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Grand Valley State University

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Tea Party brings anti-government beliefs to Grand Rapids

Group makes 6 stops in Michigan on nationwide tour to promote states' rights, less powerful federal government

By Dan Michniewicz
GVL Web Managing Editor

Most everyone has seen their pun-laden signs and heard their calls for the federal government to stop ruining, destroying or even interpreting the U.S. Constitution, but what really makes the members of the Tea Party movement so upset?

"It's more than just taxes; it's the general attitude of government," said Bill Huizenga, a Republican running for Michigan's 2nd congressional district's U.S. House of Representatives seat. "People are frustrated. They don't feel their government is listening to them."

The Tea Party Express, the right-wing movement's 19-day nationwide tour, made six stops in Michigan during the weekend. On Saturday, the political-rally-on-wheels attracted self-proclaimed independents, constitutionalists, conservatives and even a handful of Republican politicians to Grand Rapids' Riverside Park.

Gubernatorial candidate Mike Bouchard, sheriff of Oakland County, shares many of the movement's political qualms.

"I'm sick of what's going on in Lansing and in Washington," Bouchard said. "They are spending our future. It's not just 'Obamacare'; it's everything."

Both Huizenga and Bouchard said they attended the event because it attracted voters who are usually hard to reach.

"It's a lot of people that are the type that aren't involved in politics but care deeply about their country," Bouchard said.

Republican candidate for governor and Attorney General Mike Cox, who is suing the federal government after the passage of the health care bill, said the Tea Party movement was a sign that "freedom is starting to fight back" against a "Godzilla" of a federal government.

"Like most of you, I'm a little PO'ed," Cox said. "When I turn on the T.V., I see a federal government that is doing things it's never done before."

GVSU senior Alicia Richards volunteered Saturday to gather signatures so that November's ballot includes an initiative to exempt Michigan from health care reform.

"Getting involved is really important to me," Richards said. "I'm hoping to go on to

international public relations and do this at the international level."

The Tea Party movement in Arizona has taken similar steps to exempt their state from health care reform.

Experts have said federal law would probably trump any such action by a state.

Humble Beginnings

Although the "silent majority" has long been an influential force in American politics, the Tea Party movement just recently gained steam during the 2008 presidential election.

Mark Petzold cofounded the Tea Party of West Michigan with three others last spring.

"I had decided back in the summer of '08 that I had to do something besides just vote," Petzold said.

Now, the group's Web site, <http://www.teapartyofwmi.org/>, boasts 1,370 members.

"Even people in our movement say we aren't angry, but we are angry. Our country is falling apart."

MARK PETZOLD
COFOUNDER OF WEST MICHIGAN TEA PARTY

Petzold said the group aims to improve the country by fixing what he calls the real cause the United States' problems — a lack of education.

"If people understood what this country was founded on and what our Founding Fathers intended, we wouldn't be in this situation," he said.

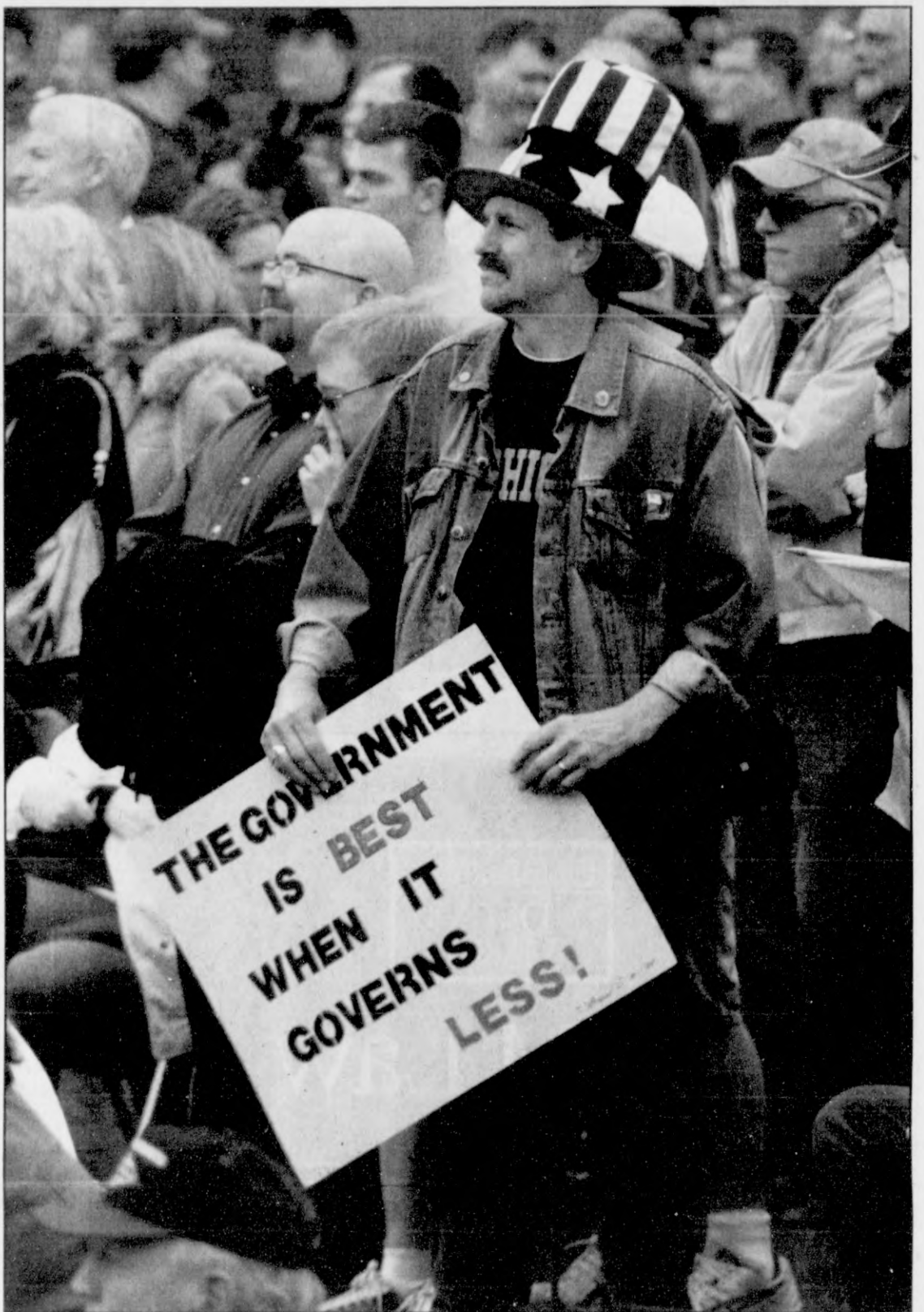
Unlike some members of the Tea Party movement, Petzold is not afraid to express the extent of his discontent.

"Even people in our movement say we aren't angry, but we are angry," he said. "Our country is falling apart."

But some, including CBS in a recent online poll, have questioned whether the movement's acrimonious rhetoric encourages violence. After congress passed health care reform, some Democratic members received threatening phone calls and had bricks thrown through their office windows. More recently, a group calling itself the Guardians of the Free Republics sent letters to the offices of Gov. Jennifer Granholm and other governors, threatening them to vacate office or face forcible removal.

"It's an interesting dynamic," Petzold said. "We don't want to come across as irrational maniacs. We're just average Americans saying enough is enough. What (the government) is doing is not just wrong but dangerous."

webman@lanthorn.com



GVL / Brian B. Sevald

The right wing Tea Party Express made a stop at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Saturday. Candidates and other speakers addressed a crowd of about 1,500 people who vehemently oppose recent legislation enacted by President Barack Obama's administration. Michigan gubernatorial candidate (Oakland County Sheriff) Mike Bouchard and Republican congressional candidate Bill Huizenga attended the rally.

University's graduation rates improve

By Samantha Butcher
GVL Senior Reporter

Graduation rates at Grand Valley State University have reached a record high, with six-year graduation rates climbing to almost 61 percent. Four-year rates stayed steady at 26 percent.

These figures put GVSU above the national six-year average, 56.1 percent, as well as the Michigan six-year average,

about 51 percent, according to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

Graduation rates are based on students who start at GVSU without having been enrolled at another institution after high school, said Philip Batty, director of Institutional Analysis. However, this does not always paint an accurate picture of the

number of students who graduate college, he said.

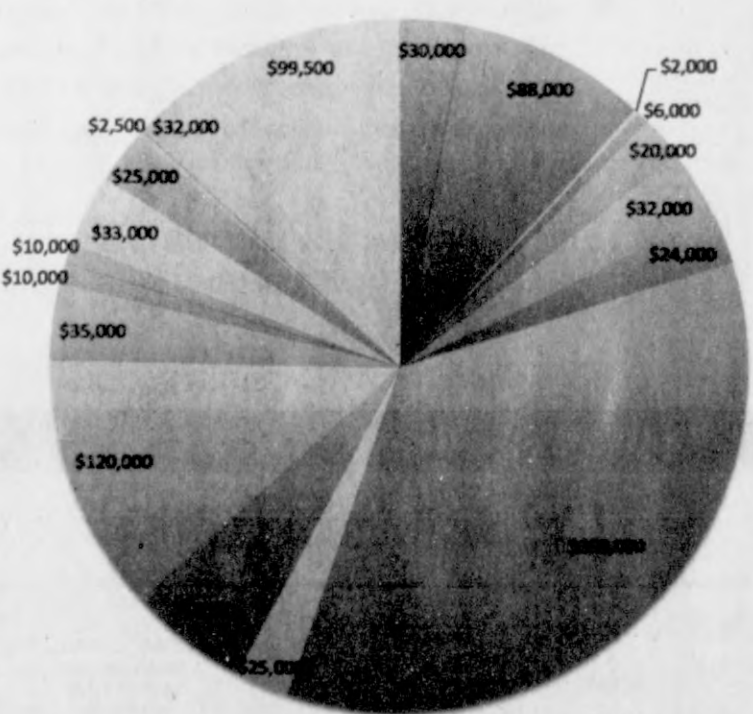
"It's hard to know how many people are excluded," he said. "Once students leave here, we have relatively little information about them and how they perform elsewhere or if they go elsewhere."

In fall 2009, almost 30 percent of new students admitted to

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2010-11 budget for RSOs, events

- Academic and Professionals
- Cultural
- Honorary/Professional
- Interfaith
- Performing Arts
- Service and Advocacy
- Special Interest
- Sports
- Greek Life Council
- Media Council
- Spotlight
- Traditions (Homecoming, Sibs and Kids, Intercultural Festival)
- Athletic Entry Fee
- Creation Station
- Presidents Ball
- Academic Conference Fund
- Sustainable Community Development Initiative
- Student Senate Operating Budget
- Reserve Fund



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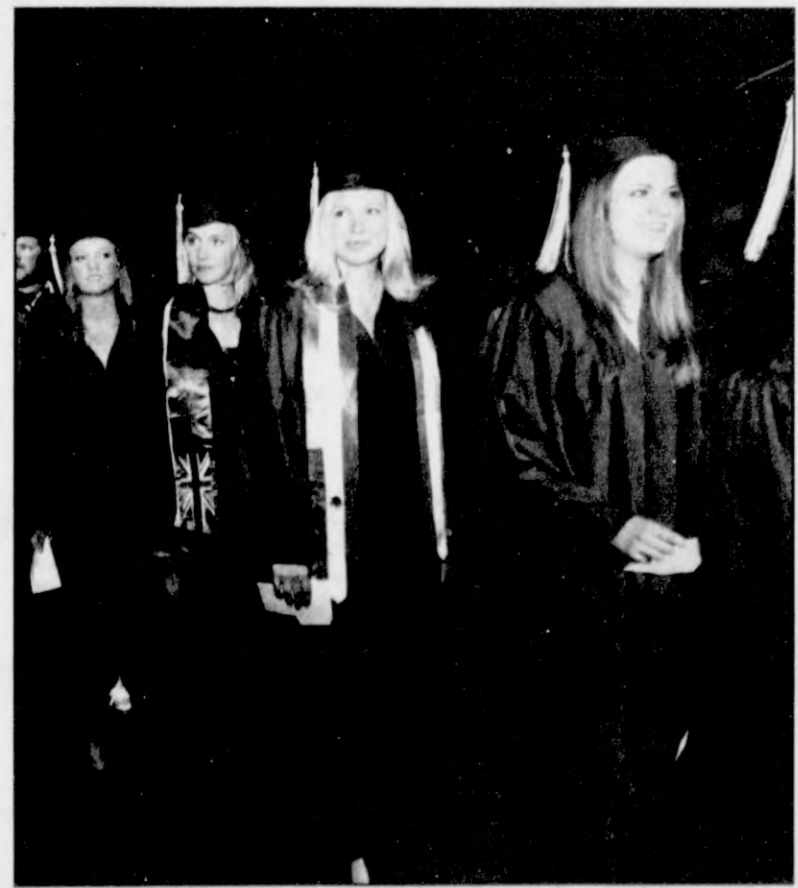
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Literary Edition



A group of GVSU graduates wait to receive their diplomas at the May 2008 Commencement. GVSU's graduation rates have reached a record high.


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Graduation
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GVSU transferred from another institution. The difference between four-year and six-year graduation rates has also caused concern for educators. Dean of Students Bart Merkle said there are several reasons for the gap, including block scheduling.

"The truth is, there's a lot of students who take 12 credits because it gets them to full-time enrollment for financial aid and then they end up falling behind," he said, adding the university now tries to encourage students to take 15 or 16 credits per semester.

Merkle also added that some of GVSU's most popular majors, including education, are almost impossible to complete in four years. Data about the average time it takes a GVSU student to complete their degree was not available.

"The reason we don't have it at hand and use it more often is because it assumes you have a population of graduates," Batty said. "It hides the existence of that problem of people who don't graduate, and we don't want to ignore that problem."

Brian Bossick, a career outreach specialist with the Counseling Center, said he believes students are under stress to graduate on time.

"I think with the state of the economy, students are feeling a lot of pressure to get in and get out as quickly as possible," he said. "Especially if students change their major or fail classes or encounter challenges, we go through situations where things could add a couple of years and that creates anxiety."

Merkle said he believes the increased time and money some students require to graduate can be difficult.

"I'm sure it's both discouraging and

frustrating," he said. "We're trying to do everything we can to let students know what they need to do to graduate on time."

Those initiatives include MAP-Works, a survey given to freshmen this year to help them understand their study habits and provide an early alert to the administration if a student might have problems.

MyPath added to MyBanner

Merkle said the administration is also introducing a new program through MyBanner for next year, MyPath. Similar to the degree evaluation feature in MyBanner, MyPath will allow students to look at the classes they need to complete for their degree as well as general education requirements. The program would also let students look at which requirements their classes would satisfy if they changed majors.

Despite the challenges students face, the university is optimistic about student performance. In December, GVSU announced it had increased the number of graduates since 1999 by a greater amount than any other public university in Michigan. The total degrees awarded between 1999 and 2009 increased by almost 92 percent.

"We are doing our part to ensure that the state of Michigan has the well-educated college graduates it needs for the knowledge of the 21st century and keeping them here," said President Thomas J. Haas, in a press release.

However, Michigan educators are still concerned about the total number of graduates in the state. In 2004, Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced plans to double the number of college graduates by

2014, but according to a study done by the Detroit Free Press, the number of graduates only increased 4.4 percent during the first four years of the initiative.

According to a memo sent to the Michigan House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, the range of graduation rates at Michigan public universities is significant. Four-year rates in 2006 ranged from 6.6 percent to 67.2 percent while rates increased to 31.7 percent to 86.6 percent at the six-year level.

Admissions selectivity, the median ACT score of the freshman class, the percentage of students receiving Pell grants and the school's status as a historically black university can all affect graduation rates, the memo read.

GVSU continues to try to make graduation an attainable goal for students, Merkle said. Among other things, the administration is attempting to eliminate prerequisite courses when possible.

"Programs that are heavy in prerequisites can really make graduation a challenge, especially if that student selected a major a little bit late or if they changed majors at some point," Bossick said.

Merkle said although GVSU is working to make graduation attainable, it ultimately boils down to the students.

"I think we have good faculty and staff who care about our students," he said. "But in the end, students are the ones who have to take the courses and do the work, and that doesn't change."

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Corrections
 In the April 8 issue of the Lanthorn, the photos in the AGE section were mistakenly identified as the "Naked Obscenity" exhibit. The art is actually part of Cheyenne Bonnell's Passions.BODYSCAPES exhibit.

GVL DIGEST

News in Brief

University welcomes new Dean of Graduate Studies

Beginning in July 2010, Jeff Potteiger will join the Grand Valley State University team as the new Dean of Graduate Studies. Potteiger will leave his place as a professor of kinesiology and health at Miami University of Ohio, where he has been a faculty member and served in several administrative positions, including founding director of the Center for Health Enhancement, for the past seven years.

Wave-current interaction seminar in Muskegon

On Friday, a seminar will be held in Muskegon, Mich., called "A Numerical Study of Wave-current interaction in Lake Michigan Using Finite Volume Coastal Ocean Model." Meng Xia, research investigator at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, will lead the seminar in the multipurpose room of the Lake Michigan Center beginning at 2 p.m.

There will be a brief reception following the seminar; refreshments will be included.

Information meetings for medical plan changes

Human Resources will hold a series of informational meetings to discuss changes to the University's medical plans, which will take effect on Jan. 1, 2011.

The meetings will take place as follows; Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 119 CHS-Hager Auditorium, Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2204 KC, Pere Marquette Room, April 21 from 11:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. at 136E DEV, and April 28 at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2204 KC Pere Marquette Room.

Payment deadline approaches for spring

The tuition payment deadline for the 2010 spring/summer semester is April 30.

The semester begins May 10.

