



On the Job
with Tonika Arline

Downtime in library café helps history major

Those visiting the Zahnow Library café may notice someone sitting in the corner that's been there an awful long time. That's Tonika Arline, a 19-year-old sophomore from Grand Blanc whose job is to guard the third-floor refreshments and collect money on the handful of orders she gets throughout her six-hour shift. She may be knee deep in history homework or casually reading about Abraham Lincoln, but she's keeping a lookout for any customers and always ready to flash a friendly smile.

"I came up here before and I saw the person sitting here and thought, 'this seems like a cool job,'" Arline says. Her curiosity for the job led her to request the position and when her schedule fit perfectly with the opening that was available, Arline was hired. Though she has only been working in the café since the beginning of the semester, she has already acquired a great fondness for what she does.

"I get paid to do my homework," she says. "I only get about 15 orders over six hours."

When not working in the café or doing her homework, Arline likes to hang out with friends. Her desire to be around people is one of the reasons she chose to join the Organization of Black Unity (OBU) at the beginning of the semester.

"I had heard people talk about it," Arline says about OBU. "The president [of OBU] came to me and we were talking and I decided I could join this semester." As part of OBU, Arline has helped put on activities for Black History Month such as Showtime at the Apollo.

Arline's ultimate goal, though, is to become a history teacher, a path she chose to follow because of her love of history and a few important role models along the way.

A frequent viewer of The History Channel, Arline is especially fond of research on Abraham Lincoln and Christopher Columbus and has participated in a number of heated debates over the two historical figures. This type of passion could easily have come from one of her role models, Mrs. Davis, Arline's fifth and sixth grade teacher.

"I wasn't concentrating and didn't care about school," she says. "But [Davis] stuck with me all through high school. I had forgotten all about her after that but during my ninth grade year she showed up at my house and said, 'I'm just checking up on you to make sure you're okay.' I just love her."

Valley Vanguard Corrections

In regards to an article printed in the Feb. 14 issue of The Valley Vanguard, the location of Matthew Shepard's death was incorrectly stated. He was killed in Wyoming.

The Valley Vanguard strives to report the most accurate news possible. In this section, you will see any possible mistakes corrected. If you happen to notice a bit of incorrect information, feel free to contact us by either e-mail or phone.

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Coming Home awards given

Week ends with strong food drive

By Chaunie Saleans
Vanguard Staff Writer

Over 6,600 canned goods were raised during Coming Home Week, leading to the crowning of the first Coming Home king and queen.

Business sophomore Adam Miller and Psychology junior Elisa Hodge were awarded their respective titles during halftime of the Feb. 19 men's basketball game against Michigan Tech. The two won their crowns after their organizations donated the most cans in their names.

"I was incredibly proud of how many cans we were able to raise," said Mike Simon, director of Student Life. "It really makes a huge impact."

Miller, a representative of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), was "glad to help others" as he and his organization were able to raise over 900 cans. Hodge, a representative from the Forte Hip-Hop Dance Team, said she was "very excited" about being crowned queen, "because this is the first year of having a Coming Home queen and I feel honored to be the first."

In addition to the crowning, the SVSU Dance Team won the Week's organization spirit competition.

The team took first after accumulating the most "spirit points"



Adam Miller and Elisa Hodge are the first-ever Coming Home king and queen.

SMEA book fair begins March 14

Scholastic event will donate new books to local schools, students

By Becky Quayle
Vanguard Staff Writer

The Student Michigan Education Association (SMEA) will be holding their annual Scholastic Book Fair on Monday through Thursday, March 14-17 in the first floor lounge of the Regional Education Center. The fair will begin at 9 am and end at 8 pm each day.

Books for many ages and fields, including teacher resources, multi-cultural, and Caldecott and Newbery award winning chapter books will be for sale. All SVSU faculty and staff members will be eligible to receive one free book with the purchase of four books. Also, customers will be entered into a drawing with their purchase. Each day, two to three people will be drawn to win \$10 in merchandise, with a total of \$100 in prizes being given away.

The SMEA has chosen to receive the funds raised at the fair in the form of books rather than money. This allows them to actually receive twice as much money than they earned, but in the form of books. Some of the books will remain on campus for the use of students in the education field. Most of the books, however, will be given to two local elementary schools, one middle school, and the Regional Education Resource Center (RERC).

