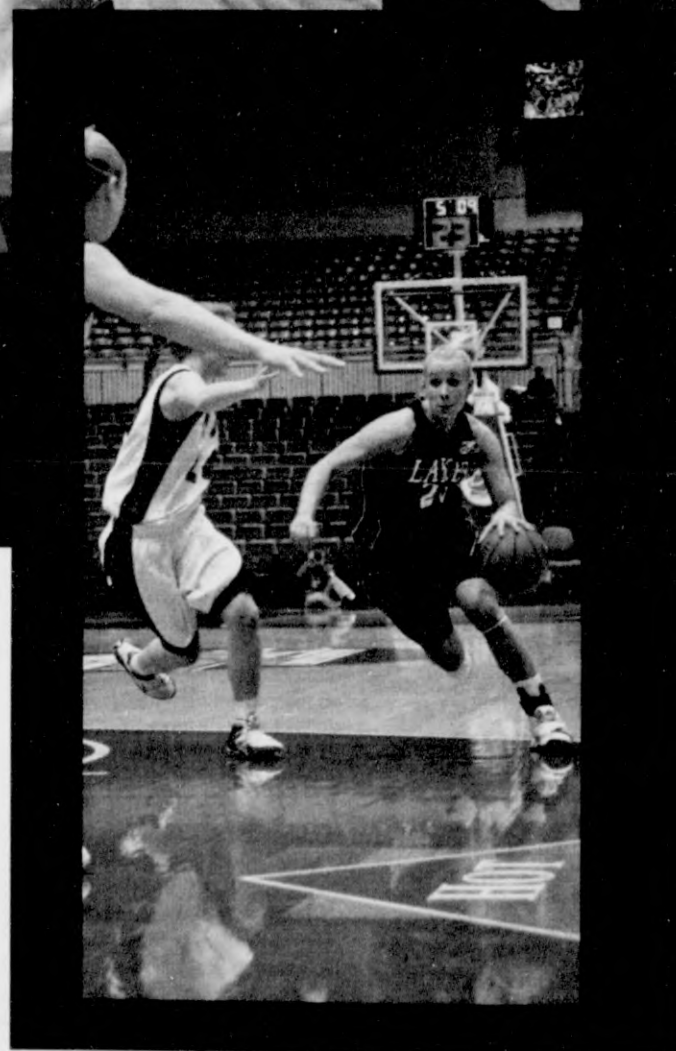
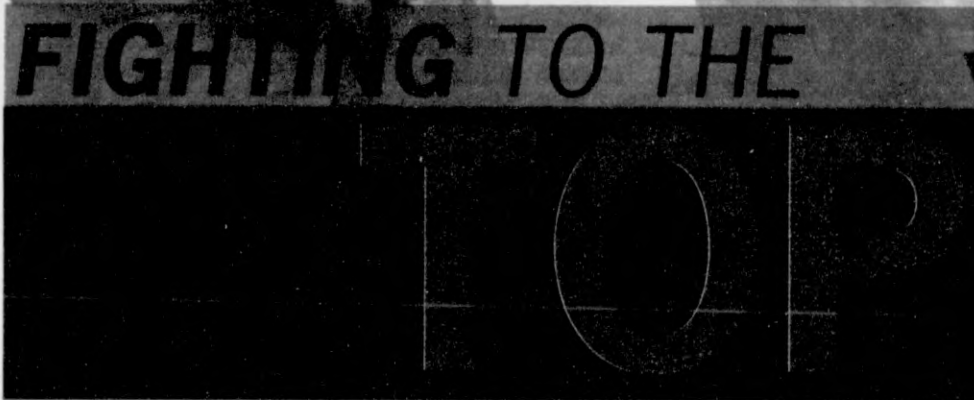
On the road in Houghton, Mich., on Jan. 5, a 58-55 Laker lead with 3:58 to go was not enough for GVSU to hold on to, as they fell to the Huskies. The Lakers went on a four-minute scoring drought as Michigan Tech yanked away the game, and now sits on top of the North Division of the GLLAC.

"The game is over, and there is nothing we can do about it now," Plitzuweit said. "It is now the job of us as coaches to turn this into a learning experience."

Zick led the Lakers in scoring with 15 points. Reams (12), Ryskamp (11) and Braseth (10) all scored in double digits as well.

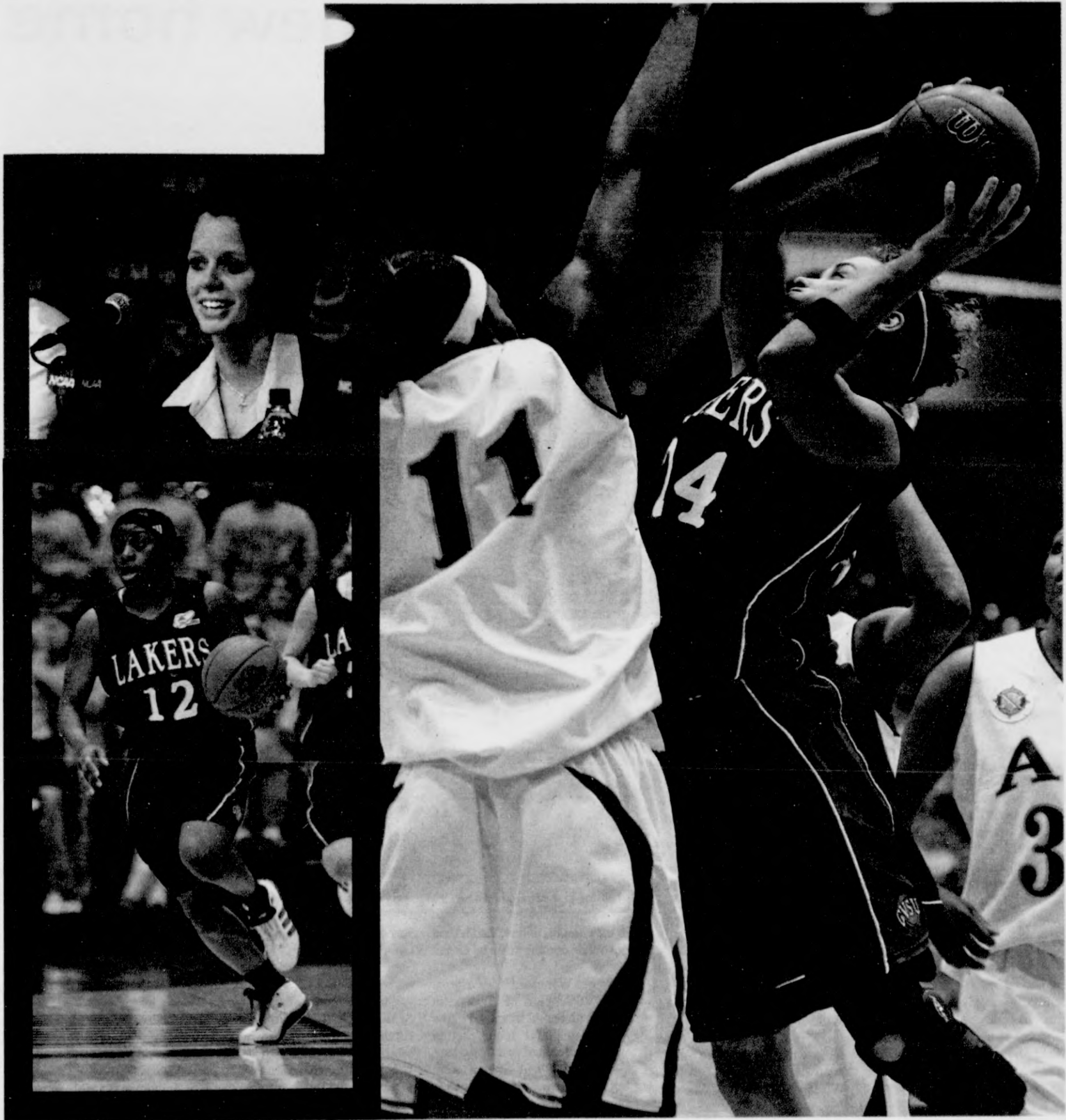
The Lakers rebounded on Saturday with an 81-55 win over Northern Michigan University. The Lakers will continue action on Thursday at home against Lake Superior State University.