Community Garden Summer Kick-off

The kick-off event for the GVSU Community Garden will be held Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Niemeyer Living and Learning Center.

The event is open to students, staff and faculty interested in learning more about the Community Garden.

Interested persons will have the opportunity to learn more about the garden, register for a 2010 plot, sign up to be a volunteer and tour the garden.

For more information or details, e-mail the Garden Crew at gvsugarden@gmail.com or visit the GVSU Community Garden Facebook page.

Alumni panel to give advice on life after Lakerdom

'5 under 25' brings panel of young professionals to share advice with current students

By Chelsea Lane
GVL News Editor

Imagine having the chance to go back in time and offer valuable advice to your past self. Although such an opportunity still remains out of reach for modern science, Grand Valley State University students may get the next-best thing when a panel of recent alumni return to campus Tuesday night to grant current students a look into life after graduation.

The "5 Under 25 Panel," hosted by the GVSU Future Alumni Association, will feature five university alumni under the age of 25 offering tips, advice and strategies they wish they had known during their post-college transition period. The event is LIB 100 approved and will take place on Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Alumni House.

"The idea is for the five panelists under the age of 25 to discuss life after graduation, transition issues, what they learned, what they experienced (and) what they recommend for students in college, whether they're near graduation or a couple years out still," said Mindy Earley, FAA assistant director

of Alumni Relations. "It's just kind of to impart wisdom and the expertise they gained in the initial short time they've been out."

The panel consists of five graduates from the classes of 2007 and 2008 who currently work at various jobs in the Grand Rapids area. The featured panel members are Ryan Slusarzyk (marketing), a marketing manager for the Amway Hotel Corporation; Ashley Schulte (public administration), a paralegal with Fresh Start Legal Group; Meaghan Pear (writing), former marketing and events manager for the Humane Society of Kent County; Greg Kehr (criminal justice), a project manager and associate at leadership consulting firm Pondera Advisors and Brittany Hunter (classics), a Web developer for GVSU.

"We created this event so students could get a better understanding of what life after college is like from the point of view of some recent alumni," said FAA officer Ann Hartlieb. "... So we selected a wide variety of alumni who are doing different things."

Earley agreed diverse experiences were a key factor in selecting panelist members.



Kehr



Slusarzyk

"We tried to select as diverse of a group of panelists as possible: people from different majors, people who are at their first job or people who are at their second job, people who were really active on-campus and some who were not — although most of our panelists were really active," she said.

Panelists will answer a variety of questions regarding life after college, including "What are some things you recommend students do before graduation?" and "When searching for the right job, is it a good idea to jump right into a job or be patient and wait for the ideal position?"

In addition to pre-written questions, attendees can submit their own questions and will also have the chance to personally network with the panelists during a post-discussion dessert reception.

Earley predicted although the panelists will answer similar questions, their responses will be very diverse and cover many different aspects of post-university life.

"Some wanted to talk about really practical things like health insurance and the basics of life on your own, while others wanted to talk about not feeling involved anymore now that they weren't on campus and how to get involved with networking groups and things after (graduation)," she said.

news@lanthorn.com

"It's just kind of to impart wisdom and the expertise they gained in the initial short time they've been out."

MINDY EARLEY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FUTURE ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

Theater enthusiast honored as professor of the year

By Garrett Pelican
GVL Staff Writer

Most professors would not permit students to address them on a first name basis. Most professors would not consider investing a considerable amount of time and effort into co-curricular activities. Most professors would not sacrifice their lunch hours for interviews. But Grand Valley State University theatre professor Karen Libman is not similar to most professors.

In fact, her level of enthusiasm and methods of instruction stretch far beyond those of most professors at public universities. The President's Council of the State of Michigan has taken notice of this fact as it recently named Libman a Distinguished Professor of the Year, along with two other professors selected from a field of 15 public universities in the state.

The award, which recognizes the outstanding contributions made by the faculty from Michigan's public universities to the education of undergraduate students, invites each of the state's 15 public universities to nominate a single faculty member who has had a significant impact on student learning. The recipients will be recognized at a luncheon May 13, and they will also receive cash prizes.

"I'm really happy to have won this award because I'm committed to making my students lifelong learners," Libman said. "I want them to be curious and passionate. I want them to be knowledgeable in their subject areas, but I also want them to be citizens of the world, and I emphasize that in my classes."

Approach to teaching

One aspect of Libman's approach is she teaches students as a "whole person," rather than just as an instructor.

"I'm a professor, but I'm also a mom and a wife and so many other things, so I like to teach from all of my experiences, not just as a professor," she said.

Aaron Sohaski, a senior theatre major, said this intimacy is beneficial for Libman's students.

"We do not feel intimidated by her; instead, we gladly approach her with issues we may find in class," Sohaski said. "When I am in a class with Karen, I feel like I am talking to a person and not a professor. She has cultivated me as a maturing artist, and the lessons I have learned will be remembered for a lifetime."

As for her enthusiasm for teaching, Libman said it comes naturally.

"We're encouraged to be rigorous and to be passionate," she said. "I'm lucky, because I get to do what I love. And that sounds really hokey, but I think students can sense that when someone's interested."

Sohaski said they can. "Karen is one of the most enthusiastic professors I have ever met at Grand Valley," Sohaski said. "Her strong decorum and character are demonstrated through the love of her art. She is an experienced actor and director, and she is able to help us understand what the climate is like for an artist today. She shares stories, gives examples, and assigns practical homework that only benefits us as artists."

Sohaski said Libman trains her students in acting with both physical and mental preparations,

including training them for auditions and requiring that they keep journals for new "discoveries."

To better their directing skills, Sohaski said Libman's instruction allows students to "find (their) creative energies" by directing two short scenes per semester.

He added the process provides students with a measure of understanding by learning how to work with the designers and actors involved.

To gain a greater understanding of both acting and directing, Sohaski said Libman has her students write about the various shows they see throughout the semester so they can see what works and what does not.

As devoted as she is, Libman said she demands that same level of participation from her students.

"Theater's always about doing," she said. "That's not just in the classroom; it's co-curricular. We put on plays, we have the Shakespeare Festival, we do the Bard to Go program and stuff like that."

The Bard to Go program, which strives to bring theater and the performing arts to high schools throughout the state, visited eight regional high schools in 2008 and performed for more than 1,400 students.

Libman and other theatre faculty have also taken the program abroad: to Jamaica in 2006, to China in 2008 and to Italy in 2009.

Though she did not go to Italy with the theatre group, she went on the other trips abroad, recalling fond, albeit interesting, memories. Specifically, she cited a "learning experience" during the trip to Jamaica in which the troupe needed to have their costumes laundered on several occasions because of the heat.

"We had figured they might get a little sweaty during



Courtesy Photo / News and Info

Karen Libman was recently named a Distinguished Professor of the Year.

rehearsals and we'd deal with it," she recalled, laughing. "The costumes got very stinky though; we had to have them sent out for cleaning."

Even with minor setbacks such as laundry emergencies, Libman said she wants to see the program continued in Michigan and abroad.

"It really goes with my commitment to multicultural experiences," she said. "We get to see what it is like to be a cultural ambassador."

Now in her 10th year at GVSU, Libman has seen some of the more rewarding aspects of teaching, such as when she can see a student "get it" or understand a concept they did not before, involving students in her art and research and witnessing the progress of former students with whom she keeps in touch.

"I love it when former students come back," she said. "I love hearing from them, hearing what they're doing, and seeing how the adventures


of their lives are going." She noted many of her former students have gone on to start theater companies of their own but said she just enjoys seeing students realize their "unlimited potential."

"That's really gratifying: to see people you know get to the next place and just keep going," Libman said.

Sohaski said he would absolutely recommend Libman to other students.

"She is a great person and a fantastic professor," he said. "You will work hard in her classes, but all the work you do is for a purpose. She does not believe in busy work; consequently, students feel the value in every assignment they complete. She is a mentor, a role model and after several classes with her, our relationship has even evolved into friendship. For anyone seriously interested in theatre, professor Karen Libman is a must."

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Study finds sorority pledges more likely to develop eating disorders

By Samantha Butcher
GVL Staff Writer

College women who participate in a sorority rush are more likely to have dangerous eating behaviors and body image issues than women who do not rush, according to a recent

study published by a student at Northwestern University.

The Northwestern study, part of Ashley Marie Rolnik's senior honors thesis, surveyed 127 first-year college women between 17-20 years old at an unspecified Midwestern university. Its goal was to study

the link between objectification and body dissatisfaction outside of a laboratory setting, researchers said.

At the end of the study, participants who completed the rush process and pledged a sorority showed an increase in body shame and self-

objectification. Researchers say this suggests "sorority membership may exacerbate pre-existing, problematic attitudes and behaviors."

"The interventions aimed at reducing sorority women's focus on physical appearance may hold a promise as one of

the many routes to addressing body image disturbance and eating disorders among sorority members," researchers concluded. "As sororities are very powerful at influencing the norms and ideals of their members, a move away from a focus on appearance and towards a set of norms that encourages healthy eating habits and more positive approaches to body image has real potential."

The Northwestern study supports other research that suggests a link between self-objectification, body image issues and eating disorders.

In fall 2009, 645 women were members of sororities at Grand Valley State University. Five percent of the student population are members of a fraternity or sorority.

Prevalence rates for eating disorders on campus are not available, but almost 10 million women and one million men in the U.S. suffer from eating disorders. According to the Renfrew Center Foundation for Eating Disorders, 25 percent of college-aged women engage in bingeing and purging as a weight-management technique.

"We can see eating disorders become a problem when they're part of the accepted cultural norm," said Brian Bossick, a GVSU counselor. "When a couple of people in a group

develop an eating disorder or other problem, that can be carried through the group. There's definitely potential for that in a sorority setting."

Allie Karagozian, a GVSU sorority member, said she disagrees with the study.

"I don't think that being Greek has anything to do with having an eating disorder," she said. "Unfortunately, the Greek community gets stereotyped for being obsessed with body image and weight. I think that a majority of college students are focused on looking good, but it's important for everyone to know that being a healthy individual is the best way to not only look good but feel good."

Bossick, however, said there are several factors that make college-aged women especially susceptible to eating disorders, some of which are present in a sorority setting.

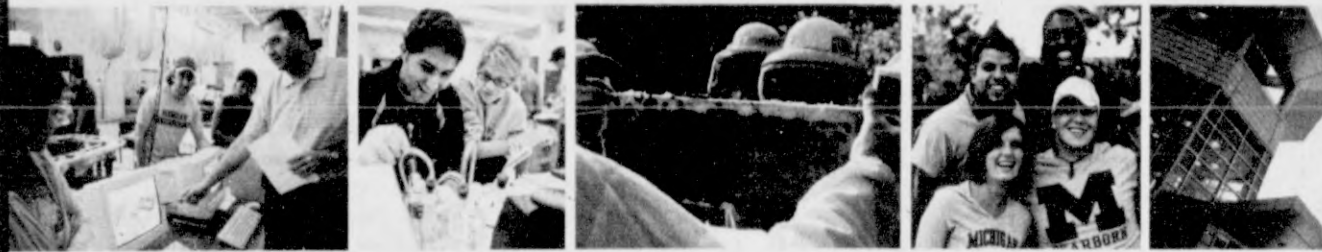
"Societal pressure is a big part and so is internalization of an image that society portrays," he said.

Students who suffer from an eating disorder can contact the Counseling Center for free and confidential counseling, as well as the Women's Center. A list of off-campus resources is available on the Women's Center Web site: http://www.gvsu.edu/women_cen.

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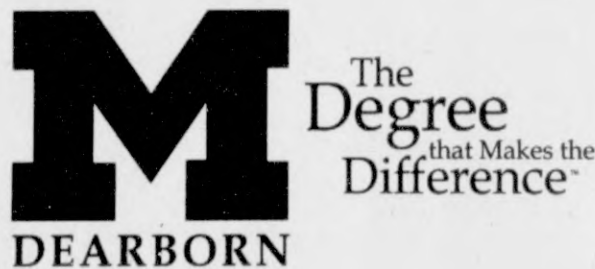
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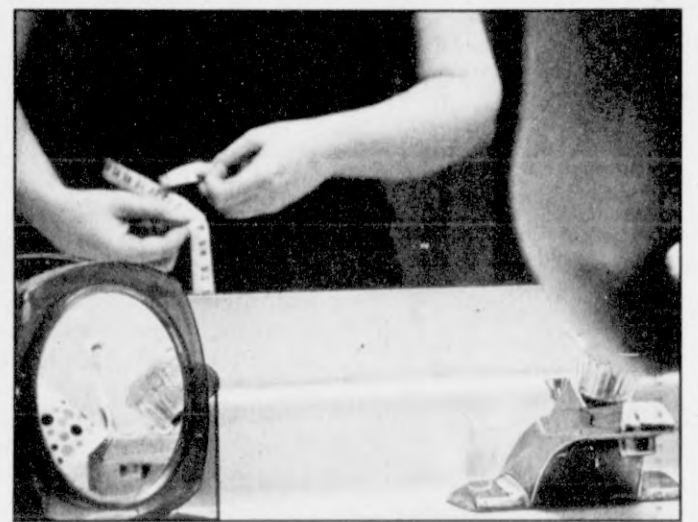
SUMMER SCHEDULE

Semester	Classes Start
Summer I (7-weeks)	May 10
Summer II (7-weeks)	July 6

Office of Admissions and Orientation
University of Michigan-Dearborn
4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, MI 48128
313-593-5100



www.umd.umich.edu/guest



GVL Photo Illustration / Lindsey Waggoner

A Northwestern University study suggests a link between social pressures in sorority life and the development of eating disorders.

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ATM HIGHER

Darfur key for al-Bashir in Sudan elections

By Sarah El Deeb
Associated Press Writer

EL-FASHER, Sudan (AP) — President Omar al-Bashir is pushing hard for a win in war-torn Darfur in Sudan's key elections this weekend, hoping for a boost in his legitimacy in the face of international war crimes accusations. But he faces a hostile population in a vote observers say is deeply flawed.

Rebels in Darfur have urged a boycott of the three days of voting, which begins Sunday, and many among the

2.5 million refugees driven from their homes by years of war in the western region have not registered to vote. Several parties have pulled out of the race, complaining that al-Bashir's government has skewed the contest.

Since 2003, this vast arid region has been the scene of a bloody conflict between the Arab-led government in Khartoum and ethnic African rebels. At least 300,000 have been killed and millions driven from their homes in a war that was marked by atrocities by pro-government

Arab militias against Darfur villagers.

The landmark elections taking place across Sudan were supposed to go toward healing that conflict — along with the separate north-south war that tore Africa's largest nation apart for decades.

But in the packed Abou Shouk camp outside the Darfur town of El-Fasher, many refugees see little point in voting. Some said they would have considered voting for the southern candidate for president, but he was among those who dropped out of the

race.

"There is a crisis in Darfur. Why should I take part in elections?" said Ali Adam, a 25-year-old vendor who came to the camp seven years ago from his village in northern Darfur. "What can I say? For now, we will pretend we are sleeping."

"Why should I go vote while rebels are carrying arms for my sake," said Adam Issac, a 45-year-old resident. "The government brought us here with weapons. I will never vote for them."

The Brussels-based International Crisis Group warned in a report issued before the elections that an unfair vote in Darfur would likely only fuel rebel movements.

Nevertheless, al-Bashir's ruling party is campaigning harder here even than in the capital, Khartoum. Campaign rallies were held late into the night Thursday, the last day of campaigning.

A strong showing here for the ruling party would boost al-Bashir's defiance against the Netherlands-based International Criminal Court, which has charged the president with war crimes over the atrocities in Darfur. It would also allow him to depict himself before the world as a leader who can bring peace to Darfur, where fighting has waned but where a resolution remains elusive.

"This is a regime that is not North Korea or Iran. Despite the rhetoric, there is a craving for international acceptance and legitimacy," said John Prendergast, a former adviser to President Bill Clinton on Sudan, and co-founder of the Enough project at the Washington-based Center for American Progress.

Darfur is also a prize for al-Bashir in the nationwide elections, which select a president, parliament and provincial legislatures — the first such vote in 24 years. Al-Bashir, who came to power in the 1989 coup, is running in a multiparty race for the first time.

The three states of Darfur

account for nearly a quarter of Sudan's northern population, higher than Khartoum. They could put al-Bashir over the 50-percent margin he needs to avoid a runoff and would help his ruling party secure a majority in the national assembly.

But there are deep concerns over how fair the vote will be. The European Union's observers mission to Darfur pulled out of the region, saying minimum conditions for firsthand observation were not met. It did not elaborate, but it appeared to be in part in response to emergency laws in effect in Darfur.

Election officials say over 67 percent of Darfur's 3.6 million eligible voters registered. But opponents say that includes outsiders and a large number of military personnel, who were allowed to register where they are posted.

Furthermore, opponents of al-Bashir, backed by experts and rights groups, say the population census on which the elections are based did not include large areas dominated by government opponents, including rebel-held areas in Darfur.

The elections are an essential part of a 2005 peace deal that ended the north-south war that killed 2 million people in 21 years of bloody conflict.

The elections were designed to kick-start a democratic transformation in the war-plagued nation and provide a democratically elected government to oversee preparations for a crucial southern referendum next year, in which southerners will vote on whether to split into an independent state.

But two major political parties, including the southerners, decided to pull out fully or partially from the race, saying the process lacks credibility and elections can't be held in Darfur while under a state of emergency.

Nevertheless, the election commission said Saturday the voting would go ahead.

GVL DIGEST
News in Brief

211 people submit to survey on Detroit's homeless

DETROIT (AP) — More than half of 211 homeless people surveyed this week in Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck met at least one high-risk criteria that puts them in jeopardy of dying.

The study released Friday shows those surveyed have been homeless for more than five years. A dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse was reported by 99 people surveyed.