Students throughout the entire community will use them, which is the main purpose of this event. "Hopefully, by bringing in the Scholastic Book Fair again this year, we will benefit not only SVSU students, but the local community," says SMEA Vice President Jenny Freeman.



Shannon Tucker performs with the SVSU Dance Team at the Feb. 17 men's basketball game against Michigan Tech. The Dance Team won the Coming Home organizational spirit award.

played their costumes at halftime. Three student groups participated, and the Dance Team won again, recruiting male representatives and dressing them up like Chip and Dale dancers. In second place was SAAC, with one Marilyn Monroe impersonator and a "Texas Hold 'em" card player complete with real chips and cards. Alpha Sigma Alpha took third with an Elton John impersonation.

The events began with a "Vegas Shoot Out," a five-on-five co-ed basketball tournament. Student Organizations recruited non-organization members to play and in all, eight teams hit the courts for some hoop action.

The Living Center North team took first place, but was defeated by the SVSU faculty/staff team. Simon, a member of the triumphant staff team said, "The games were a lot of fun, and it was good to get our pride back - we were beaten pretty badly last year."

Tuesday night, Feb. 15, was "Comedy, Music and Magic," a night of Vegas impersonations by the student organizations.

Although the night had a somewhat small turnout, five organizations participated, each performing an original act based on a Las Vegas performer. Simon wasn't disappointed despite the seemingly small turnout, as the night may have lacked in numbers, but abounded in "the creativity of the acts and performers," he said.

The five acts featured two Blue Man Group impersonations, a Penn and Teller act, a lip sync rendition of Tina Turner's "Rolling on the River," and an original dance by the SVSU Dance Team to "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend."

Three SVSU staff judges judged the acts on creativity, accuracy of impersonation and entertainment, and chose the Dance Team as the winner.

"It was a learning experience," Simon said of the first-year event. "It was fun, and we learned from it, so we look forward to next year."

The men's basketball game on Feb. 17 featured more Vegas impersonations, as student organization representatives dressed up and dis-

played their costumes at halftime. Three student groups participated, and the Dance Team won again, recruiting male representatives and dressing them up like Chip and Dale dancers. In second place was SAAC, with one Marilyn Monroe impersonator and a "Texas Hold 'em" card player complete with real chips and cards. Alpha Sigma Alpha took third with an Elton John impersonation.

Friday, Feb. 18 was the night of the pep rally in the Cardinal Gym. There were performances by cheerleaders, dances by both dance teams, music provided by the SVSU spirit band, and pep talk from the basketball teams and coaches. Residence Life provided free hotdogs, chips, and pop, and over 100 students registered to win a free trip for two to Las Vegas. Simon applauded the night, saying, "There was a lot of support, and everyone had fun."

Immediately after the Pep Rally was Casino Night, featuring games like blackjack, poker, and BINGO. Hundreds of students filled the Multipurpose room with laughter and competition, battling for tokens that could be exchanged for prizes like TVs, chairs, and exercise equipment.

Communications Senior Mindy Eisengruber claimed the Las Vegas trip, which included a hotel, airfare, and transfer expenses for a four-day trip.

A free movie, popcorn, and more giveaways sponsored by the Program Board capped off the end of the week. Close to 200 students wore their pajamas and dragged out their pillows to watch *Ocean's Eleven* after Casino Night.

Simon was especially proud of the fact that this year's Coming Home Week was the first completely planned by students.

"The week was planned and organized by students, for the students," he said. "After all, who knows better than the students?"

TRIP

continued from page 1

Students had to register for the drawing at the pep rally that took place before Casino Night, and could only win if they were present during the drawing.

Contestants submitted their name and contact information on a piece of paper, and then waited for the drawing that took place later in the evening.

According to Eisengruber, she was the first name selected, but many of the people who registered did not show up for the event.

Had others been drawn, they would have had five minutes to claim their prize or else another name would have been drawn.

Eisengruber was happy that she won, but disappointed because very few people attended the pep rally.

"It was okay, but there weren't as many students as I thought," she said of the rally.

Casino Night had a much better turnout than the pep rally, due mainly to Kids and Sibs Weekend, which began that day and lasted through the weekend.

"I played BINGO for most of the night," Eisengruber said.

SA representatives volunteered their services as waitresses and dealers at Casino Night.

"It was laid back," Eisengruber said. "You could just grab your chips and walk around."

Eisengruber, who does not usually gamble, credited Baumgartner for convincing her to attend the pep rally and Casino Night.

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