PHOTOS BY MATT BUTTERFIELD

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team defeated Chico State University in the Final Four game in Hot Springs, Ark., allowing them to move on and compete in the National Championship game against American International College on Saturday. The Lakers won 58-52, claiming GVSU's first-ever National Championship in women's basketball.



# Player adjusts to her new home

Forward Kim Wyngaard joined the GVSU basketball team out of Wisconsin

By JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Sports Editor

Jan. 12, 2006

When Wisconsin native Kim Wyngaard made her decision to go to Grand Valley State University, the stress of moving to another state and adjusting to a different lifestyle were the least of her worries.

Instead, Wyngaard was focused on the more physical task of entering a nationally successful basketball program and finding ways to improve the team during her first year of collegiate basketball.

"There's always doubt in your mind," Wyngaard said about making the move to GVSU. "But it was a nice feeling knowing that this was a good program."

Wyngaard, a 5-foot, 10-inch forward majoring in education, has now adjusted to life both in Allendale and on the hardwood, as she leads all freshmen for the GVSU women's basketball team in virtually every category.

Wyngaard has played in 15 games during her first season with the Lakers and has scored two starts along the way. Wyngaard averages 17.3 minutes of playing time in each game.

She has scored 45 points this season averaging three points a game. She holds the highest field goal percentage on the team as she shoots 54 percent [18-33] from the field and 60 percent [9-15] from the free throw line. She has also ripped down 42 boards averaging

2.8 rebounds per game.

Whether it is rebounding or shooting the ball, Wyngaard said she does not look to make it all happen herself. She said she wants to be used as a tool by her coaches to execute the kind of basketball that they want to play.

"Any time a freshman can come in and play a minute, that says a lot about the character of the person," said head coach Dawn Plitzuweit. "Not only does she play quite a few minutes, but they are important minutes as well."

Before Wyngaard made the trip to Michigan, she put up an award-studded basketball career as a high school student in Wisconsin.

At Kimberly High School, Wyngaard racked up one award after another, which caught the

eye of the GVSU recruiting staff. Wyngaard was named Fox Valley Association Player of the Year on two separate occasions, along with being an All-State honorable mention three times. Wyngaard also surpassed the 1,000-point

"... Everyone on the team has done a lot for me."

**KIM WYNGAARD**

FORWARD

mark.

After graduation she began shopping around for schools to attend, but said she never considered a Division I school to be an option.

"I thought about going to a few schools," Wyngaard said.

With other options such as Northern Michigan University, the GVSU women's basketball staff wasted no time and effort recruiting Wyngaard and sealing the deal. Wyngaard recalls several visits from Plitzuweit and associate head coach Mike Williams.

"Kim's a player we knew for a while," Plitzuweit said. "I knew her from when I coached at Wisconsin Green Bay. She came



Looking to shoot: Freshman Kim Wyngaard prepares to take a shot during a game against Northwood University. *CVL / Ashley Comstock*

to the campus, and we had her on our radar coming over to Grand Valley."

When Wyngaard made a move to GVSU, part of Wisconsin came with her — literally. Fellow Wisconsin player Jenny Steffen was also recruited as a freshman.

Wyngaard and Steffen were not close friends, but knew each other because Steffen's high

school [DePere High School] competed against Kimberly. Steffen said she came for many of the same reasons as Wyngaard.

"I was pretty intimidated," Steffen said. "I knew that I was coming to a team with a winning season so that kind of made me want to come here more."

Steffen and Wyngaard are now roommates at GVSU.

"Jenny has helped me a lot," Wyngaard said. "But I don't think I could pick out just one person because everyone on the team has done a lot for me."

As the Lakers plow through another season, Wyngaard said she has no regrets.

"Basketball wise, this is the best situation for me," she said.

# Lakers pick up pair of wins

By **MATT PICKEL**  
GVL Staff Writer

Jan. 30, 2006

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team continued its seven-game winning streak by partaking in a pair of games on the road last week.

The Lakers improved their overall record to 17-3, and have won 13 of their last 14 games.

The Lakers began their four-game road stint with a win on Thursday against Wayne State University in Detroit. The Lakers shot 44.2 percent from the field and dominated in the paint, scoring 36 points. The Lakers scored 26 points off of WSU turnovers, and the Lakers held the Warriors scoreless in the last 6:25 of the game.

"We stayed focus," said junior center Julia Braseth. "We took every possession one at a time."

GVSU held WSU scoreless for nearly nine minutes in the first half while scoring 17 straight points.

Senior forward Niki Reams scored 21 points, while Braseth

added 15. Crystal Zick had 13 points and posted two of the team's 13 combined steals en route to its 73-51 victory.

"Offensively, we did a good job of moving the ball early in the game," head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said. "Wayne State came out in a zone, so we were able to penetrate, swing it on the perimeter, and we got some pretty good looks. We were able to convert them early in the game."

The Lakers continued to roll Saturday afternoon with a win over Ashland University, 74-59, the team's second straight road victory.

Junior guard Erika Ryskamp had a team-high 26 points, while Reams was right behind her, racking up 23 points and 13 rebounds for a double-double. The Lakers forced 17 turnovers while improving their conference record to 10-1.

The team knows the importance of winning on the road this time of year, Braseth said.

"It's that time of year when anyone can beat anyone at any given night, especially on road games," Braseth said. "It's definitely good to get that



GVL / Ashley Comstock

**Keeping guard:** Junior Taushauna Churchwell plays defense during the Dec. 10 home game against Mercyhurst.

mentality that we're going to compete and win on the road no matter what."

"It's key for us," Plitzuweit added. "We went into two environments that are not necessarily friendly environments, and we did a good enough job defensively, finding a way to zone both out."

There's no doubt the Laker

defense is a key element in the team's success, Plitzuweit said.

"Defensively, we have to take it one possession at a time," Braseth said. "The more we do that and string along each stop in a row, the better we are."

The Lakers hope to keep their winning streak alive as they take on Lake Superior State University on Thursday.

"It's a huge game," Braseth said. "It's a road game, so it'll be a little more difficult, but I think we'll be ready because they're definitely one of our rivals, and it'll be a really good game, especially at their place."

It will be important to play well defensively, Plitzuweit said.

"We haven't fared very well there in the past," she said.

## Grand Valley triumphs over LSSU Lakers

By **MATT PICKEL**  
GVL Staff Writer

Jan. 16, 2006

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team proved it was the better of the two teams that took the floor last Thursday as they defeated No. 14 Lake Superior State University Lakers, 63-47.

Despite falling behind early in the first half, GVSU forced LSSU to commit fouls and turn the ball over, helping them to tie the game with 7:34 left to play in the half.

After a few turnovers, GVSU found themselves down by

two, when junior Taushauna Churchwell nailed a three-pointer at the buzzer to give the Lakers a one point lead at halftime.

Head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said she thought the team was not taking quality shots in the first half.

"We took really quick shots," Plitzuweit said. "We got the ball entered, and we were screaming for someone, and we took a shot right away. In the second half I thought we did a much better job of swinging the ball, staying patient defensively, and we got very good shots out of it, and in rhythm."

The Lakers came out strong in the second half. During a Laker scoring run, sophomore

Crystal Zick nailed a three-point field goal.

With two quick buckets by senior forward Niki Reams, the Lakers were able to go up by 19, their biggest lead of the game, with 8:15 left to play.

The Laker defense continued to make LSSU turn the ball over.

"We know that their post player is definitely a strong player for them so we focused in practice on having a lot of help, and I thought our girls did a great job of helping out," said junior forward/center Julia Braseth.

