The Society of Freethinkers, an organization fostering discussion of secular issues, has been denied official recognition by UD for the third time in two years.

In a letter addressed to the group’s leadership on Friday, Feb. 1, the university cited a discrepancy between the Catholic, Marianist identity of the school and the organization’s activities. Many of the members of the group identify themselves as atheist or agnostic.

In granting recognition to an organization on campus, the university allows UD’s name to be associated with the group. Thus, “the University reserves the right not to endorse organizations that are contrary to our Catholic, Marianist principles,” according to the university’s rejection letter as posted on SOFT’s Facebook page.

“We’re people that believe something differently, or don’t believe something,” senior entrepreneurship and leadership major Colin McGrath said. “It causes some angst.”

The group was first denied recognition as an official organization in August 2011.

In the months preceding the most recent decision and after SOFT’s second attempt for official recognition, the organization worked to revise its core documents in hopes of winning an appeal, according to group leadership.

While still denying SOFT in its revised application, UD “appreciate[s] the respectful dialogue and thoughtful changes [SOFT] made to its application for official status as a student organization,” according to the rejection letter.

The most recent rejection has the group’s leadership looking for answers and other avenues for official recognition by the university. This time, the group will not have the ability to appeal the decision, according to McGrath.

SOFT’s mission statement includes a goal to “reduce the stigma associated with a lack of faith and foster acceptance of freethinkers, encourage understanding and respectful discourse between people of different faiths (including those with none),” according to SOFT’s constitution as adopted by its members.

The group consists of around 15 members but has had upwards of 30 students participate in its meetings, according to McGrath.

Its constitution says SOFT hopes to “organize activities, such as forums for discussion, guest speakers and debates that educate UD and surrounding community.”

“We don’t just focus on religion,” McGrath said. “We like to see ourselves as a group of students interested in intellectual conversations outside of the Catholic lens,” he said.

Branden King, a graduate student studying biology, said that universities similar to UD acknowledge freethinking groups on campus.

“DePaul University has a recognized secular student organization. As far as I know, that group hasn’t destroyed the Catholic identity of the school,” he said.

McGrath said, “We were attempting to be a group on campus to serve the need of students who are of secular or non-religious backgrounds.”

According to group leaders, official recognition would allow SOFT access to UD buildings for meetings and possible events.

“Young people are well within its rights to deny SOFT recognition in the same light as other student organizations. He also said that the move is “anti-academic” and hopes the university will see positives in allowing the group to advertise and act as other organizations.

“We want to be part of the inter-faith dialogue,” King said. At time of publication, attempts were made to reach university officials for comments on SOFT’s denial but were unsuccessful.
THE TICKER

MAN SELLING HEROIN CLAIMS IT’S MEDICINE
Police arrested Richard Deitz, 52, Wednesday after receiving tips that he was at a house on East Third Street possibly selling drugs. Deitz, wanted for disorderly conduct, a traffic violation and a probation violation, claimed the .72 grams of heroin in his pill bottle were medicine. He was booked on several misdemeanor and felony drug charges at Montgomery County Jail.
Information from Dayton Daily News

FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION
Dayton community members are invited to attend a Fat Tuesday celebration at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at Taste in Dayton. The celebration will feature Mardi Gras-style food and cocktails. The event is free to enter.
Information from events.active dayton.com

UD ART SERIES
A concert featuring selections from Michael Mizrahi’s recently released album “The Bright Motion” and other contemporary works will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 in Sears Recital Hall. Admission for UD students is $5.

CAB: PRICE IS RIGHT
The Campus Activities Board invites students to attend its version of the Price is Right at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at Kennedy Union’s Ball Theatre. Students will have the chance to win prizes including a TV, UD apparel, N64, XBOX and others.

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM
ArtStreet will be showing “Won’t Back Down,” a film portraying the struggle inner city mothers faced in transformed their children’s schools at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, in ArtStreet Studio B. James Farrellly will host the event.

LOCAL

POSTAL SERVICE CUTS SATURDAY MAIL
The U.S. Postal Service announced Wednesday that they will stop delivering mail on Saturdays, although packages will be dispersed six days a week. The service, which is struggling financially, is hoping to save $2 billion annually.
Information from huffingtonpost.com

MONOPOLY ANNOUNCES CAT AS NEW PIECE
Hasbro decided Wednesday to replace the iron and bring in a cat as the new piece in Monopoly. Fans of the board game were invited to vote on their favorite piece. Most fans supported the Scottie dog.
Information from cnn.com

CAMPUS

LIVE STREAMING MUSIC. NO APP REQUIRED.

ST. LOUIS
A Domino’s pizza delivery man was robbed Tuesday night in St. Louis County. Police said the driver was approached by a gun man around 10:30 p.m. The robber demanded the driver’s cash and cigarettes. The driver was not injured during the incident.
Information from stltoday.com

CHICAGO
The city of Springfield proposed a possible 25 cent tax on gym shoes Tuesday, Feb. 5. The city is looking to aid programs for high school dropouts get jobs or go back to college. The proposal faces challenges from business groups representing shoe store owners.
Information from the Chicago Tribune

PITTSBURGH
A Pittsburgh woman was rescued by her husband from a car fire Feb. 5 on the North Side. The couple had been driving on Brighton Road and noticed smoke coming from the back of their car. Moments after the man removed his wife from the car, it burst into flames. The couple was not injured during the incident.
Information from wpix.com

CHINA
Beijing: Advertisements suggesting “gift giving” were recently banned from television by the Chinese TV watchdog. Ads were allegedly publicizing incorrect values and created a bad social ethos according to the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television.
Information from us.chinadaily.com

SAUDI ARABIA
Tabuk University announced they had successfully built a drone to monitor floods and send rain reports Monday, Feb. 4. The drones, constructed by students, are made out of high-quality fiber and other materials. The drone was named Saham 2.
Information from arabnews.com

NATIONAL

PIANO RECITAL
MICHAEL MIZRAHI
SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 10
3PM SEARS RECITAL HALL
Check out this rising star! Pianist Michael Mizrahi’s most recent album—The Bright Motion—was just recognized as one of 2012’s best by Time Out Chicago. This concert will feature some of the highly praised (and listenable) contemporary compositions from that new release, but also give the audience a sample of Mizrahi’s great mastery of the classics.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.UDAYTON.EDU/ARTS
**UD grad had passion for life, teaching**

SUE GOGNIAT  
Staff Writer

“Confidence has risen dramatically in my character and personality ... I tend to find the good in everyone and everything.”