The survey was conducted Tuesday through Thursday by volunteers with the 100,000 Homes Campaign. The program aims to identify the most vulnerable among the homeless in Detroit and its two enclaves and provide them quickly with services.

The 211 surveyed were among 281 people volunteers found sleeping on the street.

Survey results will be used to help implement a 10-year plan to end homelessness in Detroit.

Stimulus funds going to Indian nutrition program

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Michigan-based Indian tribes will receive more than \$62,000 in federal stimulus funds to provide food assistance to low-income families on and near Indian reservations.

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations program will provide \$53,235 to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and \$9,455 to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the distribution program has received a total of more than \$4.5 million in stimulus funds to buy equipment and improve facilities. It says the food distribution program is designed to enhance access to safe and nutritious food on Indian reservations and tribal lands.

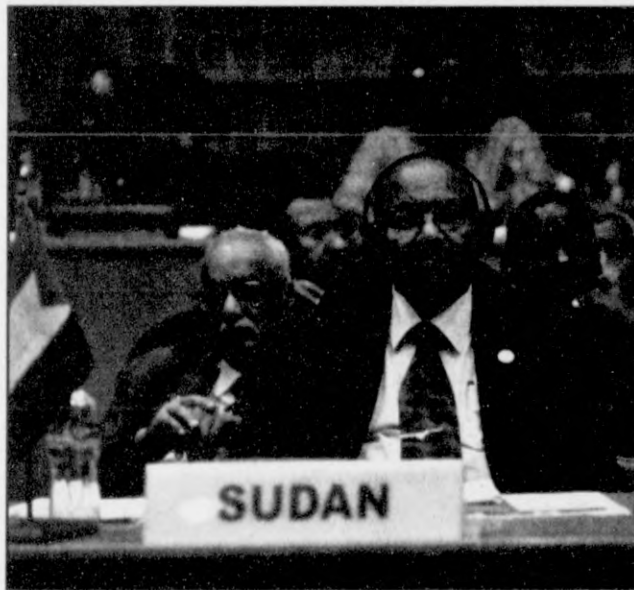
Ford expected to use Mich. plant for battery packs

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Ford Motor Co. is expected to use a parts plant near Ypsilanti to supply hybrid vehicle battery packs.

A letter dated March 30 and posted on the Web site of United Auto Workers union Local 898, which represents employees at Ford's Rawsonville plant, says the facility has been selected to build the components.

The letter is signed by the plant's manager and a union official.

Dearborn-based Ford announced in January that it planned to invest another \$450 million and create jobs in Michigan as it further consolidates its electric vehicle program in southeast Michigan.



Courtesy Photo / commons.wikimedia.org
Sudan President Omar al-Bashir hopes to be re-elected.

GVSU Car Show 2010

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EDITORIAL

Public policy

As our dependence on technology continues to increase and affect different areas of life, it is important to remember the Internet is a public domain.

Few people would want pictures from the parties they attended last weekend posted on a bulletin board on campus. Fewer would want their telephone numbers, addresses and place of employment handed out to random strangers. Yet through the growing popularity of social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, people are volunteering this type of information to anyone connected to the World Wide Web, perhaps without even realizing the extent of their sharing.

When updating profiles and posting pictures from the comfort of their own homes, it is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security and people forget their actions are actually very public.

Even with the increased security options on Facebook, the Internet is still a public area and those outside one's circle of "friends" could potentially gain access to the personal information posted on these social networking sites.

Students should be aware of their online presence and take the necessary steps to protect their privacy, though there are still means of getting around those measures for those who know how to navigate the Web. With a couple of searches and following the trail of "friends of friends," the fragile online security system can be voided. For those willing to shell out a few dollars, countless search agencies can provide even more personal information about someone.

Not all privacy settings are useless, but students should remember to self-censor the information they share and not make the mistake of thinking they are alone online.

Information found on person with a "public" Facebook profile:

- Sex, current city
- all Facebook photos and comments
- all Facebook friends
- Flickr account
- majors
- place of employment
- school attended

Information found on person with a "secure" Facebook profile:

- Network, current city
- profile pic
- mutual friends
- officer of sorority
- place of employment
- school attended
- past class enrollment

Grand Valley Lanthorn

The student-run newspaper of Grand Valley State University

Editorial Page Board

Jenny Whalen Editor in Chief
Eric Lee Business Manager
Lauren Fitch Managing Editor
Chelsea Lane News Editor

Valley Vote

Should student-parents be allowed to bring their children to class with them?

Yes: 28.57% No: 71.43%

This week's question:
Do you support the ideology of the Tea Party?

Vote online at
Lanthorn.com

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.

Student opinions do not reflect those of the Grand Valley Lanthorn.

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 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 / Jacob Bowen

YOUR INSIGHTS

Why do you relay?



"To appease the cancer gods."

Kevin Krause
Senior
International Business and Business Economics
St. Joseph, Mich.



"I relay because I have had a lot of family members with cancer and some pass away."

Valerie Pesonen
Sophomore
Advertising and Public Relations
South Lyon, Mich.



"Because I think that it's an important cause and I would want someone to do it for me if I had the disease."

Anika Wilson
Sophomore
Accounting
Westland, Mich.



"For life. My dad died of cancer."

Brad Greenbauer
Senior
Criminal Justice
Grand Rapids, Mich.



"Because it's a good cause; I had cancer and I know how much it means... relaying around something to make a difference."

Janae Smock
SVSU Alumna
Marketing
Midland, Mich.

GVL STUDENT OPINION

Happy Hour - shots of common sense



There are a couple sayings I've always remembered when it comes to drinking: never drink alone and don't drink when you're upset.

Everyone makes mistakes and as cliché of a statement as that is, we all know it to be correct. Another thing we know to be true is that we are responsible for the choices we make and the good, the bad or ugly that might result from that choice.

We do things we are not supposed to do all the time. We lie, steal, cheat and there are consequences for those actions that we're aware of and accept.

So then why, when it comes to college students and drinking, drugs and unplanned pregnancies, do we as a society take

the blame from the person who made that specific choice and put it on the of community effort in making general "awareness" more prevalent?

The front cover of the Lanthorn last Thursday talked about college drinking being used as a way for students to deal with stress and one of the experts interviewed put emphasis on the students' actions often being without the knowledge that drinking can lead to addiction and that alcohol is a substance that is easily and often abused.

It was a good article and mentioned the importance of programs that bring awareness to the negative affects of irresponsible decisions through substance and alcohol abuse.

Yet after reading, I felt there is a lack of accountability being put on the college students who make the decision to drink in the first place. College students by

definition of their title are in college to be students — not party animals. Neither their parents (nor the government for that matter) pay for their education so they can rot their teeth and brain cells away on sweet mixed drinks, hearty vodka blends and deliciously toxic jungle juice.

I also don't believe for a moment there is a lack of awareness to the effects of alcohol.

Alcohol abuse and drinking and driving are among some of the most controversial issues regularly discussed in the media and politics. Warnings and examples of the harmful affects of heavy drinking are prevalent in commercials, ads and in some cases even in our own families and own friends.

There are two things college drinking to relieve stress boils down to: common sense and choice.

Fact: Everyone on a college campus is

stressed. Fact: There are other ways to relieve stress besides drinking until you black out or so often that you get behind on your school work and begin to fail courses.

Since I'm a female writer I'm sure some of you are going to read this and accuse me of trying to "mom" the student body of Grand Valley State University, which I'm not, but you'd probably rather hear this from me than your own mother.

We need to get our stuff together. We're better than vomiting every night in bushes outside of apartment complexes or waking up in a bathtub similar to Ke\$ha in "Tik Tok."

Common sense must play a pivotal factor in when people make decisions. You can only use the, "I was young and stupid" card for so long and trust me, it's already gotten old.

navery@lanthorn.com



Relay tells stories of support, hope

Annual overnight event unites survivors, supporters in raising money to fund cancer research, promote awareness

By Susie Skowronek

GVL Staff Writer

Although students and seafarers alike packed the Fieldhouse Arena Friday night, one idea plagued the minds of all crowded into the indoor track: 8,709 of the current Grand Valley State University students will be affected by cancer at some point in their lives.

Colleges Against Cancer's annual Relay for Life rocked the Fieldhouse Arena from Friday 6 p.m. to Saturday 6 a.m.

Outfitted to look similar to a dock anchored in the harbor, the stage locked participants' minds onto the night's theme: "Sailing towards a cure." Colleges Against Cancer staff members donned pirate attire to stand out in the crowd and ship displays offered words of encouragement on their sails.

The Relay event brought back its main events: the caregiver presentation, the Luminaria ceremony and the more recently inducted Fight Back ceremony.

At 8:30 p.m., using her personal testimony, freshman Alysha Connelly from Colleges Against Cancer gave a presentation for the caregivers.

Four years ago with the rest of her family, Alysha Connelly listened to the final murmurs of her mother.

Deanna Connelly said the angels were calling her name and it was time for her to go.

Although Deanna had juvenile arthritis since age 8, which often affected her employment possibilities, she never let her daughter go without. Despite being a single mother receiving no child support checks and despite contracting and surviving cervical and ovarian cancer, Deanna kept a smile on Alysha's face. Deanna did her daughter's hair for cheerleading events and took her on adventures to doll museums hundreds of miles away in West Virginia.

But when Deanna contracted lung cancer, never having smoked a cigarette, Alysha was forced into a new role as the caregiver. As the cancer spread, she woke up every two hours during the night to give her mother some of the 37 pills necessary. Alysha, 87 pounds at the time,

carried her 80-pound mother to the toilet and to the bathtub. Alysha threw out her back once and ended up in the hospital as a result.

Before her mother died, Alysha Connelly recorded some of inspirational words said by Deanna Connelly before she died: "Being brave doesn't mean you're not scared. It means that you are scared, but you do what you have to in order to survive. Everyone gets scared sometimes."

At 9 p.m., participants celebrated the Luminaria ceremony, a signature event in the Relay for Life program.

Four lanterns topped the front of the stage, each bearing the classic moon and stars insignia of the American Cancer Society.

The lanterns offered four staples of the Relay. The Relay would "Celebrate" those people currently fighting cancer, "Remember" the loved ones who had lost the fight against cancer, teach Relay participants to "Fight Back" against cancer and "HOPE" for the cure.

The Luminaria, glow-stick lit paper bags with messages of loss and hope for those who died of cancer, surrounded the track as participants embarked on a walk of silence in memory of the dead and in hope for a cancer-free future.

Representatives from Colleges Against Cancer said each luminaria looked like a candle on a birthday cake. The luminaria represent a vision for our shared future: we imagine a world with more birthdays for those facing cancer diagnoses.

At 10:30 p.m., the Fight Back ceremony welcomed cancer survivor Brian Ciluffo to the stage for the first time in two years.

The last time he took the stage, Ciluffo was bald, pale and struggling in what he said was "the fight of my life."

Two years ago, Ciluffo went to his primary care practitioner with complaints of trouble breathing, waking with sweat-soaked sheets, rashes and a constant cough. The doctor gave Ciluffo the diagnosis of a cold four times in one month.

When Ciluffo's boss found the student curled behind his desk at work to relieve some pain, Ciluffo made a fifth appointment with his doctor. The doctor checked him into the hospital.

Surgeons withdrew fluid from around his heart

– the equivalent of one quart of oil – and he was discharged two days later.

But Ciluffo had far from seen the last of the hospital.

After receiving a phone call, he returned and received a preliminary diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, any large group of cancers of lymphocytes, or white blood cells.

Ciluffo was placed in critical care for 23 days, during which time he had to battle cardiac problems. He was not yet strong enough to receive chemotherapy treatments, and he could feel himself giving in to the cancer.

"Please get me out of here," he remembered he said to his girlfriend when she visited him. "I don't want to be sick anymore. Please."

Soon, the doctors confirmed their initial diagnosis. It was official – Ciluffo had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The cancer had advanced to stage IV and his cancer was in the t-cells, a lesser researched variety and a type that could not undergo radiation treatment.

"I remember the silence in the room, the blank stares," Ciluffo said, recounting the moment the doctor told he, his mother and his girlfriend his diagnosis. "They were scared and so was I."

He started receiving chemotherapy once a week, battling the nausea, pain and weight loss or gain depending on the day.

"As long as my mind and body were in synch, I knew I would be able to beat cancer," he said. "The moment you give up is the moment you let cancer win."

Ciluffo said one of his proudest moments came a year into his remission. At a Relay for Life, a high school friend slung an arm around Ciluffo's shoulders and called him "hero."

"I fought back so that my children can one day hear my story as I put them to bed on a rainy night, and they can call me their hero," he said.

Sunday will mark Ciluffo's second year in remission.

sskowronek@lanthorn.com



GVL / James Brien

Relay for Life 2010, organized by Colleges Against Cancer, had a theme of "sailing towards a cure."

Northwestern scholar untangles Nazi politics, German corporations

By Susie Skowronek

GVL Staff Writer

Next to a railroad junction, near a river, on a flat plain of land spanning three by five miles that once held the village Monowitz, the IG Farben plant stood, waiting for its free laborers from nearby Auschwitz.

The prime shareholder of the company, the German government told IG Farben's corporate officials to build its new plant. They settled on Dwory, a stretch of land allied bombers could not reach on a single tank of gas.

Northwestern University's Peter Hayes, professor of history with a concentration in Nazi culture and author of seven books, presented "German Corporate Complicity in the Holocaust" Friday morning in the Pere Marquette Room.

Hayes lectured on how Nazi politics influenced German businesses during World War II focusing on two examples in particular: IG Farben and the German Gold and Silver Separation Institute.

"Business institutions are among the most accessible for us to understand among societies,"

Hayes said. "The rules that govern their existence are very much the same today as they once were."

Because businesses must still meet the demands of the public and the demands of shareholders, the current observer can understand why a business 60 or 70 years ago fell into corruption to meet economic demand.

The production company IG Farben made leaps in science. First, the company produced a dye for jeans, when previously the blue coloring was extracted from indigo plants and therefore limited in quantity. IG Farben scientists discovered how to synthesize both oil and rubber from coal, when Germany had neither oil reserves nor rubber trees.

IG Farben also built a plant not far from the largest concentration camp of World War II, and 30,000 inmates died at the plant or were sent back to Auschwitz to the gas chambers.

The company owned part of the patent to the chamber gas known as Zyklon B.

Despite the number of inmates killed in the 15 square miles of IG Farben property, only one out of 32 company board members joined the Nazi party, and he for three months.

Hayes and his presentation were brought to campus by the Joseph Stevens Freedom Endowment Fund, established in 1990 to honor the Jewish Lithuanian, now 92, who worked as a freedom fighter in the Polish underground during the World War II. The fund provides money for a lecture series that brings human rights speakers to GVSU.

sskowronek@lanthorn.com

▶ See more: Visit Lanthorn.com for extended version



Courtesy Photo / hiniFoto.html

IG Farben was influenced by Nazi politics in WWII.



GVL / James Brien

Students gather at the International Student Lounge, a weekly event run by the International Club.

Lounge highlights international diversity

By Anya Zentmeyer

GVL Assistant News Editor

Students of all backgrounds and nationalities crowd room 1142 Kirkhof Center, dozens of native dialogues bleeding into one, dozens of sayings and stories being swapped in dozens of different forms, all coming together under one title: International Student Lounge.

The International Student Lounge is a celebration of diversity, masterminded by International Club members. President of the International Club, Andres Ortiz, encourages all students to attend the lounge, which is held every Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"We want to improve the quality of involvement of international students along with the GVSU community, by having an open space to discuss general ideas of what is going on in the different home countries, sharing some food in case that some students decide to bring some authentic food, music, and most importantly without feeling attached to any

planned schedule," Ortiz said.

With rising numbers in international students coming through the Padnos International Center, it only seems natural to bring them all together.

Kate Stoetzner, director of Padnos International Center, said the numbers of international students attending GVSU have risen from 120 students total in 2001 to 300 students currently.

"In the fall semester we generally get about 100 brand new students, and then in the winter semester we get about 25 or 30 new students," Stoetzner said. "We get about 300 total, so of the 300 maybe 30 will be here for a semester or a year, and the other 270 are here for a full degree."

Stoetzner attributes this growth to programs GVSU has established with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Norway, South Korea and India. Recently, she noted, the King of Saudi Arabia has put a scholarship in place that supplies funds to students who want to attend GVSU. Stoetzner also said both Saudi

Arabia and South Korea are becoming more prominent in GVSU's community because of the ESL program, which brings the students to GVSU and teaches them the English language – a mandate for students seeking admission to GVSU.

"I think things like the scholarship program coming out of Saudi Arabia certainly changes the landscape of American higher education," Stoetzner said.

It is because of the growth of the international student population on campus that Ortiz and the other members of the International Club want to bring GVSU's diversity to the forefront with the International Student Lounge.

"So far we have had three sessions, and I think they have been quite interesting," Ortiz said. "The number of students involved has been increasing and eventually we expect to have even more, once people get to know this activity better."

assistantnews@lanthorn.com

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GV GATHERS AT POW WOW



GVL / James Brien

Guests were invited to watch and participate in traditional Native American dances during the Spring Pow Wow in the Fieldhouse Arena. A raffle and silent auction were also among festivities.

