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Grand Valley Lanthorn

Grand Valley State University

www.lanthorn.com

Monday, February 4, 2008

Award honors GVSU study abroad program

By Michelle Hamilton
GVL News Editor

The study abroad program at Grand Valley State University received national recognition last month.

The Barbara H. Padnos International Center was awarded an honorable mention for its study abroad program in the 2008 Andrew Heiskell Awards from the New York-based Institute of International Education.

"(The award) shows that we do challenge students to go for the long-term programs," said PIC Executive Director Mark Schaub.

In the past five years, the number of students studying abroad for a semester or more has about tripled, Schaub said. This semester there are more than 130 GVSU students participating in long-term abroad programs.

Schaub said the Heiskell Awards are one of two of the most prestigious awards a college's international center can receive. In order to be eligible, a university or college must nominate itself. Schaub nominated GVSU because he thought the university's program deserved to be recognized. However, the award is an honor for the entire school, not just the PIC, he said.

This year, one university in England and eight campuses in the U.S. were recognized by the Heiskell Awards, but GVSU was the only school from Michigan among them.

The honorable mention given to the PIC in the Study Abroad category was for "providing innovative programs and services and making study abroad more accessible to a broader student population," according to the IIE press release.

There were also awards for international curriculums and university relationships abroad. The award categories were International Partnerships and Internationalizing the Campus.

"The winners are among the 'best practices' in internationalization, which we hope will encourage and inspire other campuses," said IIE representative Shannon Bishop. "The winning programs are noteworthy for their success in removing institutional barriers to international study and broadening the base of participation in the international elements of teaching and learning on campus."

The total number of GVSU students studying abroad has about doubled in the past four years, but that growth alone is not the reason for recognition from the IIE. What is unique about GVSU's accomplishment is the kind of growth the PIC promotes, Bishop said.

Contrary to the national trend, more GVSU students study abroad individually and on longer programs than on short-term, faculty-led programs, she said.

"The innovative strategies implemented by the Barbara H. Padnos International Center serve as models for all practitioners in guiding their students to select long-term and individual study abroad programs," Bishop said.

Long-term programs are encouraged at the PIC center through grant money that could have been allocated to any program, but is often reserved for students in the semester or two-semester long programs, said Rebecca Hambleton, PIC director of study abroad and international partnership.

"We're trying really hard to find incentives for students to challenge themselves," Hambleton said.

The PIC also strives to maintain an open policy, she said.

Having an open policy means the PIC staff will help students find programs that are right for them, regardless of whether or not the program was developed by GVSU.

"It's not just about sending students abroad," Hambleton said. "It's sending them on programs that are meaningful to them."

On March 13, Schaub will represent GVSU at the IIE's Best Practices Conference at the United Nations in New York.

news@lanthorn.com

Record numbers walk 'Red Carpet'



Say cheese

Holly Johnson

By Kyle Meinke
GVL Senior Reporter

Lights, camera, action!

A record crowd showed up at the DeVos Place Friday night for the 22nd annual Presidents' Ball. Themed "A Red Carpet Affair," the event featured an array of activities, performances and awards that honored many accomplished individuals in the Grand Valley State University community.

"It was a night to remember," said Frank Foster, GVSU Student Senate president. "Record numbers came out to support their distinguished peers, the event was a huge success, and that is something that is truly special."

Student Senate, who hosts the event, aimed to attract an attendance of 3,800 for the ball, Foster said. But the goal was easily surpassed: 4,273 tickets were sold, including

382 for the dinner that preceded the dance.

The availability of advanced tickets, which cost half the price of those purchased at the door, helped to increase the ball's attendance, said Lea Ann Tibbe, associate director of the Office of Student Life. More than 3,000 tickets were sold prior to the event.

"Switching to the advanced tickets this year really encouraged a stronger attendance," Tibbe said. "It also helped to keep lines down at the door, which has been a problem in the past."

The evening began with a cocktail

hour, but the presentation of the Presidential Appreciation Award to Patricia Oldt soon followed. The award, presented by Foster and GVSU President

Thomas J. Haas, was given to Oldt for her many years of exceptional service to the GVSU community, Foster said.

Oldt was GVSU's vice president for planning and equity before her retirement, but remains a distinguished professor in the college of education.

"There is no honor more great than to be recognized by the students you serve," Oldt said.

"Record numbers came out to support their distinguished peers, the event was a huge success, and that is something that is truly special"

FRANK FOSTER
STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT

Oldt helped establish the GVSU Women's Center and was once named by the Grand Rapids Business Journal as one of the 50 most influential women in Michigan.

Three other awards were handed out at the ball. Darren Walhof, a GVSU associate professor of political science, received the Student Award for Faculty Excellence, and GVSU Director of Sustainability Norman Christopher was named the Distinguished Individual of the Year.

The final award was given to Dan Rickabus and Ben Dancie, who won the student film competition for their short film, "Trio in the Key of

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GVL Photo Illustration / Matt Butterfield

New plastic: The University Bookstore and Meijer are now offering environmentally friendly reusable bags for about a dollar each.

Local stores give up plastic, sell reusable bags

By Rebecca Beard
GVL Staff Writer

Polypropylene is the new plastic.

From the University Bookstore's basic black design to Meijer's bold blue, stores are beginning to sell reusable, polypropylene shopping bags as an alternative to the familiar paper or plastic.

"We're selling them to promote the reuse of bags, both for bookstore purchases and other uses," said UBS Manager Jerrod Nickels. "Our goal is to promote sustainability across the campus, across the state and across the country."

UBS has sold about 1,600 reusable bags since their debut in September 2007 and Nickels said he wants to see even more students invest in them.

"The fewer plastic bags we throw away, the less oil we use and the less space we take up in landfills," he said.

The reusable bags at UBS cost \$1, but students may be able to acquire a free one when they purchase their fall 2008 books.

"We intend to promote (the bags) even further by giving one or two of them to students," Nickels said. "We might do it for the first week of the semester in the fall."

The trend extends to other stores as well, such as Meijer, which sells 99-cent polypropylene bags at the entrances of their stores.

"Customers had inquired about them, so we decided to go ahead and give them a try," said Frank Guglielmi, Meijer's director of public relations. "We simply created the bag and a display case and in just over a month, we'd sold about 100,000 of them."

And Meijer's reusable bags, which can hold up to 30 pounds, have maintained a steady sales rate since their introduction.

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Proposed housing plan in Allendale raises residential concern, objection

By Jessica Downey
GVL Senior Reporter

A plan for retirement and single-family housing in Allendale has been re-drafted into more off-campus student townhomes, and the change is upsetting some area residents.

The proposed townhomes, called Allward Terrace, are a subdivision of detached units planned for the northwest

corner of 52nd Avenue and Pierce Street, said Jeff Vos, project manager at Infrastructure C&E in Jenison.

The plan is to have the subdivision be used mainly as housing for Grand Valley State University students, with potential for additional use as single-family housing, he added.

"Due to current economic conditions, the original plans were not financially practical," Vos said. "These detached townhomes can be for families — the intent is that it will provide student housing, but that's not to say that nobody else could use them."

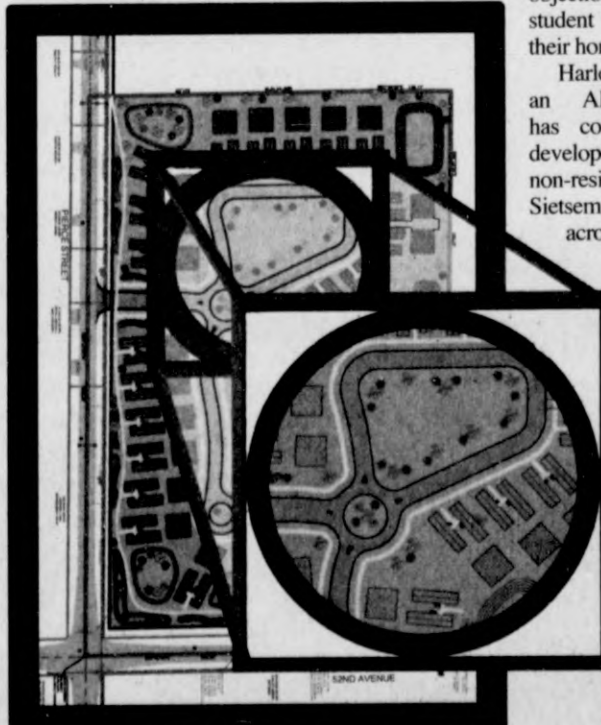
Vos' company was not involved in the development of the originally approved plan, he added. Infrastructure C&E (the company in charge of the civil engineering and surveying of the proposed site) came into the picture in August 2007.

However, some residents who live or own property near the planned area have objections to additional student housing around their homes.

Harley Sietsema, an Allendale resident, has concerns about the developer's switch to a non-residential subdivision. Sietsema owns property across the street from the proposed housing area and sold land to the developers who created the original plans, he said. It is upsetting to see those plans change, he added.

The plans flipped from being a residential,

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GVL Graphic / Joey Salamon

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Record

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Orange.

"It is a wonderful experience to have students recognize the quality of their staff, and in turn to celebrate exemplary student achievement," Haas said. "That is really the spirit of (this) night, to showcase the talent and accomplishments of the university."

Before this year's event, security was beefed up as a precaution after several incidents of intoxication were reported during last year's ball. Only DeVos Place's security showed up last year, but at least eight officers from Pew Campus' Department of Public Safety worked at Friday's event.

The security measures were largely successful and helped minimize problems in comparison with balls in the past, said Bob

Stoll, director of the Office of Student Life.

"With that many people gathered in one place, you are always going to have some problems, but we had a very well-behaved crowd this year," Stoll said. "Some little things need to be tweaked for next year, but it was in general a great success."

In the works for next year is a larger coat check, which will be sectionalized so that retrieving items becomes more efficient. Long lines at the coat check forced many to wait for long periods of time, Tibbe said.

Additionally, about five girls cut their feet on glass on the ballroom floor, Tibbe added. Event organizers will push for DeVos Place to pour drinks into cups next year so that similar problems can be avoided in the future, she said.

Other possible changes for

next year include a cut-off time for admission into the dance and better temperature control — the heat was "unacceptable," Stoll said.

"We handled the crowd much better this year, but many still showed up late and were drunk or buzzed... from parties or wherever else, and that is something we need to improve on," Tibbe said.

DeVos Place officials reported some damage was done in the ballroom, including the destruction of some wall tiles, she added.

GVSU has contacted DeVos Place and reserved Feb. 6, 2009 for next year's Presidents' Ball. The contract has not been signed, but the date is "on hold," Tibbe said.

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Reusable

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"We keep making them and they keep selling — we expect to go over 200,000 pretty soon," Guglielmi said. "We set the stands out and (the bags will) literally be gone in 24 hours."

Despite the growing popularity of reusable bags, some people are not quite ready to join the trend.

"I think there are a lot of misconceptions about plastic bags," said Keith Christman, senior director of packaging in the Plastic Products Division of the American Chemistry Council. "They can be an environmentally responsible choice, since they are really fully recyclable."

There are many ways people can reuse plastic bags, such as lining trash cans and using

them repeatedly at grocery stores, Christman said. About 650 million pounds of plastic are recycled every year in the U.S., which is enough to make 1.2 million average-sized decks for peoples' homes, he added.

But the increase in attention of reusable bags has given their plastic counterparts a bad reputation.

"A lot of stuff you see in the media and elsewhere publicizes bans on plastic bags and a switch to alternative materials," Christman said. "But there are major downsides to those. They increase energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and increase water use and waste."

But for those who are uninterested in using plastic bags or purchasing a new reusable one, there is still a third option.

During the last five months, Leslie Skora, a senior biomedical science major of Royal Oak, Mich., has used her own bags to grocery shop.

"I wanted to be environmentally friendly and I noticed that I had a buildup of plastic bags and nothing to do with them," she said.

And even though Skora prefers to use her own denim tote or Clinique bag, she said it is important to keep some alternatives around.

"I don't think (grocery stores) should completely ban plastic bags," Skora said. "I think they need some form of bag just in case you forget to bring your reusable one, but they should find something that's more environmentally friendly."

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Housing

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single-family community to being more of a community with housing for unrelated persons.

"Instead of people living in a residential property I own, they may now be faced with non-residential housing 20 feet from their backyard," Sietsema said. "I wouldn't have sold my property if I'd known it would change to something other than a residential area."

Vos said his company has listened to the residents in conjunction with the planning commission and 350 feet has been left intact adjacent to the existing homes.

"The project has been moved away from those residents to ensure that they're not impacted," he added.

The plan is to have the complex housed on 12.7 acres of what was a previously approved 40-acre PUD (planned unit development) for single-family housing, which included 80 townhomes for retirees, Vos said. Now the plans are set for student housing, which would accommodate up to four unrelated persons instead of just two — as with the single-family housing plans. The units would include four bedrooms and four and a half bathrooms, he added.

After a public hearing at the Jan. 21 Planning Commission meeting, the commission asked Vos and the owners of the proposed Allward Terrace to revise the housing plans again to better meet the needs of the township. To appease the community, the Allendale Planning Commission has requested the developers to downsize their plans again. An updated version of the housing plans will be presented to the Allendale Department of Planning and Development on Wednesday.

The revised plan will hopefully meet everyone's needs and concerns, Vos said.

"Allendale Township has a cooperative and innovative planning commission," he said. "The revisions are just part of the process and this is what it takes to get it done."

Phil Brummel, administrator of the Department of Planning and Community Development, is confident the plans are moving in the right direction, he said.

"The planning commission wanted to make sure that the development does not dominate the area," Brummel said. "I think the revisions have improved, and I think that any additions or amendments that need to be made can be

resolved."

Though the plans are being revised, it is still not definite the project will go through, he added. It is a two-step process: If the plans are approved by the planning commission, developers will then have to go before the Allendale Township board — which includes a public hearing — for final approval, he said.

Robert Baarda, president of Central Coast Development and co-owner of the proposed

housing unit, said he is confident the project will go through.

"We want to do whatever is good for the community," Baarda said. "We've been more than willing to cooperate with the planning commission, and we're working with them as closely as we can."

The revised plans will be presented at the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday.

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GVL DIGEST News in Brief

Student Senate appoints new VP of winter semester

The Grand Valley State University Student Senate nominated a new vice president of intercultural affairs Thursday.