That’s what 2012 University of Dayton graduate John William “Will” Ford Mohr said in his scholarship essay for the American Cancer Society. Mohr, an education major, passed away on Jan. 26 after a five-and-a-half-year battle with osteosarcoma, a cancerous bone tumor.

He was 22 years old.

“He kept us all upbeat, even during the five and a half years he was sick,” said Valerie Mohr. Will Mohr’s mother and associate director of endowment stewardship at UD.

“He was laidback,” his mother said. “He approached life like he was going to be there.”

Will Mohr had six separate surgeries, five of which were during his time as a UD student.

Valerie Mohr said that she can only think of one or two times that he was down about it. He was always smiling, she said.

Will Mohr worked as a teacher at Smith Middle School in Vandalia and substituted for Huber Heights and Tipp City schools until health problems prevented him from continuing, according to his mother. His goal was to work as a middle school math and social studies teacher. Valerie Mohr said that when people told him that teaching middle school age students is really challenging, he would respond that every age has its challenges.

“Teaching came natural to him,” Valerie Mohr said. “He had good reviews when he did his student teaching.”

Though Mohr struggled with his health during his four years at UD, he spent time as an education tutor at DECA and as a peer mentor for the UD School of Education. Like any other UD student, Mohr enjoyed hanging out with friends, watching television and going to basketball games. He also spent time with his girlfriend Courtney Perkins, an education major and 2012 graduate.

“We met on the first day of classes,” said Perkins, who is currently teaching at Fairmont High School in Kettering. “It was our first class freshman year, and he just happened to sit in front of me.”

Mohr and Perkins walked back to Stuart Hall together and started talking. The two began dating shortly after.

Perkins said that it was amazing how many people did not know Mohr had cancer. People did not notice it because he tried not to make it a big deal, she said. Even his roommates didn’t know for a long time.

“I was lucky to have met him and to have been a part of it,” Perkins said.

Valerie Mohr said Will Mohr never gave up in his battle with cancer. If there was something new to try to help his cancer, he was ready to try it.

“His struggle was big and he did not win it,” Valerie Mohr said. “But a lot of people have struggles, and they should look to Will, and be ready to fight the fight.”

In honor of Mohr’s love for teaching, an endowment scholarship, the Will Mohr Scholarship, has been set up for middle school education majors at UD. Memorial contributions may be sent to the University of Dayton designated for the Will Mohr Scholarship.

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**Career Fair offers job opportunities for students**

MEREDITH WHELCHEL  
Asst. News Editor

University of Dayton students should suit up to meet employers and graduate schools from the 159 organizations participating in the spring career fair from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11, at the UD arena.

According to Chris Wiley, the associate director for Career Services, the university hosts career fairs throughout the academic year to provide students and alumni an opportunity to create professional relationships, and potentially gain employment.

“We’re excited to connect students with the 159 companies and grad schools currently registered for the event,” Wiley said. “They’re excited to see what our students have to offer.”

As of Tuesday, Feb. 5, 143 companies and 16 graduate schools were registered for the fair, she said.

Wiley explained although past career fairs have been in the College Park Center, the fair has outgrown the space.

A shuttle service will also be transporting students beginning at 12:30 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. The shuttle will leave from the front of the UD RecPlex on Evanston Avenue, according to the Career Services’ website.

Students with cars can drive to the arena without worrying about parking permits, according to Wiley.

To prepare for the fair, Wiley said researching companies in advance highlights a student’s eagerness and enthusiasm for the position.

Preparing a 30-second personal pitch to present to recruiters also demonstrates a student’s ability to sell themselves as employees, according to Wiley.

“You want to tell employers what you’re bringing to the table,” she said. “Tell them a little bit about yourself, your employment aspirations, etc. You want to pique their interest and let them know you want the job.”

Liz Kimball, a 2010 UD alumna, said she was intimidated the first time she went to the fair her freshman year.

“I was in the CORE program and my professor offered us extra credit to go to the event,” Kimball said. “I was a little terrified when I walked in but the recruiters are so nice. You just have go in and be confident.”

Kimball, now a senior sales recruitment leader for Total Quality Logistics in Chicago, said she first became involved with the company through the fair. TQL is the nation’s second largest freight brokerage firm, according to their website.

“I got an internship after I went my freshman year,” Kimball said. “And during my sophomore year, I contacted an alumnus working there through the system on Hire a Flyer and got another position.”

Wiley said she strongly encourages students to dress for the occasion and wear a professional suit, if possible.

With a suit on and company knowledge prepared, students should bring copies of their résumé to the event, Wiley said. Although many companies are moving toward an online application, students should not be discouraged if employers do not accept the physical document.

“If a situation occurs where an employer asks you to apply online, you should listen,” Wiley said. “Complete the application online then send them an email telling them you followed through. Making that connection at the career fair will help them put a face to the name when they see your application.”

Career Services will be offering a preparation workshop for those interested in attending the fair at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at the Alumni House on L Street. For more information on the career fair, visit udayton.edu/careerservices.

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UD senior making name for himself in political scene

BYRON HOSKINSON
Staff Writer

Students made a wave during the last presidential election, but one University of Dayton student made an impact from behind the scenes of the campaign.