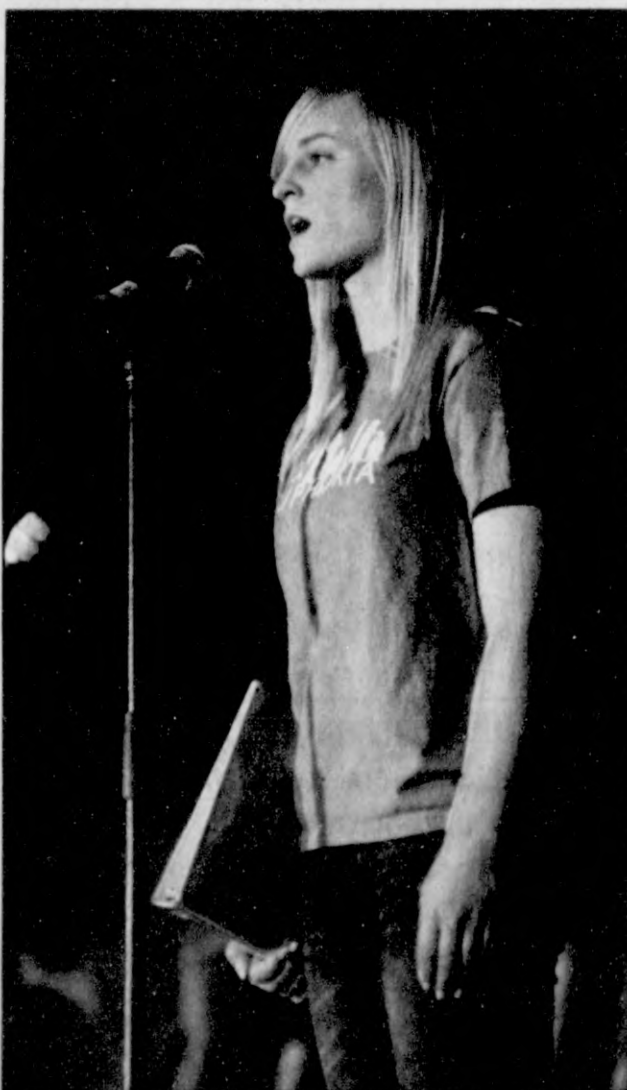
The Native American Student Association helped run the 12th annual Spring Pow Wow event, which took place last Saturday and Sunday at GVSU. Around 300 people were expected to attend.

Relay for Life sails to a cure



GVL / James Brien

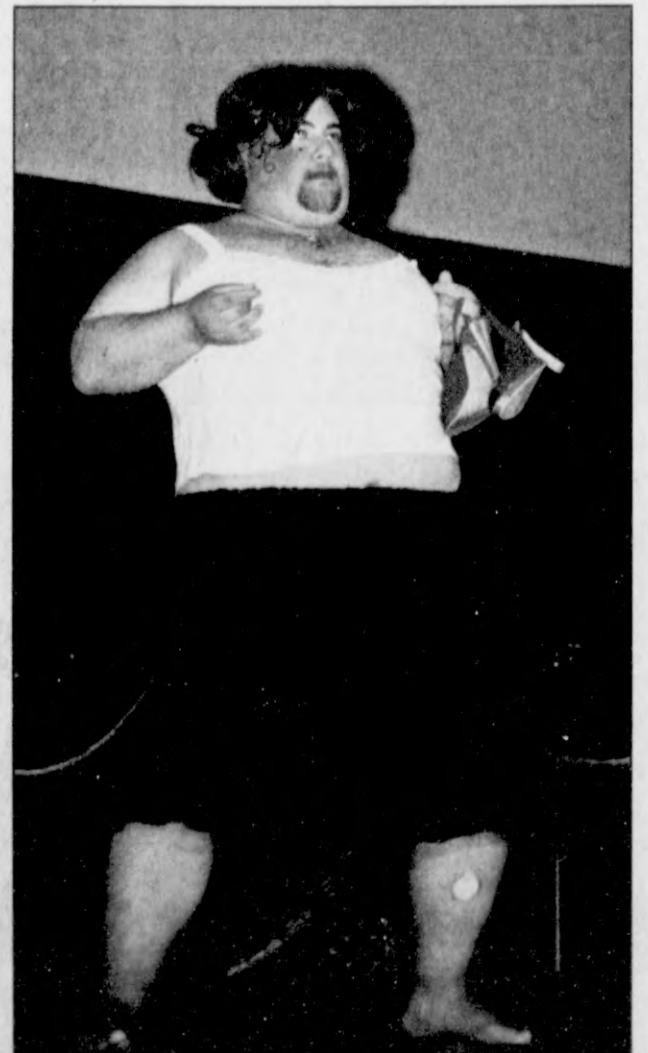
Colleges Against Cancer introduced a new bra-decorating event, "Treasure your chest," to the Relay for Life 2010 activities.



The GVSU a capella group Euphoria provided music during the opening ceremonies. A Luminaria ceremony honored survivors and remembered those who died of cancer.



The Office of Student Life and the DO SOMETHING! team selected Keenan Irvin for its grand prize of \$1,000 during Relay for Life.



GVL / James Brien

Men helped support the cause by dressing in drag for the Mr. Relay pageant. Teams from the surrounding community joined in the 12-hour event, which took place in the GVSU Fieldhouse Arena.

▶ See more: Visit Lanthorn.com to see slideshows of these events.

GVL DIGEST Sports in Brief

Tennis teams play in Indiana

The Grand Valley State University men's and women's tennis teams played in Indiana against a pair of non-conference opponents this past weekend. On Saturday against Drury University, the men's team dropped an 8-1 decision a while the women lost 5-4. The teams faced off against Rockhurst University on Sunday, but scores were not available at press time. The men will next see action when they take on Ferris State University on Wednesday in their last game before the GLIAC Championships. The women will play their final game of the season against Calvin College on Friday.

Former GVSU kicker gets NFL contract

Former GVSU kicker Todd Carter recently inked a one-year \$320,000 contract with the Carolina Panthers, according to reports. Carter had a handful of workouts with the Kansas City Chiefs in the Laker Turf Building but chose instead to sign with the Panthers to replace aging kicker John Casey. Carter last played with the Lakers in 2007 when he led the team in scoring with 67 points. The season prior, he connected on 91.5 percent of his field goal attempts and hit a 43-yard field goal that helped the Lakers seal a 17-14 win against Northwest Missouri State University in the National Championship game.

GLIAC Standings

Baseball	GLIAC	All
Grand Valley St.	15-3	23-6
Wayne St. (Mich.)	13-3	19-12
Ashland	9-7	19-13
Saginaw Valley	8-8	11-14
Tiffin	9-10	12-23
Northwood (Mich.)	6-11	13-16
Hillsdale	5-13	8-21
Findlay	4-14	8-21

Softball	GLIAC	All
Saginaw Valley	8-0	21-2
Northwood (Mich.)	5-1	13-10
Wayne St. (Mich.)	9-2	31-7
Ashland	8-4	19-9
Grand Valley St.	6-3	18-11
Ferris St.	4-3	14-10
Tiffin	4-7	18-13
Findlay	2-9	12-21
Hillsdale	2-10	7-17
Lake Superior St.	0-9	5-26



Senior Jessica Sporte (left) will graduate this May as the first student to spend a full four years in Grand Valley State University's wheelchair tennis program. Sporte will leave GVSU with a bachelor's in therapeutic recreation but plans to compete for a place on the U.S. team at the 2012 Paralympics in London.

Wheelchair tennis loses first 4-year player

Senior Jessica Sporte prepares for end of wheelchair tennis career as graduation approaches in May

By Jared Greenleaf
GVL Senior Reporter

When one considers the word "pioneer," it usually refers to the first among their kind. For senior Jessica Sporte of the Grand Valley State University wheelchair tennis team, the word fits perfectly. After coming to the program four years ago, Sporte's career at GVSU will come to a saddening end when she graduates this May.

Sporte, who was diagnosed with cancer in her leg at two months old, will be the first player to have played all four years for the program.

"It's been phenomenal," said GVSU organizational head coach Lynn Bender, who has developed an eight-year relationship with Sporte stemming from her time playing in junior programs. "When she was 18

and coming to Grand Valley, she was one of our freshman and she was so dedicated. It's been really neat to see her grow as a student and taking on responsibilities and guiding her team through four years."

Throughout her career, Sporte has traveled to Kentucky, Alabama, Florida and Arizona while competing in tournaments. She said the one thing she has enjoyed through her journey is ability to meet new people on each trip.

"It's so great with the friendships that you make," she said. "It was really cool to meet and bond with other college athletes that are just like you."

Bender said Sporte has been instrumental in the program's development since she has been at GVSU.

"She's been a huge asset to help promote the program around not just West Michigan but around the state and the Midwest," Bender said. "She's always willing to step up, and if I need a speaker to go to a school

or even speak at one of the classes at GVSU, she's always there. She just wants to promote the game and try not to be any different."

With graduation approaching, Sporte has her eyes set on the future, which includes getting to the Paralympics, an international multi-sport event for athletes with physical disabilities. The Paralympics will be held in London in 2012 and will begin one week after the Summer Olympics are finished.

"She's been my right-hand man honestly. She's been a huge asset to keeping us on track ..."

LYNN BENDER
GVSU ORGANIZATIONAL
HEAD COACH

"That's definitely my ultimate dream," Sporte said. "I think it would be just one of the most amazing experiences in the world. The opportunity to go higher and farther in wheelchair tennis is so much higher than what's actually within my reach is amazing and it would be sweet to travel and represent the U.S.A."

Sporte will graduate this May with a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation.

Bender said it will be a bittersweet

moment as she will lose Sporte's organizational skills.

"She's been my right-hand man honestly," Bender said. "She's been a huge asset to keeping us on track and what the school needs on behalf of her part. Just being organized as a student as well as her energy and enthusiasm. That's what's going to take her into her career and she's going to be outstanding, but now we're going to have to find some people to replace her."

GVSU wheelchair tennis coach John Vandenberg, who has known Sporte for about two years, said he will miss several values about her heading forward.

"She's been inspirational for us and she's such a hard-worker," he said. "I will miss her constant positive attitude and willingness to try new things. She's really motivated to learn the game of tennis and she gets along with all the players. It's just been fun."

Vandenberg mentioned one more thing he will miss after Sporte's departure.

"Her fore-hand," he said. "I'll miss her fore-hand for sure."

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Baseball resumes play after string of bad weather

By Emanuel Johnson
GVL Sports Editor

The weather in Allendale today may be more comparable to an ideal spring day, but the Grand Valley State University baseball team still remembers last week's string of showers and thunderstorms that put it out of action for a full week.

"It was pretty stressful not knowing whether or not we were going to get the games in," said sophomore outfielder Cody Grice. "Each day went by, and games got rescheduled every time. It definitely felt good to get back on the field, and we even felt pretty well rested, so that was a plus."

The total damage done: three canceled games, including a scheduled exhibition matchup with the West Michigan Whitecaps. The other two games, doubleheaders against Saginaw Valley State University, were rescheduled twice each before being canceled altogether.

When the No. 10 Lakers (24-7, 16-4 GLIAC) finally got the chance to take the field in a doubleheader against Northwood University on Saturday, GVSU head coach Steve Lyon said it had been as if the season restarted.

"When we were getting ready to come out here, it felt almost like we were leaving on our spring trip again and just getting going," he said. "We were only off for a week, but when you're off for a week in the middle of the season, it just seems like forever. We had to restart everything, and sometimes that's hard to do."

The Lakers took the first game 14-8 before dropping a 7-6 decision in the second game. Lyon said he was satisfied with his team's overall

performance despite the loss.

"We hadn't played in a while, but I still think we played OK," he said. "We swung the bat well and scored enough runs to win two games, but we just didn't pitch very well and didn't play great defense in the second game, and that came back to hurt us."

While the Lakers put up 21 runs on the weekend, they also let up 14 runs on defense. Big bats with less-than-stellar pitching has been a constant theme this season, partly due to injuries that took out a few key starters at the beginning of the season.

In the first game, senior lefty Matt Cade made his first start since being injured during the team's spring break trip to Florida almost a month ago.

"We got Cade back (Saturday), and he actually threw in the first game and got the win, which is really encouraging," Lyon said. "We're getting closer to getting everyone we have healthy, and I think that's going to make a difference as the season winds down. But we still have to have some other guys pitch better than they have."

But the big bats could not save the Lakers in the second game. The team let up 11 hits and committed four errors en route to giving freshman pitcher Brad Zambron his first loss of the season.

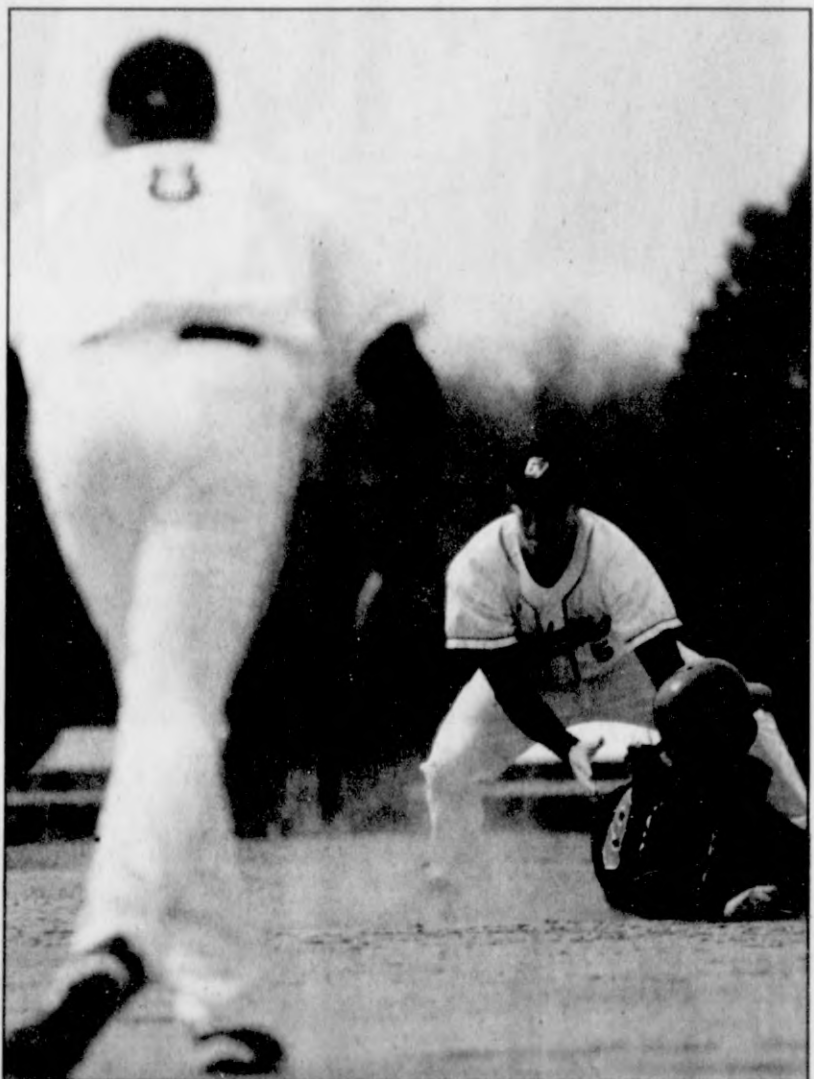
"It wasn't any one thing - it was more of a chain of events," said senior first baseman Cory Maguire. "A couple of things didn't go our way, and it seemed like every time we gained the lead, we lost it again in the next inning. They put together a good couple of innings and constantly put pressure on us."

On Sunday, the Lakers split with

the Timberwolves again by winning 8-3 in game one and losing 10-6 in game two. Given tolerable weather conditions, the team will next see action

when it heads to Lewis University for a doubleheader Tuesday. The first game will begin at 2 p.m.

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The baseball team got the chance to restart its regular play schedule after a week of weather-related cancellations. The team's next game will be Tuesday.

GVL Archive / Andrew Mills

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Grandville native ends career as MSU star

By Cody Eding
GVL Staff Writer

For four seasons, her 6-foot-9-inch frame intimidated opponents, dominated the Big Ten conference and shattered Michigan State University and NCAA women's basketball records.

Yet, had things been a little different, Allyssa DeHaan might have been at Grand Valley State University in Laker blue instead of Spartan green, dominating the GLIAC instead of the Big Ten.

DeHaan starred at Michigan State, anchoring the middle of the floor as the starting center in all but eight games of her career. But her ties to GVSU nearly landed her in Allendale instead of East Lansing.

She is an area native as she attended Grandville High School. Her father, Capt. Brandon DeHaan, is the assistant director of the GVSU Department of Public Safety and has worked there since 1982.

Between friends, family and closeness to campus, the elder DeHaan said his daughter's college choice was difficult. "She truly struggled with that (decision) for a long, long period of time," he said. "The feeling that this campus provides is something she was looking for, and the quality of life was here."

Michigan State ultimately won over Allyssa, who was honored with the Michigan Miss Basketball award in 2005 after averaging 24 points, nine blocks and nine rebounds during her senior season at Grandville.

Brandon said the choice hinged on not only the level of Division I competition but also on his daughter's desire to enroll at Michigan State's medical school. Allyssa carried a 3.85 GPA in high school.

GVSU women's basketball coach Janel Burgess was the first to scout Allyssa for Michigan State when she served as the associate head coach for the Spartans. Burgess said Allyssa's emphasis on academics, family and basketball is what attracted Michigan State to her.

"I think it was just she was just the total package," Burgess said.

Allyssa's choice paid off big for both her and the Spartans.

She finished her career with 1,649 points and 919 rebounds, good for fourth all-time in both categories at Michigan State. Allyssa momentarily held the NCAA all-time record for blocks last season, and she finished her career second all-time with 503 total. She appeared in 136 games within four seasons, which is a Michigan State record.

"She matured on the court as a leader and as a basketball player," Burgess said. "People



Courtesy Photo / Google Images

Allyssa DeHaan finishes at MSU. just continued to double-team and to handle that for four years, that's a tough job."

Some expected Allyssa to be picked in Thursday's WNBA draft, but she was not one of the 36 players selected.