Senior Michael Vandenberg beat out Natalie Bush and Steve Crosby for the position, which was vacated when Joy Nwabueze resigned from Senate because of time constraints, according to a letter written by Nwabueze that was read to the Senate.

After Crosby was eliminated in a preliminary vote, Vandenberg defeated Bush 20-16-2.

"To me, culture is everything, and it's everywhere," Vandenberg told Student Senate during the hearing. "I look forward to serving this body the best I can."

Vandenberg, who once won Student Senate's "Rookie of the Year" award, was the only current member of the Intercultural Affairs Committee to run for the position.

His experience with the committee and its agenda made him an appealing candidate to many student senators.

"So much can still be accomplished (by the committee) in the coming months," said Student Senator Joy Whitt, a GVSU senior. "If we want continuity in the IAC, Vandenberg can provide that as a present member of the committee."

During the hearing, Bush called Vandenberg "the most qualified" candidate for the position, based on his experience and direct exposure to the committee.

Vandenberg joins Josie Goldberg as Student Senate's two newest vice presidents.

Goldberg was elected vice president of public relations after the resignation of Michelle Johnson during winter break.

Women's Center sells desserts to raise funds

On Wednesday the GVSU Women's Center will be hosting a silent auction and selling some of the area's best chocolate desserts to raise money. Proceeds will fund future activities and work of the Women's Center.

The fundraiser, entitled Indulge in a Cause, is scheduled from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall of the DeVos Center on the Pew Campus.

Tickets to attend Indulge in a Cause are \$30 each, \$10 for GVSU students.

To purchase tickets or more information, call the Women's Center at (616) 331-2748 or send an e-mail to womenctr@gvsu.edu.

Career interviews to be hosted on Pew Campus

Interviews for internships and full-time positions related to math, accounting, computer science and information systems will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday in Room 116B of the DeVos Center on the Pew Campus.

Deloitte Services in Detroit will be interviewing for interns in the following positions: Auditor, tax, control assurance, data quality and integrity and security and privacy.

Full-time positions are available in security and privacy and data quality and integrity.

For more information send an e-mail to career@gvsu.edu.

GVSU pilots snow shoveler program

By Michelle Hamilton
GVL News Editor

Sometimes two or three inches of snow is all that it takes to keep Grand Valley State University senior Bryan Wilkinson from going to class.

For students who use wheelchairs, such as Wilkinson, a few inches of snow can be difficult to conquer.

Before winter break this year, Wilkinson's fingers became frostbitten when he wheeled himself to class through the snow. Now he drives his truck to class every day and parks as close as he can to the buildings. He referred to his truck as his chariot.

Not every student who uses a wheelchair has the option of driving to class though, and even Wilkinson needs help to clear the snow off of his truck's windshield.

A new volunteer-based program being piloted on campus this winter offers snow shoveling assistance to students who need it.

So far, three GVSU students, including Wilkinson, are participating in the program. They all live near each other and all receive help from the same volunteer.

"(The program) is not terribly big, but it's extremely effective," said Michael Vandenberg, Student Senate vice president of

Intercultural Affairs.

Vandenberg, a senior at GVSU, acted as the liaison between Disability Support Services, Facilities Services and the Organization for the Advancement of Students with Disabilities during the planning stages of the program, which has not yet been given a formal name.

Vandenberg said when wheelchair users on campus get stuck in the snow, it usually occurs within 20 feet of their homes.

Students in need of a snow shoveler must find their own volunteer who must then register with DSS to be a volunteer. The shovelers are then provided with a shovel from DSS.

and at the end of the semester they each receive a stipend of \$100 for the successful completion of their snow-shoveling duties.

If a student was really struggling to find a volunteer, DSS would help, but the program is too new for that to be considered a part of it, said DSS Director Kathleen VanderVeen.

Wilkinson, president of OASD, said he approached a resident in his building about shoveling for him after she offered to buy him groceries once. If she was nice enough to pick him something up at the store, Wilkinson thought she might be willing to shovel snow for him, he said.

She agreed, and now Mari

Lynn Reikow assists Wilkinson and two other people who live in the same building. So far, she is the program's only volunteer.

Reikow, a sophomore originally from Holland, has copies of the class schedule for everyone she assists so she knows what times they need to exit and enter the building.

"From what I've been told they have been having trouble finding people who understand the need for (a shoveling service)," she said.

The university shoveling services do not usually get to Reikow's building until 1 or 2 p.m., hours after the students need to be in class, she added.

Reikow wakes up about two hours before her classes start — Monday through Friday at 7 or 7:30 a.m. — to clear a path near the entrance of the building and shovel off any other areas the students need access to.

One of the biggest problems wheelchair users encounter in the winter, though, is the building's entrance. Snow falls off the side of the building and piles up near the door, Reikow said.

"They get stuck right there, right when they leave the building," she said.

In addition to clearing a path near the building's entrance, Reikow helps Wilkinson clear off the windshield of his truck, which he cannot reach, and also cleans off an area where one student goes to smoke, she said.

"It's the only place this person can be and smoke without being in the way of other students," Reikow added.

GVSU does not permit smoking within 25 feet of



Pile up: Senior Bryan Wilkinson gets out of his truck and into his wheelchair of South B Living Center Friday. Wilkinson drives to class because it is easier than maneuvering through the snow in his wheelchair.

university housing entrances and a seating area near the building is one of the only places this student can smoke without parking in the middle of the sidewalk, Reikow said. One day when Reikow was clearing snow near the seating area a facilities employee approached her.

"He walked up to me and said, 'What in the hell are you doin'?' and I said, 'I'm doin' your job,'" she said.

news@lanthorn.com

See more: Go to the editorial on page A4



Transfer: Of 18,760 undergraduate students enrolled at GVSU this winter, 6,319 (33.7 percent) had earned credits at another institution before coming to GVSU. On average, these students had attended 1.31 schools. Most (75.5 percent) had attended one previous institution; 19.2 percent had attended two; 4.1 percent had attended three and 1.2 percent had attended four or more. The greatest number of prior institutions is six.

College students 'swirl' from school-to-school

By Michelle Hamilton
GVL News Editor

Every year it is becoming more popular for students to attend multiple institutions during their college careers.

And this transferring trend is having a negative impact on the academic accountability of the schools across the nation, said George Kuh, director for the Center of Postsecondary Research at Indiana University in Bloomington.

"(The problem is) universities don't have measures that accurately take into account this phenomenon," Kuh said.

In the '90s this trend of moving from school to school was identified as "swirling." The phenomenon is growing as society becomes more mobile, Kuh said. More than one third of the students enrolled at Grand Valley State University this semester earned academic credit at another institution before enrolling at GVSU.

For students, swirling can be a good thing because it can save them money, Kuh said.

Like the majority of transfer students at GVSU this year, sophomore Tyler Julien attended Grand Rapids Community College before enrolling at GVSU. Julien, originally from Ada, took classes at GRCC for two years because his MEAP scholarship was enough to pay for his tuition there.

"It's really just the convenience factor because you're getting the same class and they all transfer to (GVSU)," he said.

However, taking classes at more than one institution can make it difficult to track what progress was made at which school, Kuh said.

"How can you know if a college

is doing its job if a large percentage of the students have attended another university?" he said.

Of GVSU's transfer students this semester, 75.5 percent attended one previous institution, 19.2 percent attended two, 4.1 percent attended three and 1.2 percent attended four or more previous institutions. Six is the largest number of prior institutions attended by a GVSU student, said Philip Batty, director of GVSU's Department of Institutional Analysis.

Junior Katie Cross transferred to GVSU after one year at Michigan State University because she decided she wanted to attend a school where she could be more involved in the campus community.

"At MSU there isn't even a student life Web site," she said.

When Cross originally began looking at colleges she did not take student involvement into account because she assumed that it would be something every school had. At MSU, however, Cross found few avenues for becoming involved on campus as an underclassman, she said.

The transfer to GVSU cost Cross a semester's worth of credit hours, but she said it was worth it.

"To me, a good university experience is having a good atmosphere to learn in," she said.

Now at GVSU, Cross is the vice president of educational affairs on Student Senate and a member of the Greek Life community, and she has an on-campus job.

Swirling can be beneficial for some students, such as Cross, but there can also be disadvantages and the problem is so massive that no one is ready to take it on and do an in-depth study, Kuh said.

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Ask Gleaves:



Question: With Valentine's Day approaching, are there any interesting love stories about a president and first lady?

— Chantel Ward, senior, special education major

Consider a couple that was deeply in love, Uncle Cleve and Frank. (Keep reading.) Grover and Frances Cleveland were the nation's First Couple during the Victorian Era of the 1880s and 1890s, and they were an unlikely pair. First was the difference in their ages: Grover was 27 years older than his wife. She was the daughter of Oscar (his law partner) and Emma Folsom.

Grover first laid eyes on Frances Folsom in 1864 — when she was still in diapers. At the time he was a bachelor, and one of his earliest gifts to the little girl was a baby carriage. He seemed genuinely to regard her as an uncle would a niece. Frances grew up calling him "Uncle Cleve," and he called her "Frank."

Tragedy deepened their relationship. When Frank was just 11 years old, her father Oscar was killed in a buggy accident. Grover became the guardian of the girl, and at the same time drew close to the mother, Emma. The rising politician was extremely solicitous of them both. He even paid for Frank's college.

What Frank did not know was that Grover was paying for another child as well during those years of innocence. It was later discovered that in 1873 Grover had an affair with a department store clerk named Maria Halpin. When Maria told Grover she was pregnant, he doubted he was the biological father, yet he supported the child nevertheless. More than a decade later, in the 1884 campaign for president, Grover's Republican opponent made much of his supposedly illegitimate child. Republicans paraded through the nation's streets pushing baby carriages and chanting, "Ma! Ma! Where's my pa?" (And you thought campaigns today were mean-spirited? A later campaign against Grover would add the refrain, "Gone to the White

House, ha, ha, ha!")

Withstanding what we today would call the "politics of personal destruction," Grover won the race and became the nation's 22nd president.

Everybody assumed that after he settled into the White House, he would need a hostess to help with entertaining. Speculation peaked when Emma and Frank visited Washington. All the reporters and gossips believed Grover was eying Emma as his bride to be. They agreed she would make a fine first lady, and the beautiful Frances — with her stately bearing, dark hair and blue eyes — would be a lively addition to Washington society.

Imagine the dismay of Washington wags when the president announced he was getting married, and the woman under the veil was not Emma but her daughter Frances. Apparently Uncle Cleve's feelings for the girl he used to stroll in a baby carriage had morphed. He once obliquely quipped to friends he was waiting for his wife to grow up. They had no idea he literally meant she had to mature physiologically.

Cornac O'Brien noted in two entertaining books on First Couples that Uncle Cleve and Frank were an outstanding match. She also became the first "media star" among first ladies. Given her youth, charm and good looks, Frank was the prototype of such later stars as Jacqueline Kennedy and Lady Diana. Her years in the White House coincided with the rise of the advertising industry, and American manufacturers used her name and face to help sell such products as soaps, cosmetics and elixirs.

Through the ups and downs of life in the White House, Frank remained focused on her family. She opined, "I can wish the women of our country no better blessing than that their homes and their lives may be as happy and that their husbands may be as kind and attentive, considerate and affectionate, as mine."

Uncle Cleve and Frank — now that's a Valentine story.

Ask Gleaves is a guest column that answers students' questions on presidential topics. The column is written by Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center. Ask Gleaves is published in the first issue of the Lanthorn every month.

To ask Gleaves a question visit <http://www.allpresidents.org>.

EDITORIAL

Shoveled aside

As Grand Valley State University pilots a volunteer snow shoveling program for disabled students, the program falls short in actually providing students with volunteers instead of just a shovel.

It is difficult and often time consuming for the majority of students to clean off their own sidewalks and cars, even without a disability.

Disability Support Services, Facilities Services and the Organization for the Advancement of Students with Disabilities have worked together to orchestrate a volunteer-based program to assist disabled students with the snowy burden.

However, despite the excitement of the three disabled students who enrolled in the program, only one person has volunteered to assist them.

As disabled students find themselves getting stuck in the snow or having difficulties scrape off their cars, it is reasonable that other able-bodied students would volunteer to assist them. It only takes a few minutes out of the day to help someone else in need.

But even though the number of volunteers, or rather lack thereof, is concerning, the problem lies in the fact that all students in need of a snow shoveler must find their own volunteer, who must first register with DSS.

Volunteers are welcome to do something good for their fellow classmates, but they are on their own when it comes to knowing where to begin.

Giving a volunteer a \$10 shovel does not constitute running a program, and it certainly does not do any good if the volunteer does not know where to use the shovel.

It is understandable that confidentiality rules come into play, but if a volunteer signs up to assist another student, DSS can easily provide the volunteer's contact information to the registered disabled student. That, however, is not being done.

As much as the program's premise is helpful to those students who need it, DSS, Facilities Services and OASD need to do more to direct volunteers to the people who need the assistance.

Without that, their program merely becomes a service of providing free shovels.

Grand Valley Lanthorn

The student-run newspaper of Grand Valley State University

Editorial Page Board

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"He walked up to me and said,
'What in the hell are you doin'?'
and I said, 'I'm doin' your job.'"

Mari Lynn Reikow
Volunteer for GVSU's snow shoveling program, on a confrontation with a Facilities employee while shoveling snow

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.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



GVL / Elliot Slenk

YOUR INSIGHTS

What did you like best about the Presidents' Ball?



"I enjoyed getting ready with my friends and getting all dressed up. The music that the DJ played was really good."

Elizabeth Whalen
Senior
International Business and Economics
Sailsbury, N.C.



"My favorite part about Presidents' Ball is you see everybody from freshman year (and) sophomore year. You just see everybody around that you haven't seen in forever. It's nice to see everybody back and just hang out with everybody."

Arvin Hernaez
Junior
Movement Science
Addison, Ill.



"The music was fairly kickin'."

Nick Eerkes
Senior
Engineering
Grand Rapids, Mich.



"Coming out for the last time with all my friends, decent selection of music and everyone looked nice. It was a good time."

Sean Blair
Senior
Secondary Education
Kalamazoo, Mich.