Daniel Rajaiah, a senior who was once a chemical engineering major before switching to political science, is the main person responsible for the creation of the College Democrats of Ohio chapter at UD. He said that when he arrived on campus as a freshman in 2009 he noticed that the university had a College Republicans chapter but the College Democrats had no representation.

“That bothered me,” Rajaiah said, “and it pushed me to start a chapter here.”

The CDO then asked him to join their executive board as campaign director where he was put in charge of starting up new chapters across Ohio campuses. He held that position for two years, until March of 2012, when he successfully ran for president of the CDO.

Since then Rajaiah has done more of the same. Much more, in fact.

“I’ve traveled to about 25 different college campuses this past fall, working to build up new College Democrat chapters,” he said.

The organization has quadrupled since his initial involvement, going from 10 to 40 chapters since 2009, with growth expected to continue at that rate.

Under Rajaiah’s leadership, the CDO has additionally focused on promoting the registration of young voters, registering over 1,100 UD students last semester alone. Rajaiah, a Cincinnati native, told Cincinnati.com that across the state, the CDO “registered 43,000 students to vote in 2012 and will continue working to show young Ohioans that when it comes to student issues, it is the Ohio Democratic Party that stands up for them.”

Aside from heading one of the largest political organizations of college students in the state, Rajaiah has worked closely with Sen. Sherrod Brown, Ohio’s two-term senior Senator and a former House of Representatives member.

Rajaiah worked as a legislative intern in Brown’s office in Washington, D.C. and on his re-election campaign over the summer of 2012.

Rajaiah described his interning responsibilities as half office management and half legislative projects, in which he worked with Brown’s environmental assistant and attended hearings and briefings. Other duties included greeting visitors to the office, speaking with constituents and leading the occasional tour of the U.S. Capitol Building.

“It was a real honor to work in the public sector but it was a very hard job,” he said, concluding that it was a worthwhile experience. “There’s a real honor in being able to say that you’re serving your country.”

Brown released a comment to Flyer News saying that “Ohio students – like Daniel – exemplify how strong families, teachers and Ohio communities continue to produce the next generation of world-class leaders. An internship allows students from either Ohio schools or Ohio communities to serve their state while gaining invaluable experience by working on a wide range of projects.”

Rajaiah said that it has been difficult striking a balance between political activism and working towards a college degree.

“It gets tough juggling this stuff,” he said. “Sleepless nights, calls in the middle of class. I’ve come late to class because of an interview with the media. But at the end of the day, I’m here for a degree.”

Human Rights Week connects students across campus

MARGIE POWELL
Staff Writer

Human Rights Week is pushing UD students to think outside the box, as students from all majors will be able to connect to this year’s events in meaningful ways, according to Human Rights Committee President Anna Syburg.

Outside of the usual disciplines associated with human rights studies, such as history, sociology, religion and political science, students majoring in engineering, business and education will be able to learn about human rights, and more importantly, how current rights issues relate to their field of study.

Human Rights Week is led by the Human Rights Week Committee under the direction of Syburg, a sophomore history and young adolescence education double major. Jake Rettig, a junior criminal justice and political science double major, is the organization’s co-president.

The committee is based upon the principal of “human rights, different insights, one mission.”

This mission laid the groundwork for this year’s Human Rights Week, said Rettig and Syburg. It gave them the inspiration to branch out into different majors and educate people across the university.

Each day of Human Rights Week will attempt to build bridges across the different schools on campus. Starting with human rights expression through the fine arts yesterday, Monday, Feb. 11, will then focus on the School of Education, Tuesday, Feb. 12, will concentrate on the School of Arts and Sciences, Wednesday, Feb. 13, emphasizes the relationship with the School of Business and Thursday, Feb. 14, links human rights technology to the School of Engineering and the Geology Department, said Natalie Hudson, director of the Human Rights Studies Program.

The event started yesterday with a kick-off event with the Dayton’s Gay Men Chorus and a
The UD basketball team huddles together between plays during a game against St. Joseph’s University at UD Arena, Feb. 6. ETHAN KLOSTERMAN/MANAGING EDITOR

HUMAN RIGHTS
(cont. from p. 4)

one-act show called “Loyalties,” presented by UD’s Studio Theatre, said Syburg.

Syburg said David Taylor, president of the Dayton Early College Academy, will speak on Monday on the struggles of the Dayton school systems, and how DECA tries to respond to the basic right to education.

On Tuesday, Michelle Alexander will talk about the current prison system, and how new drug laws have led to more minorities in prison, Syburg said.

On Wednesday, Peter McGrath, a UD alumnus, will present the week’s keynote address. McGrath has become a major supporter of human rights research and education at UD, particularly through the establishment of the McGrath Human Rights Research Fellowship program, said Hudson.

McGrath first became aware of human rights issues abroad when he worked as a senior executive for J.C. Penney, Hudson said.

McGrath will speak about his experiences regarding corporate responsibility and the challenges of protecting workers’ rights in today’s globalized economy.

Finally, on Thursday, there will be a workshop on learning how to use the Geographic Information and Systems Technology. GIS helps to track the movements of large groups of people, and the geology department will give a certification to anyone who agrees to take the courses offered in the subject, said Rettig and Syburg.

Both believe that the week will be a great success, relating back to all majors across UD’s campus.

It is advised to come to more events than just the ones sanctioned to your school and to bring a friend with you, Rettig said.

There are also two off-campus events for Human Rights Week, with a Buffalo Wild Wings takeover on Tuesday and a Bad Frog takeover on Thursday.

For more information, email Syburg at syburga1@udayton.edu.

In Kettering. Now hiring part-time cooks, servers, bus persons and dish washers. Flexible schedule around your school needs. No experience necessary, willing to train. Apply in person at 424 E. Stroop Road in Town and Country Shopping Center.