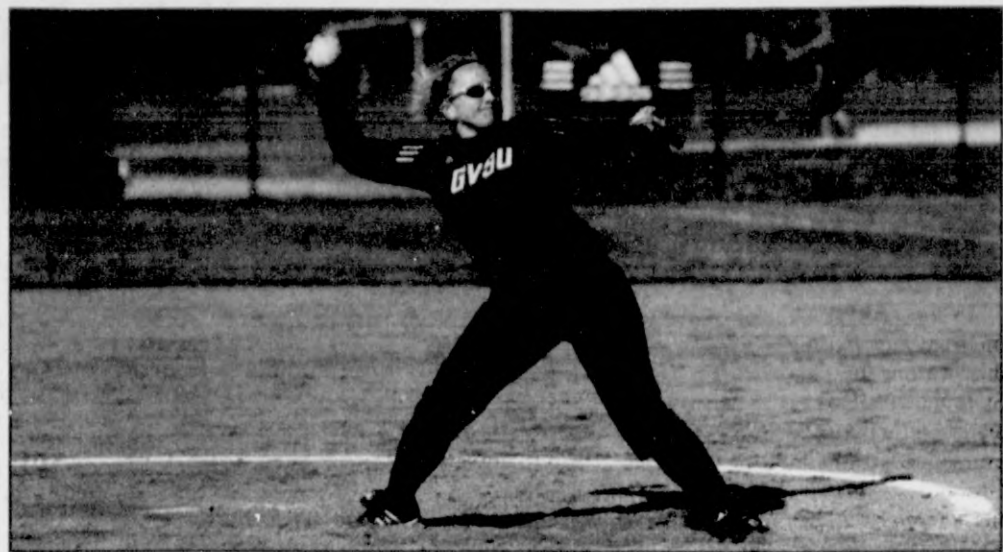
On Friday, Allyssa released a statement saying a herniated disk in her back will postpone pursuing a professional basketball career. She will instead return to school six credits shy of completing her pre-med degree.

"When she completes her degree this December, we'll sit down and discuss what options are available," Brandon DeHaan said. "Should Allyssa want to return to professional basketball, she said it would most likely be in Europe, Asia or Australia and not the WNBA."

Allyssa's hands, which rudely rejected so many shots in her career, will now focus on learning to help others in her goal of becoming a doctor. But, her father said he would not be surprised if she wanted to return to basketball in the near future.

"She's had an opportunity to play basketball for the last eight years — high school and college," he said. "It's difficult to turn that off."

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Sophomore pitcher Andrea Nicholson throws a pitch during the Laker's home season opener.

Bringing out the big bats

By Curtis Kalleward
GVL Staff Writer

Offensive explosions have occurred much more frequently this season for Grand Valley State University's softball team than in past seasons.

The Lakers (19-11, 7-3 GLIAC) had not in the past been a squad that hit with much tenacity, but this season they are on pace to top all of last season's major offensive categories and have defeated opposing teams nine times with the mercy rule.

"As a team, they've been working on hitting day in and day out," said GVSU head coach Doug Woods. "We've really seen some improvement there."

Piloting the charge through Saturday's games were Katie Martin and Kayleigh Bertram, a pair of first-year players who currently place 1-2 on the team in hits, runs, doubles, home runs, RBIs and slugging percentage.

"Besides having players returning who can hit for power, we brought in some freshmen who are also power hitters," Woods said. "They've helped us out in a lot of ways."

Martin leads her teammates in every category mentioned. If she continues her success through the season, she will become the first freshman to finish the year atop the leader board in the team's history.

"When somebody starts out as strong as Katie has, you just hope that she'll be able to keep it up," Woods said.

Martin currently has 29 RBIs, 74 total bases, eight homeruns, a .451 batting average and a .813 slugging percentage. If she maintains her steady rate this year, she will end up with 13 home runs (the third best total in school history), 48 RBIs (fifth best) and 119 total bases (third best). Her .451 batting average would sit fourth on the school's all-time list of the best Laker single-season outputs with at least 50 at-bats.

Senior Rebecca Plummer is actually on pace to break an offensive school record that has sat in place since 2000, though it is not the most commonly noticed statistic. Opposing pitchers have plunked her five times, already one less than the current school record. Her current rate dictates that she would finish the season hit eight times by a pitch.

"Becky probably has just had some bad luck with that," Woods said. "She gets pretty close to the plate, too, and she doesn't bail out on the inside pitches. When you're on top of the plate, you have a greater chance of getting hit."

One player whose performance thus far has not matched her teammates' successes is senior Breanne Kronberg. She has only tallied two home runs, 20 RBIs and seven doubles this year, a far cry from last season when she led the Lakers with six home runs, 41 RBIs and 17 doubles.

No need to worry, though, Woods said. "Lately, Breanne's been hitting the ball a lot better," he said. "She did not come out of the gate strong in Florida, but since then, she's shown a lot of improvement. We're expecting her to pick it up and finish the season strong."

After splitting Saturday's games at Hillsdale and Sunday's split games against the University of Findlay (a 6-5 loss and a 5-0 sweep), the Lakers would at their current rate finish 2010 with 50 more hits, 55 more runs, 32 more doubles, seven more triples, 16 more home runs and 54 more RBIs than in 2009.

"We have to keep working hard," Woods said. "We had some problems (earlier in the year) and an area we needed to work on was hitting, but they're starting to improve."

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GVSU track team keeps pace at separate meets

Field event women, men place third, fourth at Miami Invitational; runners prepare for California trip at Ferris

By Aaron Brandt
GVL Staff Writer

In the process of enjoying mild weather for the first time this season, the Grand Valley State University outdoor track team split in two, with the field events heading to Miami (Ohio) University for the Miami Invitational and the rest of the team competing at the Bulldog Invitational at Ferris State University on April 9 and 10.



Murphy

At the Miami Invitational with the field competitors, everything went just right, said GVSU coach Cory Young.



Wheat

"Coming off of our indoor season, I knew they were going to do well this weekend," he said. "To have the nice weather and decent completion, I think we are starting to build something really special."

Freshman Liz Murphy led the women with a first place finish in the hammer throw, recording a mark of 186 feet, 6 inches, which automatically qualified her for the NCAA Outdoor Nationals.

Freshman Sam Lockhart took first place in the discus with a throw of 153-4 as well as a second place in the shot

put behind GVSU junior Lauren Buresh, who won with a throw of 49-10. Senior Maegan Doyen also won the high jump.

On the men's side, sophomore Matt Armstrong won the shot put with a throw of 55-10 3/4. Freshman Donny Stiffler took second with a mark of 53-11 1/4.

Buresh said the team's early success can be attributed to its commitment to working hard in practice.

"We had some huge (personal bests), so we really surprised ourselves with how well we actually did," Buresh said. "I think it's great that the whole team is working hard because that means we just push each other more in practice and that energy carries on to each individual on the team."

The rest of the team headed to Ferris State, which was more of a tune up for future events, said GVSU head coach Jerry Baltes.

"Today got us ready for our trip out to California, and we had some nice things happen," he said. "We still have some work to do, and hopefully we can get some perfect days on race day in the next few weeks and get ready to rock and roll."

Leading the Lakers on the women's side was junior Jessie Vickers, who won the 3,000-meter steeple chase

with a time of 11 minutes, 9.53 seconds. Vickers normally runs in the 5,000 or 10,000 meter events.

"(Vickers) hasn't run the steeple chase in two years, so we put her in there and she went out and ran a national qualifying provisional mark," Baltes said. "She should be in the position to hopefully run a little faster the next few weeks and put herself in the national meet."

In other events, senior Candice Wheat won the 100 hurdles with a provisionally qualifying time of 14.51 seconds. Junior Kayla Vallar and sophomore Serena Black finished one-two in the 200, senior Danielle Fonseca won the 400 and freshman Kaleigh Carlson won the 800.

On the men's side, junior Troy Rock finished second in the 400 with a time of 49.62 seconds.

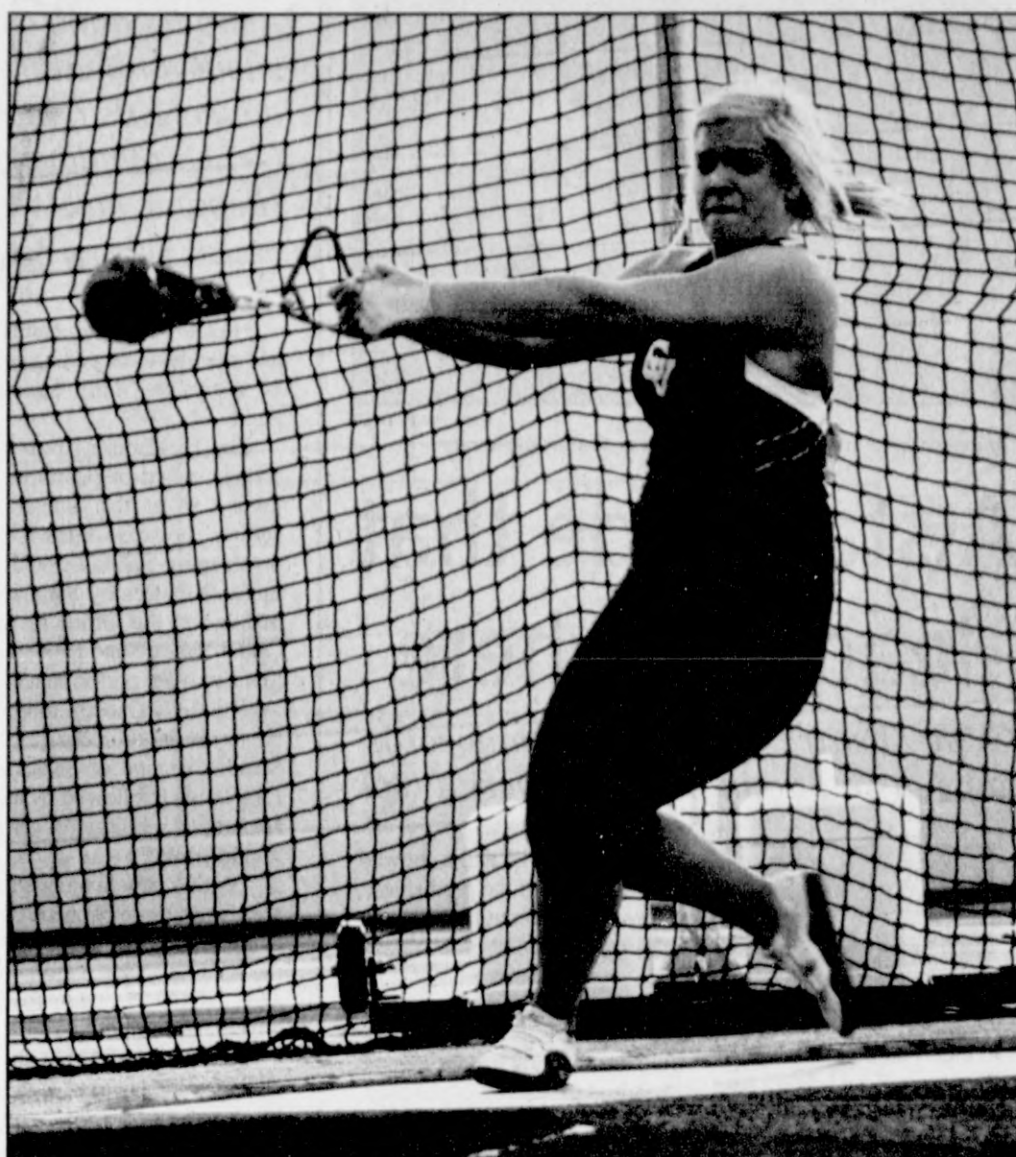
While the season is in its early stages, sophomore Austin Brown said there is still a lot of work left.

"Obviously we are excited coming off of the indoor season and getting the GLIAC championship, but by no means are we satisfied," he said. "We know what we have to do, we are focused, we realize nothing is going to be handed to us and we have to work our butts off from here."

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"Obviously we are excited coming off of the indoor season and getting the GLIAC championship, but by no means are we satisfied."

AUSTIN BROWN
GVSU SOPHOMORE



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Above: GVSU sophomore Melanie Huhn competes in the women's hammerthrow at the GLIAC Indoor Championships. GVSU freshman Liz Murphy finished in first place and qualified provisionally in Saturday's hammerthrow at the Miami (Ohio) Invitational.

Below: GVSU sophomore Austin Brown competes in the men's 800 meter during the GLIAC Indoor Championships. Zach Mills follows close behind. Both Brown and Mills competed in the Bulldog Invitational Saturday. Brown placed fourth in the 1,500-meter run, and Mills took ninth in the 800. The men's field event athletes finished in fourth at the Miami (Ohio) Invitational the same weekend.



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Courtesy Photo / GVSU

"Rhinoceros," a student play, began over Easter weekend.

A stampede that leads nowhere

GVSU theatre production 'Rhinoceros' flops in set, acting, lights, overall look



I didn't particularly enjoy "Rhinoceros," but I didn't hate it either. I think ultimately in any form of entertainment that involves acting or some type of script, if the audience isn't moved in some way by the end, it didn't accomplish what it set out to do.

Unfortunately for "Rhinoceros," the only moving I did took place after the actors took their final bow.

The first step in creating a thought-provoking performance is creating a world that exists outside our own, encapsulating itself in a reality that we as individuals have yet to fully experience. With a task that size, there is little to no room for error in regards to the technical aspects of a stage show, of which "Rhinoceros" had a few.

The sides of the stage weren't properly quartered off so all happenings that would normally take place behind the curtains were entirely visible even to those sitting centered in the audience. Props from previous scenes were left out on tables that no one even attempted to hide or conceal and sound equipment was plopped only a few feet from the set's scaffolding.

The set design itself was minimalistic in its approach, which may have been intentional in hopes of showcasing the acting or material being performed, but neither could right the ship. The set, composed of scaffolding, was a poorly thought out attempt at set design and didn't help the play. There was no honest attempt made to construct another inviting and

involving world, and it showed quite readily. If the production doesn't care about the set design, who will?

Some of the aspects of the show were a result of pure laziness. Background characters hung Rhinoceros heads at the climax of the play, still sporting the fire fighter pants they had worn in the opening act. Set transitions between scenes consisted of the stage lights being brought down and the actors scuttling off stage. Wandering spotlights also blinded some in the audience and audible complaints were made. Without taking into account the acting or the play itself, I'm not really sure anyone behind the scenes cared too much about what they threw on stage.

In general, the performances were mediocre; nobody stood out above the rest, which can be blamed on the lack of environment to work with, though just as much can be blamed on the actors and actresses themselves. No two performers really clicked or showed any real chemistry, leaving the audience with a handful of puzzle pieces that don't all assemble one picture.

The story makes sense, one man standing tall against the lot and resisting conformity, but how many times have we seen this tragic character? What about the production is supposed to entice us to care?

I guess I'm just disappointed with a Grand Valley State University theatrical production for the first time this year. "Romeo and Juliet," "Rent" and "Into the Woods" were all fantastic in many ways, so it's a bit depressing to end the year with "Rhinoceros."

As the saying goes "you can't win 'em all." Which is true, particularly if no one shows up.

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'Baila Conmigo' highlights Latino culture

Annual Latino culture showcase features belly dance, salsa; introduces GVSU community to Hispanic music, dance

By Haley Otman
GVL AGE Editor

Hips were moving, hands were clapping and mouths were yelling in support of all 14 events at "Baila Conmigo" Saturday night.

The Fieldhouse Arena played host to a large crowd of people from every race joining in at the annual spring Latino culture showcase thrown by the student organization Sabrosísimo. Events included multiple dances by Sabrosísimo, a newer addition to the Office of Student Life at Grand Valley State University, in addition to many other performances.

The Belly Dance Club infused a Latino flavor into its choreography, dancing to the Spanish version of Shakira's song "Eyes Like Yours," followed by a cappella group Euphoria's rendition of "Mala Gente," or "Bad People."

"With a new language to sing in, there are always those phonetic components that every member of the group must master if the song is to be performed successfully and credibly," said Ross Hammond, president of Euphoria.

They followed "Mala Gente" with Beyoncé's "Halo," switching back to English.

Along with those new to Hispanic music and dance, many seasoned Latino performers were there, too.

Sabrosísimo first performed a combination of the Samba from Brazil and the Negroide from Peru. They then took three more turns in between other acts, including performing to "Cariñito" and "Quimbara."

Sigma Lambda Upsilon, also known as the Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc., performed a dance as well, and later in the evening the Sigma Lambda Beta Int. Frat. Inc. also took the stage.

"I think that having an event that celebrates my heritage is great because it allows me to keep in touch with my culture even when I'm far away from home," said

Ivett Lopez, a senior and hermana, or sister, in Sigma Lambda Upsilon.

Scott Ayotte and Sarah Stuart, both active dancers in the GVSU community, also performed a belly dance and salsa combination for the crowd, to many cheers.

"Sabrosísimo uses performing arts to better strengthen the Latino culture on GVSU's campus and bridge gaps between communities," says the group on their Facebook page. They won the award for Best New Organization at the 2009 Recognition Ceremony on campus.

Hammond said he wanted to make sure Euphoria matched the incredible liveliness of everyone else taking part in "Baila Conmigo."

"Singing in Spanish at this event is a fun and exciting opportunity and also comes with the pressure of doing justice to both the language and energy of Baila Conmigo," he said. The fans' cheers seemed to suggest the group did just that through their harmonizing.

D. Jose Duzan, the president of Sabrosísimo and a senior at GVSU, was also presented with a gift at the event in recognition of all of his hard work.

"Any group can do choreography, but Sabro really does it all," Duzan said in the "Baila Conmigo" pamphlet, referring to the many events they have and the community service they perform.

A recent community service project Sabrosísimo took on was a book drive for

Grand Rapids' Cook Library Center, which is in the Latino portion of the city and has many children's programs.

