

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 44 | Issue 19 | Feb. 13, 2019

HOLLYWOOD FAMOUS

*Accomplished actor and OU
Alum Curtis Armstrong donates
collection to Kresge Archives
Pages 8 & 9*



WILSON EXPANSION

Board of Trustees approve of new construction on campus

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TIPS ON STRESS

President Ora shares ways to cope with stress and anxiety

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IM LEAGUES

Intramural sports are adapting to lower student turnout

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PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



TEARING UP TIMES Swimmers race in the men's 200 meter breaststroke final on the last day of the Michigan Open at the Oakland Aquatic Center on Sunday, Feb. 10. ELIYAH RUSSELL | PHOTO INTERN

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EDITORIAL BOARD

AuJenee Hirsch
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4266

Elyse Gregory
Photo Editor
emgregory@oakland.edu
248.370.4266

EDITORS

Katie Valley Campus Editor
kvalley@oakland.edu

Trevor Tyle Life&Arts Editor
ttyle@oakland.edu

Michael Pearce Sports Editor
mpearce@oakland.edu

Jordan Jewell Engagement Editor
jjewell@oakland.edu

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Managing Editor
lmkraus@oakland.edu
248.370.2537

Patrick Sullivan
Web Editor
ptsullivan@oakland.edu

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ads@oaklandpostonline.com

DISTRIBUTION

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Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
gjjilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533



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THE WALL'S EFFECTS
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"Green Book" attempts to understand racism but falls short. Photo | IMDb



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A FRESH START
Oakland baseball begins the 2019 season with the league title in mind. Photo | OP Archives

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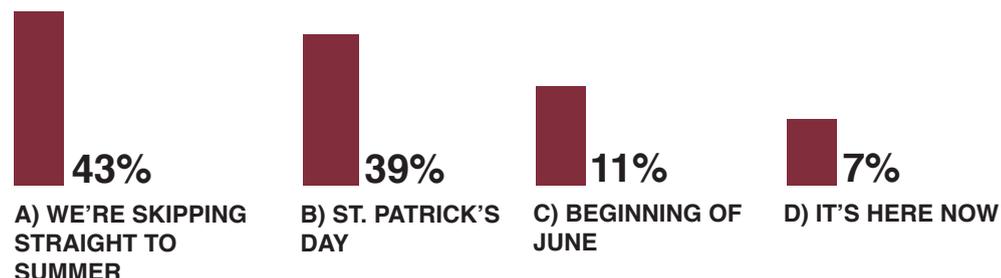
POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE VALENTINE'S CANDY?

- A) ALL THE CHOCOLATE
- B) CONVERSATION HEARTS
- C) THE VARIETY PACKS
- D) EW, CANDY

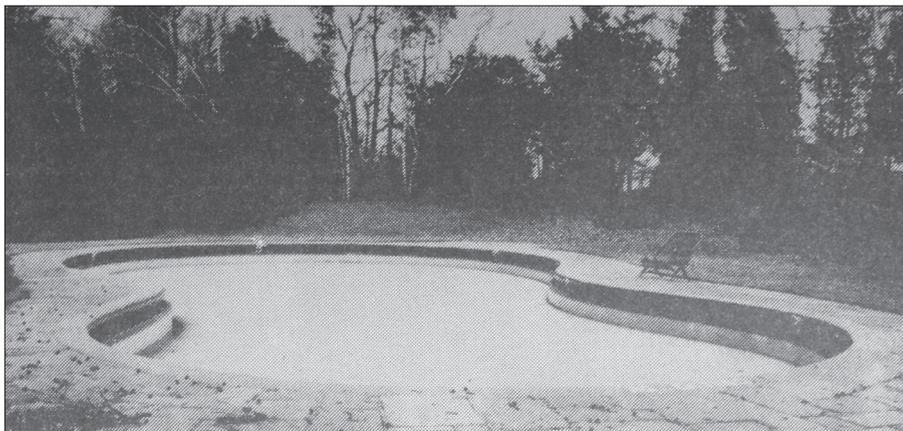
LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHEN WILL SPRING WEATHER START?