Enjoy Spring Break in a safe, quiet family environment. Sea Foam Motel, Panama City Beach, Florida. 1-800-970-FOAM.

Meet new friends working with our young, fun staff at Figlio Italian Bistro located minutes from campus in Kettering. Now hiring part-time cooks, servers, bus persons and dish washers. Flexible schedule around your school needs. No experience necessary, willing to train. Apply in person at 424 E. Stroop Road in Town and Country Shopping Center.

Houses for rent Fall 2013. 416 Lowes 6 students, 31 Woodland 3 students, UDGhetto.com for info.


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Zombie movie offers fresh take on romantic comedy

LANEY GIBSON
Staff Writer

“Warm Bodies” is the film adaptation of Isaac Marion’s novel of the same name, and is potentially the most uplifting film about zombies and the most creative romantic comedy to premiere this year, earning $19.5 million in its opening weekend, giving it the No. 1 spot at the box office.

I had rather low expectations, considering I am not the biggest fan of romantic comedies. I also was disappointed I forgot to read the book beforehand. However, I am a fan of zombies and was curious to see how a walking corpse could be made cuddly and sweet.

The film opens with a sad, lost zombie who can only remember that his name begins with an “R.” Through a witty internal monologue we learn he actually dislikes being undead. He eventually meets a pretty blonde named Julie, played by Teresa Palmer.

“R” falls in love and begins to mysteriously learn how to be human again. The only problem is Julie’s father and leader of the remaining humans, played by John Malkovich, does not believe that zombies can change.

The character of “R” is played by Nicholas Hoult, who is comically charming as the lonely, undead zombie, and is probably the most lovable zombie in recent memory. He provides the audience with a character that they can understand and sympathize with despite the fact that he is not living. He is also hilarious. The film almost satirizes zombies, but in a tasteful and creative way. Hoult’s spot-on acting and somehow funny zombie grunting makes the movie charming and anything but dull.

Palmer, plays “R’s” love interest, and eerily reminds me of Kristen Stewart. Except that Palmer is blonde and shows emotion.

Palmer is a brave character; she stands up to her father and sees the good in “R,” while others would not. In the small running time of only one hour and 37 minutes, Julie manages to play a dynamic character, and not simply a cardboard cutout of a love interest.

Within the movie, there are many scenes of comedy, but as expected those are accompanied by scenes of sadness, as most apocalypse movies include. These moments were not overly done, but instead provided a sense of believability besides the humor. Dave Franco, who plays Julie’s ex-boyfriend Perry, surprisingly adds a side story that provides a more serious tone, giving the characters more depth.

Additionally, there had to be some sort of villain, since “R” turns out to be one of good guys.

The film creates monsters called “bonies,” which are insane-ly creepy skeletal creatures who will eat anything with a heart. I previously thought zombies were the most terrifying living dead creatures. I was wrong. The added horror prevented the movie from being too cheesy and will please fans of classic zombie violence and action.

The film is a very creative take on the typical zombie genre, or even romantic comedy genre.

The audience will find aspects of the zombie existence curiously parallel to our own. Without begging people down with clichés, the story brings to light the human experience in a happy inspiring manner through the eventual friendship of zombie and humans.

Even if you are not the biggest fan of romance, the film will satisfy most audiences and would be a lovely alternative to the typical Valentine’s Day movies.
Concert Campus Committee selects artists to battle Feb. 23

AMANDA DEE
Staff Writer

Future rockers at the University of Dayton are preparing for the upcoming Battle of the Bands. On Saturday Feb. 23, in the Kennedy Union Pub, four bands will compete at Battle of the Bands. The annual event, hosted by the Campus Concert Committee, starts at 8 p.m. and allows each band 25 minutes of playing time.

At the preliminary auditions that happened first semester, bands were required to play two original compositions while members of the CCC judged and eliminated all but four bands: Lauren Elyise and the Part Time Lovers, Brandon and the Brown Bag Bandits, Schneider and Co. and Dave Zup.

These musicians will now battle to win a chance to headline the upcoming spring concert.

Senior music education major Willie Morris IV formed the band that would later be a Battle of the Bands winner, Customer Service and the Gem City Horns, as a community arts project last year.

He said the band attracted more attention than he anticipated, and they began getting gigs and entered into last year’s Battle of the Bands.

“We were absolute underdogs at last year’s battle when it came to popularity and experience, but we came through to win a landslide victory,” Morris said.

“We got the opportunity to open for Lupe Fiasco, record some demos and kick start into the UD music scene.”

Morris will perform trumpet with Gem City again at this battle, but he will not compete. He wants another band to continue its dream and have a chance to experience what Gem City was able to achieve.

In the four years since its creation, CCC has managed to book Guster, Ben Folds, Jack’s Mannequin and, most recently, Lupe Fiasco.

Consisting solely of University of Dayton students, the CCC aims to offer students and the Dayton community medium-to-large-scale concerts.

According to Eileen Carr, arts series manager Eileen Carr, the categories for judging include technical ability, stage presence and overall performance. The crowd votes and determines the remaining 60 percent of the final score.

If students buy tickets early, they enter in a raffle for two free plane tickets from Spirit Airlines.

For $3 cash or $4 on Flyer Express, listen to live music and decide the fate of one of four bands.

Adventurous, critically-acclaimed pianist to perform at UD

KATIE CHRISTOFF
Lead A&E Writer

Internationally-recognized alternative pianist Michael Mizrahi will play a concert at the University of Dayton this weekend as part of the UD Arts Series.

The concert will start at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, in the Poll Theatre. Tickets are $5 for students, $10 for faculty and staff, and general admissions tickets cost $15. Tickets are available at the Box Office in Kennedy Union.

Mizrahi released an album, “The Bright Motion,” to critical acclaim last May. The album served as an attempt to resurrect the piano as a popular part of music, he said.