With about five minutes left to play, LSSU began to make a run, causing GVSU to commit a few fouls.

"We were in that offensive mode, and we weren't in that defensive mind set," Plitzuweit said. "We needed to do a good job of taking away penetration and not fouling them."

"On offense we were kind of freaking out," Braseth said. "It's hard to go from being so aggressive defensively to offense, so coach just told us to relax and take a breather and have confidence, and I think we did that."

LSSU was able to pull within 12 with two minutes to play, but two more buckets by Reams helped the Lakers seal the deal and win their second straight.

Reams finished with 20 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore

guard Zick added 14 points and eight boards, while Braseth scored 10 points.

On Saturday, the Lakers extended their winning streak to three games with a big win over Northern Michigan University, 60-39.

Braseth had 16 points and five rebounds, while Erika Ryskamp added 16 points.

The Lakers not only out rebounded NMU by 23, but also shot 45.5 percent from behind the arc. They improved their record to 14-3 overall, and 7-1 in the GLIAC.

GVSU, currently ranked 16th, hopes to continue their winning streak when they take on Gannon University at home on Jan. 23.

# GVSU keeps winning

By JAYSON BUSSA  
GVL Sports Editor

Feb. 13, 2006

With two victories over the weekend, the Grand Valley State University women's basketball team extended its winning streak to nine games.

This weekend, the Lakers ousted two conference opponents in Northwood University [2-12, 6-15] and the University of Findlay [4-10, 11-13]. The pair of wins builds GVSU's Great Lakes Conference record to 13-1, while its overall record is 20-3.

The Lakers have only lost once since the beginning of December.

GVSU's single loss came on the road on Jan. 5 when it fell 64-58 to Michigan Technological University [13-2, 17-5]. MTU sits in second place, one game below the Lakers in the North Conference of the GLIAC.

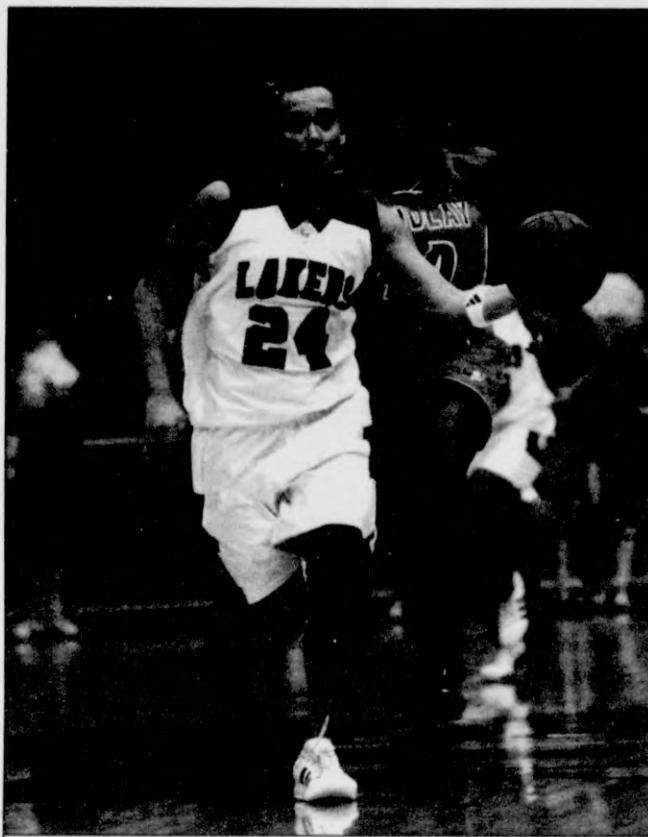
On Thursday, the Lakers capped off a four-game road stint by defeating Northwood on their own floor. With junior center Julia Braseth leading the team in scoring, the Lakers grabbed the 74-60 edge, remaining unmarked in the four games on the road.

Braseth not only led both teams in scoring, but she also achieved career-best numbers. Braseth cashed in 23 points, the most that she has scored as a Laker. Along with her highly-offensive performance, Braseth also had eight rebounds and two blocks.

Senior forward/guard Niki Reams ended the game with a career-high number in blocks. Reams recorded five blocks in the game to go along with her 15 points and six rebounds.

Sophomore guard Crystal Zick finished with double digits in scoring as she poured in 12 points, four assists and three rebounds.

While Northwood held on to the lead for six minutes in the first half, a successful lay-up shot by Niki Reams with 6:18 to go in



CVL / Matt Butterfield  
Taking control: Senior Niki Reams runs on a breakout after stealing the ball from a Findlay player during the Feb. 11 game.

the half gave the Lakers the lead for the half and the remainder of the game.

Going into the locker room, the Lakers had a 38-31 lead. The team built on its halftime lead and finished the game with the victory.

GVSU scored 20 points off of the 17 turnovers they caused on the Timberwolf end.

Saturday's return to the GVSU Fieldhouse Arena was a successful one for the Lakers, as they walloped Findlay by a score of 70-39.

The game was considered a GLIAC crossover game because GVSU belongs to the North Division and Findlay to the South Division.

The Laker defense clamped down on Findlay, causing 26 turnovers on the game. From those turnovers came 24 GVSU points. The team also grabbed

a 39-30 rebounding advantage; 18 of those GVSU boards being offensive rebounds.

The Lakers battled the Oilers to a halftime score of 34-20, and continued to hold a double-digit advantage for the rest of the game. The Oilers only came within 14 points of GVSU for the remainder of the game.

Zick led the Lakers in scoring with 14 points, four assists and three rebounds. Junior guard Erika Ryskamp chimed in with 13 points, while Reams had 11 points, six rebounds, five assists and five steals, a career-high for her.

Braseth came off her career-high scoring game by putting in 11 points against the Oilers. The GVSU bench accounted for 21 points in the game.

The Lakers will face MTU [13-2, 17-5] on Thursday night at home.

# Lakers edge out No. 22 LSSU

By MATT PICKEL  
GVL Staff Writer

Feb. 6, 2006

In a two-point game between conference leaders, the No. 14 Grand Valley State University (11-1, 18-3) women's basketball team prevailed against No. 22 Lake Superior State University (9-5, 17-5) on Thursday, 65-63.

Leading the way for the Lakers was sophomore guard Crystal Zick, who posted five rebounds and 19 points on 7-of-12 shooting from the field. Junior guard Erika Ryskamp added 13 points and six boards. Senior guard and forward Niki Reams had nine points along with four steals.

GVSU head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said the bench support played a huge role in the win.

"We're proud of our players' effort," Plitzuweit said. "It took 40 minutes to pull this one out."

Plitzuweit said she saw some players step up who have not played much prior to the contest. She cited freshman forward Nicole Carr and senior center Jaida Bourke as two players who went out on the floor with a lot of energy.

Turnovers plagued both teams in the contest. The Lakers turned the ball over a game-high 19 times, while LSSU was not far behind with 17. LSSU was able to take those GVSU turnovers and convert them into 17 points.

Both teams managed to shoot 25 percent from beyond the arc.

The lead was tossed from team to team, with 14 lead changes and eight ties in the contest. The Lakers trailed at half-time by a score of 34-30.

"We addressed some areas

of concern," Plitzuweit said. "At that point in time, they were getting a lot of offensive boards on us. Offensively, we addressed being firm with the basketball."

The Lakers had trouble containing LSSU's top shooter, Becky Marquardt-King. Marquardt-King put up 21 points on the game, 11 of which were in the first half.

"We tried four or five different combinations of players to guard her, but it's five players on the floor defensively that are responsible to keep passes out of the middle and keep them beyond the post," Plitzuweit said.

With 29 seconds left to play, the Lakers were up by two points with pressure on the defense.

"At that point in time we really wanted to keep them off the free-throw line," Plitzuweit said.

Down the stretch, LSSU worked the ball inside the paint, but could not convert on a few short-shot attempts. The Lakers ripped down the rebounds and the victory over the conference foe.