LOOKING BACK

Swim Club told to repair pool in 60 days in 1992



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

The pool was near the John Dodge House and was used by faculty and community members.

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

The Swim Club was given 60 days to find a way to repair its pool without using the university's money on Jan. 8, 1992.

According to Robert McGarry, then vice president of finance and administrations, the Board of Trustees decided to give the Meadow Brook subdivision association time to come up with a plan to make the pool fiscally viable.

The pool was 56 years old and located near the John Dodge House on the east side of campus and was used by faculty and community members. According to a report submitted to the trustees by OU's then Interim President John DeCarlo and McGarry, the pool needed renovations that would cost \$143,000 to comply with the state's Department of Health regulations in order to stay open.

At the time the club only had \$55,575 to cover the repairs. They needed an additional \$87,425 to cover the cost, and the university was not able to lend them the rest of the money.

"People in Rochester and Rochester Hills have no alternatives except the two expensive clubs in town," Lauren Shepherd, vice president of the 54-subdivision association, then said. "[The pool is] the best kept secret in town. It's a wonderful family pool for young children."

A budget proposal was sent to Howard Sims, chairman of the Board of Trustees on Feb. 3, from the OU Swim Club Committees. They proposed the income would be based on the 160 members, with community members paying \$525 a year, faculty and staff paying \$325 a

year and a \$100 initiation fee for new members.

The proposal stated the need for a "phased three-year approach to repairing the pool to be negotiated between OU and the Oakland County Health Department."

According to William Rodger, then managing director of the golf course and the pool, and his copy of the health department's report, the flagstone deck surrounding the pool needed to be leveled, and the pool's gutters needed to be repaired. It also needed to be sandblasted, painted and needed a smooth layer of cement added to the pool surface.

The committee proposed that they work on some of the repairs that year that could be done for \$5,000-\$10,000.

"We talked with the health department and they said our plan is fine as long as maintenance is done in the pool so the quality is raised and not neglected," said then Katherine Barney, committee member. "They are not saying everything needs to be done this year."

The Finance and Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees agreed to the Swim Club starting a membership drive to bring in at least 160 members to cover the cost of the repairs. They were looking for 135 community members and 25 faculty and staff members that would create an income of \$279,000.

The committee did not have enough time to reach their goal. A letter sent in early March to McGarry wrote, "Unfortunately, the late notice, public school recess and uncertainty of the pool opening date made people hesitate to commit to the membership."

The pool was then closed for the season and the club members could then come up with a plan for the upcoming year.

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Board of Trustees unanimously approves construction projects

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

More construction projects will be coming to Oakland University in the summer of 2019 and 2021, after the Board of Trustees met for the first time in 2019 on Thursday, Feb. 7. The agenda items that will affect students the most are renovations to academic and residential buildings on campus.

The construction-related items for discussion were the approval of Project Support for University Community by Creating Enhanced Student Services (S.U.C.C.E.S.S.) and a schematic approval for the Anne V. Nicholson apartments' exterior.

Project S.U.C.C.E.S.S. will bring renovations to five buildings on campus and begin construction in 2021. It will add 40,000 square feet to campus adjacent to Wilson Hall. It will also include 54,000 square feet of renovations to Wilson Hall, Vandenberg Hall, O'Dowd Hall and North Foundation Hall.

The Wilson Hall extended wing will be added to the side of Wilson that is right next to P2 and Bear Lake, occupying some of the empty space that is currently sidewalks and grass.

The project was proposed in an attempt to improve building square footage per student, which is a statistic Oakland ranks last in at all public universities in the state of Michigan. The additional 94,000 square feet will bring Oakland closer to second-to-last Grand Valley State University in square footage per student.

Not only will it renovate buildings, it will relocate student services such as advising tutoring, career placement.

