



Going out

Nicole Goddeyne checks out Saginaw's hotspots, starting with The Mixx

Full coverage on A7

The Valley Vanguard

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Reading into textbook prices

By Adrian Nida
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

Textbook prices are getting higher and higher. There are reasons for the rise and there are ways that students can get around it ... and still be able to afford dinner.

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Inside

Jump to the Courtyard section to see how textbook prices from the SVSU bookstore, Half.com and Amazon.com compare, and decide if you made the right choice this semester.

CRIME

Townhomes and University Village intruder still at large, police offering reward

By Patrick O'Hara
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

Female on-campus residents and those living in the Cardinal Townhomes need to seriously consider locking their doors at night and reporting any and all suspicious activity, according to SVSU's Chief of Police Ron Trepkowski.

The warning is due to a series of intrusions into female residences by a male that, according to Trepkowski, fits an "extremely vague description."

The suspect is known to be a white male, is roughly five feet eight inches tall, and around 180 pounds. By some accounts, he is recognized as having blonde hair.

The intrusions have occurred since before the fall semester of 2007. Since then, there have been three such cases in University Village, and two in the Townhomes. In at least two of these incidents, the male suspect in question succeeded at exposing himself and masturbating on the beds of the female residents.

"There hasn't been a real pattern to the thing other than the fact that most of the incidents have occurred at four or five in the morning," Trepkowski said.

According to Trepkowski, the University Police don't have much to work with lead-wise, but he said that he understands the quiet urgency of needing to bring such a person to justice.

"At this point we haven't had

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FUNDRAISING

SVSU to host fifth Relay for Life

By Mary Oakley
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

The kick-off party for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life encouraged students to celebrate, remember, and fight back.

The event will take place from Saturday, March 29 at 6 p.m. until Sunday, March 30 at 6 a.m. in the Ryder Center Arena. This is the fifth year SVSU has hosted the event.

Money raised through Relay for Life helps provide various patient services.

According to Community Representative for the American Cancer Society Carrie Oldinski, these services include college scholarships for cancer survivors, a camp for young cancer patients and survivors ages six through 15, and free transportation for local cancer patients needing rides to and from treatment.

"Your American Cancer Society is the largest source of private, not-for-profit cancer research funds in the United States," Oldinski said. "Since 1946, we have provided more than \$3 billion to researchers. Scientists supported by the Society have made great contributions, including establishing the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer."

Members of SA work with Oldinski to put on Relay for Life. Becky Griffin, a biology sophomore, and Angela Seeley, an occupational

therapy senior, are the co-chairs of a committee for the event.

"We're trying to make it a lot bigger," Griffin said. "We started a lot earlier in the year and we've increased our goals for money raise and for teams participating."

"We want as much participation as we possibly we can for those 12 hours," Seeley added.

Last year, SVSU's Relay for Life raised \$27,000. This year, the goal is to have 50 teams participating, raising \$1000 each. As of Friday, 30 teams were registered online and \$1,305 had been raised.

"Anyone can participate," Griffin said. "It's mostly on campus. A lot of student organizations, RSOs, have teams and a lot of offices have teams. Individuals can also create teams with just a bunch of friends."

An average size for teams is 15 people. Teams who want to get involved can register online at events.cancer.org/rflsvsumi. There is no deadline for registration.

SA also holds team captain meetings throughout the fundraising season to keep in touch with the teams.

The first captain's meeting will take place Wednesday at 10 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room.

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ADMINISTRATION

Health building a possibility in 2008

By Aaron Crossen
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

SVSU President Eric Gilbertson said that architectural planning could begin on a proposed health sciences building later this year in the annual State of the University address on Thursday.

The construction of the proposed instructional facility has been delayed by Michigan's ongoing revenue shortfall, which has prevented the state legislature from passing a budget that includes the kind of appropriations necessary for large-scale projects like teaching facilities.

Gilbertson said that the University could not begin construction on the facility until it had procured some state funding for the project.

"State funding is absolutely necessary for the proposed Health and Human Services Building," he said in an e-mail on Saturday. "We have been told that it will be included in the Governor's priority recommendations to the legislature this session."

The health sciences programs are booming at SVSU. According to institutional research data, 9.2 percent of undergraduates were enrolled in nursing programs in fall 2005, 11.3 in fall 2006, and 13.2 percent in fall 2007. The nursing college is currently housed on the second floor of Wickes Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus and the administrative building.

Gilbertson addressed the need

for a new instructional facility in his address.

"We've been talking about this facility for a few years now and have needed it even longer," he said. "But bear in mind that none of the facilities previously completed - not the Regional Education Center, not the Pioneer Hall expansion, not the Science East expansion, not the library expansion, not this performing arts center - came in response to our first suggestion or first request."

Continued fiscal health of SVSU depends on continued strong enrollments

Despite the state's economic problems and Lansing's budgetary woes, SVSU continues to post strong enrollments across the disciplines, besides the gradual decline in the number of students in the teacher education programs.

"The sad truth is that even as a public institution we have become largely tuition dependent - which underscores the importance of enrollments to our fiscal health as well as our basic mission," Gilbertson said.

While student headcount was down in fall 2007, the number of credit hours being taken was up. This reflects an increase in the number of undergraduates and a slight drop in the number of graduate and teacher certification students. Undergraduates tend to take more classes than graduate students, driving the number of credit hours up.

Gilbertson belabored the point, arguing that continued growth is necessary for the long-term financial health of the institution, and that SVSU should expect continued gradual decreases in state funding.

"We shall need to chart our University's future without the

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