The Lakers improved their record to 18-3 overall and 11-1 in the Great Lakes Conference North Division. GVSU will finish its four-game road stint on Thursday when the team takes on Northwood University before coming home for two games against the University of Findlay (Feb. 11) and Michigan Technological University (Feb. 16).

"We need to tighten some things up defensively," Plitzuweit said. "We've got to get better at rebounding the basketball and pushing the ball up the floor offensively. When you're playing against great competition, it comes down to all the little things."

# Gannon 'turns over' victory to Grand Valley

By **MATT PICKEL**  
GVL Staff Writer

Jan. 26, 2006

Despite struggling in the first half, the Lakers defense forced 22 turnovers for a 68-51 win over Gannon University on Monday.

The Lakers took to the court after more than a week of downtime as Gannon out-scored them in the first half 28-25. They shot 30 percent from the field in the half.

"As a coach, you just never really know what it is," said head coach Dawn Plitzuweit. "We came out and our intensity wasn't very good, whether it was the layoff, whether it was who knows

what."

The Lakers turned the score around in the second half. GVSU was able to open up the lanes under the basket for points, and cause 12 out of the 22 total Gannon turnovers. GVSU out-scored the Knights in the second half by 20 points.

"We started moving the ball a little bit more, Erika [Ryskamp] and Crystal [Zick] hit a couple shots and Niki [Reams] hit a couple shots — and that certainly opens things up for you pretty quickly," Plitzuweit said. "In the first half they really wanted to clog it up and force us to take shots, and weren't really ready for that necessarily."

Reams led all scorers with 19 while shooting 50 percent from the three-point line. She also added four steals.

"She's an all-American and was Player of the Year in the conference last year," Plitzuweit said of Reams. "She does a lot of things behind the scenes. She's a leader and got some great rebounds for us, moved the ball, then obviously comes down and scores the ball too."

Julia Braseth added 17 and Zick posted 13 as the Lakers extended their winning streak to four games.

"Bottom line is, we came out and played really hard in the second half, and we're proud

of our kids for responding and finding a way when things aren't going very well," Plitzuweit added.

GVSU racked up 11 steals, leading to 21 points off the turnovers. They shot 50 percent from the field and 45.5 percent from behind the arc in the second half. They also held Gannon scoreless for the last 4:26 of the game.

Plitzuweit said she thinks the week off of games helped the team recover.

"We hope our season goes for quite a while," Plitzuweit said. "Right now we feel like our players are pretty fresh going into it. Bottom line is, these situations,

these breaks have been good for us in the past, and we anticipate it's going to be good for us again."

The Lakers now must face a four-game road stint where they will see four conference teams, one of which is No. 18 Lake Superior State University.

"We got to play great defense," Plitzuweit said. "When you have the ability to play great defense every time, you got to be able to go on the road and take care of business that way."

The Lakers' overall record is 15-3. They will take on Wayne State University in Detroit tonight.

# GVSU Lakers fight to stay on top

By **JAYSON BUSSA**  
GVL Sports Editor

Feb. 16, 2006

Tonight, the first place position in the North Division of the Great Lakes Conference will be up in the air.

Grand Valley State University, which sits in first place in the division, will take on a Michigan Technological University squad that is only one game below the Lakers. The Lakers hold a conference record of 13-1, while the Huskies carry a 13-2 conference record.

Michigan Tech handed GVSU its only conference loss of the season with a 64-58 win in Houghton, Mich., on Jan. 5. The Lakers will now host the Huskies for the second round.

GVSU head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said the team can achieve a victory by keeping it simple and playing the type of basketball that has kept the Lakers winning thus far.

The Lakers are currently on a nine-game winning streak, the team's last loss being against the Huskies. The Lakers are also 9-1 on their home court, with their only loss coming in a non-league contest against Lewis University on Nov. 26.

MTU suffered conference losses to both Lake Superior State University and

Saginaw Valley State University this year. The Huskies have also won seven of their last eight games and carry a 8-4 record on the road.

Both GVSU and Michigan Tech are front runners for the North Division title this year. FSU sits in third place with a conference record of 10-5, keeping the team out of reach of the first place spot for the remainder of the season.

Both teams have already clinched births in the GLIAC playoffs held at the end of the season.

GVSU junior center Julia Braseth has been the go-to woman for the Lakers lately, recently being named GLIAC Player of the Week with a combined 34-point effort last week. However, Plitzuweit said she knows Braseth will have to battle in order to be a dominant presence in the paint against Michigan Tech and grab the Lakers a win.

"They have a couple big kids at Michigan Tech that can certainly be a factor in any game," Plitzuweit said. "Julia's going to have to do a good job of keeping the ball out of their hands."

Last time the two teams met, it was the smaller guard position players that produced on the offensive end for the Lakers. Sophomore Crystal Zick led the Lakers with 15 points and junior Erika Ryskamp contributed with 11.

The Lakers shot 30.8 percent from

the field in that past game along with 14 turnovers. The Huskies shot 47.4 percent on the game with 16 turnovers.

The Lakers had a one-rebound edge over the Huskies with 31-30 rebound totals. Senior Niki Reams yanked down nine on the game while Michigan Tech's Amanda Sieja had 10.

The player that did the most offensive damage to the Lakers last game was Catherine Rottier, who scored a game-high 19 points. Rottier only hit three shots out of her 11 attempts from the field, but the Lakers handed her 13 shots from the charity stripe where she knocked down 10.

"I think defensively we've got to be the aggressor, but we have to do it in a way that we don't foul," Plitzuweit said. "We don't want to put them at the free-throw line."

The Lakers have three conference games remaining after their game with Michigan Tech. After competing on the road against Hillsdale on Saturday, the team will return home on Wednesday and on Feb. 25 to take on SVSU and FSU, respectively.

"It's great to be home at the end of the season," Plitzuweit said. "That's when you really want to be making a charge. That's where you'll really want to be playing your best basketball."



GVL / Kate Brown

**Hitting the hardwood:** Junior Guard Erika Ryskamp drives past a Michigan Tech University player during the Feb. 16 game in the Fieldhouse. It was a Laker Victory 60-39.

# GVSU beats SVSU, FSU on home court

BY MATT PICKEL

GVL Staff Writer

Feb. 27, 2006

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team has racked up 13 wins in a row, its latest coming from a 69-52 regular season-ending victory over Ferris State University on Saturday.

On Wednesday, GVSU took on Saginaw Valley State University in a battle of the valleys. Center Julia Braseth had a career-high 25 points and added 14 rebounds while Erika Ryskamp had a double-double with 13 points and 10 assists.

The Lakers came up with a 66-58 victory despite trailing

at halftime. They were able to score 23 second-chance points, capitalizing on 21 offensive rebounds.

On Saturday, the Lakers were able to keep their winning streak going against FSU.

Guard Erika Ryskamp led all scorers with 21 points and six assists, while forward Niki Reams added 18 points and eight rebounds.

In front of a loud crowd of 2,244, the Lakers caused 18 FSU turnovers, which led to 21 second-chance points. The Lakers also limited FSU to a 37.3 shooting percentage from the field, including only 30.8 percent from behind the arc.

"Ferris is the best team in our league offensively, and if you let down for a second,

they find a way to get off very good shots," GVSU head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said. "I know this is very clichéd, but you've got to be able to play an entire possession... and that's a very challenging thing to do."

GVSU was able to get to the foul line 18 times and shot 70.8 percent from the stripe. The team also out-rebounded the Bulldogs by a plus-five margin.

Bench support played a huge role in the win, as it racked up 18 points.

"We had some kids play in this game that maybe haven't played a lot in other games, and they really gave us a spark," Plitzuweit said.

The Lakers took the lead in the first half off a three-pointer by Erin Cyplik, and never

looked back. The Lakers went in to the locker room at halftime with a 14 point lead.