This will be Mizrahi’s first trip to Dayton.

“I am very much looking forward to it,” he said.

In the past, Mizrahi has played at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, Tokyo’s Suntory Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Mizrahi is also the founder and member of two musical groups, NOW Ensemble and Moet Trio. He promotes music education and is currently assistant professor of piano at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wis.

“I appreciate the cross-pollination of ideas that a liberal arts environment can provide,” Mizrahi said. “I perform at colleges frequently, and enjoy the opportunity to connect with the next generation of performers and audiences.”

Arts Series manager Eileen Carr said she believes that Mizrahi’s music will appeal to college students because of his alternative edge.

Carr said this concert will serve as a good introduction for people who are not yet familiar with piano concerts, and that Mizrahi’s music is approachable and personable.

Mizrahi’s concert will mostly feature work from his new album, but he will also play two songs by Beethoven and one by Chopin.

He said this juxtaposition allows both the performer and the audience to hear each piece with fresh ears.

“It’s not your typical classical piano concert,” Carr said.

She first became familiar with Mizrahi’s music because of the highly regarded label his deal is under called New Amsterdam Records.

“It has many experimental, adventurous and interesting sounds,” Carr said of the label, and said that Mizrahi fits the description well.

“We were interested in having him perform as part of the Arts Series because he is a really great classically trained artist,” Carr said. “He has challenged conventional ideas about art.”

She encourages students to take advantage of this opportunity, especially anyone interested in alternative music. Carr said his music contains a lot of parallels to contemporary alternative music.

“Students should take a much-needed break on a Sunday afternoon and come see this concert,” she said.

For more information on Mizrahi and his music, visit his website at michaelmizrahipiano.com. His latest album, “The Bright Motion,” is available on iTunes.
DESPITE LACK OF RECOGNITION, SOFT SPURRED DEBATE, DISCUSSION

Last year, Flyer News brought the struggle between the Society of Freethinkers and the University of Dayton to the forefront of our community conversation. Doing so was in keeping with our mission of serving the campus community in a manner befitting of a Catholic, Marianist university.

The question of SOFT recognition encouraged vigorous debate all throughout campus. In many ways, the issue raises questions regarding the very nature and purpose of the university – if not the very nature and purpose of our existence as human beings.

Flyer News was proud to facilitate that conversation. Community members from all sides of the debate voiced their thoughts and positions to Flyer News. Soon, Religion News Service wrote a story about the debate, and the Washington Post and USA TODAY syndicated the story online.

Flyer News was cautious, however, to maintain a clear delineation between our objective news reporting and our opinion section. To this day, Flyer News has never endorsed or opposed recognition of SOFT. Nor have we succumbed to any real or perceived pressure from UD administration. We are neither the mouthpiece of the SOFT, nor the mouthpiece of the UD administration.

As with many organizations before it, SOFT discovered a duality of the private university: the First Amendment effectively ends at the schoolhouse gate. We see this throughout the university. Student political organizations are prohibited from distributing candidate literature, bed sheets on houses are taken down, and the dismal list goes on.

Nevertheless, questions regarding the First Amendment rights of university students are central to discerning the true nature of a university that claims “Pro Deo et Patria” – for God and country – as its motto. This is especially true given the university’s liberty to operate under the same Constitutional guarantees it shows to itself.

Today, as before, we neither endorse nor oppose recognition of SOFT. As an editorial staff, we’re simply unable to reconcile our diverse opinions regarding the subject. We do, however, acknowledge what we believe to be evident: that SOFT’s presence in our university community aroused conversations regarding faith and reason in a way that reminded us why we came here, “to ask the big questions and then work to discover the answers.”

The university’s marketing promised it to us as perspective students. SOFT’s presence in the community delivered it.

The question of SOFT recognition encouraged vigorous debate all throughout campus. In many ways, the issue raises questions regarding the very nature and purpose of the university – if not the very nature and purpose of our existence as human beings.

Flyer News was proud to facilitate that conversation. Community members from all sides of the debate voiced their thoughts and positions to Flyer News. Soon, Religion News Service wrote a story about the debate, and the Washington Post and USA TODAY syndicated the story online.

Flyer News was cautious, however, to maintain a clear delineation between our objective news reporting and our opinion section. To this day, Flyer News has never endorsed or opposed recognition of SOFT. Nor have we succumbed to any real or perceived pressure from UD administration. We are neither the mouthpiece of the SOFT, nor the mouthpiece of the UD administration.

As with many organizations before it, SOFT discovered a duality of the private university: the First Amendment effectively ends at the schoolhouse gate. We see this throughout the university. Student political organizations are prohibited from distributing candidate literature, bed sheets on houses are taken down, and the dismal list goes on.

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DESPITE LACK OF RECOGNITION, SOFT SPURRED DEBATE, DISCUSSION

Last year, Flyer News brought the struggle between the Society of Freethinkers and the University of Dayton to the forefront of our community conversation. Doing so was in keeping with our mission of serving the campus community in a manner befitting of a Catholic, Marianist university.

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The university’s marketing promised it to us as perspective students. SOFT’s presence in the community delivered it.
The Society of Freethinkers was an idea born out of the longing for a community of secular students who happened to attend the University of Dayton, a Catholic institution. If you happened to be one of these students, the campus could be a lonely place, where those who admitted they had a secular worldview were often met with fear and distrust. In addition to building this community, the second goal of the group was to reduce the stigma between religious and secular students by creating a forum for discussion among the two groups.

When SOFT was first proposed to the university, we were immediately denied recognition with the option to appeal the decision the following semester. We were told that our use of the term "freethinker" was offensive as it implied those of faith were “incapable of thinking freely.”

Furthermore, we were told another reason we wouldn’t be recognized is that they were unsure of the interest, even though the organization met every requirement laid out by the student handbook. Our denial of recognition meant that we could not post flyers on campus and could not set up tables to let other secular students know that a community of people like them does exist on this campus.