GVL STUDENT OPINION

Stop being a Negative Nancy

By Greg M. Schumaker
GVL Columnist

Things are getting far too serious.

Midterms are creeping up, the economy's crashing, the Writer's Guild is still on strike, you're sick from watching "Cloverfield" and, worst of all, Britney's back in the crazy shack.

On top of all this, there are dozens of books on display at Schuler claiming the world's ending in 2012 and that we're living in the end times the Bible predicted. The seas shall boil! The Mayan calendar's ending and the world that we know shall be destroyed!

Whatever. As far as I'm concerned the world ended in 1998 when the Spice Girls broke up. Their recent revival was a holy sign that we need to kick back, crank up the cheesy pop tunes and just relax.

Don't tell me I'm the

only one walking around here wondering why everyone seems so mad — so smug? I've noticed an entire shift in the consciousness of the student population — it's gone from hippy-college kid to grumpy-indebted adult in a matter of weeks.

When did everyone start taking themselves so seriously? Life may have you down in these freezing winter months, but it's no excuse to walk around hating this world. Sure, that Ford Expedition tailgating you down Lake Michigan Drive over the six inches of ice can put you in a foul mood, but just picture their bloody end when they slide off the road someday.



Schumaker

Personally I've had too many run-ins with Negative Nancys lately. These are kids who think they have a reputation to defend, apparent stereotypes to destroy single-handedly. They're the ones who'll scream at you if you make one snide remark about their attitude — they carry the weight of the world on their shoulders and are very stressed from their self-imposed importance.

Worse yet, these girls and boys are running around on this planet without a single notion of life's big cruel joke — we're all going to die. Your heart's going to stop one day. What this truly means is that it really doesn't matter if Rebecca called you a slut or Charlie cheated on you because you'll be too deceased to care.

Yeah, I wrote that pretty effortlessly. Us English majors have to read about these facts

everyday — death, sadness, incest, murder, and death. Occasionally the profs toss us a Maya Angelou poem to keep us off the antidepressants.

Yes, I've learned there's one thing you can do to make yourself a more secure and laid back person — read some literature. For some suggestions, see Doctor David Ihrman (hint: it rhymes with "Roby Mick").

Life is short people. You can't get upset anymore because of what your peers think about you. Really, if someone's hating on you it's because they didn't make the dean's list and spent last semester sitting on the couch watching "Buffy" on DVD.

Laugh at yourself and all those angry fools out there. We're all just a bunch of monkeys anyway. Apes actually! I learned that in college too.

gschumaker@lanthorn.com

How we're perceived — U.S. versus them

By Danielle Arndt
GVL Columnist

Travel anywhere in the world and you'll find a conflicting image of America. They love us, they hate us — and often in the same sentence.

We're viewed as tyrannical democrats, warlords for peace, humanitarian individualists, entrepreneurs of equal opportunity and heathen crusaders for Christianity. Opposing images — all of them.

This past weekend I spent time in Chicago with my boyfriend. As we wandered the Magnificent Mile, we encountered all sorts of opposites.

There were women crouched on street corners in tattered jackets one size too small, carrying weathered luggage and begging for change, food, work and a warm bed. On the other side were women in exotic fur coats down to their ankles peddling the benefits of fur while toting

Gucci handbags.

We observed rowdy protesters picketing to stop violence in the Middle East

and another promoting U.S. prevention in Beirut, Lebanon.

There was a man clamoring about conspiracy theory, George W. Bush and the FBI, and another was paranoid at the revival of the Soviet Union.

One man, while exercising two of his most basic rights — freedom of speech and a right to assemble and petition the government — held a sign claiming Chicago Mayor Richard Daley had passed a law "raping his wife and denying him of his God-given will and freedoms."

My favorite, however, was a group of artsy students passing out flyers advocating a ban on TV, computers and video games. The flyers protested creativity and



Arndt

violence yet did so in the form of cartoonish drawings and catchy phrases. One read, "The devil lives in your laptop" and showed a teen being mesmerized and ultimately destroyed by his computer.

So is it opposition? Or is it really hypocrisy?

In his State of the Union address Monday, President Bush applauded himself and his administration for its global efforts against poverty and hunger. More than half of the world's food aid comes from the U.S., yet poverty is prevalent here at home. Instead of federal programs preventing the widening gap between the rich and poor, our government relies on Christian food pantries and homeless shelters.

No one can argue that we are better off than many nations, but is it fair for women on the street corners to have to watch as others of their same sex parade around in fur while we ship money overseas?

Our government advocates civil liberties and privacy, yet if you are deemed a suspicious character your phone lines

may be tapped. If you have a question too radical for public ears, you may be tazed. And if you exercise your right to freedom of assembly, you may have a policeman three feet behind, pistol loaded.

We were a country built on immigration. We once cherished our nickname "The Great Melting Pot," but now we wish to close our borders and put up a wall, warding off our neighbors. We spread democracy and Christianity around the world but cannot follow the command to love thy neighbor as thyself.

There was a father and his daughter at one of the bookstores in Chicago — tourists from some place in Russia or Northern Europe. He had just purchased his daughter a pair of UGG boots and was buying her a selection of Hannah Montana books and DVDs.

Is this really America? UGG boots, freedom of speech and hypocrisy? I think we can do better.

darndt@lanthorn.com

'Broken' premiere success for Zeeland native

Audience packs Knickerbocker Theatre
Saturday night at local movie premiere

By Brandy Arnold
GVL A & E Editor

The Knickerbocker Theatre was filled with the friends and family of Zeeland native David Gries on Saturday night.

At the last theatrical screening of "Broken," a film in which Gries played the lead role, rousing applause broke out as his name flashed on screen.

"It's nice for me to be able to bring this home for everyone," Gries said.

Derek Justice, one of the writers and directors of the film, said he too was happy Gries had a chance to share the film with his community.

"At the other screenings I did a lot of the talking," Justice said. "Tonight, I'm just going to let Dave do his thing. This is his

backyard."

"Broken" tells the story of Christian, a 28-year-old man who as a child witnessed the murder/suicide of his parents. As an adult he is a talented artist — and a heroin addict.

When he meets Beth, an editor at a Detroit newspaper who bears

"What's done is done.
As long as I know I
gave it my all, I can't
be upset."

DAVID GRIES
LEAD ROLE IN "BROKEN"

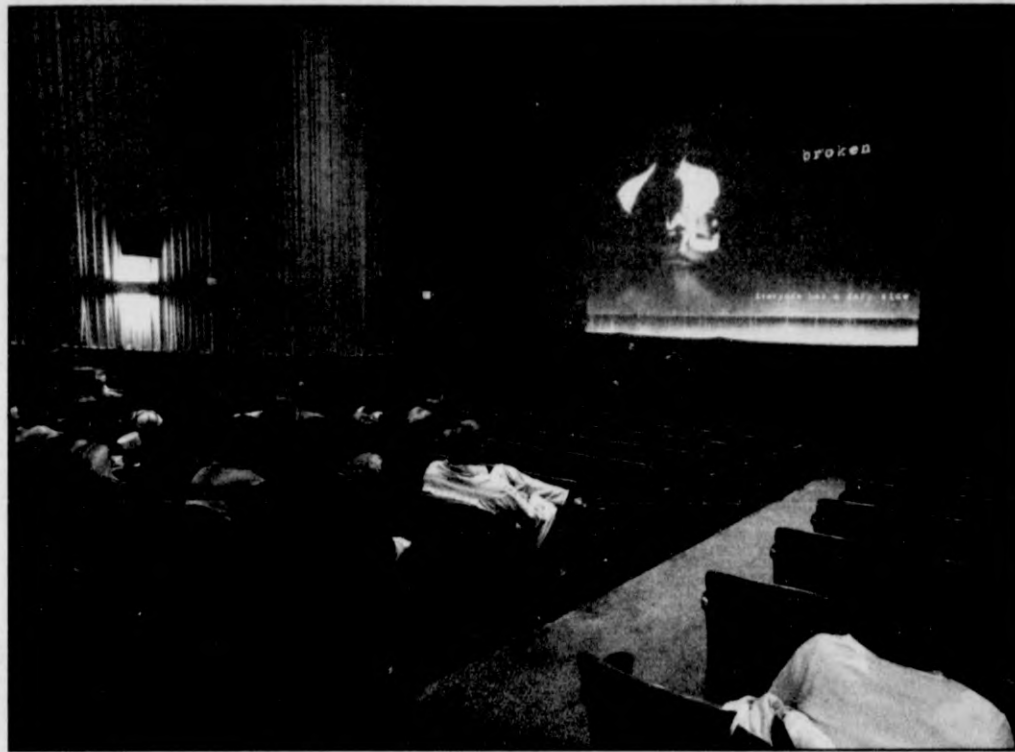
a striking resemblance to his mother, his world is turned upside down.

Added to the tangled web are Beth's abusive boyfriend Mark and lovesick co-worker John.

The characters'

lives begin to intersect as thoughts of hope, redemption and suicide weave through the film's dark look at reality.

Although production on "Broken" ended almost two years ago, Gries said he still remembers why he was initially attracted to



Holland screening: Audience members listen to director Derek Justice speak before the premiere of his film, "Broken," at the Knickerbocker Theatre in Holland on Saturday.

the script.

"I was immediately drawn to the role of Christian," he said. "You can really dig your teeth into that kind of character because there's so many layers there. It was everything that I ever wanted to do. It wasn't 'Here's a movie that wraps up with a nice little bow.' It's dark, but in a way there's also a happy ending."

A collective gasp could be heard throughout the Knickerbocker during the twist ending that lends to the film's ambiguity.

Lee Alan Weddel, who played John, said he enjoyed seeing the audience's reaction to the film.

"When you're close to the project you see it differently than people who are seeing it for the first time," he said. "I really like hearing what they thought of it."

Weddel said he was glad there

was such a great turnout of people to support Gries.

"Besides the directors, Dave probably put the most work into this film," he said. "It's great he had this night and I am honored to be a part of it."

Gries is not currently acting in any films and has made it to the top 15 contestants vying for a \$1,000 prize in Holland's Lakeshore Idol, a local variation of the reality television show.

He said while the last screening of "Broken" was bittersweet, he was happy with how the night turned out.

"Of course we all wanted to pack the house, but for what we had here, we were pleased," he said.

Although it was the last time he would see it on the big screen, Gries said in some ways it felt like the first.

"Every time I see the film I notice something new," he said. "I'm always seeing little quirks in the characters that I've never noticed before."

While it can sometimes be difficult, he tries not to be too critical of himself, Gries said.

"What's done is done," he said. "As long as I know I gave it my all, I can't be upset."

The budget for the film was less than \$1,000, with about \$700 going to food for the cast and crew during the 18-month production.

Tony Griffin, a local filmmaker, said he was impressed with what they were able to do with such a small budget.

"(The film) was very engaging," he said. "Throughout the movie I kept wondering what was going to happen next, and that's always a good thing."



Marquee movie: The Knickerbocker Theatre in Holland on Saturday before the premiere of the film "Broken."

'Malcolm X' causes controversy, acknowledges racism

By Ryan R. Copping
GVL Staff Writer

Malcolm X is a natural subject for a film, but he is not a natural one for Hollywood.

For the most part, studio pictures treat race in a single way — demonstrating that racism is bad. While this statement is of course true, it overlooks many of the fine gradations and ultimately prevents a cultural dialogue about racial issues.

No filmmaker has fought against this approach more than Spike Lee, a director who is not afraid to state to the audience exactly what he thinks and ignore the controversy. Lee makes no attempt to water-down his subject's views — a man who famously did not mince words.

As Lee depicts in his film, there are really three versions of Malcolm,

portrayed in the performance of his career by Denzel Washington. The first is Malcolm Little, a small-time criminal in Boston who eventually lands in prison. The second is Malcolm X, the famous member of the Nation of Islam who gave spellbinding speeches promoting his views — black power, self reliance and a belief that "all whites are devils." The third is an independent Malcolm who moderated his views about whites after a split from the NOI and a religious pilgrimage to Mecca.

It is a testament to Lee's understanding of the material that he did not begin his story at the obvious point — Malcolm's emergence as a leader in the '50s civil rights movement. He spends so much time with Malcolm the criminal that the movie's first hour seems like a gangster film. This introduction is necessary to appreciate Malcolm's amazing transformation into an ultra-disciplined public orator and man of faith.

Like the man himself, "Malcolm X" may cause controversy among white viewers because Lee never appears

to repudiate the racism of the second-version Malcolm.

Lee is often accused of malevolent bias against whites. But it is clear from both this film and Lee's body of work that the director does not hold inherent bias toward any ethnic group. It is essential the audience understand how Malcolm could plausibly believe "all whites are devils." At one point a character asks Malcolm if he can think of one white person who wasn't evil, and viewers are treated to a montage of all the whites in Malcolm's life. The only ones who have ever showed him a bit of respect are fellow criminals.

It is not hard for a black person who grew up in this viciously racist society to come to such a conclusion. Why are some whites more troubled by the racism Malcolm X possessed during one period of his life (which he later backed away from) than the far worse discrimination that victimized millions?

At the end of this long film — documenting 20 years of American history and the evolution of the civil rights movement — we see a Malcolm who is close to self-actualization.

Confident in his beliefs, he is willing to die for his cause and knows that he has given a gift to millions throughout the world — the knowledge of how to respect one's self. He does not care what white society thinks of him nor does he need its respect.



Courtesy movie poster / www.jhu.edu

'Vampire Weekend' creates its own genre of music



By Lindsay Patton
WCKS Reviewer

Artist: Vampire Weekend
Album: "Vampire Weekend"
Label: XL Recordings
Release Date: Jan. 29, 2008

Death metal. Goth. Anger. Screaming. Those may be the adjectives that come to mind upon hearing the name Vampire Weekend. However, these boys from New York who met while attending Columbia University are more than what their name implies.

The band, popular among the indie circuit, chooses to use smooth African, classical and island influences in comparison to screaming and thrashing guitars. In fact, there is no way this band could be classified and compacted into a genre — the closest comparison would be to the solo efforts of Paul Simon. Vampire Weekend is in a genre of its own, creating songs that are uniquely refreshing in an overproduced and manufactured industry.

Vampire Weekend is propelled by a worldly influence, and for their first full-length album the members rely on various instruments and how they are used. The catchy melodies of their 11 songs are a result of a rare array of instruments and musical styling as opposed to harmonizing vocals.