However, with 5:25 to play, an FSU three-pointer brought the Bulldogs to within 10, forcing the Lakers into a time-out.

"They're a team that looks to push the ball and score quickly, and they were able to do that so we wanted to address that and correct that a little bit," Plitzuweit said.

She added the Lakers came out of the time-out set on not giving FSU easy looks to bring the game closer.

The Bulldogs, however, did not get any closer throughout the game. The Lakers held them off en route to their 25th victory of the season.

No. 14 GVSU finished

the season as the Great Lakes Conference North Division Champion with a record of 25-3 overall and 17-1 in the conference. The Lakers will now move into the playoffs.

GVSU has home court advantage when it takes on FSU again on Tuesday in the GLIAC Conference Tournament quarterfinals.

"Ultimately, we'll go back and review the film and take a look at where they took advantage of us and try to correct those things," Plitzuweit said. "It's certainly an emotional game from the standpoint that it's a rivalry game."

Plitzuweit said she thinks the home court advantage is important, and the team plays comfortably at home.

## Lakers named North Division Champions

BY JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Sports Editor

Feb. 20, 2006

With a pair of wins over the weekend, the women's basketball team of Grand Valley State University has secured the North Division title of the Great Lakes Conference.

After defeating the North Division's second place team Michigan Technological University (13-4, 17-7) Thursday night, the Lakers followed up with an additional road win against Hillsdale College (10-5, 17-8) to clinch the first place spot in the division.

Last year, the Lakers ended up knotted at the top spot with Lake Superior State University. Both teams had a conference record of 16-2.

The past two years have been a far cry from past Laker seasons. In 2003-2004 the Lakers finished the season with a conference record of 8-10 coming in at sixth place in the North Division. In 2001-2002, the Lakers posted a conference record of 7-11 landing in fifth place in the division.

This season, the division title was not only awarded to the Lakers outright, but GVSU has also clinched the No. 1 spot in the entire conference with its

record of 15-1, 22-3. The second leading schools in the conference are Michigan Tech and the South Division's Ashland University (11-4, 17-9). GVSU will serve as the host school for the GLIAC tournament because of its No. 1 standing in the conference.

Over the past week, the Lakers had far less breathing room in the conference. On Thursday night, GVSU battled against Michigan Tech who was then just one game behind the Lakers. A Tech win in the contest would have knotted the first place position between the two teams.

Going in to the game on a nine-game winning tear, the Lakers didn't skip a beat as they defeated Tech by a score of 60-39. With the win, GVSU has a record of 1-1 against Michigan Tech this season as the Huskies handed the Lakers their only conference loss of the year.

GVSU senior forward Niki Reams reached a milestone in the contest.

With her game-leading 22 points, Reams reached the 1,000-point mark after only two seasons with the Lakers. Reams also followed up with six rebounds, two steals and two assists. Reams now totals 1,017 points as a Laker.

This season, Reams has racked up 370 points with two regular season games left on the schedule as well as the possible post-season schedule. Her season averages put her as No. 5 in the

GLIAC for individual scoring.

Sophomore guard Crystal Zick also poured in 14 points against Tech while freshman forward Kim Wyngaard scored a career-high eight points.

The Lakers forced 14 Michigan Tech turnovers and capitalized with 21 points off of them. GVSU's defense also held the Huskies to only two points in the final 11:34 of the game.

The same Laker defense is ranked No. 1 in the GLIAC for points allowed in a game. GVSU averages 51.5 points against them per game. Michigan Tech is ranked No. 2 allowing an average of 57.2 points a game.

On Saturday afternoon, the Lakers picked up a win in their final road game of the season as they ran past Hillsdale by a score of 55-41.

The Lakers never trailed in their efforts against the Chargers.

Junior Julie Braseth led the Lakers in scoring with 20 points while hauling down nine rebounds. Zick added 15 to the effort while junior guard Erika Ryskamp scored seven.

The Lakers close down their season at home on Wednesday and Saturday. GVSU will face off against Saginaw Valley State University on Wednesday and take on conference rival Ferris State University on Saturday.



GVL Matt Butterfield

**Taking charge:** Freshman Jenny Steffen takes the ball in past Findlay's defense during the Jan. 11 game in the Fieldhouse.

# GVSU women pound Bulldogs

A victory over FSU advances the Lakers to the GLIAC semi-finals

By **MATT PICKEL**  
GVL Staff Writer

March 2, 2006

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team remembered how to beat the Bulldogs of Ferris State University on Tuesday.

In a somewhat lopsided first half, the Laker defense held FSU to only 13 points and went into half-time up by 30. GVSU never trailed in the 79-47 win.

The Lakers gave up 13 points to the Bulldogs in the first half — the least they have allowed all season.

Senior forward Niki Reams led all scorers with 20 points and added nine rebounds, while sophomore guard Crystal Zick scored

14 points. Junior guard Erika Ryskamp had 13 points in the win.

"Our players came out with a hunger," said head coach Dawn Plitzuweit. "This has been a crew that really wants to do a good job defensively. They've really figured that that's going to be their marquee."

The Lakers held the Bulldogs to a 29.3 percent shooting average for the first half and a 2-15 performance from three-point land.

"We came out with a bang and played pretty good defensive; in the beginning we had good intensity," said junior center Julia Braseth. "We made a lot of adjustments offensively and defensively."

Last weekend, the Lakers finished their regular season with 69-53 victory over FSU.

"From a preparation standpoint we know what they're going to do," Plitzuweit said. "But then you try to outthink yourself ... and try to anticipate what new wrinkle are they going to give us, what change, how are they going to mix it up."

The Lakers enjoyed their biggest lead of the game, 37 points, off freshman Jenny Steffen's jumper with 7:22 to play.

GVSU shot 47.5 percent from the field. The defense held all FSU scorers out of the double-digit category. The Lakers also scored 36 points in the paint and 20 points off 19 FSU turnovers.

The Lakers got to the free-throw line 17 times and shot 78.9 percent from it.

Despite the win, Plitzuweit said she thinks the team could improve in certain areas.

