4-11-2004

How to leave your legacy at the University
Opinion, Page 4

The latest album from Clinic
Arts, Page 5


# The Michigan Daily

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN YEARS OF EDITORIAL FREEDOM

Ann Arbor, Michigan — Friday, April 11, 2003


CAMPUS CUISINE

## Meal plans set for overhaul

**Meal costs will stay the same, Entree Plus to be replaced with 'Dining Dollars'**

By IVY WEI
Daily Staff Reporter

Say goodbye to meal plans as you know them.

Next fall, the University will restructure the on-campus meal plans available to students, replacing plans that allocate a certain number of meals per week to favor of plans that grant students a fixed number of meal credits per semester.

As a result of the change, students will no longer be able to redeem unused meal credits at retail locations for cash, and Entree Plus will be replaced by two separate credit programs called "Blue Bucks" and "Dining Dollars."

Dining Dollars can only be used at dorm convenience stores and in the dining halls to supplement meal credits, while Blue Bucks will be a more flexible option resembling the current Entree Plus system. Blue Bucks will also be redeemable at dormitory dining halls and stores as well as participating off-campus restaurants.

With the change, the meal plans, mandatory for students living in certain dormitories, will average price from last year of about $50 a year.

The changes are meant to simplify the meal plans and give students more flexibility in meeting their dining needs, said Michael Lee, the University's director of Residential Dining Services.

The new standard meal plan, the 150 Block, offers students 150 meals to use in their leisure over the course of a semester, which works out to roughly 10 meals per week.

The deal also provides students with 75 Blue Bucks and 75 Dining Dollars.

The 300 Block plan offers 300 meals to use in their leisure over the course of a semester, which works out to roughly 20 meals per week — and provides 75 Blue Bucks and 75 Dining Dollars to spend.

A third plan offers students only 20 meals per week, but 225 Dining Dollars per semester.

Like Entree Plus, students will be able to add more Blue Bucks or Dining Dollars to their account throughout the semester.

Lisa Rodriguez, Ecker's Whitewater, said she likes the changes.

"I'm not too worried about the meal plan changes," he said. "I like the flexibility and versatility of the current system, and I don't know how accurately all of the new plans will be for students."

The cost of each plan is subject to change until the University Board of Regents approves them. The 150 Block plan is tentatively planned to be $2,685, the 300 Block is $3,685 and the 20 Block is $1,685.

See MEAL PLAN, Page 3

**NEW MEAL DEAL**

Under next year's meal plan, replaced with alternative at last year. Here are the new options:

| PLAN | MEALS/ WEEKLY | DINING DOLLARS | BLUE BUCKS | PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 150 Block | 10 | $75 | $75 | $2,685 |
| 300 Block | 20 | $75 | $75 | $3,685 |
| 20 Block | Unlimited | $225 | $225 | $1,685 |

# ONE SHORT



Michigan hockey players skate off to a standing ovation after losing to Notre Dame in overtime. Notre Dame went on to win the national championship. The Wolverines got 29 shots goals on the Irish overall, but the goal came in the first game.

## Behind early, 'M' falls short in comeback bid

**In a year when Michigan always came through, the end was hard to see**

**Blue climbs back after crumbling, but loses in overtime**

By ANDY REID
Daily Sports Writer

DENVER — Year of the Michigan hockey team's opponents Thursday night produced an easy, knee-jerk-inducing moment: a Notre Dame...

Two games against the Fighting Irish — last night's 5-4 overtime loss in the NCAA semifinals and a loss on Oct. 5 in Ann Arbor — were among the year's most exciting. One replicated the young...



COURTESY KATHOWIAK

Notre Dame in the NCAA semifinals, a team they have come to the regular season. They were playing a team that completely lifted in the CCHA Tourney...

...ment and slipped into the NCAA Tournament. Here though, Michigan started a week to...making-and-blue-sports the national champions.

...day gave one chance taker for granted.