Lopez said her sisters' performance and the Negroide dance performed by Sabrosísimo tied for first place in her mind-her sisters' event because she belongs to their chapter and wanted to support them, and the Negroide dance because she was not familiar with it before "Baila Conmigo."

"The acts throughout the night all seemed very high-energy, well-executed and fun," Hammond added.

arts@lanthorn.com



GVL / James Brien

"Baila Conmigo" featured 14 events, including a few singing events.



GVL / James Brien

Many groups performed to popular R&B songs infused with a Latino flare.

Art + parties = one big night downtown

GR artist community to host Art.Downtown., feature GVSU student artists

By Elijah Brumback
GVL Staff Writer

Not since Art Prize has there been an event featuring the Grand Rapids artist community as large as the upcoming one-night festivities slated for Art.Downtown. Friday.

Downtown Grand Rapids will percolate with open gallery shows, free live music, revamped museum exhibits and bar hopping, all conveniently aided by two free trolleys cruising the Heartside district.

The event is an extension of the artist community and downtown Grand Rapids' Spring For the Arts effort that started in 2007.

In 2009, the event was

expanded and grew into a larger branding initiative promoting downtown culture through the work of local artists and loads of volunteer hours.

This year, Art.Downtown. will feature more than 400 hundred local artists and 25 eclectic locations around the city including the Division Avenue Arts Collective, the West Michigan Center for Art and Technology, the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art and a multitude of other creative outfits.

"We want people to come downtown and stay downtown all evening," said Jennifer Schaub, event coordinator and associate of the Neighborhood Revitalization Project at Dwelling Place, a co-sponsor of the event. "There will be something for everyone from projections and films, to traditional painting, jam sessions and amazing installation art."

Of particular note for those affiliated with Grand Valley State University will be the work of fellow students, professors and alumni featured throughout the massive network of exhibits.

"Kendall College and the Downtown Alliance have been

a huge part of this event and GVSU has always been blown out of the water by Kendall," Schaub said. "It's awesome to see GVSU involved more this year and hopefully even more in the future."

While the event will feature some of what Schaub describes

as Grand Rapids' "rock star" talent, it is also heavily staked in showcasing student-produced works.

"I'm very excited to be a part of this event, especially because it is so large," said Alexandra Holton, painter and GVSU senior. "To still be in school and to be asked to be a part of something like this helps keep me inspired to keep making art. As a student it shows you that you can be a part of the art world and also help to inspire your community to be more aware of the arts."

Holton praised the Grand Rapids art community for being more accessible than most large cities. She is excited about the direction the group Avenue for the Arts is steering the Grand Rapids art community, and she hopes to continue to be around to see the continued changes. Holton also added Grand Rapids is a great inspiration to her work and often directly responsible

for the art she creates.

"I think the GR art community has such unique things going for it," said Stephanie Voeleck, another of GVSU's featured artists. "It has the grassroots small town feel in a relatively large city. It's quite ideal actually. It's the artists that are going to places that big businesses left neglected and making them glow again."

Voeleck said events such as Art.Downtown. and Art Prize are great publicity for the city of Grand Rapids and they touch on what is really important about the neighborhoods, which are the events that get people out, involved and socializing in the urban atmosphere.

Because the event is so enormous, it will be physically impossible to see all the exhibits. But according to Schaub, some of the must-see attractions are: The Mustache Gallery, the Heartside Gallery, the Michigan Land of Riches exhibit, the Kendall studio spaces and the Temporary Spaces works.

Also, Schaub said to be on the look out for the various after parties held in some of the "swankiest" and "phat" pads downtown.

Maps, outlining all the exhibits will be available for all patrons. Art.Downtown. will run from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday.

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Naked Obscenity



GVL / Eric Coulter

Pictured is a work by GVSU senior Joey Salamon on display in the Naked Obscenity Show. In Thursday's issue of the Lanthorn, photos of Cheyenne Bonnell's senior show Passions.BODYSCAPES were mistakenly credited as part of Salamon and Phanie Mills' Naked Obscenity Show.



GVL / Eric Coulter

Students observe one of GVSU senior Phanie Mills' works currently on display as part of the Naked Obscenity exhibit. In Thursday's Lanthorn, photos of Cheyenne Bonnell's work were miscredited to Mills.

CLASSIFIED RATES

DEADLINES: Noon Friday for Monday, Noon Wednesday for Thursday
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Grand Valley Lanthorn

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See Answers on B6

Start here

Attention off-campus students — the Census needs you to return your form.



There are special programs in place to count students on campus. But if you live off campus, you have to complete your own 2010 Census form that arrived in the mail. By participating, you're helping future students enjoy some of the same benefits and services that you have today. It's just 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes. So fill it out and mail it back.

WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD UNTIL YOU MAIL IT BACK.

United States
Census 2010

IT'S IN OUR HANDS

2010census.gov

GV hopes for help from public to purchase much-needed piano

By Josh Brunsting
GVL Staff Writer

The music department at Grand Valley State University is looking to the public for help in obtaining a new addition to its piano collection.

"We currently have a piano that we perform with, but it's a very difficult one to use," said Helen Marlais, associate professor of music. "It's too big, oftentimes too loud, and while we use it for every recital, it's one that is not allowing for the best performance or the best experience for performers or the audience."

The department is hosting a benefit concert with the proceeds from the performance going into purchasing a new piano.

"In setting up this performance, I wanted to inform any lover of piano within the department, as well as the development office, so that we could see just how many donors would be interested," Marlais said. "A grand piano will run us anywhere from \$70,000 to \$120,000, so really, any help would be hugely appreciated."

The performance will feature the Grand Valley Winds, a

collection of wind instrument professors here at GVSU.

It includes Sean Owen on flute, Marlen Vavřiková on oboe, Arthur Campbell on clarinet, John Clapp on bassoon, Allen French on horn and Marlais accompanying on the piano.

"Grand Valley Winds's mission is to enrich Grand Valley State University and its community by performing concerts of varied repertoire, promote chamber music in the region, serve the state by offering free public school clinics and recitals and host instrumental days for middle school and high school students," according to the group's mission statement.

They will perform various pieces, including one by Ludwig van Beethoven, "Piano Quintet in E flat major, Op. 16."

"Not only are the members of this group truly talented, but it's a really important issue that may seem trivial to those outside of the music department (even though) it truly affects every student here," Vavřikova said. "It's important to come out and

support this cause, as it will not only benefit those who play piano, but it will make the experience of going to recitals all the better for those who attend them."

Marlais said she hopes this is an issue other students take to heart, in addition to supporting the arts themselves.

"I feel as though in this day and age, it is so important for students and the public alike to come and support the arts, especially in their community," she said. "It's one of every community's most important and greatest attributes and should be supported as such. It's a way for (everyone) to come together and to allow the artists to truly express themselves and at the highest quality."

The concert will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Tickets are \$20 for the general public, \$10 for students and seniors and \$5 for pre-college

students.

Donations are also greatly appreciated.

jbrunsting@lanthorn.com

"A grand piano will run us anywhere from \$70,000 to \$120,000. Any help would be hugely appreciated."

HELEN MARLAIS
GVSU ASSOCIATE
MUSIC PROFESSOR



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See Puzzles on B5

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Grand Valley Lanthorn

Literary
Edition



Monday, April 12, 2010



Bunn

Meet the judges

Fiction and non-fiction:

Professor Austin Bunn is an assistant professor in the writing department at Grand Valley State University. He graduated from Yale University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop in both fiction and playwriting, where he was the Iowa Arts Fellow. Most recently, Bunn was the Axton Fellow in fiction at the University of Louisville.



Prentiss

Poetry:

Sean Prentiss taught at the University of Idaho and at Western State College in Colorado before coming to GVSU. Now an assistant professor in the writing department, Prentiss has published creative writing in nonfiction, poetry and fiction in literary journals such as Pacific Review, Ascent, Sycamore Review, River Styx, Nimrod, High Desert, ISLE.

Photography:

GVL photography staff

Cover designed by Kelly Granbacka

To Ann

By Elise Goudy

I did not notice you across the room
 Indeed you blend, unending with tan walls
 No fashion sense or style. I must presume
 Your clothes, your shoes, were bought at different malls.
 Your lips inspir'd delight ----I could not hear.
 To your dye-stained hair, my gaze fell upon
 Blinding me, silencing words of a peer,
 Whose life, otherwise, might compel me on.
 Maybe, had I lifted my judging gaze
 Looked into round face, warm heart, clear soul
 I may have seen the light; sharp piercing rays-----
 And not a deep and empty, gaping hole
 .
 How rare, how beautiful a mother; wife.
 It took your death to make me see your life

Creator And Created

By Allison Layton

between the avenues of Yes and No
 are shackles and chains,
 where Whim and Fancy are masters,
 and the artist a slave.
 bound only by imagined limitations,
 the creator accepts.
 does not weep. does not ask Why.
 does not wonder when Life crumbles to dust,
 litter in the parched desert.
 the travesty of a painting left unfinished,
 a poem abandoned,
 a composition's notes ending
 without closure.
 beauty
 left to wither
 in the echoing warehouse of a capricious mind

Children In Senegal

Matthew T. Dayton



holiday.happy (Christmas poem)

By Ben Kleyn

What is "holiday" but red lights and bad habits
drinking bitter wine from a generous obsessive man
while lip-syncing screams to bitter songs?
What is "happy" but a feeling fleeting and dependent on
others like finding an outlet but not enough strong enough
tape to hang the red lights? What is "merry" but shaving my temples
the knife is stuck externalizing internal ache through old habits
one-way courting because the extension cord isn't long enough and
my car won't start the heat doesn't work while waiting for a reply the
suction cup for the star in my window unfastens slowly from the glass
I watch it fall like wet icicles my hopes in bitter silence?

What is "Christmas" but I don't have enough
money this year so I recycle my behavior with strangers
look for deer and pop cans recycle my Dali calendar for unevenly
cut posters wrapped in Honey Bunches of Oats with Almonds
cereal boxes from my recycle bin full of thrown-away lecture notes
and what is it but recycling the same behavioral routine of us proving
we love each other with something wrapped in something
proving for everyone equally every winter?

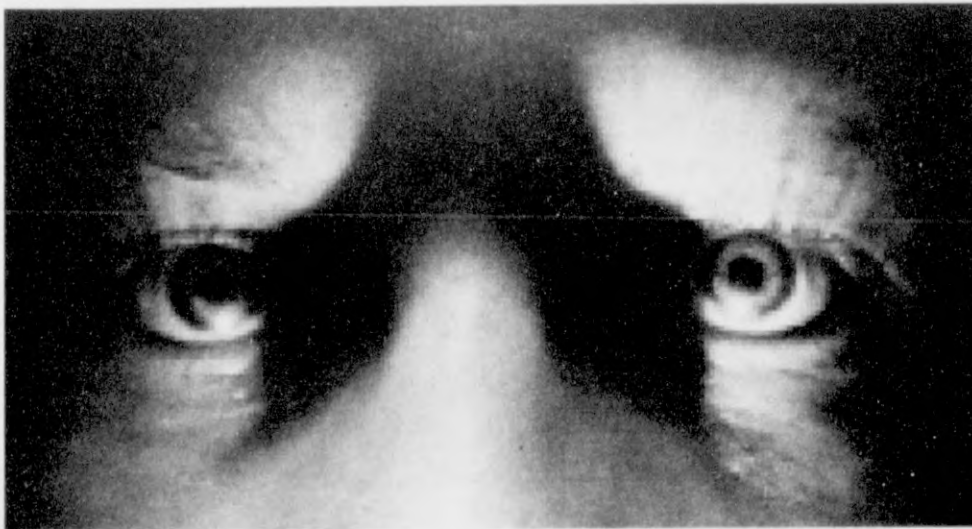
What is "the reason" but asking this question only to hear a theory
reminding me not necessarily that I want to die but I don't
want to live either not like this when the lights won't stay up I
frighten the deer away before seeing them the bulldozers hiding
aluminum in snowbanks and what it really reminds me is I'm not doing it right?

And what is "the season" but the dark the cold the white and sometimes
sometimes the sun when I pull back the red curtains open the blinds
and the light the sunlight warms the bareness of my skin on the other
side of all the white and warms the dark the cold on the other side
of the bareness of my skin? The lights are up but I drink bitter wine to
recycle to repackaging hurting myself because you're elusive as the deer and
cans in the dark the snow when I send words beyond the blinds and red curtains.

The engine turns but someone else in leaving for the holidays left
a pair of tire-track hearts in the bulldozer-plowed lots and all I can do on
my side of the snowbanks the white the cold the dark is imagine sometimes
sometimes the sun through your curtains your blinds warming the
bareness of your skin and the warmth I imagine sometimes on the other side
of your skin like my heater on high to melt the dark the cold the white.
Happy holidays is me not doing it right.

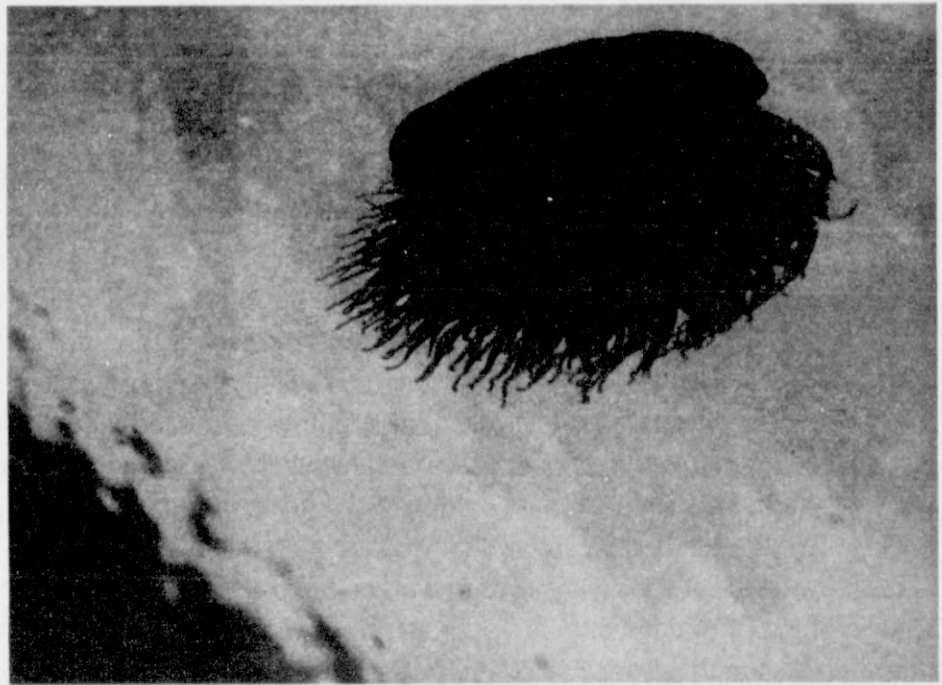
Double Hazel

Ben Kleyn



Freedom & Attachment

Cassey Lynne



Bindings Poetry runner-up

By Meghan Cross

A stack of your books
sits in the bedroom closet. I've
smelled them but they smell like
library—water-warped pages and red-
tipped matchsticks. I had wanted to burn
your things when you'd gone,
wanted to throw those stories
into a garbage can out behind
the house and watch them flame
into thick, grey ash at the bottom.
But I couldn't bring myself
to set ablaze the yellowed pages,
the thousands and thousands of
words—so there they sit. Ceiling
to floor I alphabetized them carefully,
Angela's Ashes to Book Thief,
Red Dirt Jesse and Ursula Under,
all the way to Where the Red Fern Grows,
their bindings each made of
something sturdier than mine.



A New Morning (Condensed)

By Aiman W. Mueller

A Muslim only since the day before, I hadn't known swipes of water, standing, bowing and prostrating could take me where it has. I hadn't known that one day my chest would no longer feel like a radioactive zoo break and that I would be able to really sleep. But I did have faith these rituals would help me escape imminent death. Seven years ago, age 28, I lay awake in the dark hour of dawn. The lamp light shone around my head and into the attic cove where I slept. The former tenant's graffiti and the holes punched in the angled surfaces of unfinished drywall hid in darkness beyond the glow of my tiny momentary world. I intended to get up, perform ritual cleansing and pray. My inner, primal self intended to sleep.

Hundreds of times I'd gotten up before sunrise: to ogle Christmas gifts my parents had left out the night before, to adjust a blue tie before busing to Catholic high school, to make a cup of green tea before heading to the office, to untangle the line of my fishing pole before casting off. But the goal was always tangible—something my inner, primal self desired to get or avoid. In the dark quiet of that attic, however, I asked myself to forsake sleep in order to stand at an appointed time before a Being I could not see in order to receive a benefit that was invisible. The proposal contained no promise of a hamburger, no hope of touching a naked thigh. Without anything to offer my inner self that it would understand, it totally refused to budge. But I believed. I cried, trapped by desire, my overdeveloped survival mechanism, as if my body were a board. The tears kept coming as I refused to submit to my body. After all, I was in control of my nerves, not my primal urges; I ordered unwilling muscles to contract, to raise me from my bed.

Near my head sat the silvery bowl of water I had prepared the night before. I would have used the bathroom, but when I did have a bathroom of my own I knew nothing of Islam or ablution or prayer. Paranoid, I had hid in that most secret room of my previous apartment, first sucking the wages of my brokerage office job through a glass tube. Then it was my Volkswagen Jetta GL up in flames. I had antiques. One shop even bought the American flag that had been laid on my grandfather's coffin; restraining my rush to get high till I was out the door, I hopped on my bike and then hauled my sickly, pale-white face to Bemis and Benjamin—drugs for sale—then fast as I could to my secluded bathroom, lighting fire in my face. Me being broke all the time, my landlord made a deal with me that I move out of the big apartment to the attic in her house where I'd finish the drywall in lieu of rent. Thus, the bowl of water, so I wouldn't be fussing around early in the morning in the bathroom that shares a wall with my landlord's bedroom.