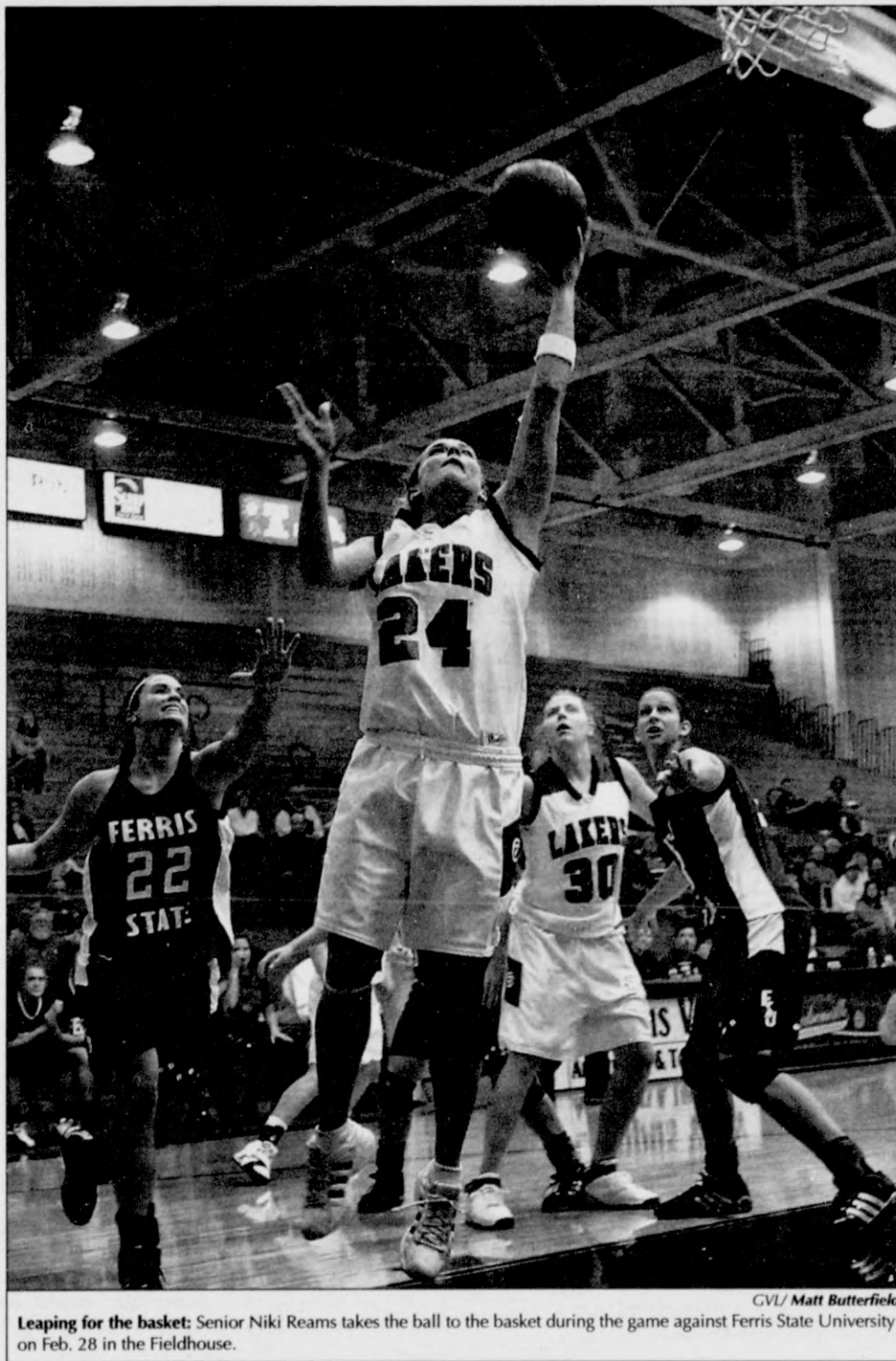
"We need to do a better job at cleaning up the glass, keeping them off the offensive board. We need to do a better job in stretches of taking care of the ball ... trying to jam it inside, and maybe we need to keep it on the perimeter longer."

Every Laker on the roster played in the contest, with the bench scoring 22 points. The Lakers have won 14 games in a row.

With the win, the Lakers advance to the semifinals of the GLIAC tournament. They will host the semifinals and finals Friday and Saturday.

**"Our players came out with a hunger. This has been a crew that really wants to do a good job defensively."**

**DAWN PLITZUWEIT**  
BASKETBALL HEAD COACH



Leaping for the basket: Senior Niki Reams takes the ball to the basket during the game against Ferris State University on Feb. 28 in the Fieldhouse.

GVL/ Matt Butterfield



# Set for the Elite Eight

The GVSU women's basketball will make its second straight trip to Hot Springs, Ark.

**By JAYSON BUSSA**  
GVL Sports Editor

March 16, 2006

The women's basketball team of Grand Valley State University found a new spring vacationing spot.

The Lakers will head to Hot Springs, Ark. next week for the second year in a row to take part in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Elite Eight competition.

"It's a comforting feeling in some regard because our coaching staff knows how to prepare the team, and the players feel comfortable in the venue," head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said of the team's return to Hot Springs.

Last year, the Lakers were knocked out in the first round of the tournament at the hands of Seattle Pacific University. This year they will face off against the University of Charleston (W. Va.) in the first round. The Golden Eagles carry a season record of 31-2, which includes their run in the postseason.

The coaching staff has not viewed the film on their opponent yet, but initial scouting reports show that the Lakers will be in for a fast-paced game.

"They are a team that is very, very good on both sides of the floor," Plitzuweit said. "They like to place a fast-paced game."

The trip to Hot Springs was earned by the Lakers after successful runs through both the conference and regional tournaments.

After taking the Great Lakes Conference Tournament title at home, the Lakers traveled to Springfield, Mo., last weekend for the Great Lakes Regional Tournament. The Lakers ran the table on their three games in the

tournament to earn their spot in the Elite Eight.

The Lakers started the regional tournament off against a familiar foe, Ashland University. The Lakers defeated Ashland in the final round of the conference tournament a week prior by a score of 76-58. GVSU defeated them again in the regional tournament by a score of 87-59.

Junior guard Erika Ryskamp led scoring in the game with 22 points while junior Julia Braseth contributed with 15.

The Lakers continued on to the regional semifinals where they ousted Northern Kentucky University by a score of 91-70.

Ryskamp led scoring in the game once again with 25 points, while senior forward Niki Reams came in with 23.

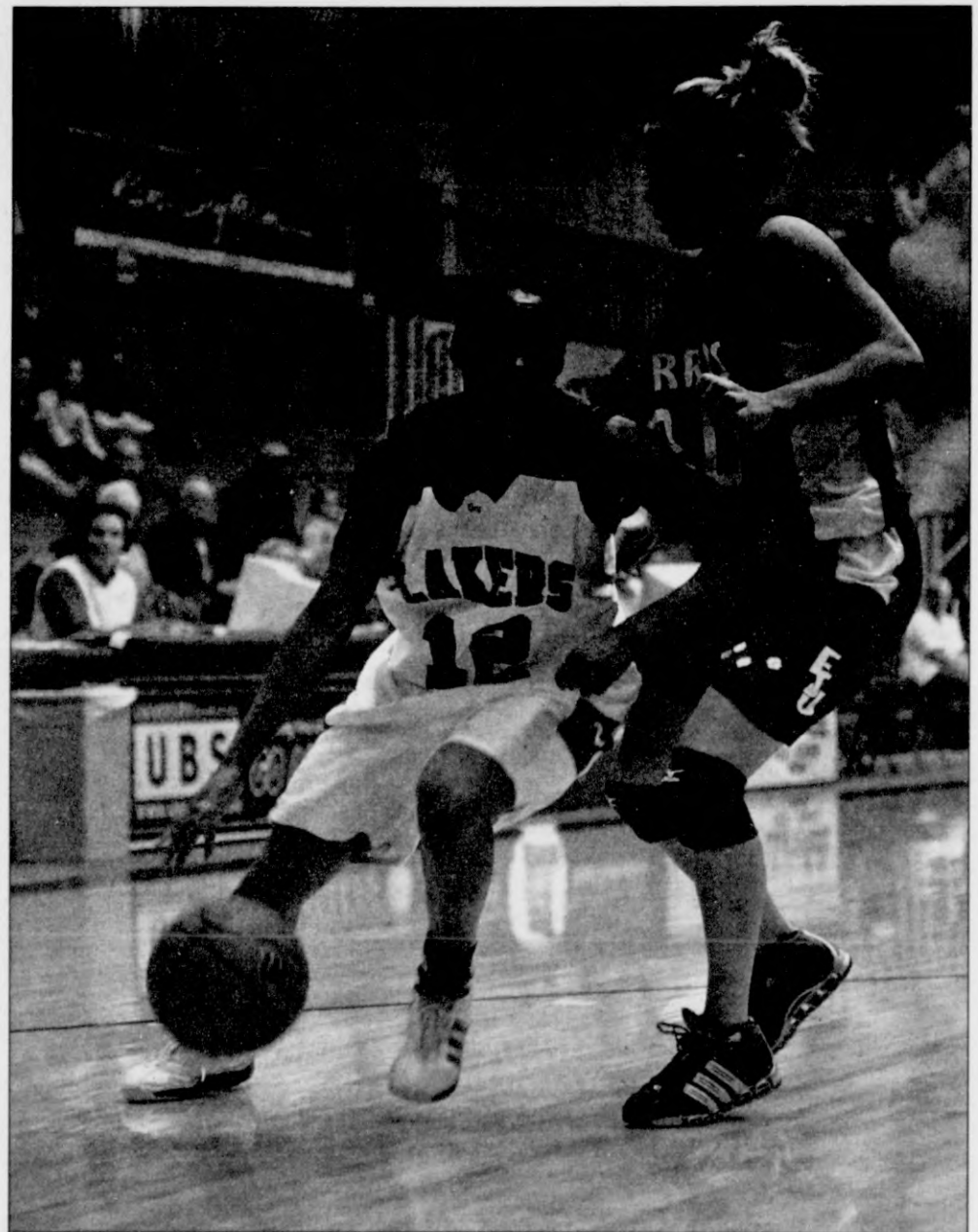
The Lakers faced off against Drury University in the regional finals. Drury was seeded as No. 1 in the tournament while the Lakers carried a No. 2 seed.

