

The Valley Vanguard

Monday
January 21, 2008



Saginaw Valley State University's student newspaper since 1966



Vol. 40
No. 15

Spicing up Life

By Kylie Smith-Poisson
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

Five pop icons have captured the heart of Rebecca Kimble, elementary education senior, since she was 12 years old. With the long-awaited reunion of Baby, Posh, Sporty, Ginger, and Scary, she may finally have her chance to meet her idols, the Spice Girls. Kimble is trying to use as many media outlets as are available, including local news sources and the popular social networking site Facebook, to spread the word that she wants to meet the Spice Girls.

See **SPICE**, page A2



Senior Rebecca Kimble is the self-proclaimed biggest fan of the Spice Girls. In light of the reunion tour, she wants to meet them at the concert in Michigan on Feb. 18.

Vanguard photo/Doug Julian

2008 ELECTIONS



Vanguard photo/Adam Baudoux

Columbia law professor and *The Nation* columnist Patricia Williams signs books after her lecture on race and gender playing a part in the coming presidential election.

Columnist visits campus to present lecture on race, gender in presidential election

By Alex Kohut
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

Patricia J. Williams says she fears race and gender are taking center stage in the Democratic presidential primaries.

The James L. Dohr Professor of Law at Columbia University School of Law made the issue her primary focus in her speech Wednesday during a banquet in Curtiss Hall.

"This election isn't about pantsuits or haircuts," Williams said. "It's about due process."

Williams, a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard Law School, blamed the media for placing an em-

phasis on Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton's gender and Barack Obama's race.

She said the "babbling" media's careless choice of words is diverting attention away from true issues such as due process, torture, and the economy.

"This is too important to have two people on the same side wounding each other," Williams said.

The pair of potential presidential candidates squared off against each other in various media outlets in recent weeks over racial and drug issues.

Williams said Black Entertainment Television founder Bob L. Johnson is an example of people with a limited grasp on political workings having a prominent voice thanks to the media.

Johnson, a Clinton supporter, added fuel to the fire Jan. 13 during an appearance at in South Carolina, the site of a Jan. 26 Democratic primary.

The former BET CEO made allusions to Obama's admitted past drug use during the appearance. He issued an apology for his statements later in the week.

Williams, despite her criticisms to-

ward the media, writes a monthly column, "Diary of a Mad Law Professor" for *The Nation* magazine.

She said her journalistic ties prevent her from taking sides between Clinton and Obama, although she sees qualities in both.

"Hillary's shown tremendous resilience after all she's been through," Williams said. "From being questioned about her parenting to being criticized for not being man enough or woman enough, she's survived a lot."

Williams praised Obama's rhetoric, noting it reminded her of Martin Luther King Jr.'s.

Although Williams chooses not to openly support either candidate, she said she does not want to see the media keep making it appear the two are longing for a cat fight with one another.

"This is one of the most serious moral contests we've had," she said. "I want to experience enjoying the first truly strong female and black candidates we've ever had."

Alex Kohut is a creative writing junior. Reach him at akohut@svsu.edu.

HEALTH

Students react to smoking policy

By Sara Kitchen
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

The recent enactment of SVSU's new smoking policy has produced many reactions among smokers and non-smokers alike on campus.

The policy, which began Jan. 1, prohibits smokers from lighting up any place except for in designated parking lots. The former policy prohibited smoking only in areas 25 feet from campus buildings.

SVSU students like freshman Jeremy Hassen find themselves inconvenienced by the new policy. "It's horrible," Hassen said. "You can't smoke where you want to. You can't smoke on your way to class unless you take the long, long way, and you have to leave like half an hour early. You're also out in the cold, and you really have nowhere to sit anymore."

"It has been quite an inconvenience because I used to smoke on the way to my classes, and the new policy makes that nearly impossible," nursing freshman Amanda Lynn said. "However, I have been respecting the policy because it is not worth getting in trouble."

Among those who believe the reformed policy is unfair are computer information systems freshman Josh Armes and English education freshman Addison Spear.

"Since this is a public campus, I believe that I have the right to smoke wherever we please," Armes said. "The school allowed two cult preachers to come to our school and tell us that we are going to hell on the principle that this is a public campus. If that is true, we should also be allowed to smoke where we please."

"I don't think it's fair at all,"

"Since this is a public campus, I believe that we have the right to smoke wherever we please."

JOSH ARMES
COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS SENIOR

"This is just another opportunity for a cunning student to figure out a way around a new set of rules."

ADDISON SPEAR
ENGLISH EDUCATION FRESHMAN

"At least meet us half way and put up smoking shelters around campus."

NICK LAKE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE FRESHMAN

Spear added. "It's completely ridiculous that I have to change my life because a bunch of people can't stand farther away from me. There's probably going to be an increase in people smoking in dorms because of how incredibly unreasonable it is to have to walk to a parking lot to smoke for five minutes."

See **SMOKING**, page A2