"This project will provide a comprehensive consolidation of these services to logical and easy to access locations," said Scott Kunselman, Chief Operating Officer. "Approximately two thirds of the scope of this project is student facing. In addition, many administrative offices will be located to improve operational efficiencies."



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

After new renovations Wilson Hall will have an extended area that takes up P2 and Bear Lake.

Project S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is not funded by the tuition increase, despite it costing \$20.535 million. It will use \$8.335 million in University Reserves instead, and is complementary to the anticipated 2022 South Foundation Hall Project. The estimated completion date is late 2021. It was unanimously passed by the BOT.

The Anne V. Nicholson apartments will be receiving a renovation to their exterior surfaces and a roof replacement for aesthetic and maintenance purposes. The outside of the apartments will be changed from a stucco substance to a durable gray vinyl substance. The roof will be replaced with a dark gray shingling, as the current brown shingling has reached the end of its life expectancy according to director of University Housing James Zentmeyer.

"I've heard it referred to as Frankenmuth south," Zentmeyer said. "It was first built in 2002... we want to make it watertight. We want to prevent water penetration. We are also using this as a great opportunity to dress up and make a statement with the exterior appearance as well."

Both apartment renovations will cost \$1,816,035 and has an estimated completion date of August 2019. The Nicholson project will begin after the winter semester ends, and will be completed before move-in. The renovations were unanimously approved by the BOT as well.

POLICE FILES

Seizure in the MSC

Officers were dispatched to the Math and Science Center for a report of a student who passed out and was having trouble breathing on Friday, Jan. 11 at approximately 1 p.m. Upon arrival, two officers met with the student, who was conscious and breathing. He seemed to be in a fog and was unsure what had happened.

A witness said he heard two chairs in the classroom hit together and then saw the student lying on his back. He saw the student shaking with a bit of blood coming out of his mouth. The witness said the victim was not responsive for a few moments, and officers noted the possibility of a seizure. Auburn Hills Fire Department arrived on scene, and the student agreed to be transported to a nearby hospital for further care.

Another vending machine bites the dust

Two officers were dispatched to South Foundation Hall for a report of a vending machine that had been broken into on Thursday, Jan. 10. The officers, upon arrival, removed the hanging glass to reduce the possibility of injury to the campus community. Dispatch called the owner of the vending machine, Continental Vending, and informed them of the damage to the machine.

Dispatch was advised to call campus cleaning to sweep up the broken glass piled by the front of the machine. Officers were unable to determine if anything was taken and placed all remaining items from the machine at dispatch for safekeeping until a Continental employee arrived to get them.

**Compiled by
Ben Hume, Staff Reporter**

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Experts talk about the future of recreational marijuana

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

In November 2018, the Michigan electorate voted Proposal 1 into law, making marijuana legal for recreational use within the state.

Three months have passed. Now what?

In an attempt to clear up post-prop confusion, a panel of Michigan experts assembled for Monday, Feb. 11's "Marijuana is Legal. Now What?" discussion on the budding topic.

Senator Peter J. Lucido, a chair on the Michigan Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, was quick to address the need to readjust state marijuana laws to allow Prop. 1 to work as intended.

"We still have use of marijuana on the books, and we also have possession of marijuana [as illegal]," Lucido said. "[These laws] have to be repealed."

Lucido was also quick to mention the need to repeal the law that requires medical marijuana transported by car to be in a locked box in the trunk, a law that was ruled unconstitutional by the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2016.

On the subject of how police handle intoxicated drivers, the "zero tolerance" policy toward intoxicated drivers is like-

ly to remain. Chief James Berlin (Ret.), a chair on the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Marijuana Committee, explained the process of how police determine marijuana intoxication.

"[Police] are not just going to jerk someone out of their car, [say] 'OK, we think you're smoking weed,' we drag you off to jail and take your blood," Berlin said. "You have to have probable cause to make the actual stop—were you swerving, going across the center line... Then we pull you over and check the individual [for] slurred speech, glassy eyes, pupils dilated... All the general sobriety tests. Then we'll bring you in if we think you're smoking weed or [drinking] alcohol, and maybe a blood test or breath test."