The Lakers faced Drury earlier in the season on Nov. 19 in a 76-69 loss. That game was also held in Springfield.

The Lakers rebounded from that early-season loss when it counted as they defeated Drury in the regional finals by a score of 91-76. This earned the Lakers their second consecutive Great Lakes Regional title.

Reams and sophomore guard Crystal Zick fueled the offensive surge for the Lakers as Reams posted 34 points on the night, and Zick came in with 28. Sophomore guard Erin Cyplik also chipped in with 12.

"I think overall, our team played extremely good basketball," Plitzuweit said. "This is a team that shares the ball and moves the ball around very well. Those two players [Reams and Zick] made the best of the many opportunities they had."



**Making way:** Junior Taushauna Churchwell gets around FSU's defense on Feb. 28 in the Fieldhouse.

GVL/ Matt Butterfield

With another shot at a National Title looming in the distance, Plitzuweit said the players remained relaxed as they have all postseason long.

"This group is a group that does very well when they are relaxed," Plitzuweit said. "During the course of the postseason action, these ladies

have been very focused, but also have enjoyed the moment."

The Lakers will tip-off in the first round of the Elite Eight at 8 p.m. CST on Wednesday.

# Lakers advance to basketball's Final Four

The GVSU women's basketball team moves on after defeating the University of Charleston

By **MATT PICKEL AND  
JAYSON BUSSA**  
*GVL Staff*

March 23, 2006

A crowd of more than 1,300 was on hand to watch the Grand Valley State University women's basketball team advance to the Final Four for the first time in school history with a 74-59 win against the University of Charleston (W. Va.) in Hot Springs, Ark., on Wednesday night.

Junior center Julia Braseth led the Lakers with 21 points and eight rebounds. Sophomore guard Crystal Zick tallied 18 points, while senior forward Niki Reams put up 15 points and eight boards.

During the first two minutes, the teams were knotted at three points each until the Lakers started to break away. That run was sparked by Braseth who cashed in on a lay-up while being fouled. Braseth drained the free throw to start the Laker run at 6-3.

Junior guard Taushauna "Peaches" Churchwell would go on to nail two free throws, while Braseth added another two-point jumper to give the Lakers the early 10-3 lead.

The Lakers expanded their offensive surge into a 25-10 run to jump out to an early 28-13 lead with 6:40 left to play in the first half. Charleston pulled within seven points, as the Lakers led at half time 40-31.

"I was really pleased with

our effort and intensity," head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said in a post game conference. "Charleston is an outstanding offensive team, and I thought we (did a) really good job, defended them with a lot of effort, and we did an outstanding job rebounding."

The Lakers pulled away in the second half, scoring 16 unanswered points to take a 21-point lead (58-37) with 11:40 left to play.

Jihan Williams broke the silence for the Golden Eagles at the 10:26 mark with her lay-up. However, Charleston would not enter within striking distance of the Lakers for the remainder of the game as the Lakers pulled away with the 74-59 victory.

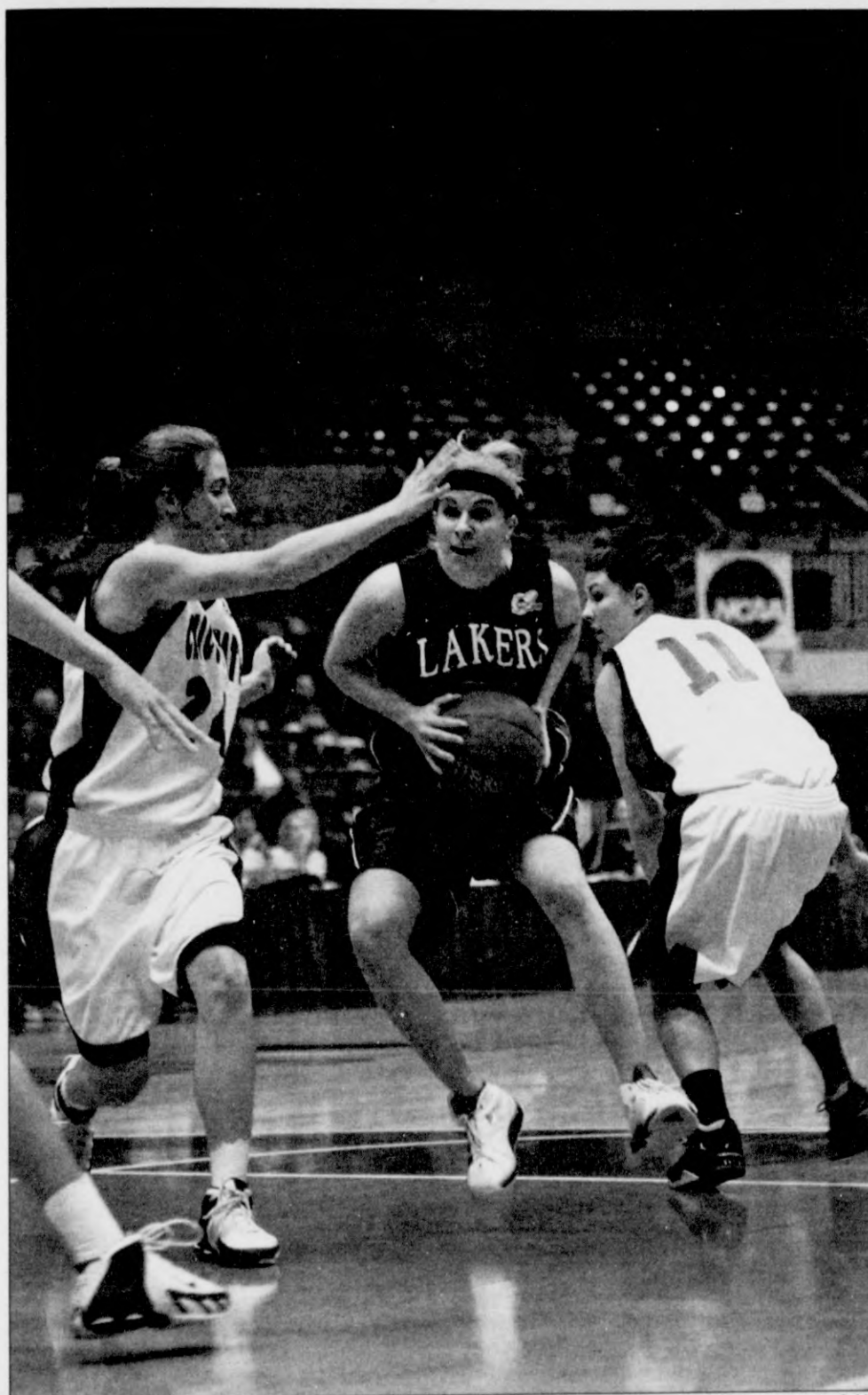
**"I was really pleased with our effort and intensity."**

**DAWN PLITZUWEIT**  
BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

GVSU shot 43.9 percent from the field, including 50 percent from beyond the arc. Their defense held Charleston to a 35.5 percent shooting performance and scored 24 points off 21 Golden Eagle turnovers. The Lakers tallied 32 points in the paint and scored 17 second chance points.

The Lakers have now won 20 straight games, contributing to the new school record of 31 wins on the season. GVSU will take on Cal State University, Chico tonight at 10:30 p.m. ET. The game can be seen on ESPNU.