The set of songs begin with "Mansard Roof," which doubles as their first single. The song is chill and catchy at the same time. The guitar wails through the chorus and reverberates through the listener's body. The lyrics provide a glimpse into the world of Vampire Weekend — a New York attitude with calypso rhythm. The boys cross from the tropics to the city when they sing, "I see a mansard roof

through the trees/I see a salty message written in the eaves/The ground/beneath my feet/The hot garbage and concrete/ And now the tops of buildings, I can see them too."

"Bryn" is a sweet and unique song that tinges their African-influenced core with a sound of Irish folk that are sure to get heads swaying. It is a short song, which makes it perfect to be put on repeat. "Bryn" is a stellar example of how Vampire Weekend is able to spark interest in listeners to research and discover artists and styles of music that may not be from their homeland.

"Walcott" is an exciting little song that exhausts the keys on a piano in the chorus. With a successful buildup at the bridge, this is a song that is able to stand out amongst its already polished counterparts.

Similar to "Walcott," "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa" is extremely catchy and has a simple, yet vibrant groove. The various instruments used are composed of simple chords and notes, but come together to create a song that is perfectly complete.

"One (Blake's Got A New Face)" is a quirky song that sounds like it has just

ridden off '80s new wave. With a subtle synthesizer and slight techno influences, "One" has a sound that will make its listeners pick up an Atari or dig up some old Wham! albums.

The only downfall to Vampire Weekend is the occasional profanity that may be harsh to more sensitive listeners. However, the band's music is able to transcend through any potentially offensive lyrics to deliver a well-crafted and unique album that will be able to please a multitude of listeners.

wcksreview@lanthorn.com



Courtesy Album cover / www.rateyourmusic.com



The reality of reality

By Laura Wasilewski
GVL Editor in Chief

Reality Rant: This week's article is one big reality rant because I just cannot take it anymore.

The writers' strike is really getting to me.

I long for scripted television so much that I was

this close to actually watching the season premiere of "Lost" last week even though I'd be three seasons behind

in a show, from what I understand, is already confusing enough.

At this point even reality television is waning. My guilty pleasure I previously told you about, "Crowned: The Mother of All Pageants," had its dud of

a finale this week, going out on a rather blah and uneventful note, but quickly leaving me in a Carson Kressley withdrawal. (In case you were wondering, mother-and-daughter team Moya and Jenileigh, the "Daredevil Divas," won.

They weren't necessarily my favorite, but they did have a nice sob story. Plus, the evil duo of Patty and Laura, the "Redhead Bombshell/Sincere Sexy Reds," were the first of the four finalists to be eliminated ... er, de-sashed, during the finale.)

I even sunk down to the point of watching "The Biggest Loser: Couples" (Tuesday, 8 p.m. NBC), the focus of my "Reality Rant" just two weeks ago.

I am so weak.

To be fair, however, I have held off watching season seven of "American Idol" (Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m., FOX) because frankly, I just cannot stand the show.

Sometimes I think it's time to give in, because if nothing else at least they produce a singer who can actually sing without all of the enhancements modern technology has to offer, like most pop queens today. And as much as Kelly Clarkson annoys me, I find her music irritatingly catchy.

But as soon as I get close, I realize they are still on the audition phase. Its seventh season aired a two-day, four-hour premiere. The show airs twice a week and they are still on auditions.

If I really wanted to see that much bad karaoke, I'd just go to Main Street Pub.

Even the reality shows seem to be feeling the pinch. Miss the premiere of a new reality episode? It's not a problem, because they will most likely show it every day — if not several times a day — during the week until the next new episode. Bravo has even sunk to hosting "20 Most Outrageous Bravo Moments" (Feb. 11), a collaboration of the network's "best" reality clips.

Or better yet, let's have another reality marathon, a favorite event of networks such as Bravo, MTV and Vh1. My personal favorite is the inexplicably high number of "super model marathons" of "America's Next Top Model" on both MTV and Vh1. If one network isn't showing a cycle, the other one almost always is. My personal favorite is when they show every episode of all nine cycles in a row. That's more than 100 straight hours of "ANTM."

It's disgusting — and glorious — all at the same time.

editorial@lanthorn.com

Strange, but true

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — A hole-in-one is rare on the golf course, but what are the odds of a blind golfer sinking one?

Leo Fiyalko couldn't see it, but his golf buddies did — a hole-in-one on the fifth hole at the Cove Cay Country Club.

Fiyalko is 92 and has macular degeneration. He's been golfing for 60 years, but his 110-yard shot with a five iron on Jan. 10 was his first hole-in-one.

"I was just trying to put the ball on the green," Fiyalko said.

Fiyalko tees off every Thursday with a group of golfers ranging in age from 70 to 90-plus. He used to have a seven handicap, but now he needs help lining up his shots and finding his golf balls because he only has peripheral vision in his right eye.

Jean Gehring was playing in his foursome and watched Fiyalko's swing.

"I could tell it went on the green, (but) when we got up there I didn't see it. I looked in the hole and there it was," Gehring said.

Gehring said Fiyalko brushed off the feat, and had to be prodded to tell his wife about it at the end of the round.

Fiyalko's friends at the country club presented him with a plaque last week to commemorate the feat.

MEDFORD, Wis. (AP) — Frank Oresnik is on the verge of

making history driving his old standby — the pickup truck he says is about to pass the 1 million mile mark.

Oresnik took the 1991 Chevrolet Silverado to the Oil Exchange Quick Lube in Medford on Thursday for what he expects will be its last oil change and tuneup before hitting the magic number.

He said the truck is 1,200 miles from a million, and once he hits the mark he will retire the vehicle.

"I feel almost like the longtime NFL player as he goes into his last training camp knowing this is the end," Oresnik said.

He credits proper maintenance and a good measure of luck for allowing the truck to rack up so many miles. He said he's had more than 300 oil changes and tuneups at the Medford business, going in every 3,000 miles.

The truck has had four radiators, three gas tanks, five transmissions and six water pumps, but the engine has never been overhauled, Oresnik said.

He bought the Silverado in June 1996 after the original owner put 41,000 miles on it. Oresnik uses the vehicle to deliver seafood in three states, putting on about 85,000 miles a year.

WHEATLAND, Wis. (AP) — Having a tornado demolish her home was bad enough. But weeks later when Ann Beam received a \$2,000 cable bill for destroyed

equipment, she was floored.

"I just couldn't believe it," Beam said. "I was like, 'What are they thinking?'"

Time Warner Cable billed a number of Wheatland residents for equipment damaged in the Jan. 7 twister. Beam's bill covered five cable boxes and five remote controls.

She immediately called the cable company, but a man who identified himself as a manager said there was nothing the company could do.

"They said I would have to take the bill and turn it in to my insurance company," Beam told the Kenosha News for a story on the paper's Web site Thursday.

But her cable equipment was nine years old, and the insurance company would pay only a depreciated value, she said.

Beam's case was simply a misunderstanding, Time Warner Cable spokeswoman Celeste Flynn said. Some customers were charged for unreturned equipment, but only because they canceled or transferred their service without mentioning the tornado, she said.

"We understand this is an unusual situation," Flynn said. "All they will need to do is call, and we will take the equipment off their account."

The rare winter tornadoes destroyed more than two dozen homes and damaged nearly 80 others in Kenosha County.

A&E EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday

• 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Diane Walker: Photojournalist" exhibition at the Gerald R. Ford Museum. Also on Tuesday and Wednesday.
• 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Art of Africa: Objects from the Collection of Warren M. Robbins" at Frederik Meijer Gardens. Also on Tuesday and Wednesday.
• 6 to 9:30 p.m. Ice skating at Rosa Parks Circle. Also on Tuesday and Wednesday.
• 7:30 p.m. Blue Man Group at Van Andel Arena.

Tuesday

• 11 a.m. Bar Louie's Fat Tuesday Celebration.
• Noon to 10 p.m. Late winter exhibitions at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts. Also on Wednesday.
• 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The End of Times Orchestra performs a traditional New Orleans-style jazz funeral marching band at The B.O.B.
• 7 p.m. Frederik Meijer Gardens Winter Concert Series featuring La Famiglia.
• 9 p.m. Mardi Gras celebration at Hopcat.

Wednesday

• 6 p.m. Psychology Film Series screening of "Her Name is Sabine" in Lake Michigan Hall Room 114.
• 7 p.m. "The Reckoning," a documentary about Dutch Resistance to the Holocaust in the Grand River Room in Kirkhof Center. Panel discussion to follow.
• 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Country Jam at The Intersection.
• 9 p.m. Live music at The B.O.B.
• 9:30 p.m. Open mic night at Juke's.

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SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Grand Valley	84
Ashland	58
Wayne State	54
Hillsdale	74
Ferris State	49
Findlay	94
Michigan Tech	83
Lake Superior State	71
Northwood	47
Gannon	63
Saginaw Valley	66
Mercyhurst	67

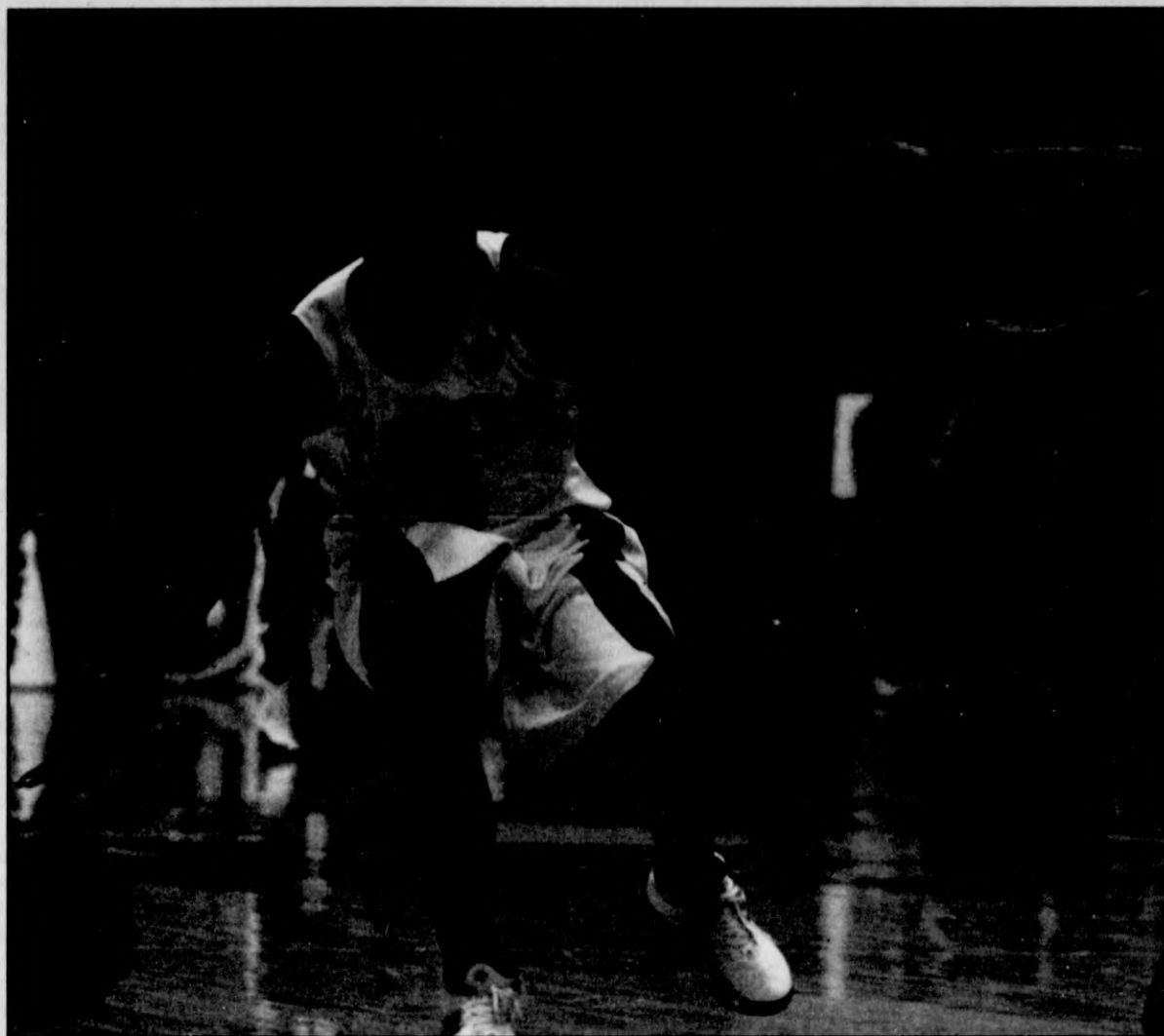
Women's Basketball

Grand Valley	64
Ashland	69
Wayne State	64
Hillsdale	67
Ferris State	77
Findlay	80
Michigan Tech	64
Lake Superior State	58
Northwood	70
Gannon	78
Saginaw Valley	91
Mercyhurst	72

Laker men cruise to two victories

Hillsdale College, Ashland University added to men's basketball list of wins, Lakers sit undefeated

By Marc Koorstra
GVL Sports Editor



Twisted up: Sophomore guard David Thompson of Grandville holds his Mercyhurst defender as he makes his way to the basket.

The Grand Valley State University men's basketball team added Hillsdale College and Ashland University to their list of victims with two more road wins.

The Lakers beat Hillsdale 66-50 on Thursday night and followed that up with an 84-58 thrashing of Ashland. They now sit at 24-0 and 12-0 in the GLIAC.

Thanks to a hot shooting night, the Lakers piled up their highest point total of the conference schedule against Ashland.

"I thought we did a pretty good job the whole game, but in the second half we really got it inside even better and made some easy shots," said GVSU Head Coach Ric Wesley. "That got us going a little more on the outside too."

The Lakers jumped out to a quick 5-0 start on basketball senior Nick Freer and a three-pointer by fellow senior Jason Jamerson. The Eagles then hit back-to-back three-pointers to prevent the game from getting ugly early.

GVSU led by as many as 10 points on six different occasions in the first half, but could not extend it any further. The team took a 35-28 lead into halftime.