Our inability to advertise on campus led us to using social media and the student newspaper to get our message out. Flyer News embraced us, and weekly articles on our group’s meetings and struggle for recognition turned SOFT into the most discussed group at the university. My inbox swelled with messages from current students interested in the group, alumni who were happy to see that this niche was finally being filled, tenured professors supporting us over the administration’s decision and untutored professors who appreciated what we were doing, but couldn’t openly support it for fear of their jobs.

SOFT started as an idea among five students and became one of the university’s most active groups. We had more than 50 members, about half of whom were religious, and our discussions during this time elicited a diverse array of opinions, all of which were respected. SOFT became the only student-led forum for discussion among religious and secular students.

In the midst of this growth, our articles in the student newspaper caught the attention of local newspapers, online blogs and even some national media outlets. UD’s administration was not very pleased with this publicity, in which they were rightfully being identified as bigots, and they said that the later decisions to deny us recognition were, in part, because of this media attention.

We stood accused by Dr. Daniel Curran, university president, of going public in a “bad way” even though the media sought us out, and not the other way around. The university’s fear of atheism, however, was the root of all the unwanted press. All this media attention would have been avoided if we were simply allowed to advertise on campus.

In May 2012, we had been denied recognition again, but we were told that we could appeal it for the following semester. When school began in the fall semester, we were eager to let everyone know we were still here, as many of our members had graduated. Still unable to advertise with flyers and tables, some students hung up posters on their houses that announced our first meeting. When the university caught wind of this, they demanded the posters be taken down, and told us we were not allowed to have the meeting at the planned location, a student member’s house. This occurred less than 24 hours before the meeting, and many students who had planned on showing up interpreted this as the university shutting down our group.

As of February, we have been denied recognition again, this time without appeal. All we ever sought was equal recognition for a marginalized group on campus and to bridge the gap between religious and secular students. We played by the university’s rules every step of the way, and every time we met their requirements, they’d set out another arbitrary hoop for us to jump through.

We will only ever be seen by the administration as a group of students who don’t believe in God, and that is how they justify their decision to refuse us the same resources offered to other student groups, which include LGBTQ, Islamic, Jewish and campus democrat groups who contradict the Catholic dogma, too.

The University of Dayton feels that a group such as ours is unfit to be recognized by the university; as such, we find company with the likes of the Sigma Chi fraternity. This fraternity had their recognition revoked because a has full of its drunken members left bodily fluids all over a gas station on the way back to UD from Columbus, and allegedly some of these individuals committed a sex act on the premises.

Meanwhile, as a graduate student, I teach introductory biology courses to UD students, and have mentored some of my lab to prepare them for graduate school or medical school.

I’m writing this letter from San Francisco, as I represent the school at an international, scientific conference. In spite of all of this, the university feels justified in treating our group as they would a group of undergraduate kids who can’t hold their liquor. UD’s website page on diversity initiatives states the following: “At the University of Dayton, diversity isn’t a buzzword. It has been a vital part of our identity for more than 150 years. Inclusiveness of all peoples, cultures and religions is what defines the core of our Marianist tradition.”

Thousands of our students study abroad or participate in immersion retreats. As a result, you’ll find a university zealously committed to creating an open, respectful and inclusive campus.”

Quite a bold claim. US News gives UD a diversity index of 0.17, ranking 250 out of the 360 national universities that are ranked, lower than Brigham Young University and Miami University. If you happen to have a worldview that is not consistent with theirs, don’t expect the administration to value that view in the slightest. Having spent seven years at the university, I can say that the only culture that permeates the entire campus is the drinking culture. A very bright student of mine whom I mentored in lab transferred out of the university due to verbal and physical abuse that she received from her constantly drunk roommates. It is infuriating to lose a talented scientist because of the community at this school, and then to find out that the existence of SOFT is the “problem” that the administration decides to focus on.

Though we were promised by Dr. Curran that he would reopen the discussion for our group, I strongly question whether an honest debate actually took place. The committee that decided our group’s fate was composed of the provost, Joseph Saliba, the head of campus ministry, Crystal Sullivan, and the rector and vice president for mission, the Rev. Jim Flit S.M.; these three bigots feared our every move since they first heard about us, and since they made up over half of the committee, we never stood a chance.

In order to save face, they will say that they’ve offered us resources, but these resources come with the caveat that we can’t use our group’s name on campus. We attempted to put together a speaker series for this school year, but it was to be advertised as a program organized by campus ministry, the very people who are responsible for our suppression. It is absolutely unacceptable for us, and quite a slap in the face, to be expected to do all the legwork while giving the credit to the bigots who are trying to silence us.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter, and it does hurt to know that our efforts amounted to nothing in the eyes of the University of Dayton. I’ve been at this school for seven years, and for the last two, I’ve been trying my best to make this campus a better place for its students, especially a minority group that is being suppressed by the administration.

I want to apologize to all the students, both secular and religious, who gave our club the most fascinating conversations on campus. I am sorry for my inability to do more. We only want to be treated equally, to be afforded the same resources as all the other student organizations, nothing more. It is a shame that their fear of us is causing them to make decisions that are inconsistent with their mission statement and the values they claim to espouse.

BRANDEN KING
SOFT PRESIDENT

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Men’s Basketball

DI LLARD LEADS FLY ERS BY SJU IN FINAL MINUTES

STEVEN WRIGHT
Sports Editor

Leading by two with 55 seconds remaining, the University of Dayton men’s basketball team found itself in a scenario it has regularly come out of on the wrong side this season.

Behind 23 points from redshirt senior guard Kevin Dillard, Dayton got a win it needed in defeating St. Joseph’s University 60-54 on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at UD Arena.