The winner of their Final Four match-up will take on the winner of St. Cloud State University and American International College.



*GVL / Matt Butterfield*

Searching for the net: Gaurd Crystal Zick drives the ball towards the basket during the final four game against Chico State University on March 23 in Hot Springs, Ark.

# Teamwork reaps reward in GV win

By JAYSON BUSSA

GVL Sports Editor

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — With the top scorers for both teams crippled with fouls, the Grand Valley State University women's basketball team battled its way through a physical game against Chico State University to reach the national championship game.

The Lakers (32-3) defeated Chico State (28-4) on Thursday night by a score of 76-63 at the Summit Arena. This was the first time that the teams have ever faced each other, and the first time both teams had the opportunity to compete in the Final Four.

A total of 35 fouls were called in the game as both teams bumped bodies to make it to the final stage of Division II college basketball.

"We had a chance to play a great team tonight, both offensively and defensively," GVSU head coach Dawn Plitzuweit said. "I think we were really fortunate to come out on top. I think our players just did a phenomenal job."

Center Julia Braseth pushed the Lakers out of the gate less than a minute into the first half with a strong take to the hoop for a lay-up and the foul. Braseth went on to make the free throw shot.

The Lakers attacked the hoop nearly every time down the court, attempting only one three-point shot in the first eight minutes of the first half. Their constant contact inside caused Wildcat forwards Amber Simmons and Jennifer Borrer, two of Chico State's leading rebounders, to commit two fouls early.

An Erika Ryskamp three-pointer brought the Lakers up by a score of 18-7 early, however the Wildcats mounted a comeback campaign when forward Niki Reams committed her second foul of the game with 13:07 left in the half and was taken out.

Before going out, Reams had shot a perfect three-for-three from the field and one-for-one from the free throw line for seven points.

"I thought our players did a really nice job of kind of staying together and keeping their composure (while Reams was out)," Plitzuweit said. "I think the score tightened up a little bit, but we went on a run again."

Reams did not return in the half but started in the second.

The Wildcats brought the game to

within three points with 10:35 to go in the half with a three-point field goal. A Simmons lay-up closed the gap even further with just over eight minutes to go as the Wildcats came within one point, 23-22.

However, fouling woes kept Chico State from taking a lead in the first half. The Wildcats sent the Lakers to the line 18 times in the first half, and GVSU sank 15 of them. The Wildcats committed 12 total fouls in the first half. Simmons finished the half with three fouls and five points, a far cry from her usual average of 19 points a game.

The teams headed into the locker room at the end of the half with GVSU leading 40-32.

The Lakers charged into the second half scoring the first five points, but Simmons began to come alive for the Wildcats, scoring seven points in the first four minutes of the second half. This closed the gap for Chico State to a 47-41 Laker lead.

While Simmons played with three fouls, Chico State guard Haley Ford, who averages 12.3 points per game, committed her fourth midway through the second half, putting yet another Wildcat in foul trouble.

A 9-0 run fueled by three-point field goals from Ryskamp and guard Crystal Zick, brought the Lakers to a 60-44 lead midway through the second half.

GVSU cashed in with 32 points in the paint and out-rebounded the Wildcats 44-42. This was only the fifth time in the entire season that Chico State had been out-rebounded by their opponent.

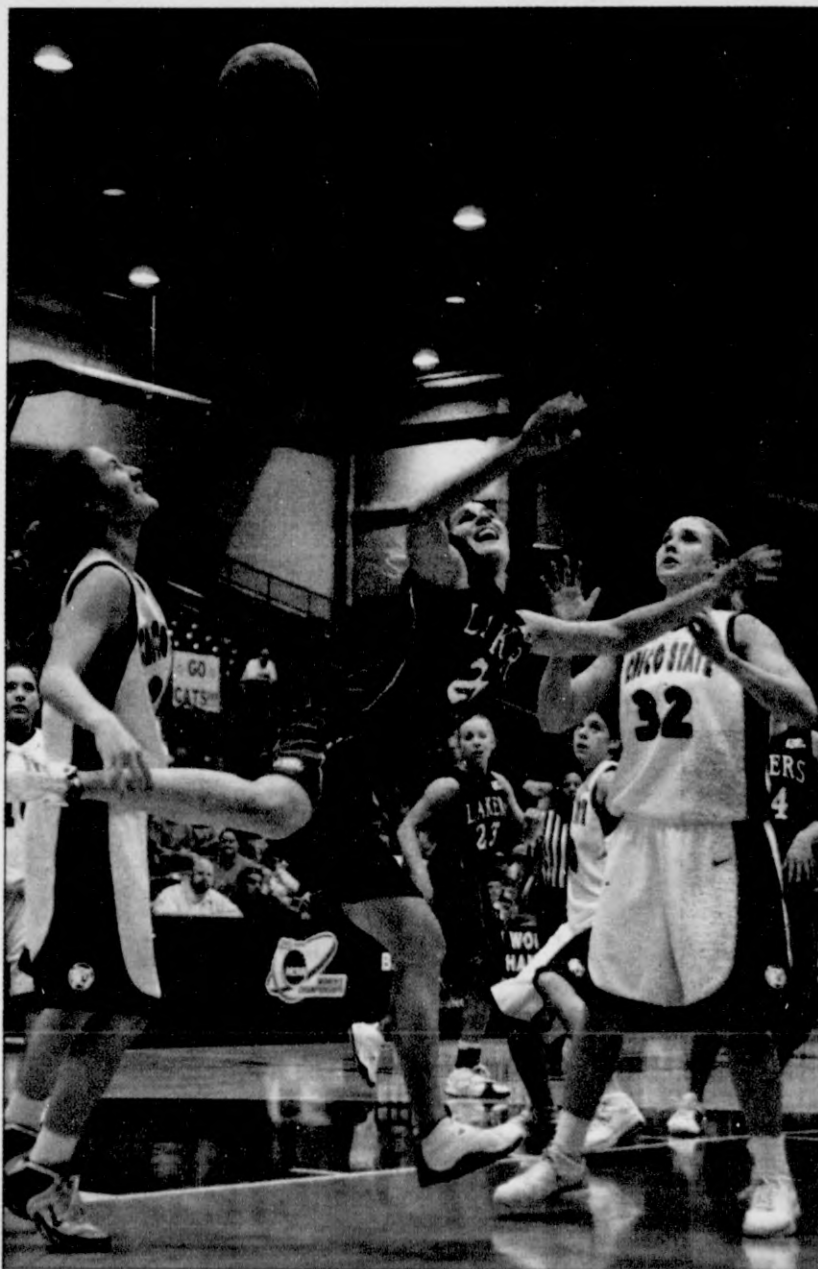
Ryskamp, who finished with 22 points, led the Lakers in scoring. She hit four field goals, three of which were behind the arc, and swished in all 11 of her free throw attempts.

"I just try to play with intensity; that's what I think our whole team does," Ryskamp said. "With the intensity my teammates were giving me, it helped me a lot."

Reams ended the game with 15 points and 12 rebounds for a double-double while both Braseth and Zick finished with 14 points.

Simmons led Chico State in scoring with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

GVSU will continue on to the national championship game on Saturday where they will face off against American International College, which ousted St.



GVL / Matt Butterfield  
**All twisted around:** Guard Crystal Zick takes a shot while surrounded by Chico State players during the Final Four game on Thursday in Hot Springs, Ark. The Lakers won, 76-63, thereby advancing to the National Championship game.

Cloud State University in the Final Four by a score of 70-58 earlier on Thursday.

"This is kind of a shocker," Braseth said of GVSU's upcoming trip to the finals. "I still have to process it in my brain a little."

The season came to a close for Chico

State, which defeated Henderson State University in the Elite Eight by the narrow score of 67-66 before losing to the Lakers.

Tip-off for the championship is set for 5 p.m.