The Lakers began to head up in the second half, making 65 percent of their shots in the final 20 minutes. They had one of their finest

See Sample, A2



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MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Team | GLIAC | Overall

Grand Valley St. #2	12-0	24-0
Michigan Tech	6-6	11-9
Northwood	5-7	10-11
Northern Michigan	5-7	5-15
Laker Superior St.	5-9	6-13
Ferris State	4-8	9-14
Saginaw Valley St.	3-9	-12

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Team | GLIAC | Overall

Michigan Tech #23	10-2	17-4
Northwood	8-4	13-7
Ferris State	8-4	13-8
Grand Valley St.	8-4	13-8
Lake Superior St.	5-9	9-13
Saginaw Valley	10-2	17-4

Courtesy www.gliac.org

Basketball wins end

By Brian Beaupied
GVL Senior Reporter

The Grand Valley State University women's basketball team had its four game winning streak snapped Thursday night, dropping a 77-65 decision to Hillsdale College.

On Saturday the Lakers lost a second game to a GLIAC South foe, losing to Ashland University 69-64.

It was the fourth game in a row on the road for the Lakers (13-8, 8-4) and the eighth decided by five points or less. The return home could not come at a better time, said Head Coach Janel Burgess.

"All I can say is that we are excited to come home for three games in a row," she said.

At 8-4, GVSU is tied for second in the GLIAC North with Ferris State and Northwood universities.

Competing away from the friendly confines of the Fieldhouse Arena has taken its toll on the team's typically sound defense, Burgess said.

"Our defense has definitely been a little exhausted," she said. "We need to get back to basics, and once that happens, things will be completely fine."

On Thursday, a strong offensive effort and senior Erin Cyplik's season-high 19 points were not enough to overcome Hillsdale and forward Katie Cezat, who registered 34 points for the Chargers. The Lakers led by as many as 10 points in the

first half before relinquishing the lead and entering the half with a seven-point deficit.

"When our production is over 65 points we should be able to be successful," Burgess said. "We were able to get inside, move the ball well and make easy baskets...but it all comes down to defense, its the difference maker."

Senior guard Crystal Zick and sophomore center Lauren Buresh also scored in double figures, picking up 14 and 13 points respectively.

Cyplik's hot hand continued into Saturday's matchup with Ashland as the senior scored 17 points on 4-4 shooting from beyond the arc and added eight rebounds.

After Zick's three-pointer, GVSU was within three points with under a minute to play, but a Buresh turnover sealed the win for the Eagles.

Zick had a team high 19 points while junior forward Kim Wyngaard chipped in 15.

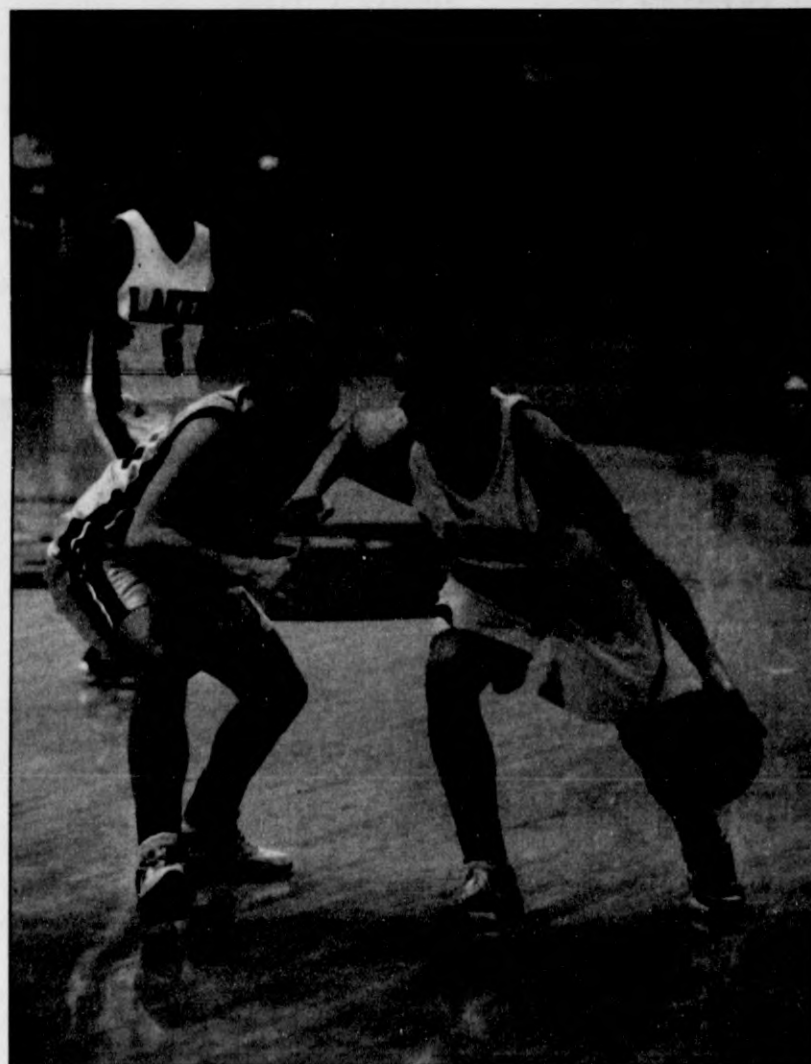
"We just have to roll with the ups and downs of the season," Burgess said. "It is what you make it. I tell the girls to not worry about anything on the outside like friends or the media."

Bench productivity posed a problem during the weekend as the Lakers picked up just six points against Hillsdale and seven against Ashland from reserves.

GVSU will host four of its final six games, including a rematch with GLIAC North leading Michigan Technological

"We were able to get inside, move the ball well and make easy baskets...but it all comes down to defense"

JANEL BURGESS
HEAD COACH



Laker power: Senior guard Erin Cyplik drives to the hoop during GVSU's game against Gannon University.

University on Thursday. The Huskies downed the Lakers 72-48 earlier in the season.

"With everything at the top of the conference being a big mumble jumble

mess, the conference tournament and post season play are things we will look at when they get there," Burgess said.

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Hockey takes two from Division I Eastern Michigan

By Josh Kowalczyk
GVL Staff Writer

The Grand Valley State University club hockey team extended its win streak to six games this weekend with a pair against Eastern Michigan University.

The Lakers defeated the Eagles 2-1 Friday night at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube and 2-1 again Saturday night at the Georgetown Ice Center. GVSU improved its record to 22-6-1 and is ranked No. 1 in the ACHA Central Region.

In Friday's contest, the two teams played each other to a stalemate through the first two periods.

Senior Greg Kehr broke the scoreless tie with his goal midway through the third period. Freshman Scott Rood's goal less than a minute later made the score 2-0. EMU scored late in the third to make the score 2-1.

"It wasn't they best I've seen them play," said GVSU Head Coach Denny McLean, of the Lakers' start. "We came out a little tentative and when you get tentative, you are not playing your best game. But we made the best of our opportunities in the third period."

Senior Phil Murray, junior Brandon Rood, sophomore Devon Banda and freshman Ryan Welch each registered an assist and junior goalie Kevin Chapman made 22 saves for the Lakers. Ian Chornoby scored the Eagles' only goal.

"We had great goaltending from Kevin Chapman,"

McLean said. "He made big save after big save and that kept us in the game."

The Lakers did not have many opportunities to score on the power play, going 0-3. EMU fared better going 1-6 with a man advantage.

"It was a little bit of a slower start for us," Chapman said. "This one came down to the final whistle and it was a good win for us."

Saturday's contest was not much different than the night before. The score was deadlocked 0-0 heading into the first intermission. The Eagles struck first in the second period on Kevin Lapointe's power-play goal.

"They played with an amazing amount of energy," McLean said, of the Eagles' start. "We matched them in both the first and second periods. In the third period, we exposed a few weaknesses that they had."

The Lakers tied the game midway through the second on freshman Matt Morang's power-play goal. GVSU took a 2-1 lead early in the third period and never looked back.

Freshman Derek Williams said goaltending was the key to the Lakers' success during the weekend.

"It was great to get a couple of 2-1 wins against a Division I team," Williams said. "Both goalies played great this weekend."

Williams scored a goal, senior Nate Morang added two assists and senior Greg Kehr and freshman Jake Oschner

each added an assist. Sophomore goalie Grant Lyon made 34 saves to lead GVSU.

"We're on a six-game win streak right now so you really can't beat that," Lyon said. "We proved that we're a legit team and we're going to make a strong run at nationals."

The Lakers will be on the road next weekend at the University of Missouri, Missouri State University and Southern Illinois University.

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Slick stick: Ryan Welch handles the puck into the opposing team's zone during the game on Saturday.

GV wrestlers finish strong at Laker Open

Lakers take five championships in 11 weight classes at home invitational

By Rob Rosenbach
GVL Staff Writer

The Grand Valley State University club wrestling team hosted its invitational on Saturday after competing on the road since early November.

Wrestlers from a wide variety of schools were represented, including the University of Central Florida, Muskegon Community College, Olivet College and Ohio State University.

Competing individually with no team scores, the Lakers took home five championships in the 11 different weight classes. Three of these wins came against highly ranked UCF.

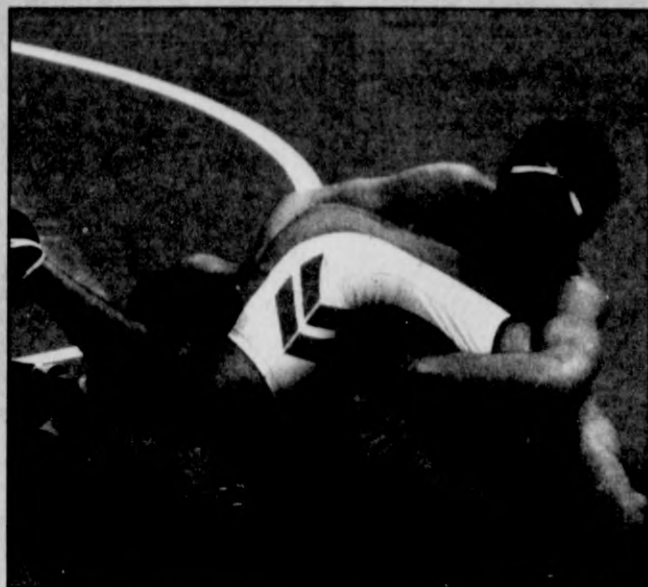
"Central Florida is definitely a top three, top four team," said Head Coach Rick Bolhuis. "They weren't expected to be here. They showed up because of the weather. They got stranded in Chicago (so) they weren't planning on coming

to our tournament. To have Central Florida in the mix, and win five out of 11 weight classes and place third in a couple others, that is a good day for us."

In the championship of the 157-pound division, Russell Correll took care of Richard Stafford of Muskegon Community College with a 5-4 victory. The match was tied 4-4 when round three was over, but Correll was awarded a point due to riding time. In college wrestling, if a wrestler is in control over his opponent for more than a minute throughout the match, he is awarded a point.

"I thought I wrestled pretty well in the earlier rounds," Correll said. "I wrestled a friend on mine in the finals. I went to church with him growing up, so it was kind of a little different. I'm just glad it was him who took second."

Battling blood above his upper right eye, Kelvin Miller won his semifinals match by scoring a point two seconds before it was to



Grappling guys: Russell Correll wrestles with a Bowling Green opponent. Correll currently leads the GVSU team in points.

come to an end to send him to the finals. Wrestling at 197 pounds, Miller beat Danny Fernandez of UCF 3-2 to claim the title.

"I wish I would have wrestled a little bit better," Miller said. "I came through when it came down to it and I needed to, but I felt like I should have beaten these guys a little bit better."

In the 235-pound weight class, Joe Kuzmick went to overtime with Aaron Stewart of Olivet College before taking down his opponent for another last second win for the Lakers.

Jordan Richardson and Richard Doherty also won titles at 165 pounds and 174 pounds, respectively.

The Lakers now have a

month to hone their skills before heading to the North Central Conference Championships at Ohio State University. This will then seed them for the National Championships in Lakeland, Fla. in mid-March, something coach Bolhuis is looking forward to.

"The expectations of our program every year is to win a national championship," Bolhuis said. "We have said that for a long time, we said it when we were a first year team. I fully expect we will compete for one. We went out to National Duals and won the National Duals earlier in the year. We want to be the first team to win five and the first team on campus to win three in a row."

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Santana trade sits pleasantly for Tigers

Record-breaking trade may allow Detroit Tigers to find spot in Fall Classic

By TJ Taylor
GVL Staff Writer

Life just got a little bit easier for the Detroit Tigers.

That is

because

Johan

Santana

is on the

move

while he

surpasses

Barry Zito

as the

highest

paid pitcher

ever with his

guaranteed

\$137.5

million.

More importantly,

rather than

finding a

new home

in

Boston

or in

pinstripes

as a

Yankee,

Santana

has found

himself

with the

other Big

Apple

team —

the New

York

Mets.

With

spring

training

quickly

approaching,

this move

is yet

another

reason

to wish

the snow

would

melt

away

and

opening

day

would

arrive.

This

offseason

has

already

been

an

explosive

one

for

the

Tigers

with

the

addition

of

Miguel

Cabrera,

Edgar

Renteria

and

Dontrelle

Willis.

And

rather

than

having

to

make

another

deal

themselves,

the

Santana

transaction

has

indirectly

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them

an

even

better

team.

With

Santana

moving

out

of

the

division,

let

alone

the

American

League,

Detroit

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no

longer

have

to

face

the

two-

time

Cy

Young

Award

winner

numerous

times

a

year.

Hopefully,

this

only

means

more

wins

are

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the

way.

Even

though

Santana

only

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1-3

mark

against

the

Tigers

last

season,

he

has

always

been

a

threat

nonetheless.



Taylor

With the weapons he has in his arsenal, including that devastating changeup, there's no reason any Tiger would want first dibs on him.

Besides, the Central Division is rigorous enough.

Dealing with the Cleveland Indians, the reigning division titleholders, isn't exactly considered an easy task.

And the rest of the clubs alongside the division will cause fits as it is with their feisty and scrappy play.

The bottom line is wins among the Central Division are hard enough to come by — with or without having to deal with the best pitcher in the game right now.

In addition, the fact that Santana is not a member of the Boston Red Sox or New York Yankees is as big of a deal as anything else.