Laying there in the morning on my back, it was do or die. I had to get up and pray . . . or face complete loss of all dignity—life left off in the walking, talking death of a long standing crack addiction. Too many of those around me were dead of heart attacks or murder, imprisoned or cackling about in drug houses. I could be the shadowy man with convulsive arms who incessantly claims to need money to get pampers for his baby. Or I might be the guy who carries a framed photo of his ex-wife in his pocket and proudly shows everyone he gets high with, the beauty he once touched.

If I didn't sit up, if I didn't wash myself, if I didn't pray, I would never go back to school. I would never marry an Egyptian sweetheart or own my own home, complete with two bathrooms. I would never have met brothers and sisters who would do anything for me without anything in return. I would never come to know and love the Prophet of Allah, peace be upon him, a man so merciful that once when he awoke and found a cat asleep on his garment, rather than disturb the animal, he cut a hole in his clothes around the cat and then went on his way. If I didn't pray I would never hear my Christian mother say, "That prayer seems to be doing something good for you." If I let the time pass, laying there in my bed, I would have made my choice. I would have gotten up in the afternoon. I would have bartered my soul for little white stones. Indeed, obeying my desire meant a march of enslavement into a grave of eternal ignominy.

As preparation for prayer, I washed my hands, the hands that had held glass tubes around which my lips would purse. I rinsed my mouth, the mouth I had befouled with fumes. The nose, the face, the arms—immersing myself in reality, revealing a picture I did not want to see but had to. Wetting my hands, flicking the excess, sending droplets of water into semi-lit space, I wiped my scalp and ears, curving my index finger through the channels and contours. Finally, alone, with the exception of the God, Allah, watching me, I washed my feet three times, rubbing every cell at the surface of my skin up to the ankle, right foot first, then left. The feet were the most laborious part, the most painful part, at that moment of cleansing open spiritual wounds.

This formulaic washing set me halfway free from the demands of my desire. I would make it. I would pray.

"A radical life transformation, told with quiet reflection and in the light of spiritual commitment."

-Austin Bunn

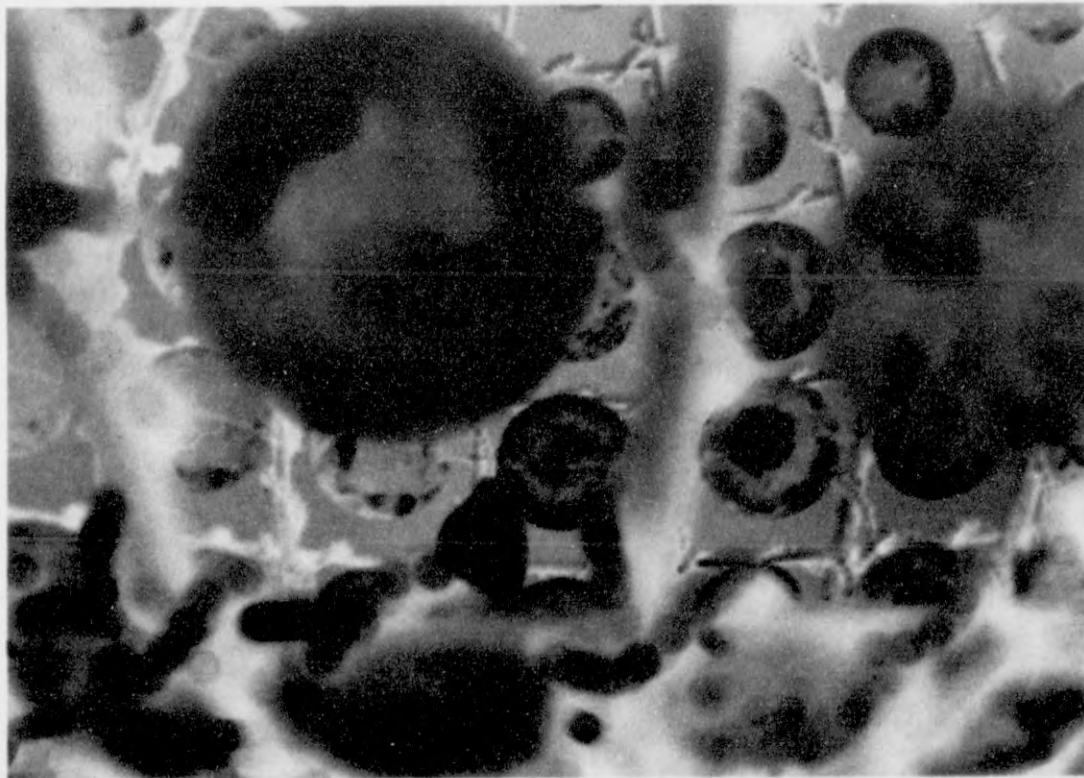
Ludington Color

Kevin Hausfeld



Negative Geometry

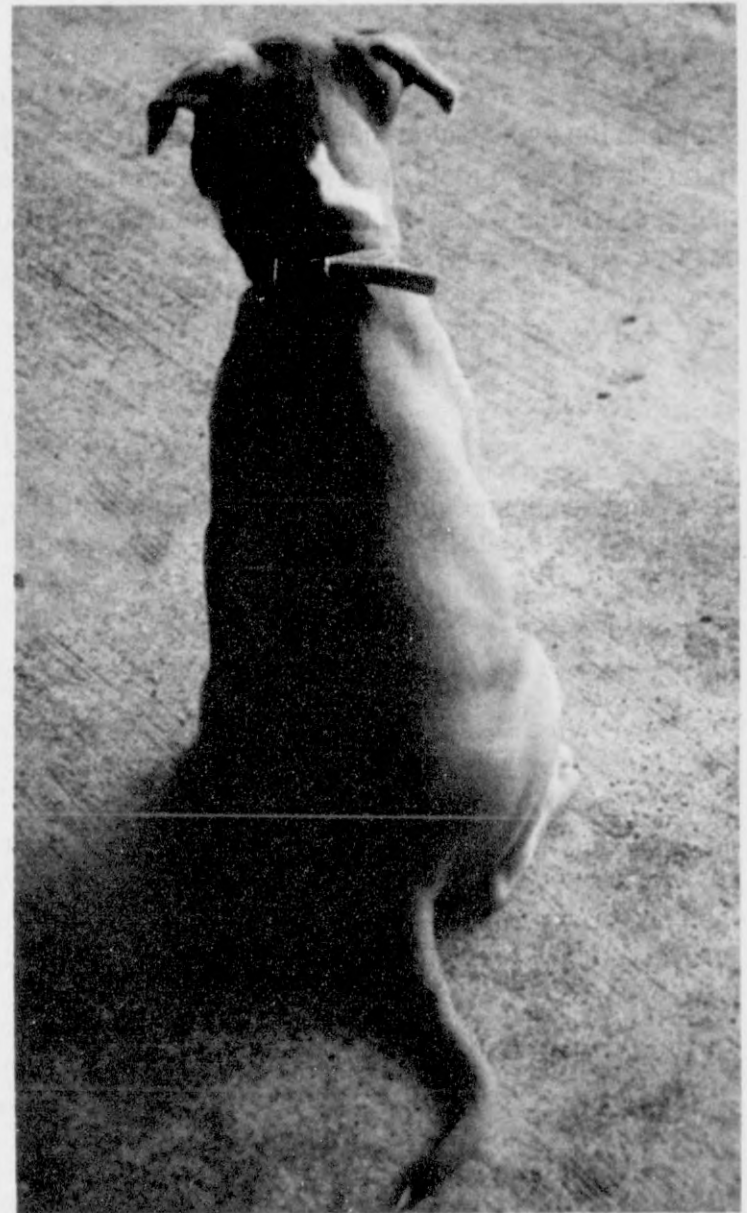
Cassey Lynne



Lola

 Photo runner-up

Lyanna Hampton



I am dog

By Ben Kleyn

I've no voice like a lion's roar but I bare it anyway
like the snarl that precedes the bark of a territorial dog.
I bear the pain of knowing no one noticed when I tweezed
all the hairs of my left eyebrow to externalize internal incompleteness,
to take from myself the way I never accepted from others,
mutilation the ash-and-sackcloth anti-fashion of the mourning.
Oh that I held in these hands instead of a pen, instead of
tweezers the reigns of stallions of language tamed, for the
exercise and exorcism of my wildness, for carting over
cobblestone the horse-defined carriage of my orality,
smoothly and respected as a limousine chauffeuring organized thoughts,
pre-lubricated, without the need for intoxication, to my tongue for
"naturalistic" expression: "I do not like you for these reasons"—
simplicity as complexity through lack of lubricating limousines,
horses, and the roaring of my inner dog.

A Subtle Lift

By Garrett Dennert

Through the long, arduous winter months we
traversed
With our packs on our back and gloves on our
hands.
Our boots slid across the concrete,
Wishing we were barefoot, toes in the sand.
December, January, and February came and
went,
While we tried to remain safely indoors.
Snuggling up in our blankets to an entertaining
flick,
Something that would heat up our cores.
Quiet and bitter we remained in the early days
of March,
As our psyches filled with fodder.
The 2nd week of the month swept through with
a surprise,
When one day I awoke to drizzling water.
I stood up, and peered outside for a glance.
Opening the Roman Shade, a stroke of heat
reached my face.
I walked calmly up the stairs,
Not allowing the perceived to heighten my
pace.
The standing water forced me to tiptoe my
way,
Dressed in shorts and underwear, I felt no
chill.
I looked through the door to see Little Ben.
Yes! I silently screamed as the birds trilled.
I picked up my pace, jogging downstairs.
There was obvious trouble in choosing my
attire.
Shoving the coats and sweaters aside,

I chose wisely and left once again, walking
through the mire.

Clad in a polo and flip flops, I strode toward
my vehicle.

On the pavement I no longer shuffled or slid,

But rather introduced something once
dormant,

Passing by the uncovered buildings where we
once hid.

On my way to the grounds, activity became
apparent.

My peers raced out of their doors, smiles
plastered.

A certain vibe travelled through my open
windows.

Nobody would allow this gorgeous day to
become a disaster.

On my journey I ventured off the melted
pathway

And on to the freshly uncovered soil.

Footsteps were clear and chatter resounded.

We were alive again, and our blood does boil!

Scantly dressed team members ran by once
more.

The nearby females erupted with claps and
shouts.

I ventured on, sun beating down.

Now perspiring, I once had my doubts.

I sat down in my seat amongst the other two-
hundred.

All in anticipation we wished the time would
stray.

The Professor then entered the room with a
distracted look.

The look soon turned into a smile as he shouted
"Go enjoy the day!"

Housecleaning

By Meghan Cross

Running an old sock over that
dark mahogany dresser, parallel
to the swirling wood grains,
dusting away the old, the bad,
those things that make me cough
and sneeze and rub my eyes till
the whites are pink.
I open the top drawer, wanting
to pull out a shirt or a sweater or
that pair of grey sweatpants,
hold it to my face and
breathe, just to remember, just
for a second.
But the drawer echoes
like the walls of this place after you
took your burnt-orange sofa and
coffee table that we used for
cards on Friday nights. Copper
pots and pans went clanging
into cardboard boxes,
but the microwave you left
for me, red spaghetti exploded
on the inside and I'm too tired
to clean it, too tired to scrape, too
unwilling to admit that
if I don't do it, no one will.



"I chose 'Housecleaning' because it creates a scene, a moment where the reader can see the narrator cleaning, trying to purge their world of their ex-lover's essence. But again, what is best is that we're not told what to feel, we're shown. We see the narrator trying desperately to clean their way to freedom from an old love, and we feel it with the writer."

-Sean Prentiss

Ugly Actor

By Keira Wilson

Go sit in the back in the theater. Attend all rehearsals. You only have those few scenes with a couple of lines. The director let you read for the lead who was out sick. Sick and tired, of putting on cake make up for every dress rehearsal. Your pimples have pimples. Remember how they caught you in the bathroom trying to pop pimples on your back. It isn't easy! The entire swim team played connect the dots all year. They frequently drew penises. Auditioning for Oklahoma! was a better idea.

Intermission is almost over. Voices float from behind the closed burgundy curtain. In your mind, everyone's filing back into their uncomfortable theater seats. Someone should go get Shane.

"Shane! Where is Shane? Someone go check the dressing room!" The stage manager whispers into her headset. Where for art thou our dashing, tall, beautiful, vain, closet-gay, lead actor? You try not to be bitter. The house lights go out. The stage crew takes their places, always in black. Are they just normal people? You like to think they are all those high school Goths that just found employment. On a whim, you wandered in to Hot Topic. It appeared edgy and cool. Hot Topic screamed: take that mainstream society! It was expensive and dumb and just as mainstream. Like MTV or Hip Hop.



"This flash piece lands inside a unique character and never leaves. The compressed language and passion for the culture of theater creates an authoritative vista on the life of a small actor in a small part."
-Austin Bunn

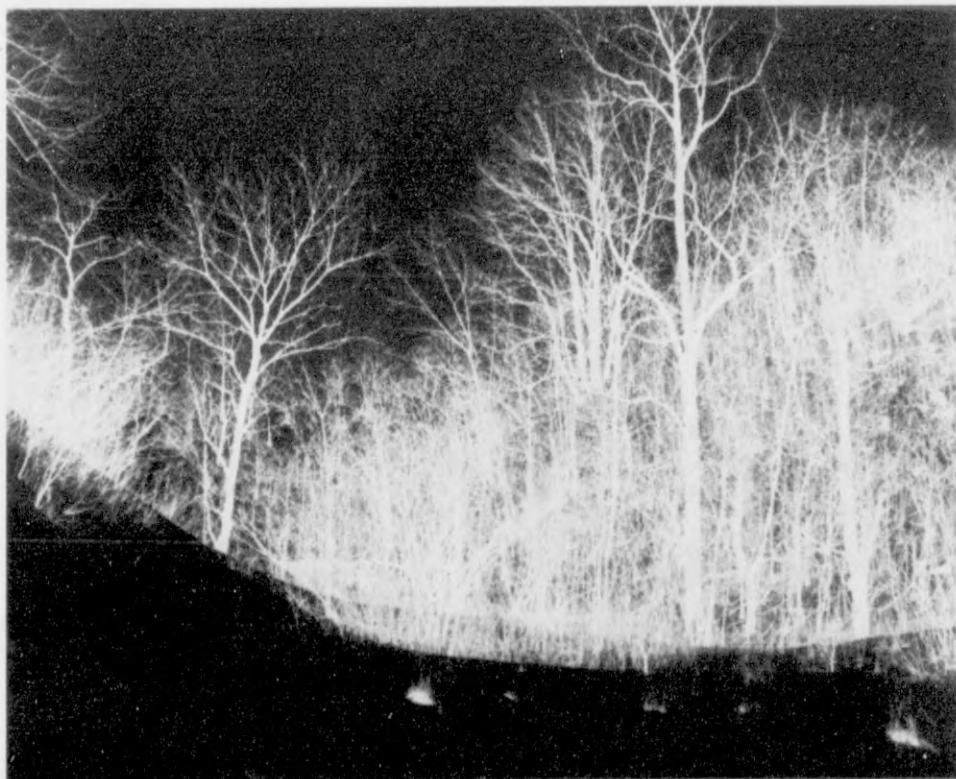
Someone in black asks if you've seen Shane. Why would you? The whole time you've been standing there, ready, unlike Shane. Don't forget to stand exactly in your spot, otherwise the whole scene will be ruined.

Why are you ruining your life? Your mother once said this to you before you went out to one of those Hip Hop Clubs. There was a rap battle. The crowd liked your rhymes and no one cared that your ears were too big and your face wasn't proportional. But, Cary Grant had big ears you tell yourself. Cary Grant didn't pimp out his cars or get all the bitches. In Rap videos, only the background dance sluts have to be pretty. All you had to do was wear some bling and make sure your clothes were name brand. JCPenney wouldn't cut it. You're supposed to wear FUBU. They don't even wear FUBU. That's so 1990s. Ed Hardy. Girbaud. Rocawear.

All you wear is that cake make-up applied extra thick. Up close, you look like a tin of flour with deep gray cracks. The director swears you look like the old man you're supposed to play. Metal scraps metal as the curtains part, exposing the mediocre set and backdrop. Man, where is Shane? The awkward silence penetrates behind the cheap ply wood door where you stand. The stage lights go up and still, no sign of Shane. When the actress opens the door and the white, bright light washes over you, it feels like nothing exists but the stage. Not even the mole on your neck with the gross hair. From the audience, you remind yourself, no one can see the actors' faces in great detail. So what if you're not the lead.