Instead, The Wolverines allowed two goals in the first six...

See RATHKOWIAK, Page 8

Comparisons, however, especially midseason ones, rise to the level of the unfair and ridiculous.

The other called Michigan's overcome giant early.

"It's devastating," freshman Dave Bast said. "Just to see one shot cost your season. I feel bad, but I feel worse for seniors [Bo Chad Nahrstedt and Grant] Potter. They've given so much of it, and their one goal in college hockey is to win a National Championship. It just sucks."

The January game was the Wolverines' first true test of the season. Its head-scratching scenario, UM-6-0 was given 5-0 and seemed destined to overtime, but Ch. Notre Dame scored back into the contest, capping off the...

See HOCKEY, Page 8



State Senator Alma Wilson speaks yesterday to University students in the Michigan Union Ballroom. Wilson is running for Congress in the state's 13th Congressional District.

## Schauer calls for more ed spending

**State senator trying to win U.S. House seat west of A²**

By MATT GALVIN
Daily Staff Reporter

In a question-and-answer session with the University's chapter of the College Democrats last night at the Michigan League, state Senate Minority Leader Mark Schauer said he sympathized with students who were overburdened by student loans.

Schauer is trying to unseat Representative U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Tipton), who represents the 7th Congressional District. The district is largely rural west of Ann Arbor and includes parts of Monroe, Washtenaw, Lenawee and the cities of Jackson and Battle Creek.

Schauer, a Democrat from Bedford Township, told the crowd that the federal government should revamp federal aid programs to make college more affordable and attainable.

Unfortunately, Schauer said, college students are paying high tuition rates because the federal government neglects education funding due to economic recession.

With a record unemployment rate in Michigan at 7.2 percent — about 2 percent higher than the national average — and only 5.6 percent for college graduates, Schauer said investing in higher education is crucial to the state's economic recovery.

"You are an economic development issue," said Schauer, adding that he supports making college programs and increasing financial assistance.

Spending habits were also

See SENATOR, Page 8

STUDENTS AIMING FOR SPACE

## Trying to build a satellite on the cheap

**Cube-shaped spacecraft will take photos of Earth**

By ELAINE LIEAT
Daily Staff Reporter

A team of students from the University's College of Engineering is designing by next summer satellite that will launch into space next year to take pictures of the Earth.

The project, called Michigan Multipurpose Minisat or "M-Cubed," began last summer as the brainchild of three members of the Student Space Systems Fabrication Laboratory, a student aerospace design organization, said Engineering senior Chad Agnew, one of the students who came up with the idea.

The students plan to build a "one cubic" weighing about ten pounds that will map pictures of Earth for about a year before succumbing to the planet's atmosphere.

The satellite will attached to the nose of a rocket launching one of seven or ten satellites in fall 2003 which will take it into space, said Engineering freshman Ben Arnold, a member of the project's design team.

Besides real programming a satellite to take pictures and send them back to Earth was a long and complicated process, requiring nearly a year's worth of designing.

"We need a way to control it, a simple communicator with it, a way to power it," he said.

Instead the team has a miniature cylinder height that can orbit the earth's magnetic, having the group to detect rotation about the satellite's design. It will contain

See SATELLITE, Page 8

WEATHER TOMORROW

GOT A NEWS TIP?

ON THE DAILY BLOG

INDEX

## NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON

### Bush to halt Iraq troop withdrawals

President Bush yesterday ordered an indefinite halt in U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq after July, embracing the key recommendations of his top war commander. Bush said Gen. David Petraeus will "have all the time he needs" to consider when more American forces could return home.

Bush's decisions virtually guarantee a major U.S. presence in Iraq throughout his term in office in January, when a new president takes office.

In another major decision, the president announced he will seek to relieve the heavy strain on the Army by reducing the length of combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan to 12 months, down from the current level of 15 months. He said the change would take effect on Aug. 1, and would not affect U.S. forces already deployed on the front lines.