If he ended up banking on a deal involving one of those two teams, the Tigers would've still had to cope with him — especially during the race for October, or maybe even a playoff series, when everything is on the line.

As bad as it may have been having Santana pitch within the same division, the circumstances of having him be on either the Yankees or Red Sox would've been an even bigger hassle.

But as it is, Santana and his New York Mets have instantly become a favorite to reach the World Series.

If Detroit is to again face off against Santana, it would have to mean the Tigers land themselves another spot in the Fall Classic.

Not exactly something any Tigers fan can complain about.

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Women swimmers claim final duals

Swim team ended regular season with victories against Hillsdale, Northern Michigan

By Emanuel Johnson
GVL Staff Writer

The Grand Valley State University women's swimming and diving team finished the regular season on a high note Saturday.

The team picked up a pair of victories in a double dual meet against Northern Michigan

University (144-82) and Hillsdale College (153-69).

It was the team's final stop on the way to the GLIAC conference championship

meet. The men had the weekend off since neither Hillsdale nor NMU hosts a men's intercollegiate swim team, but they were still present by the pool to cheer on their female counterparts.

The Laker women set the tone early in the meet by taking the top three places in the 200-

yard medley relay, which was the first event.

GVSU went on to take first place in nine of the 13 events.

Junior Jenna Thayer, who has demonstrated her ability on numerous occasions this past season, did it again by winning the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:38.68. The closest competitor

finished almost a full five seconds behind Thayer.

She also swam the third

leg in the first place 200-yard medley relay team.

"Thayer has been especially important for us this season," said Associate Head Coach Andy Boyce. "She is really one of the cornerstones of this team, and she swam very well in this meet."

Boyce said he was also very

See Swimming, B8

"We're probably going to end up relying on our depth and focusing on placing in every event."

ANDY BOYCE
HEAD COACH



GVL / Katie Mitchell

Dive in: Freshman Sara Moore makes a solid dive against the Hillsdale and Northern Michigan teams.

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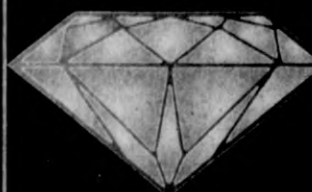
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Rebels clash with government forces in Chad

Hundreds of rebels move into presidential palace in capital after three-day advance

By Tom Maliti

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Hundreds of rebels penetrated the capital of Chad on Saturday, clashing with government troops and moving on the presidential palace after a three-day advance through the oil-producing central African nation, officials and witnesses said.

Chad's ambassador to Ethiopia said the capital had not fallen and that President Idriss Deby was "fine" in his palace.

"The situation is under control," ambassador Cherif Mahamat Zene told The Associated Press. "The head of state is fine in his palace ... It's true that there are some rebels who have entered the city, but to say the city has fallen is false."

A French military spokesman, Col. Thierry Burkhard, said that Chadian government forces were pushing rebels away from the presidential palace but that the outcome of the fighting Saturday remained unclear.

Deby's whereabouts were unclear, the spokesman said, saying he could not confirm reports that Deby had remained in the presidential palace.

Chad, a French colony until 1960, has been convulsed by civil wars and invasions since independence, and the recent discovery of oil has only increased the intensity of the struggle for power in the largely desert country about three times the size of California.

The rebel force is believed to be a coalition of three groups, including the biggest led by former diplomat Mahamat Nouri, who

defected 16 months ago, and a nephew of Deby's, Timan Erdimi. They long have been fighting to overthrow Deby, whom they accuse of corruption.

The rebels also have said they were unhappy with the president not providing enough support to rebels in Sudan's Darfur region, some of whom are from Deby's own tribe, the Zaghawa, who are found both Chad and Sudan.

The renewed fighting has led the European Union to delay its peacekeeping mission in both Chad and neighboring Central African Republic, which was due to be up and running early next month, said Commandant Dan Harvey, speaking at the EU military headquarters in Paris on Friday. The deployment of the advance force could be postponed for days, he said.

The force already has met repeated delays. It is aimed at protecting refugees from Darfur, which borders Chad, as well as protecting Chadians and Central Africans displaced by turmoil in their own countries.

The news that rebels reached Chad's capital broke just as African leaders were listening to the closing speeches of a three-day summit in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Representatives from the Chad delegation refused to comment to The Associated Press.

The new head of the African Union said that the bloc would not recognize Chadian rebels should they seize power.

"If the rebellion succeeds,

certainly we will excommunicate them from the African Union until normalcy and democratic institutions are restored in that country, if it has to happen that way at all," Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete told a news conference.

The United Nations decided to temporarily evacuate all its staff from Chad's capital because of the fighting, said William Spindler, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The U.S. Embassy said in a bulletin on its Web site that any American citizens seeking evacuation should immediately move to the embassy. State Department spokesman Karl Duckworth said the embassy had authorized the departure of nonessential personnel and family members.

"At this time the U.S. is monitoring the security situation closely," Duckworth said in a statement. "The serious violence that has occurred has not been directed at any U.S. personnel or facilities. We are taking all appropriate precautions to ensure the security of U.S. mission personnel and all American citizens in Chad."

France's embassy in Chad sent messages over Radio France Internationale telling citizens to head to the Lycée Français high school and two other locations in N'Djamena, a French diplomatic official said on condition of anonymity because government policy barred him from providing his name.

Rebels said they would protect

foreigners trying to evacuate N'Djamena.

"We will not stop the embassies from evacuating people," Mahamat Hassane Boulmaje of the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development told the AP. "We will try to protect them if it is necessary." He was reached on a Sudanese mobile telephone number and said he was speaking from Chad's border with Sudan.

Rebel forces have been advancing on the capital for three days in about 250 pickup trucks from the direction of the border with Sudan, about 500 miles to the east of N'Djamena.

A hotel operator at the Hotel le Meridien, about a mile from the headquarters of President Idriss Deby, said gunfire and explosions had been resounding through the capital since 7 a.m.

The man, who would not give his name, said he had not seen any rebels. The line went dead before a reporter could get more details. Other phone lines also were dead and the information could not immediately be confirmed.

Rebels in more than a dozen vehicles drove past the Libya Hotel, which overlooks the parliament building, said a man who answered the telephone at that hotel.

"I saw more than 15 vehicles and they (the rebels) were firing into the air," said the man, who also would not give his name. He said he also watched looters go into a police station opposite the hotel, stealing chairs and throwing papers on the ground.

Deby himself came to power at the head of a rebellion in 1990; he has won elections since, but none of the votes were deemed free or fair. He brought a semblance of peace after three decades of civil war and an invasion by Libya, but became increasingly isolated.

The most recent series of rebellions began in 2005 in the country's east, occurring at the same time as the conflict in Darfur saw a



AP Photo / Paulo Duarte

Chad rebellion: Chad President Idriss Deby arrives for an EU Africa Summit in Lisbon on Dec. 9, 2007. Heavy gunfire was heard Saturday near the presidential palace in Chad, said a hotel operator reached by telephone, and rebel forces were believed to have reached the capital after a lightning advance across the desert in pickup convoys. A hotel operator at the Hotel le Meridien, a couple of kilometers (about a mile) from the headquarters of President Idriss Deby said he could hear the gunfire. The line went dead before a reporter could get more details.

rise in violence. One Chadian rebel group launched a failed assault on N'Djamena, in April 2006.

The governments of Chad and Sudan repeatedly exchange accusations the one is backing the other's rebel groups.

U.N. officials estimate that around 3 million people have been uprooted by conflicts in the region, including the fighting in western Sudan's Darfur region and rebellions in Central African Republic.

France sent more troops late Thursday to boost a longtime military presence in Chad. About

1,500 French citizens live in Chad, most in N'Djamena.

It appeared that Chad's government might be getting less help from France than during previous rebel attempts to take the capital, said Henri Boshoff, a military analyst at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, South Africa.

Previously, "the French gave them intelligence using aerial reconnaissance and that allowed the Chad government to act," Boshoff told The Associated Press. "But it looks like this time it's too late, the rebels got too close to the city."

Republicans go South, Democrats hit West before Super Tuesday

By David Espo

AP Special Correspondent

Sen. John McCain barnstormed through skeptical South on Saturday, campaigning for a Super Tuesday knockout in the Republican presidential race. Democratic rivals Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton worked the West on the final weekend before primaries and caucuses in more than 20 states.

"I assume that I will get the nomination of the party," McCain told reporters, the front-runner so confident that he decided to challenge rival Mitt Romney in his home state of Massachusetts.

Clinton stressed pocketbook issues, the home mortgage crisis in a discussion with voters in a working class neighborhood, and health care at a noisy rally attended by former basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson. "This is a cause that is the central passion of my public life," she said, and jabbed at Obama on the issue.

"My opponent will not commit to universal health care. I do not believe we should nominate any Democrat who will not stand here proudly today and commit to universal health care," she said in the continuation of a monthslong debate over which candidate's plan would result in wider coverage among the millions who now lack it.

Obama stopped in Idaho, where

caucuses offer a mere 18 delegates on Tuesday, and he worked to reassure Westerners on two fronts.

"I've been going to the same church for more than 20 years, praising Jesus," he told an audience in Boise, warning his listeners not to believe e-mails that falsely say he is a Muslim.

In a region of the country where hunting is a way of life, he also said he has "no intention of taking away folks' guns." The Illinois senator did not mention his support for gun control legislation.

The two remaining Democratic rivals compete in primaries in 15 states as well as caucuses in seven more plus American Samoa on Tuesday, the busiest day of this or any other nominating campaign. A total of 1,681 delegates is at stake, including 370 in California alone, and the two campaigns have said they do not expect either side to emerge with a lock on the nomination.

Both have already begun turning their attention to Feb. 12 primaries in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The Republican political landscape is different for McCain, Romney, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Texas Rep. Ron Paul, with nine of the 21 contests on the ballot awarding delegates winner-take-all to the top vote-getter.

Maine Republicans voted in caucuses during the day, a final tune-up before Super Tuesday.



AP Photo / Troy Maben

Campaign trail: Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves at a rally in Boise, Idaho, Saturday.

And Clinton, Obama, Huckabee and Paul agreed to participate via satellite in a televised youth forum during the evening. The event was sponsored by MTV, The Associated Press and MySpace.

McCain's rivals have essentially conceded him New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Arizona, five winner-take-all states with 251 delegates combined.

That left McCain free to spend Saturday in Huckabee's probable area of strength, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. All three are home to large numbers of evangelical voters who have been slow to swing behind the Arizona senator on his march through the early primaries and caucuses.

He worked to reassure conservatives, telling them he had a 24-year record in the Senate of "fighting for the rights of the unborn" and boasting he never asked for a single earmark or pork barrel project for his home state of Arizona.

As for the slowing economy, he said the Senate must "stop fooling around and pass the president's stimulus package ... and restore some confidence."

McCain made no mention of Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who is his closest pursuer in the race, or of Huckabee, the Baptist preacher-turned-politician.

In Tennessee, McCain made a pitch for the supporters of campaign dropout Fred Thompson, a former Tennessee senator. "He is a fine man. I had the distinct pleasure and honor of sitting next, my desk right next to Fred Thompson for eight years in the United States Senate," he said. Thompson was not endorsed any of the remaining candidates.

Before campaigning in Minnesota, Romney attended the funeral of Mormon Church President Gordon B. Hinckley in Salt Lake City. The former Massachusetts governor would be the first Mormon to sit in the White House if he wins the presidency.

Huckabee campaigned across Alabama,

taking thinly veiled swipes at McCain and Romney.

"You really would like to get a president to agree with himself on some issues," he said in a reference to Romney, who has switched positions on key issues since he ran against Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy in Massachusetts in 1994. As for McCain and the need to control federal spending, he said, "It doesn't make sense that someone would be sent to the White House who has a Washington address."

McCain emerged as the front-runner in the Republican race with a victory in the winner-take-all primary in Florida last Tuesday. In the days since, he has begun collecting endorsements from establishment figures ranging from California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to former Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma.

But a significant number of conservatives remain vocally opposed to him, and Romney hopes to take advantage of their unwillingness to swing behind a longtime party maverick.

"It's going to destroy the Republican Party," radio show host Rush Limbaugh has said of a McCain nomination. Ann Coulter, the conservative author and commentator, has said she would prefer Clinton in the White House over McCain, adding, "I will campaign for her."

Complicating Romney's challenge is the continuing presence of Huckabee. As long as the Baptist minister is running, Romney strategists concede the two men will split the votes of conservatives who are not ready to back McCain.

"I believe that the majority of Republican Party conservatives are convinced that I'm best equipped to lead this country, unify our party and take on the challenge of radical Islamic extremism," McCain told reporters.

He confidently planned a weekend appearance in Boston, and gained an endorsement from Paul Cellucci, who was governor of Massachusetts before Romney.

Inmates see award after sexual abuse

By DAVID EGGERT

Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A jury on Friday unanimously awarded \$15 million to 10 female inmates for rape and sexual harassment they suffered at the hands of male staff in a state prison.

In a rare move while giving the verdict, the foreperson stood up and read a statement apologizing to the women on the behalf of Michigan citizens.

"For the first time, these women were told that they're believed and they're humans and this is not something we do to people in the name of the state," said Deborah LaBelle, one of the trial attorneys who represented the plaintiffs.

The state Department of Corrections, which plans to appeal, accused Washtenaw County Circuit Judge Timothy Conners of denying its ability to put on a defense.

"The court riddled the case with errors," spokesman Russ Marlan said.

Once interest is factored in, the women could get about \$30 million. The lawsuit was filed in 1996.

Jurors heard three weeks of testimony before starting deliberations Thursday.

Marlan said the department fired workers if it could sustain allegations. But he added the specific allegations in the suit did not come out until years later, sometimes not until the trial.

The case is just the start of what could be many more trials. There are another 490 women with cases, LaBelle said, and they could be tried 10 at a time. The Washtenaw case was the first trial ever in Michigan concerning the issue of female prisoners being sexually abused by guards and others.

LaBelle blasted the state for calling the women liars.

"I don't know what it takes to get them to listen to the problem," she said. "Somebody is going to have to step up and say, 'You know what, maybe we do have a problem.' I'm tired of women calling the office saying they were raped."



AP Photo / Charles Dharapak

Southern support: Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., signs magazine covers bearing his image at a campaign rally in Nashville, Tenn., Saturday.