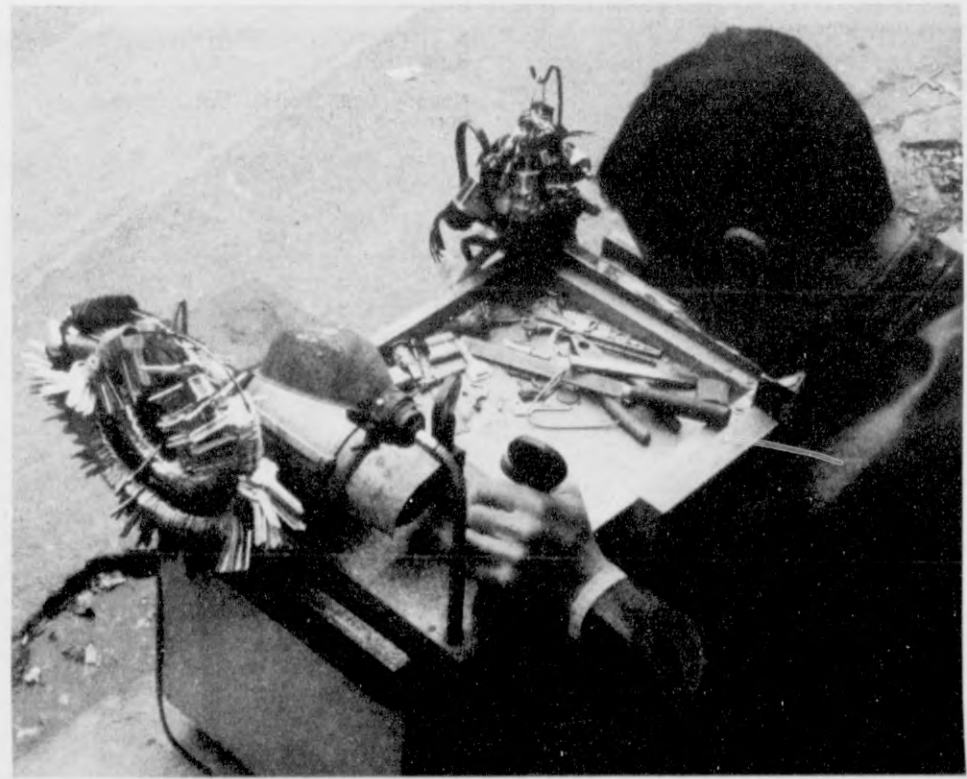
The Dark Forest

Cassey Lynne



Locksmith

Matthew T. Dayton



Mural Of Emotion

Lyanna Hampton



Fly Away

Ben Kleyn



Untitled

Matthew T. Dayton



Ludington dune trail

Kevin Hausfeld



Winter Sky

Nate Blunt



Sleeping Knight

Katie Therrian



The curtain draws itself a portrait of a noose

By Ben Kleyn

I stink like firmer skin
pulled back and up—tight.
Delivered carpets from beneath my feet
abscond to the neighbors whose secrets no wall
could ever keep. Fall from window,
fall from sky. Fall slow-motion from a tower, fall
from crashing cars suspending their animation on top a bridge.
Inclement tangerines and clementines
dress the table with my miniskirt
stained yellow with the sun.

Through my curtains I see melting—
snow melting down the icicles and rippling
my tears on the wall behind the blinds of my lashes.
I am aging like a leaf made beautiful as closer to
dying I am. Take a bit of food with your poison.
The dying have been known to thirst.
The dead have been known to rest their eyes upon this pillow.
Why are you waiting? The actors want their spindle trays
preserved with napkins fresh and silver fish inedible
yet practical as props under proper lighting.

The full effect is achieved when one imagines, not envisions,
the way the light strikes and lifts the bruises off your cheek.
The hair that fell upon your eyes is of a horse,
galloping beyond the fences, dashing for the apple tree that
moved in the stillness of wind on nights when whispers
rattle the leaves that die like me in reds and oranges—
colors of the fruit before the rot.

False Love

By Garrett Dennert

I love this woman,	We exchange tiny grins and large smiles.
But I don't even know her.	Our body language mirrors one another.
She is at the far corner of the room	But all of a sudden I feel the drink,
While I stand opposite.	And excuse myself to the head.
I can't help but to take notice of	I shut off the light and open the door,
Her every move.	And to my disbelief I see her.
She sips on her drink,	She is now involved in another
Peering at me over the foggy rim.	Attempt at small talk.
I finally muster enough confidence.	She exchanges tiny grins and large smiles,
I make my way across the room,	While her body language mirrors
Avoiding the stumbling fellows.	The man across from her.
I reach her.	She doesn't even notice me.
We begin a confident attempt at small talk,	I hate this woman.
Touching on numerous subjects.	But I only know five minutes of her.
I feel like I know her already.	That is the only layer I intend to take off.
I can't get over her mesmerizing eyes.	I don't want any part of her.

In the Venus Trap

By Allison Layton

She twirls, resplendent	She twirls, resplendent.
in rippling red silk and refracting jewels,	Taking, scarcely giving,
with a lazy smirk	as a child drawing milk
she well knows that those of this ilk	from its mother's breast, only
cannot resist.	to weep and wordlessly demand more.
Such a challenge that exposes	A fickle mistress, a dangerous rose;
great ecstasy in the capture of her,	she twirls, resplendent.
great agony in the want of her.	

Elephant Tears

By Michella Vader

The sun beams through the worn out sky onto the sweltering tent.
The entranced crowd jeers with candy stuffed pockets and drips of cold ice water.
Offset hearts thirst, tug, and lose; no chance of being what they were born to be.
The crack of the whip breaks through the gray, wrinkly flesh.
Bacterium infects the blood of uncured heartbreak, clogging the pores of wild winds.
Cries of starving bones shatter and swarm over the minds of sour lumps upon the graveyard.
Elephant tears seep through the broken feelings but do not wash away the mesmerized.
Poles and hooks do not break the loneliness of the steel entrapment.
Sliced ankles and hollow eyes mourn for an unchoreographed glance.
Too afraid to step out of line, the mass of string plays the puppet.
All hopes that the sparks of a tortured soul will ignite the fire for a saving grace.
May it wash away the blindness of commands, turn deaf ears to blasting, and hear the cries of the silent.

Wind Dance

By Kristina Pepelko

the ink stains my hands
as the train scrapes to a halt.
a wind gathers between
the passengers' feet,
carrying them
as a tide carrying sand grains,
reshaping.
as the wind settles,
i watch two bodies
swinging into familiar dance.
she leans in,
the thin, curved lines of her neck
baked with the scent of vanilla.
his lips press to hers,
lingering, tasting—

like lips to a honeyed spoon.
as the train slows,
his hands move to her hands,
fingers knotting.
the doors slide open revealing
chipping yellowed letters
MIND THE GAP
his lips numb and his eyes heavy
watch her poised body disappear.
in my lap,
the words jumble before my eyes,
as i sit now realizing
my own grip didn't
grip
quite hard enough.

Usher Speaks

By Grahame Fairless

Usher Speaks
with the honesty insanity of a drunkard:
I shall perish
I must perish
I shall be lost
energetic confusion
guttural enunciation
Lady Madeline all but forgotten,
unmentioned by Usher—
his mind porphyric
burned by sunlight,
melancholy unmentioned.
And his thoughts seemingly eaten by opium
as he played guitar: wild improvisations
notes singing
as we painted rhythms and sounds
to the canvas of our sadness.
I feel as a Moslem at Mecca—
buried in shrouds.

This Land is Your Land,

This Land is My Land

By Allison Layton

I sleep, and I dream
of a house established brick by brick,
moment by moment.

I'll scout, and search, until I find it:
the place where the feeling is right
and the ground is stronger.

I'll examine the blueprints--
nondescript, rough,
but limitless in potential.

I'll lay a foundation,
the beginnings of three walls and a floor,
but I can do no more--
because I'll see a sign that reads
"You can only come this far, and no farther".

So I'll stop.

I'll wait.

I'll sit and endure the rain
though it burns my skin;
I'll sit and endure whatever storms arise.

I'll wait until you appear at the line,
pull the sign from the soil and say with a smile,
"Come in,"
or until you say, frowning and final,
"Leave and don't come back."

I sleep, and I dream
that maybe one day I'll build a home
in the blank space that now holds a sign,
where blades of grass meet the blue sky.

Ludington lighthouse

Kevin Hausfeld



The Tock-less Clock

By Michelle Vader

Seconds of miracles-tick
 Minutes of glory-tick
 Hours of solitude-tick
 Days of happiness,
 All dwell within the hands hidden behind the glass pane,
 Tick-tick-tick
 The connection of numbered memories beholds the hanging element of life;
 A golden round glimmer witnessed at every objection.
 Only the ticking squirms into the eardrums, unknowing of the tocking time.
 The mothers' rejoice chimes with that of the helpless babe,
 Fawns prance before the petite girl, held by smooth hands of a father,
 Imminent tears roll over lost innocence within the breadth of youth,
 The padded shoulder drowns the mourning of a beached heart,
 Tick-tick-tick
 Gleaming in wide smiles and elegant dance, rings intertwine,
 The daughter rejoices to the outcry of her helpless babe,
 Sitting on the porch, withered hands clasp each other and swing to the tick
 of each heartbeat behind the windowpane.
 Tick-tick-tick
 As I stare for hours upon the wide berth of the polished golden gleam,
 Not a second has gone by.

The Road to Stealing

By Kristina Pepelko

<p>As my feet chalked with the white dust, the rhythm of my heart played like a first grader hammering a glockenspiel. Entering the crowd of corn, my arm muscles clenched, wanting to be like an insect's legs, caving into the shell. Yet I pulled and pulled and pulled at each cob until my hands had their fill.</p>	<p>Set for home, children whispered as we passed, eyeing the leafy declarations of my crime. My lips parted without trembling— "Bye Bye Miss American Pie" seeped out. In the safety of the white plastic chairs, corn leaves crunched as our fingers unzipped them, and my mind unzipped, letting another world in.</p>
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Real Life Romance

Cassey Lynne

<p>Pitch grey night split Swiftly into two with The whip, crack across the left cheek. Your dark hazel engages my pale blue-greens. Both orifices hang agape. Simmering lies, annoyance. Both briefly cease fire. Yet in the larynx a rapid boil begins, of pure hatred, abhorring.</p>	<p>Hours ago were coos Of "I love you dear's" "I'm so happy with you." Now standing, emotions. Ready, set, draw. Which one hit first? Impossible and unnecessary. The relationship now exists Solely, only, wholly to first Cut the other to the ground.</p>
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This could be for anyone ...

By Mary Pritchard

Red wine and wet lips—
 snapshots of a dream I had
 played across ceiling tiles as I laid awake, asleep.
 Seeing your hands making love with my hands
 and your cheek pressed against my cheek
 and clammy thoughts meeting blue monsters under cloudy skies.
 You don't understand what I'm thinking
 and I don't understand what you're saying
 so together we make perfect sense;
 adding up to just enough change that we don't want to face.
 Because it terrifies us away from our nostalgia,
 nearly-over nostalgia that burns in our retinas and forces fire
 into our sluggish veins, begging us to remember, remember
 but in the morning we promise to forget.
 To forget this moment,
 forget this entangled mystery that we ache for hesitantly,
 but reluctantly resist for some reason unknown, and maybe, maybe,
 there is no reason—
 only fear.

Confessions of a (Former) Wannabe Non-fiction runner-up

By Jessi Levine

This isn't easy for me to write. It actually hurts and my mouth tastes all coppery. I'm hormonal this week; my iron count must be off. I don't think I could be here typing this otherwise. Memories sledge through my brain fingers like Play-Doh being squeezed through its plastic meat press. But, here I go. I'm going to type then delete. Type, delete and vomit from nerves. That's how I've always done it; I've lived then backspaced.

I backspace everything.

This is the story of a former wannabe. I'm a medical miracle because, finally, my jelly spine turned solid.

It was odd that I waited for her. Obsessive, almost. One too many Thursday nights, I'd stand in the rec center parking lot as she got out of dance class. I was desperate for her to like me, to give me her stiletto stamp of approval. So, I waited. Sometimes I waited with brownies, Tupperware and warm, always wrapped in an orange and pink bow (I proudly knew those were her favorite colors).

I paced nervously between the parked minivans. My best friend could be in a bad mood.

Aubrey* strolled out to the parking lot and dismissively untied my latest culinary gift, avoiding eye contact while she giggled with two of her dance class friends. They had cache, I didn't; they were lithe and lean and all-knowing in the ways of boys. I stood there like a puppy waiting for a Milkbone. She grunted a "bye, Jess" as she jumped into the car with the cool girls and drove off.

Why did I allow myself to be treated this way? Was it a sexual attraction? Nope, just compulsive ingratiation. Ever hear of it? Maybe it was just me. Only me.

* Seen Mean Girls? Tina Fey's cutaway into the Queen Bee hive? It's a movie based off of Rosalind Wiseman's Queen Bees and Wannabes, the premiere Girl World survival guide. Wiseman counsels moms how to deal with their adolescent daughters' interactions and feelings that daily, hourly reel and unreel like a yoyo. Like the animal kingdom, Girl World has got its hierarchies; that's how the Queen Bee survives. She runs the hallways with Beyonce-like force, charisma and social grace. And all of the girls in her court have their assigned roles. If Wiseman was to break my role down, I'd be some freaky mix of the Pleaser/Wannabe and Sidekick. I'm a hot mess.

* Mrs. Patel never said it, but she hated when we spun in her kitchen stools. The chairs scratched the island countertop. But we spun to fill the silence. I spun and picked at my cold dish of chick peas and rice. Sharan brought me milk and bread because she didn't think my American taste buds could handle her mom's Indian cooking. They couldn't.

* We couldn't mention Jake Nash, the whitest of white kids, not when Mrs. P. was in earshot. But, Sharan and I couldn't say anything at all, really. Aubrey was in one of her moods. So hence, this elephantine silence. It was fat and palpable. It'd probably eat peanuts. I like peanuts. Spin, kick, spin, kick.

* My Mom exemplifies Wiseman's Loving Hard-Ass Parent. You live and die by your choices, Jess, she'd say.

Despite her copious advice, I remember getting really mad at Sharan. I remember becoming really jealous of her.

I confronted Sharan for her intrusion into MY friendship only once. It was at Panera, over a Cinnamon Crunch bagel and three forks. Sharan sobbed into her napkin, but I didn't see any tears. Aubrey slung her arm across Sharan's shoulders and glowered in my direction. I was furious with Sharan, but Aubrey's "nice going, Jess" made my insides wring.

We graduated high school the next day.

* I remained firmly as Girl World's delta, even into college. Alphas don't like to be challenged and I wouldn't mess with that.

* Aubrey got me a sex book as a gag gift for Christmas. She got me a sex book knowing that I've never had sex. She got me a sex book knowing that I had just broken up with Don.

Three weeks ago.

That metal, cotton-dry feeling in my mouth this time had nothing to do with my period.

* "I'm visiting Sharan this weekend," said Aubrey. "I'll call you when I'm driving back."

Aubrey went to go visit Sharan without me. Sharan and I, we call each other every once in a while. But after we graduated high school, after Panera, we didn't keep in contact much. Aubrey had successfully driven a wedge into our friendship. I let her.

Sharan beat Aubrey and called me first. She was in tears. Real tears, this time.

"She was so bad, Jess. You wouldn't believe it," said Sharan.

"What happened, Sharan?"

"She kept drinking and drinking. She took my cell and called my friend John. Of course he came over and then she..."

"Hold on, call waiting...shit, it's her," I said.

"Take it," said Sharan.

* This is it, right now. My moment.

Wiseman would mark this as my realization and understanding of her Bill of Rights for Friends—I had realized, just then, that Aubrey had stopped valuing my ethics. Sharan's experience was a wakeup call.

I may be delta all the way, but even so, deltas lash when they're backed into a corner. The brownies I baked, the mixed CDs I made, the excuses, the late-night advice (on family vacations, on a Mackinaw hotel balcony), the verbal slaps to the face, the physical slaps to the face, the shot self-confidence, the resentment, the fear—all of it, my being as a compulsive, obsessive ingratiation—surged together and shook me to the core.

Finally.

You're about to witness a miracle.

"I'm done. I can't stand up for you anymore Aubrey. I can't, I won't."

Click.

Done.

God, I hope this new spine of mine stays steady.

Backspacing is too easy.

Final Rays

Eric Coulter

GVL Assistant Photo Editor



Flock of One

James Brien

GVL Photographer



Will Never Be

By Nicole E. Avery

GVL Columnist

I will never be white?
I will never be white—
what I am(black and white)will never become who I am.

will never be
will never be

My mother sees me as a
piece of herself as a
piece of her white heritage,
how can I be her but will never be her?

I will never be white and, oh,
oh!—how I use to want to be;
use to want to be in an easier life
use to want to be that girl with straight hair
use to want to be the me I felt inside
the me I thought was good enough—
GOOD ENOUGH
good enough to be white.

will never be
will never be

But I will never be as kind as my blue-eyed-white
brother who has always gave
me whole love and never half
and saw me as I am—his sister.

Nor will I ever be as kind as my brown-eyed-brown
father who will always give
me whole love and never half
and saw me as I am—his daughter.

my green-eyed-mother
my brown-eyed-sisters

i'll never be wanting me to be more

than who I am—

who I am will stay the same
regardless of what I look like

or what I behave like

or what I am labeled like.
For who I am—thankfully—is not defined by
what I never will be

but by what I already am.

Commodifying Desire

Andrea Colf

GVL Layout Designer



2:30 a.m.

By Molly Waite

GVL Senior Reporter

My mind is a leaky faucet.
The water drips and drops long after my hair is dried
and the patter keeps me from sleep.
Call the plumber again, I can't turn it off.
And please hurry:
If the tub overflows, my socks will be wet.

Misery Bay

By Lauren Fitch

GVL Managing Editor

With a heart-wrenching grace you lap at the shore,
the picture of perfection in your complex simplicity.

The sun sparkles off your diamond-studded crests, giving you the illusion of royalty,
while you simply reflect the best of your surroundings.

You stand a stately cornerstone of the landscape, seemingly unchanging and steadfast,
while a constant movement and evolution flows within your waters.

You are the definition of calm stoicism,
while your temperamental state changes with the winds, revealing your raw
passion and emotion.

The rhythmic crashing of your waves offers comfort,
While the lively tinkling of the icy shards you press to land serve as a sharp reminder of all that can be.

Each individual ripple seems intended personally for me,
while the immense vastness of your body makes me wonder I should dare lay claim
to any part of something so omniscient.

You are perfect because you are everything-
everything I'd like to be.

A Burro Skeleton

Brian B. Sevald

GVL Photo Editor