ROANOKE, Va.

### Family members of Va. Tech victims agree to $11M settlement

Most families of victims of the mass shootings at Virginia Tech have agreed to an $11 million state settlement that will compensate families who lost loved ones, pay survivors' medical costs and avoid a court battle over whether anyone besides the gunman was to blame.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said yesterday a "substantial majority" of families of victims of the Virginia Tech shootings agreed to the settlement.

Peter Grenier and Douglas Fierberg, who represent 21 families, said the settlement was worth more than $11 million, but neither they nor the governor would discuss its terms until final papers are drawn in a few days.

DETROIT

### Obama's former pastor to speak at NAACP dinner

The embattled former minister of Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama has been selected as the keynote speaker for the Detroit branch of the NAACP's 53rd Annual Fight for Freedom Fund dinner.

The civil rights organization said yesterday the Rev. Jeremiah Wright will speak April 27 at the event — which is slated to seat 10,000 — whose past speakers have included Obama, Sen. Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton.

Wright has been criticized for inflammatory remarks about everything from race relations to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He recently retired from Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ.

## Meal plan to replace Entrée Plus, make credits semester-based

**MEAL PLAN** From Page 1

Block plan $1,805 and the unlimited plan $2,045.

University Housing spokesman Peter Logan said meal prices will stay constant despite the changes to the plans.

Logan said inflation and fixed costs like dining hall staff wages and operational costs are the main factors that determine the price of meal plans. Students often neglect to take these costs into account when evaluating meal rates, he said.

The University spent more than a year developing the new plans, he said.

During that time, Residential Dining Services hired a professional consultant, spoke with various student focus groups on campus and consulted with the Residence Halls Association, which acts as the student government of University residence halls.

Dining services issued a survey last year to students living in residence halls and off-campus locations to evaluate their opinions of the University's residential dining services.

After looking at the results, officials found that "students said that the meal plans were too complicated with too many rules," Lee said.

LSA freshman Cassandra Yaple, vice president of public relations for RHA, said her organization played a large role in devising the meal plan changes.

"If we hadn't given the presentations we gave or talked to the board, some of the changes would not have been made," she said. "We gave them suggestions and feedback to improve plans that were different from the original resolutions."

Yaple said that while the new system might seem confusing at first, students will ultimately benefit from the new plan.

"People are confused because it's so different," she said. "Some are happy because Block plans offer more flexibility and convenience, but the new divisions between Dining Dollars and Blue Bucks can be frustrating."

## Students to send satellite into o NASA funding $20,000 in researc

**SATELLITE** From Page 1

hardware purchased in local retail stores that has never been tested in space.

And instead of ordering circuitry and computer chips from space products manufacturers, the team will shop at local electronics stores. For example, the camera on the satellite is one commonly used for security systems in homes and businesses.

"It's not the normal way of taking pictures in space," Dontchev said.

To reduce costs, the University's Amateur Radio Club will share its radio communication equipment with M-Cubed so the group can communicate with the satellite while it's in space.

Gmerek said using cheaper, unspecialized parts has presented some challenges.

"It'll be risky, but it's worth the trouble," he said. "We can save thousands and thousands of dollars."

Through a simplified design, the project's total cost is estimated at about $120,000, he said.

The project is the first of its kind for the University, Dontchev said.

The M-Cubed team is one of about 60 student groups designing satellites for the CubeSat Project, a California Polytechnic State University program which does space-based university research.

CPSU will cover the $40,000 launch expenses. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration will also pick up a good chunk of the tab in the form of two research grants — one for $20,000 and a second of a value yet to be announced.

Gmerek said outside funding would cover most of the expenses to build the satellite.

Rackham student Kartik Ghorakavi, one of the chief engineers of the project, said the team would run tests on the parts it plans to use in the satellite to make sure they will be functional in space.

Tests will imitate the conditions the satellite will experience, like intense radiation from the sun, vacuum pressure and harsh temperature extremes.

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