“I think we really had a group of guys that played with great pride and humility, played with some passion,” head coach Archie Miller said. “I thought the Arena won the game for us in the last five minutes. As we move forward, those three things have to be in check.”

Dillard scored the final nine points for Dayton in the final two minutes and grabbed his only rebound of the game with 22 seconds left off a missed three to help seal the game. He said Miller talked to him on Tuesday in practice.

“Archie pulled me and [senior forward Josh Benson] in and told us this is our last 33 days guaranteed and we have to start to step up,” Dillard said. “We just have to start taking more accountability as seniors and we just have to take pride in playing for one another.

Heading into Wednesday, Dayton was 16-6 this season in games decided by six points or fewer. Dayton’s five losses in Atlantic 10 play were all against teams in the top six in the conference standings, while its two wins were among the bottom three. SJU came into the game eighth after being picked as the preseason conference favorite by the coaches and media.

Freshman forward Devon Scott started for the first time in his career. He recorded two steals in the first half, but did not score in 17 minutes of action. However, Miller said his role was to just be himself.

“Play physical, be a great teammate, show a little energy,” Miller said. “He didn’t score a basket, but his .17 minutes were good minutes for us.”

Miller said he especially liked the way Scott matched up against the size of Saint Joseph’s early in the game.

“He got in there and hanged on both ends of the floor, and in particular in the first five minutes of the game, unlike some others where they throw the ball inside and concede the layup, he didn’t concede. I thought that set the tone for us.”

SJU junior forward CJ Aiken, the Atlantic 10 leading shot blocker, recorded two more and was held to his season average of 11 points. Scott said Aiken, along with all of SJU’s forwards were tough to go against.

“He’s a great rebounder, attacks the rim and does everything,” Scott said. “He won some and I won, but at the end of the day, we just needed to get the W.”

Early in the second half, freshman forward Dyshawn Pierre grabbed a rebound from his knees off a missed 3-pointer by Dillard and never stood up in banking a shot off the glass and in. Pierre said the play was something you cannot prepare for.

“That has to be the first one in a game for sure,” Pierre said. “The ball was there and rolling around and I just tried to put it in the basket and luckily it went in.”

Coming off a season-high 29-point loss to Saint Louis University on Saturday, Feb. 2, Miller said the team needed a refresher to remind themselves about

“I can’t really talk a whole lot about it,” Miller said. “At the end of the day, there’s some things that stay in house, but there were a lot of individual meetings.

“We didn’t change the way we practice, but I will say our staff did a heck of a job getting these guys to realize what a special place they play at, how fortunate they are to be at a place they’re at, and you have to play with great pride to represent those two things…The end of the game in that locker room was the first time in a long time I’ve seen a group like that excited about the game.”

Junior forward Devin Oliver snapped an eight-game streak and a 0-for-9 skid without a 3-pointer in the first half and had a game-high 12 rebounds.

Sophomore forward Alex Garrilovic was in sweats and did not play, and freshman guard Khari Price also missed a second straight game while still recovering from a thigh injury.

Dayton returns to UD Arena on Saturday, Feb. 9, to host Temple University at 11 a.m.

Approaching Winter Olympics already exciting editor

It seems like an Olympic games only recently wrapped up because, well, one did.

In just a year from now though, another one will already be underway in Sochi, Russia.

The 22nd Winter Olympics will kick off on Feb. 7, 2014 and run through Feb. 23, 2014, and will be the first ever to be held in Russia.

I have come to enjoy the Winter games much more than its Summer counterpart, partly because of its openness to new events.

The Winter Olympics has adopted snowboarding and some of the styles associated with it into other events, such as the newly accepted ski half-pipe competition that will be held for the first time at Sochi.

Meanwhile, the Summer games have dropped baseball and softball, while table tennis and something called handball, still remain.

There should be a moment where you get a sense of gratification after watching a sporting event, and the Winter games offer more of these opportunities. The feeling needs to be built up as the event is going on, which means there needs to be some length to them too.

In the Summer games, the 100 meter dash is a thrill.

Eight guys line up, the gun fires and they dash down the track at amazing speeds. But it’s over almost just as quickly as it starts.

Synchronized diving caught on early during the 2012 Olympics as a tense watch because of the precision involved. But again, it’s over like that.

The drama in many of the best Summer events come before they even begin, mainly from the anticipation that surrounds them. The Winter games rarely have something that is completed in 10 seconds, allowing for the competition to unfold in front of us and create its own theater.

Two- and four-person bobsleigh teams race down the track at 80 miles per hour for over three minutes at a time. Downhill alpine skiers have nearly no way to stop other than crashing while attempting to stay on course at speeds nearing 60 mph.

Figure skaters have to be a perfect as possible in their maneuvers for over two minutes as they skate around the ice. Heck, the Winter games even one up Summer by also having a marathon of sorts on skis in the biathlon, which adds a rifle to the equation and makes you fire at targets before advancing onward.

Of course, there’s also fun sports such as hockey and the always exciting speed skating, especially on the short track. But frankly speaking, what would a Winter Olympics be without the greatness that is curling.

After catching my attention at the 2002 games at Salt Lake City, Utah, curling has become my must-watch sport during the games and I cannot believe I have not played the sport myself yet.

The Olympics contain some of the most exciting sporting moments of the year every time it comes around in both of its forms. Just last summer, Usain Bolt defended his 100 meter dash title and the newest version of the Dream Team took gold again.

In a year from now, new memories will be available after the games return. Only this time, they’ll be covered in snow.
Dayton readies for morning home game with Temple

STEVEN WRIGHT
Sports Editor

It’s not often a sporting event begins prior to noon, but that’s what will happen on Saturday, Feb. 9, at UD Arena when the University of Dayton men’s basketball team takes on Temple University with an 11 a.m. tip time.

Head coach Archie Miller thinks whichever team wakes up first will have an advantage.