AP Photo / Andy Matthews
Plane crash: The King Air C90A crashed Friday in a neighborhood near the Mt. Airy airport around 11:30 a.m. The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane did not hit any homes and no one on the ground was hurt in the accident.

Six killed in N.C. plane accident

MOUNT AIRY, N.C. (AP) — A twin-engine plane crashed Friday as it tried to land amid low fog at a small airport in northwest North Carolina, killing all six people on board, officials said.

Stephanie Conner, a Surry County emergency services shift supervisor, said investigators had confirmed there were no survivors.

No one on the ground was hurt, said Warren Woodberry, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

The King Air C90A split in half after falling into a grassy area between two homes near the Mount Airy airport around 11:30 a.m., the Surry County Sheriff's Office said.

The plane took off in Cedartown, Ga., Woodberry said, and the passengers were on their way to Primland, a hunting and golf resort in Meadows of Dan, Va., about 25 miles north of the Mount Airy airport, according to Kelvin Boyette, the airport manager.

"The hunting resort was actually waiting for them, and he was the only person who saw the plane come out of the clouds," Boyette said.

A woman who identified herself as a Primland resort manager but declined to give her name said the company had no comment.

The plane — the only one scheduled to land at Mount Airy on Friday — missed its approach and may have been trying to circle back for another attempt before it crashed, Boyette said.

"There was a really low fog, it was raining a little bit and an occasional sleet pellet. But visibility was more than 2 1/2 miles," he said.

The plane is registered to Blue Sky Airways in Dallas, Ga., according to FAA records.

One of the men on board was identified by his cousin, Ronald Rakestraw, as John Rakestraw.

John was a pilot who owned a construction company that had the same address as listed on the plane's registration.

Mentally disabled used in market blasts, kills 91

Insurgents use Down syndrome women to carry remote-detonated bombs into market

By Steven R. Hurst
 Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Two women described as mentally disabled and strapped with remote-control explosives — and possibly used as unwitting suicide bombers — brought carnage Friday to two pet bazaars, killing at least 91 people in the deadliest day since Washington flooded the capital with extra troops last spring.

Brig. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, Iraq's chief military spokesman in Baghdad, said the women had Down syndrome and may not have known they were on suicide missions, but gave no further details on how authorities pieced together the evidence.

He also said the bombs were detonated by remote control.

The coordinated blasts — coming 20 minutes apart in different parts of the city — appeared to reinforce U.S. claims al-Qaida in Iraq may be increasingly desperate and running short of able-bodied men willing or available for such missions.

But they also served as a reminder that Iraqi insurgents are constantly shifting their strategies in attempts to unravel recent security gains around the country.

Women have been used in ever greater frequency in suicide attacks because they often encounter less scrutiny by security officials.

The twin attacks at the pet markets, however, could mark a disturbing use of unknowing agents of death.

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the bombings prove al-Qaida is "the most brutal and bankrupt of movements" and will strengthen Iraqi resolve to reject terrorism.

Iraqi officials raised the death toll to 91 from 73 in the early hours of Saturday, but they were unable to immediately provide a casualty breakdown in the two bombings.

The police and Interior Ministry officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Earlier, officials had said the first bomber was detonated about 10:20 a.m. in the central al-Ghazl market.

Four police and hospital officials said at least 46 people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

Police said the woman wearing the bomb sold cream in the mornings at the market and was known to locals as "the crazy lady."

The pet bazaar has been bombed repeatedly, but with



AP Photo / Khalid Mohammed
Brutal bombing: Iraqis participate in the cleanup at the site of a suicide bombing at a popular pet market in central Baghdad, Iraq, Friday. A female suicide bomber blew herself up at the market, killing at least 43 people and wounding 78, police said, the deadliest bombing to strike the capital since 30,000 more American forces flooded into central Iraq last spring.

violence declining in the capital, the market had regained popularity as a shopping district and place to stroll on Fridays, the Muslim day of prayer.

But on Friday, it was returned to a scene straight out of the worst days of the conflict.

Firefighters scooped up debris scattered among pools of blood, clothing and pigeon carcasses.

Apigeon vendor said the market had been unusually crowded, with people taking advantage of a pleasantly crisp and clear winter day after a particularly harsh January.

"I have been going to the pet market with my friend every Friday, selling and buying pigeons," said Ali Ahmed, who was hit by shrapnel in his legs and chest. "It was nice weather today and the market was so crowded."

"There is nothing they won't do if they think it will work in creating carnage and the political fallout that comes from that."

RYAN CROCKER
 U.S. AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ

disappeared after the blast about 40 yards away.

"I just remember the horrible scene of the bodies of dead and wounded people mixed with the blood of animals and birds, then I found myself lying in a hospital bed," Ali said.

About 20 minutes after the first attack, the second female suicide bomber was blown apart in a bird market in a predominantly Shiite area in southeastern Baghdad.

Initial reports had said as many as 27 people died and 67 were wounded, police and hospital officials said.

Rae Muhsin, the 21-year-old owner of a cell phone store, said he was walking toward the New Baghdad bird market when the explosion shattered the windows of nearby stores.

"I ran toward the bird market and saw charred pieces of flesh, small spots of blood and several damaged cars," Muhsin said. "I thought that we had achieved real security in Baghdad, but it turned that we were wrong."

The bombings were the latest in a series that has frayed Iraqi confidence in the permanence of recent security gains.

The U.S. military in Iraq issued a statement that shared "the outrage of the Iraqi people, and we condemn the brutal enemy responsible for these attacks, which bear the hallmarks of being carried out by al-Qaida in Iraq."

The U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, said the bombings showed that a resilient al-Qaida has "found a different, deadly way" to try to destabilize Iraq.

"There is nothing they won't do if they think it will work in creating carnage and the political fallout that comes from that," he told The Associated Press in an interview at the State Department.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said the attacks were motivated by revenge and an attempt "to stop the march of history and of our people toward reconciliation." He confirmed the death toll was about 70.

Navy Cmdr. Scott Rye, a U.S. military spokesman, gave far lower casualty figures — seven killed and 23 wounded in the first bombing, and 20 killed and 30 wounded in the second.

He confirmed, however, that both attacks were carried out by women wearing explosives vests and said the attacks appeared coordinated and likely the work

of al-Qaida in Iraq.

Associated Press records show that since the start of the war at least 169 people have been killed in at least 17 attacks or attempted attacks by female suicide bombers, including Friday's bombings.

The most recent previous attack was Jan. 16 when a female suicide bomber detonated her explosives among men preparing for the Ashoura holiday in a Shiite village in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad.

While involving women in such deadly activity violates cultural taboos in Iraq, the U.S. military has warned that al-Qaida is recruiting women and young people as suicide attackers because militants are increasingly desperate to thwart stepped-up security measures.

Syria also has reportedly tightened its border with Iraq, a main transit point for incoming

foreign bombers.

Women in Iraq often wear abayas, the black Islamic robe, and avoid thorough searches at checkpoints because men are not allowed to touch them and there are too few female police.

Even the use of the handicapped in suicide bombings is not unprecedented in Iraq.

In January 2005, Iraq's interior minister said insurgents used a disabled child in a suicide attack on election day.

Police at the scene of the bombing said the child appeared to have Down syndrome.

Many teenage boys were among the casualties in the al-Ghazl bombing Friday, according to the officials who gave the death toll.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

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Lecture Series XIII

February 6, 2008
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March 12, 2008

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Balancing your checking account

By Dr. Gregg Dimkoff
GVL Guest Columnist



Dimkoff

Dr. Gregg Dimkoff is a finance professor in the Seidman College of Business with more than 30 years of teaching experience. Dimkoff has also written finance columns for the West Michigan business journal *MiBiz*.

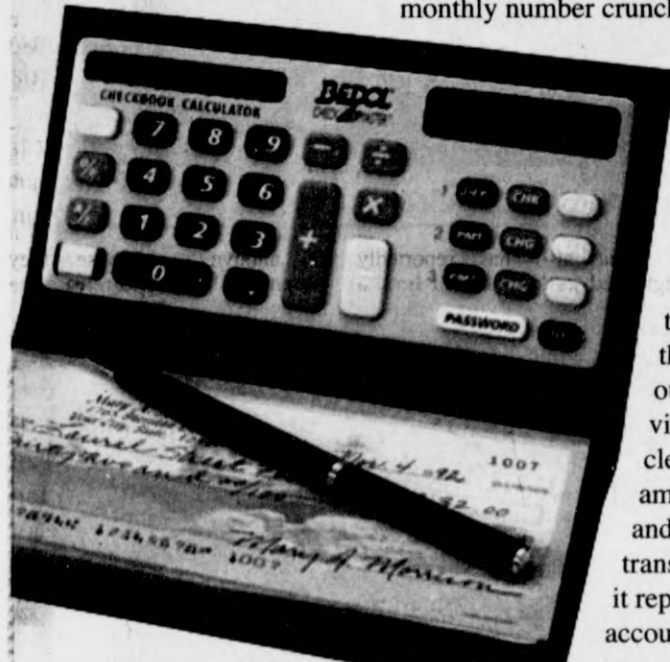
When people first learn that I have a Ph.D. in finance, they often comment, "I sure could use you to help me balance my checking account!"

I can sympathize. It is not the easiest job to reconcile an account balance with a bank's monthly statement. Furthermore, some people absolutely hate working with numbers, and after a few months of unbalanced statements have been tossed out, the job becomes almost impossible.

Every bank branch manager can tell you a sorry story about someone seeking help who has carried a large box of bank statements, cancelled checks and ATM transaction slips into the bank.

In the past, many banks would patiently help patrons work out their balances, even if it took hours. And many still do so today, but with a difference — they charge at least \$25 per hour to sort through the paper mess. That is not a very good solution to not knowing how much money is in your bank account.

So what is the answer if you want to keep track of your balance but hate the joy of monthly number crunching? Simple — an online option with your account.



All banks offer customers online access to their existing accounts. Next time you visit your bank, fill out the paperwork necessary to get online access. Once that access begins (usually it takes a week or so to set up the account), you can check out your balance every day, view electronic images of your cleared checks, transfer funds among accounts, pay bills online and double check your financial transactions. It's free, it's secure, it replaces the need to do a monthly account balance and it works.



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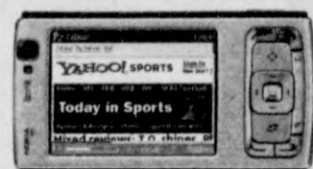
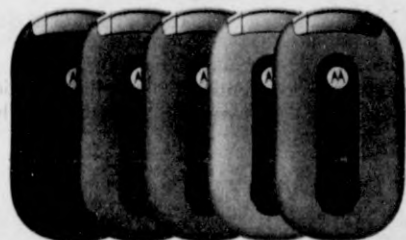
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Renter's insurance provides protection

By Dr. Gregg Dimkoff
GVL Guest Columnist

When Indian Village Condominiums were destroyed by fire in mid-January, 200 residents were forced to find alternate housing for at least a few days, and about 100 of them lost almost everything. Many of the residents were renting their condos, but sadly, had no renters' insurance.

As a colleague of mine would say, their losses were a stupidity tax for not being insured. As little as \$10 to \$15 per month would have covered most of their lost possessions and would pay the extra expenses of living somewhere else until repairs are completed.

Surveys consistently find that only 25 to

35 percent of people living in rental housing carry rental insurance. Many renters believe they are covered by their landlord's insurance. They aren't. Others believe the cost of coverage is too high given their low incomes. In fact, the cost can be as low as \$50 per year, and for most students, \$150 per year will provide adequate coverage.

There is good news for college students who live on campus — They are usually covered by their parents' homeowners' insurance policies. Variations among insurers, however, make it prudent to check with your parents before assuming you are covered. If you live off campus, most likely your parents' coverage

does not extend to you. But again, check.

If you aren't covered, start by getting a quote from your auto insurer.

A standard policy covers up to \$25,000 of personal possessions and provides \$100,000 of liability protection should your negligence result in an injury to a guest. Many insurers allow up to three renters to be covered under a single policy. Also, check out <http://www.priority-quote.com> to get instant quotes from several insurers.

Your possessions are no safer than the actions of the least common denominator living in your apartment building. You don't want to pay the stupidity tax by overlooking such inexpensive protection.


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Lenten season to begin Ash Wednesday

Catholics across campus reflect on religious holiday

By Susie Skowronek
GVL Staff Writer

To the church hierarchy, Ash Wednesday is not a significant day. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation — a day when Catholics must attend Mass. Instead, the day has greater significance to members of the church.

Lent — encompassing the 40 days before Easter — begins on Ash Wednesday, which is this Wednesday. This celebration typically includes a Mass, said Father Don, associate pastor at Saint Luke's University Parish. Participants receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their foreheads and people can choose to wear the ashes all day or to remove them.

"The ashes symbolize repentance," Don said. "Repentance literally means 'turning again toward God.'"

Primarily only Catholics celebrate this day, however a few other Christian denominations also recognize Ash Wednesday, he added. Many religions will not accept Ash Wednesday because

it comes out of tradition rather than strict Biblical fact, he said.

Jenna Hagen, a freshman of Mount Pleasant, Mich., is part of the Lutheran denomination. When she sees students wearing ashes around Grand Valley State University, she said she thinks two things — "I assume they are Catholic and they went to an Ash Wednesday service," Hagen said.

While she has attended Ash Wednesday celebrations in the past, Hagen said she will not attend this year. Because of classes, she said her schedule makes it difficult for her to get to church.

Before Ash Wednesday comes a celebration on Tuesday, Don said. Catholics used to eat their stores of food before it spoiled over the Lenten fast and they called the feast Carnival, meaning "good-bye to meat."

In European cultures, especially Spanish-speaking nations, the day before Ash Wednesday is the celebration of Carnival, Don said. However, that Tuesday is typically known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras in the United States.

As we get more affluent, this becomes an excuse to party, which is built around Lent, Don said. While a bit of celebration does not hurt, the usual Fat Tuesday is a distortion of the Lenten ideal, he added.

We live in a culture that minimizes religion and faith, Don said.

The ashes show many believers as well as each other that we are not perfect, even during studies and amidst a culture of non-faith, he added.

