

news Briefs

THE EDGE OF NEWS, NYT TO IPAD APP

Gabriel Dance, art director for news for the first tablet-only newspaper, explained why he left the *New York Times* for *The Daily*, an online publication, at a talk Feb. 4 at the UO.

"My mom asked me every day why I did it," said Dance of his decision to leave an internet multimedia job at what he describes as "the gold standard of journalism" for the startup owned by Rupert Murdoch and the parent company of Fox News.

"I knew there was going to be a different kind of ethos behind the journalism," said Dance. But Dance, a computer programmer/ journalist/ designer, said the iPad app attracted him with an opportunity "to be right on the edge of journalism" and the internet technology that is transforming the news business.

"I wanted to get out in front of tablets," Dance said. The Apple iPad's touch, tilt, GPS and mobile technology offered him a chance to "push my work to a new level," he said. "I wanted to personally challenge myself and try something new."

Dance said he also wanted to challenge the dominance of the *New York Times*, which has 12 times the staff as *The Daily*. "Part of what I want to do is take a shot at them," he said. He said the competition

will push him and the *Times* to do a better job. "Competition is good."

Dance said *The Daily* also offers him "a lot of control and say." At the larger paper, "there are so many people that it's really hard" to control a project, he said.

Students interested in Dance's successful career in a job market that's laid off thousands of reporters filled the EMU Bin Linder Room to hear him talk.

"I hang my hat on programming," said Dance explaining how degrees in computer science and journalism helped him land a job fresh out of school at the *NYT*, where many top journalists don't get hired until they are in their 40s.

Internet programmers, designers and video experts, "These are fundamental jobs in journalism that now exist, and I don't see going away," he said.

Dance said there's a lot of "doom and gloom" about the future of newspapers, but the internet offers the biggest transformation since the invention of the printing press. "I find that incredibly exciting."

Dance said staff at *The Daily* has been working 12-hour days, seven days a week on the "bleeding edge of the technology" to prepare for the launch of the iPad publication this month.

At the *NYT*, Dance said there was a lot of design compromises in making the website work on anything from desktops to laptops to mobile phones. But with the iPad-dedicated *The Daily*, "We know exactly how you're using our content, we know it down to the pixel."

Dance said the iPad has a lot of potential such as the possibility that the device may offer a forward-facing camera that could allow internet users to interact face to face with protesters in Egypt.

Although *The Daily* partnered with Apple for the publication, Dance said the online publication has no inside information about what Apple might offer in the future. "Apple is as tight-lipped with

us as with anyone else."

The reception for *The Daily* has been mixed, with some pundits wondering whether with top quality publications like the *NYT* free online, *The Daily* will really be able to sell enough app subscriptions to keep people like Dance employed. Already, a hacker has provided an online index (www.bit.ly/gvTSRF) that allows people to read the publication for free with a web browser, although without the multimedia.

Dance appears to be thinking ahead. "Let's say in five years I can come back to the *New York Times* and say, why don't I run your application?" He said, "I hope to maybe go back one day." — Alan Pittman

CAUSA SEEKS LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

Leaders from CAUSA, Oregon's immigrant rights coalition will be speaking to local elected officials Thursday, Feb. 10. CAUSA is asking elected officials to work with them during the current session of the state Legislature on the issues of driver's licenses and in-state tuition for the immigrant community in Oregon.

Local officials planning to attend Thursday's event include Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, City Councilor Andrea Ortiz and Lane County Commissioners Rob Handy and Pete Sorenson.

"We expect a crowd of at least 500 people," said CAUSA representative Erik Sorenson. In addition to the community leader's appeals, there will be time for public testimonials. "People really want their elected officials to know their story," Sorenson said.

According to Sorenson, allowing undocumented immigrants to receive a driver's license or certificate is important for the economy and public safety. "It's

not just a social justice issue. Regardless of legal status, individuals receiving driver's licenses pay DMV fees, pay auto insurance and can continue to provide for their families." Sorenson said.

Since the senate blocked the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) last December, CAUSA has been working towards new legislation allowing undocumented college youth to pay in-state tuition. Additionally, CAUSA is working on health care access for all children in Oregon, as well as on jobs and the economy.

"We are encouraging people to contact Oregon legislators to get these issues passed this year," Sorenson said. The event takes place at 6 pm Thursday, Feb. 10, at the First Congregational Church, 1050 East 23rd Ave.

CAUSA will present its 2011 Latino Legislative Agenda Tuesday, Feb. 15, in a briefing at the Oregon State Capitol. Those attending the briefing will include members of the Legislature, coalition partners and leaders from the community. — Heather Cyrus

MAD AS HELL DOCS COMING

A group of Oregon Doctors who are members of Physicians for a National Health Program are on the road and expected to arrive in Lane County in time for Valentine's Day. The caravan of "Mad as Hell Doctors" traveled from Oregon to the nation's Capitol and back, stopping at 26 cities for rallies and to deliver a message to elected officials that "We want health care for people — not profits for the few!"

The Monday, Feb. 14, events begin with a 5 pm march from the corner of 7th Avenue and Pearl Street to Room 177 Lawrence Hall on the UO campus for a 6 to 8 pm program of music and discussion about the new Oregon single-payer bill.

SEX TALK CONTROVERSY

Award-winning author, former columnist for *The Village Voice*, editor and sex educator Tristan Taormino was invited to give the keynote speech "Claiming Your Sexual Power" at OSU's upcoming Modern Sex Conference. Three weeks ago Taormino was "uninvited" by administrators. After a controversy ensued, other arrangements have been made for her to speak in Eugene and Corvallis.

In response to calls and emails protesting the cancellation, OSU's Vice Provost for Student Affairs Larry D. Roper sent out an email explaining, "It became clear to those providing taxpayer funding for the conference that the speaker, in fact, is also a self-described pornographer." Roper writes that OSU's Student Affairs leadership felt that using public funds to bring Taormino to the conference was "an inappropriate use of those funds."

The conference, which takes place at OSU Feb. 16, will feature workshops on "Fabulously Fetish" and "Finding Your Clit," and sessions on "Native American Constructions" and "Porn as a Feminist Tool."

In response to Taormino's cancellation, UO Honors College instructor (and *EW* contributor) Jennifer Burns Levin says, "I questioned the premise that Oregon taxpayers should be protected against her views because she makes adult films." As an Oregon taxpayer, Burns Levin says that she would "love to hear a lecture on feminist pornography and how it challenges an industry known for its exploitation of women."

She adds, "Preemptively withdrawing promised funds from a speaker on the grounds that she was too controversial in a time of legislative budget cuts sets a bad precedent, in my view, for others speaking on controversial topics."

Burns Levin, who has a doctorate in English and is a sexuality studies scholar, then set about inviting Taormino to the UO instead. She succeeded. Taormino will speak on "My Life As a Feminist Pornographer," at 7:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 16, in 180 PLC. She will discuss her definition of feminist porn, what she is trying to accomplish with her films, the cancellation of her keynote appearance at OSU and why it was an "anti-sex statement" as well as why a feminist is the most "dangerous" kind of pornographer.

OSU students also objected to Taormino's disinvitation and raised money for her to speak in Corvallis as well. The students raised funds from student activity dollars for Taormino to give the talk she had originally planned at the Modern Sex Conference. She will speak the night before the conference, at 7 pm Tuesday, Feb. 15, in LaSells Stewart Center at OSU.

For more on Taormino's UO talk go to <http://wkly.ws/114> and for more on the OSU conference check out <http://wkly.ws/113> — Camilla Mortensen



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