“My only been involved in one game that has been earlier than that, and I can tell you which team is the most ready…to be ready at 11 will have a chance to win that game,” he said. “You get caught sleepwalking, it can turn on you very quickly.”

Dayton enters Saturday’s contest after beating Saint Joseph’s University 60-54 in the first of its two-game home stand on Wednesday, Feb. 6.

UD has been the top 3-point shooting team during conference play, shooting over 44 percent from beyond the arc, but has turned the ball over more than any other team. In its two A-10 wins, Dayton averaged 10 turnovers on offense, but in five losses that number rises to 18.8 per game.

Temple (15-7, 4-4 A-10) enters Saturday’s contest coming off an 80-88 win at home against Charlotte on Wednesday. It has dropped its last two road contests and has compiled a 5-5 record away from home this season.

Picked to finish fourth in the preseason Atlantic 10 poll, Temple has struggled to find consistency during league play.

Temple senior guard Khalif Wyatt was named the co-Player of the Week in the A-10 on Monday, Feb. 4, and currently is the conference’s leading scorer at 18.6 points per game. He set a new career high on Saturday, Feb. 2, against Saint Joseph’s by scoring 34 points on 11-of-24 shooting from the field.

“Wyatt is the best scorer in the conference,” Miller said. “We’re going to have our hands full. They’re maybe not as physical on the inside, but they’re going to be great.”

Temple, boasting one of the most experienced line ups in the country with seven players averaging more than 18 minutes per game, five of which are seniors or 5th-year seniors.

Temple leads the all-time series 16-12 between the two schools, but Dayton has taken four of the last six meetings.

Many of Dayton’s players said the early start time will be an adjustment. Freshman forward Devon Scott said after playing a few games that early while playing on an AAU team, he’s confident in the team’s ability to wake up early.

“I don’t like waking up, but when you smelling a win, you’ve got to,” Scott said. “I’m going to wake up, play hard like I never have before and try to get another one down against a really good team.”
UD NAMES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR ATHLETES

MICKEY SHUEY  
Chief Sports Writer

The term “student-athlete” is not an elusive one for many participating in the University of Dayton’s athletic programs.

Just ask any of the 176 Dayton athletes who were recognized this week for their academic accomplishments. On Monday, Feb. 4, the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes hosted the group, each carrying a GPA of at least 3.5, in its annual award reception in Kennedy Union Ballroom.

“There’s always those stereotypes that people have about college athletes,” UD academic coordinator Vera Gomes said. “This banquet is our way to celebrate all the accomplishments of our student-athletes.”

Of the handful of honors handed out at the banquet, the most prestigious was the Presidential Scholar-Athlete award, which was presented to senior cross country runner Stephen Mackell and senior women’s golfer Kelly Coakley. The two were chosen from sixteen nominees, one representing each sport.

For Mackell, a philosophy and economics major with a 3.99 GPA, the award tops a long list of accomplishments during his four-year career.

“It’s a great honor, and I know I wasn’t the only nominee,” Mackell said. “It’s a privilege to be a recipient.”

The Findlay, Ohio, native said he is appreciative of the fact that he hasn’t had to sacrifice his studies for a good athletic career.

“I came to Dayton because it was a place I could be on a Division I sports team and enjoy my academic collegiate experience,” he said. “At some others schools, I could have been an athlete or a [regular student]. UD allowed me to have the full college experience.”

Coakley, a finance and operations management major with a GPA of 3.68, said, like Mackell, she is proud of the fact that she has been lucky enough to get the chance to experience college the same way her non-athlete peers do.

“My schedule doesn’t give me a lot of time for myself, but I’m okay with that,” the two-time team captain said. “I am proud to be able to balance all my responsibilities, especially my homework and golf events.

“Student-athletes are commonly thought of as unintelligent. We’re not.”

Coakley and Mackell both think that student-athletes do more than just play sports, but they also excel in most other aspects of life.

“I think of [us] as people who are trying to push ourselves in more than one aspect of their life,” said Mackell. “People who are trying to do a lot. They prove themselves both as an athlete and as something more than that.”

According to Gomes, many of the student-athletes who take interest in playing sports for UD seem to have a drive to succeed that extends further than the game.

“Our athletes are leaders. They work to improve the community and themselves ... in the classroom and on the field,” Gomes said. “The things they do aren’t easy, so the fact that so many are finding success is promising for our future.”

UD has historically done well in the NCAA’s yearly Academic Progress Rates, placing in the top 10 percent nationally. Carrying a composite GPA of 3.586, the women’s cross country team earned this year’s OASSA Academic Cup.

“It’s apparent by the way our coaches recruit students that really fit the mold of UD,” said Beth Flach, an academic coordinator for UD athletics. “... Their ability to succeed academically is only enhanced by the support system here.”

Both academic coordinators noted not all student-athletes are on scholarship. Of the nearly 400 participants in intercollegiate athletics, only 210 receive funding.

“We don’t fully fund all sports,” Gomes said. “But if you look at a sport like softball. They have nine athletes with 3.5 averages. That’s great for any sport.”

The football team is a non-scholarship program as well. Of the 100 players on the roster, 37 were honored for high academic marks.

This year, the men’s soccer team was recognized for its success in community building, earning the Flyer Challenge trophy, which is presented to the intercollegiate team with the most hours of community service.

Senior volleyball player Rachel Krabacher, an Academic All-Conference selection this season, was presented with the Ann E. Meyers Scholarship, which is given to a women’s basketball or volleyball player that achieves a high level of effort in and out of the classroom.

Senior golfer Matt Buse earned the Charles R. Kendall Award. The Athletics Citizenship Award was given to Johnathan Nelson, a senior on the men’s soccer team.

A total of 22 student-athletes were honored for having grade point averages of perfect 4.0, the school’s highest in two years. Twenty-five were honored in 2011, and 20 last year.

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