



Opening Night

By Jessica Blocki

Incoming SSI students raced about the chapel yesterday evening trying to be the first to answer random questions about each other. Each student was given a list of 50 questions and told that they must find at least 25 different people to initial the question that best applied to them.

Despite the randomness of the questions, two students were able to collect the requisite signatures. New and returning students alike enjoyed the friendly, if chaotic, game.

Once order was restored, Mr. Muffett opened the first formal session of the week with a brief history of SSI and a hearty welcome to all the new and returning students. The goal of the week, Muffett said, was to “have fun, work hard, and grow.”

Mr. Visscher took the stage next giving a few guidelines for the week as well as highlighting the sniper tower, barbed wire, and mine field separating the male and female dorms. When questioned about the veracity of the explosive barrier, Visscher stated, “I can neither confirm nor deny the existence of a minefield.”

If this evening is any indication the week is off to an exciting start.



Sarah Palin to Resign

By Mark Thiessen

This story provided by the AP 7/5/09

Sarah Palin, governor of Alaska and former running mate of 2008 presidential candidate John McCain, announced that she would be resigning on July 26.



Palin has said stepping down as governor was about doing the right thing for Alaska — not wanting to be a lame duck governor if she knew she wasn't running for re-election in 2010. She also has hinted that her decision was a strategic move aimed at gearing up for a run for president.

In the last few months, Palin had laid the groundwork for a possible presidential run, establishing a political action committee. In addition, a day after her announcement, Palin indicated on a social networking site that she would soon take on a larger, national role, citing a “higher calling” to unite the country along conservative lines.

Palin has been staying out of the public eye since she made the announcement, popping up mainly online. In a Twitter update Sunday, she said she was looking forward to joining her family as they commercially fish in Bristol Bay.

Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell, who will be sworn into office July 26, said Palin had spoken to him about the toll the inves-

Oaths taken; Dies are cast

Late yesterday evening, 49 Michigan State Representatives and 19 State Senators were sworn into office. No press releases were issued and the ceremony passed without incident. This year's legislative season promises to be stimulating, with both the house of Representatives and Senate reporting a full docket of bills to be considered over the coming week.



tigations had taken on her.

"I think what I heard from the governor really had to do with the weight on her, the concern she had for the cost of all the ethics investigations and the like, the way that that weighed on her with respect to her inability to just move forward Alaska's agenda on behalf of Alaskans in the current context of the environment. So that's what I saw," he told Fox News Sunday.

Erickson, the Juneau political watcher, says the governor's resignation makes sense.

"Politically, I see it as a smart move. With the complete breakdown of her alliance with Democrats that marked her first two years as governor, she has no ability to move her policies forward in legislation. Indeed, her Alaska agenda, the gas pipeline in particular, is likely to fare much better with her out of the picture," Erickson said.

Police say Woodland Mall Stabbing is Gang-Related

By [Chris Zoladz](#) - WZZM13.com

2/12/2007

KENTWOOD - A 17 year old will be arraigned Tuesday on felonious assault charges after being arrested in connection with a gang-related stabbing at Woodland Mall.

Kentwood Police say the chaos that erupted at the mall on Saturday was the result of a fight between two gangs: the Bemis Street Boys and Eastern Avenue Boys.

17 year-old Jon Tae Mayberry was stabbed during a large

brawl. Security officials evacuated shoppers when the brawl grew on the main floor of the mall.

Kentwood Police say the violence may have been in retaliation for the shooting death of 16 year old Kenneth Dear. Dear was killed in November at the Funspot Skating Rink on South Division Avenue in Kentwood.

Police Chief Mattice says many of the people caught on surveillance video at Woodland Mall were also captured on tape at the Funspot in November.

The stabbing victim suffered minor injuries. He is expected to be released from the hospital Tuesday. A mall security guard was also slightly injured.

Announcement

Observer Staff

The Observer is opening up future editions to Michigan State Senators, Representatives, lawyers, Chaperones, Aide-de-Camps, and staff for guest columns, letters to the editor, articles to inform the public on pending legislation, correction requests, etc. Submissions must be received no later than 5 p.m., to be considered for the next day's newspaper. Articles must have the author's name and caucus/track information in order to be considered for publication. Articles cannot exceed 700 words. Submissions should be emailed to observerssi@gmail.com. We at the Observer are excited to serve our community and are committed to integrity and objectivity in all our endeavors.

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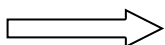


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