"The ashes and cross are an external sign of something we

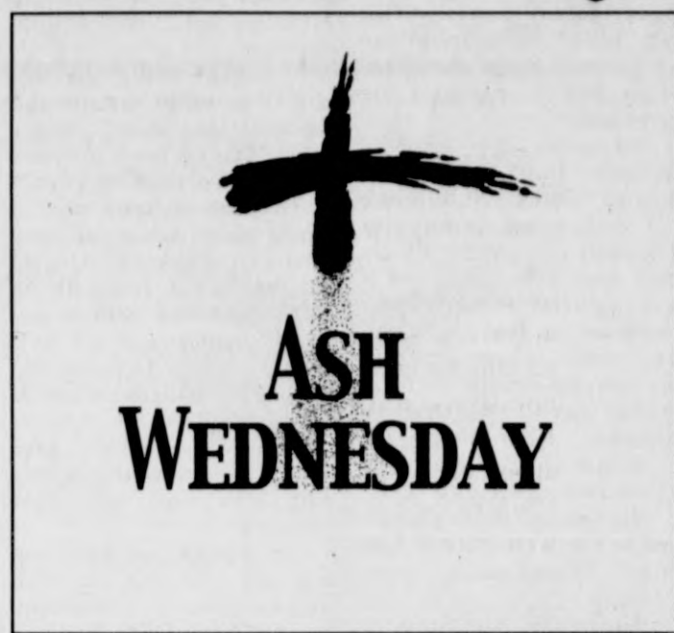
hope is going on inside us," Don said.

The ashes for the foreheads come from burnt palms from the previous Palm Sunday — the Sunday before Easter Sunday, Don said. While some churches do still burn their own palms, most have given up this practice. The burning of palms requires a hot fire, produces a bad smell and gives oily ashes. Instead, most churches purchase the ashes already burnt, Don said.

At GVSU, there are about 2,800 Catholics, but many of them do not regularly attend Mass, he said. Ash Wednesday typically draws greater crowds than the average church service, and Don said those who do not normally attend Mass should make an appearance on Wednesday.

Those who do not normally attend church can start a new expression of their faith through receiving ashes, while non-Christians can take the opportunity to pose questions and start a dialogue, he said.

Initially, Catholics only fasted the week before Easter. Those



Courtesy Photo / www.gbgm-umc.org

Beginning of Lent: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on Wednesday.

joining the Catholic Church participated in 40-day retreats, and some entire communities began to follow this practice. Eventually, the church set standards for the 40-day period prior to Easter, naming it Lent.

"Our time in this world is limited," Don said. "Are we

ready for the next?"

This year on the GVSU's Allendale Campus, Ash Wednesday Masses are at noon and 9 p.m. at the Cook-DeWitt Center's auditorium and at 3 p.m. in the conference room.

sskowronek@lanthorn.com

'The Reckoning' to reveal time of hope, events of Holocaust

Speaker shares insight into political system in China with GVSU audience

By Lauren Sibula
GVL Staff Writer

The World War II era may seem like an eternity away from the current populous attending Grand Valley State University, but the documentary film "The Reckoning: Remembering the Dutch Resistance" will change that.

The screening of "The Reckoning" on Wednesday will bring the horrifying events and time of hope closer to today's generation.

The film focuses on the Dutch Resistance that took place in Holland during the Holocaust in the '40s. German leader Adolf Hitler came to power and began persecuting those who did not fit into his ideal Aryan race, most notably Jews. However, instead of joining the pandemonium and prejudice that surrounded them, a number of brave Holland citizens chose to rise against the hate and help the persecuted. This film, directed by Grand Rapids native John Evans, chronicles the journey of these Dutch citizens who chose to fight against discrimination.

The event, which will take place in Kirkhof's Grand River Room at 7 p.m., will contain a screening of the film and several guest speakers, including Resistance participants Diet Eman and John Knight, as well as the film's producer and creative director. The panel will discuss how the film was made and also give the survivors an opportunity to share their experiences with those in attendance.

"The story of Dutch Resistance to the Holocaust is so moving because the Dutch



Courtesy Photo / Abby Burlingame

Resisting Hitler: The Reckoning is a documentary made locally in Grand Rapids on the Dutch Resistance to the Holocaust. It will play Wednesday at 7 p.m.

community was not who Hitler was putting in concentration camps, but they risked their lives anyway to protect the greater community," said Elizabeth Kronenberg, multicultural assistant, of Downers Grove, Ill. "The Dutch could have been killed for what they did, and many of them were, but the group kept fighting for freedom for everyone."

The event also illustrates how crucial it is for the current student generation to connect and reflect with the World War II generation, as their number in population dwindles.

"The Multicultural Assistant group felt that many students may have not had the opportunity to hear what it was like to be a part of such horrific events and to actually sit in a room and listen to their stories," said Abby Burlingame, an advisor for the Multicultural Assistant Group in Housing and Residence Life, of Milwaukee, Wis. "Their experiences would bring to life what many students only read about in their History books or see in pictures."

Kronenberg said students should take advantage of the knowledge and life experiences

See Reckoning, B8

'Black Classicism' to feature black achievement

By Tynee Sims
GVL Staff Writer

Black History Month continues to be celebrated on Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus, beginning with an important lecture about black origins from a prominent visiting professor.

This year, the Department of Classics, the Offices of Multicultural Affairs and the African/American Studies are sponsoring, "The Origins of Black Classicism," featuring Dr. Michele Valerie Ronnick, professor of Classics from Wayne State University.

The event will be held on Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center Auditorium with a reception immediately following.

"Professor Ronnick is expanding the study of African American writers and the Classical tradition," said James Tatum, an Aaron Lawrence professor of Classics at Dartmouth College.

Dr. Ronnick's lecture is presented in conjunction with a photo exhibit, "12 Black Classicists," which is featuring

the images of 12 black, Greek and Latin scholars who made ground-breaking achievements in education at the end of the Civil War.

After the Civil War, blacks were involved in Classics such as Greek and Latin, which introduced them to a new way of thinking and helped them to attain a better life.

Black s began using a liberal education, much like the students at GVSU today, to succeed in society.

"The Classics are a lost piece of American history and a critical connection

to liberal arts," said GVSU Professor of Classics Diane Rayor.

Rayor added black junior high and high school students are extremely interested in the area of Classics on the eastern part of Michigan, but once they get to college that desire to learn is lost along the way. Few minorities are majoring in the Classics, she said.

Rayor hopes Professor Ronnick's lecture will help to increase the numbers of students majoring in the Classics and also enlighten students about the accomplishments of blacks who are not traditionally

discussed.

"The Multicultural Affairs Office looks for opportunities to partner with other departments on campus in an effort to include the entire campus and generate cultural competency among the GVSU community," said Jermale Eddie, assistant director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

It is important for students to attend because it will give them a chance to learn new knowledge and in turn birth knowledge to others, he added.

"The more you know, the more you grow and are able to make better decisions based on good information," said Bobby Springer, associate director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

tsims@lanthorn.com



Courtesy Photo / www.langlab.wayne.edu

Reaching out: Michele Ronnick will be speaking for Black History Month on Wednesday.

Dating workshop to compare face-to-face with online relationships

Pros, cons to be explored in Tuesday's discussion of digital-world dating

By Karin Armbruster
GVL Laker Life Editor

Thanks to online technologies of instant messaging and webcams, personal relationships are extremely different in today's societies and have changed the way people communicate with each other.

On Tuesday at 5 p.m., the Counseling and Career Development Center will provide a workshop about relationships, which many students already have dealt with or are currently encountering.

The workshop, held in Room 204 of the Student Services building on the Allendale Campus, will explore what it means to engage in online relationships and how it impacts face-to-face communication. More than just online safety, it will examine how social utility Web sites, e-mail and blogs change the way people interact. Strategies will be

provided on how relationships can be helped and hindered in the digital era.

"We're hoping students gain awareness about their own personal communication styles," said Kelly Eder, a pre-doctoral intern from North Vernon, Ind., who works at the Counseling Center.

Eder, along with fellow co-worker Amy Hayes, hopes to present a mix of educational components and a discussion group to talk about pros and cons of online relationships versus being face-to-face, she said.

Eder said good things are connected to the online aspect, such as how it opens up new ways of communicating and how people are able to see networks where social connections can be made. It also has a somewhat safer side, she added.

But as always, there are the negative aspects as well.

"Some communication is lost," Eder said. "It loses some of the realness of human-to-human interaction."

She added people's perceptions of certain comments can become skewed because in non-verbal language there is no tone of voice, among other things,

which can lead to problems where one person may not realize the other is joking, being sarcastic or having other emotions attributed to typed words. She said friends who have mostly direct communication can have these problems while speaking online.

Even with the pros and cons, Eder said face-to-face communication is best, but is unsure if the online world is having a negative affect on relationships.

"I think the expectations have changed and it's not conclusive whether (online) is better or worse," she said.

Eder added students should attend the discussion with questions and a curious mind, but to remember that exclusive online activity is not the way to conduct a healthy relationship.

"We want them to not forget about face-to-face communication," she added.

Letters can also be an alternate form of communication, and are more intimate and personal, but direct communication is the best way for relationships to thrive and stay healthy, Eder said.



GVL / Brittany Jacques

Digital dating: Freshman Tyler Veneman of Caledonia, Mich. talks to his girlfriend of eight months, Leslie Curtis, on the webcam. Tyler said new technology is cool but nothing can replace talking in person.

With new gadgets, Internet Web sites and programs and other forms of communication being introduced into society, Eder said it seems the difference between online and face-to-face communication is going to change continually.

"I think it's a form of communication that will keep evolving," Eder said. "I think when people realize the pros and cons about it, it will help human-to-human interaction."

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Men's Bball

continued from page B1

performances at the free-throw line, burying 18 of 22 attempts in the same span.

"We really stepped up down the stretch and knocked them down," Wesley said. "That was really encouraging and it prevented Ashland from being able to mount a big comeback."

Jamerson (14 points), freshman Justin Ringler (13 points), senior Nick Freer (12 points) and junior Pete Trammell (11 points) all did their parts offensively, but it was Callistus Eziukwu who continued to lead the team. The senior center registered his seventh-straight double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

He also added 16 points and 11 rebounds against Hillsdale.

"He's an outstanding player and he's on a bit of a roll right now," Wesley said, about Eziukwu. "Now we'll look for him to keep it up down the stretch."

The Chargers boast two of the top scorers in the conference in Tony Gugino

and Tim Homan. GVSU held Homan to a season-low seven points but Gugino was a different story.

The junior center scored 23 points and pulled down 14 rebounds, but he did not get much help. The rest of the team shot just 21 percent from the floor.

"(Gugino) really has that ability to range outside and hit some long shots," Wesley said. "That's a much different matchup than most big guys."

The Lakers again used a strong second half to pull away after a close first half. Gugino cut the lead to four early in the second half with a pair of three-pointers, but GVSU scored the next 11 points and led by double digits the rest of the game.

Jamerson almost gave GVSU another double-double with 17 points and eight rebounds.

The Lakers end their road trip and will host Michigan Technological University on Thursday and Northern Michigan University on Saturday.

sports@lanthorn.com



GVL / Katie Mitchell

Staying strong: Freshman Ashley Berish competes in the women's 400-yard IM against Hillsdale College and Northern Michigan University.

Swimming

continued from page B2

pleased with the performance by his young freshman Katelyn Childers. Childers claimed first place in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 55.73 and was followed closely by fellow Lakers freshman Kim Baughman (55.96) and sophomore Melissa Faletti (56.21).

Next up for GVSU is the GLIAC conference championship meet, an event Boyce said he has been anticipating for

much of the season.

"At the beginning of each season we take a look at the biggest meets on our schedule and we set seasonal goals for them," Boyce said.

Boyce has preached that goal to his athletes for much of the season, but the Lakers will have to find a way to overcome conference rivals Wayne State University. The Warriors, who won last year's conference championship, trumped both the men and women of GVSU earlier this season.

But Boyce said he is confident his team will be able to match up better with Wayne next Wednesday when the meet starts.

"In conferences, the top eight finishers score points in every event," he said. "So we don't necessarily need to finish first in every event in order to survive. We're probably going to end up relying on our depth and focusing on placing in every event."

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Reckoning

continued from page B7

of this group.

"They have a lot to teach us from their experiences," she said.

The lessons and stories this group of survivors has to offer the young people of today are important to the growth of our generation, said Paul Kiger, multicultural assistant from Harrison Township, Mich.

"This event is something that does not just affect Allendale, Grand Rapids, Michigan or even the United States," he said. "It affects individuals all over the world and this is our chance to be a part of something good that came from something so evil."

He added since our generation will most likely be the last one with the ability to hear the survivors' stories of the Holocaust from the actual survivors themselves, we need


to take advantage of it.

Kronenberg said the Holocaust is still important to talk about because "incidents of oppression and discrimination are still occurring in our world today and the stories of 'The Reckoning' can inspire us, as students, to take action against incidents that are happening in front of our eyes right now."

This event is vital in terms of understanding that even in the face of evil, hope and goodness will shine through, she added.

"Those featured within the film showed extraordinary dedication and courage, and for most of them, they risked everything for a friend or a stranger," Burlingame said. "This was a major event in human history, and their stories need to be told."

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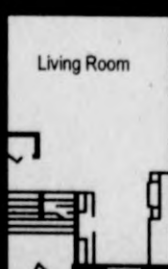
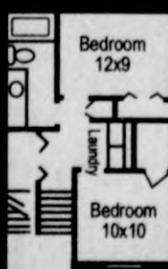
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Presidents' Ball 2008



GVSU students filled the ballroom at DeVos Place for a night of dancing at the Presidents' Ball.



1. President Thomas J. Haas and GVSU Student Senate President Frank Foster toast to a great evening. 2. Student Senate members help guests check in and get their meal tickets to the dinner. 3. A female a cappella group Mid Night Snack performs before dinner. 4. GVSU student Brett Bowen creatively wears a fun hat that was a center piece for tables at the Presidents' Ball. 5. Blues Brothers perform at the dance. 6. GVSU students Brad Tibbe, Ashley Dietch and Lauren Crubaugh have fun dancing. 7. Vice President of Planning and Equity Pat Oldt receives the Presidential Achievement Award from Haas and Foster. 8. GVSU students Beth Simoni, Katie Simmons and Ryan League play cards at their table.