Berlin believes the legal limit on THC intoxication will be determined in the courts rather than the legislature. This belief in the role of case law is shared by Waterford Police Chief Scott Underwood.

"People are going to make decisions, things are going to be done, arrests may be made or not made, and then there are going to be appeals and case law is going to decide a lot of [marijuana issues]," Underwood said.

The regulation of Michigan's weed—especially in regard to the amount of testing labs—is a concern addressed by



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Senator Lucido said state laws need adjusting for Proposal 1 to work as intended.

Oakland County Medical Director Dr. Russell Faust.

"We have four labs, and they are license labs, in the state right now," Faust said. "The problem is that there is not a state reference lab that confirms what those state license labs are finding or not finding, and that's a real problem... I don't really have a dog in this fight, I am just concerned that your weed is safe."

At Oakland University, there is certainty in a pre-Prop. 1 status quo remaining. On Nov. 8, 2018 OU President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz sent an email to the OU community explaining that in order to continue receiving federal funds (financial aid, grants, etc.), federal drug laws would need to be enforced. Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth confirmed via email this is still in effect.

'Don't Mess With Oaktown'—DECA club qualifies as a team

The team celebrates and looks forward to competing in internationals this April

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Last year, Oakland University's chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) was able to have all members qualify for the organization's International Career Development Conference (ICDC).

This year, they have done it again. All 22 members of OU DECA qualified for competition in this year's ICDC, scheduled for Apr. 13-16 in Orlando, Fla.

"I am more than proud of everyone for qualifying," said Amanda Abi-Samra, president of OU DECA. "For the majority of people in the club, it is their first year, so the fact they qualified for internationals is amazing. I think it just shows how Oakland gets you ready for the content we are competing on."

DECA events have a single member or a team tasked with a situation that needs to be worked out. This situation can be anything from selling a product to handling a public relations crisis. All 22 members qualified by competing in both the individual and group events. Members will have to choose whether to go to Orlando alone or as a team, due to DECA only allowing members to compete in one event at ICDC.

OU DECA has had a short and successful history, according to Abi-Samra. The chapter was started in around 2016 by Anthony Piazza, Stephanie Pini and Austen Pratt. Chair of Management & Marketing Janell Townsend has served as the club's adviser since the start.

Club membership is up from last year's 16 registered members, making the group of 22 the largest

in OU DECA's history.

A number of reasons attracted students to OU DECA, but a common one was past experiences with the organization at the high school level, which was Abi-Samra's case.

"I really wanted to continue to grow myself and develop myself from the experience I had in high school," Abi-Samra said. "If you ask every single senior in college that joins, they always end up saying, 'I wish I joined earlier.'"

For Townsend, being the adviser to OU DECA is her favorite part of her job.

"We stayed up very late the night before the competition," Townsend said. "Everyone was practicing and working together, and it is amazing to see all these young people helping each other to progress and succeed."

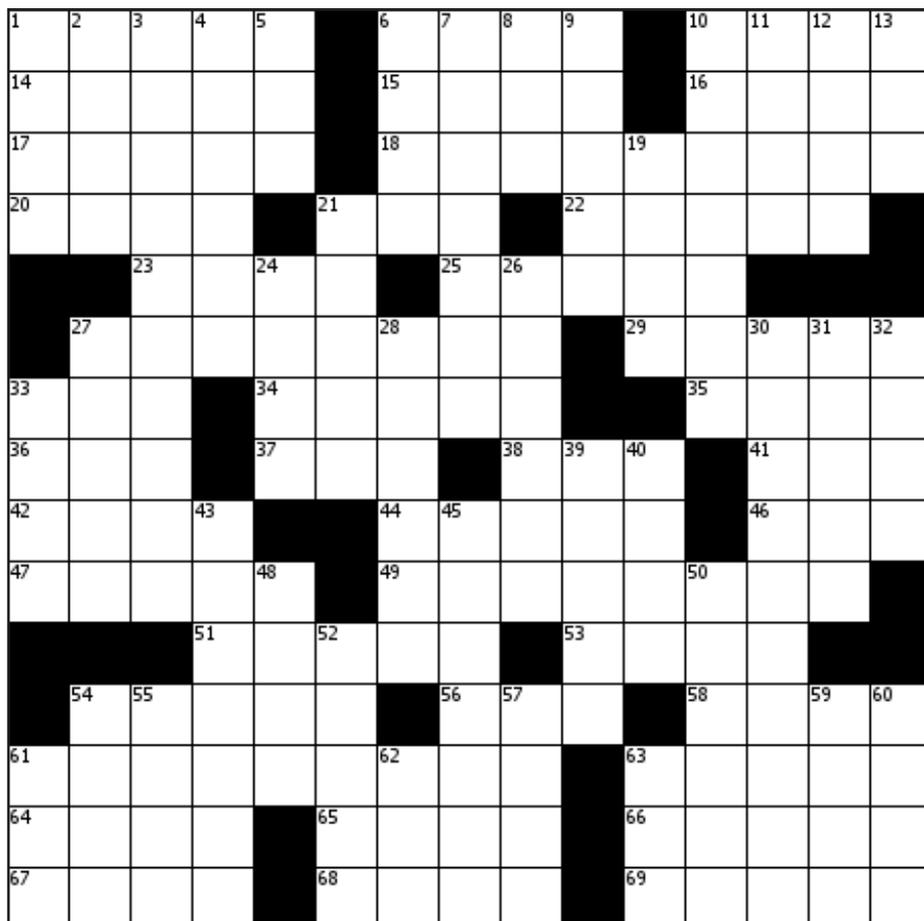
While OU DECA has the cause and time to celebrate, they do not

plan on stopping until the last light is out in Orlando.

"There's no doubt the competition is going to be hard to beat," said Sanjay Antani, secretary of competitive events. "We are up against the best of the best, especially after the preliminary round.... I am expecting to get down there and do some winning, do some networking, and I am already looking forward to it."

Membership for OU DECA is locked in right now, as the only remaining competition is ICDC. But when fall semester comes around, the club will be looking for new members.

"[DECA] is an experience you can't get anywhere else," Abi-Samra said. "I'm sure a lot of us can be bored in our classes and really just want to get out there and be in the real world, and this is how you can do it."



Across

- 1. Biblical queen's land
- 6. Place in a hold
- 10. Applications
- 14. Kind of waste
- 15. As good as it gets
- 16. Shipbuilder's stock
- 17. Plentiful
- 18. Illegal nightclub
- 20. Titanic downfall
- 21. Cleopatra's undoing
- 22. Dentist's directive
- 23. Sushi dishes
- 25. Organizational aids
- 27. Gave one's consent
- 29. Paddock papas
- 33. Some rail lines
- 34. 6th day of Christmas gift
- 35. Jay often seen at night
- 36. Longbow wood
- 37. Title for Eva Per—n
- 38. Braying beast
- 41. --- culpa
- 42. Mesozoic and Paleozoic
- 44. Type of lily
- 46. Band aid, briefly
- 47. Eyelid irritants
- 49. Distasteful

51. On the chilly side

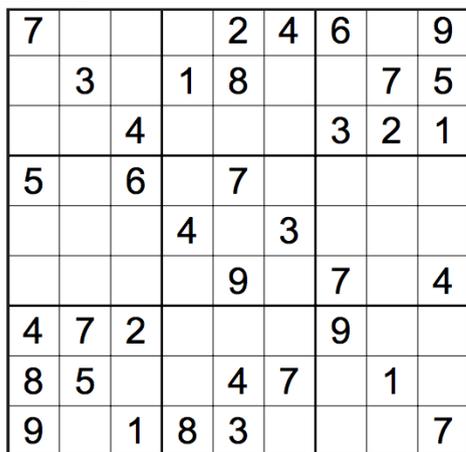
- 53. Choker site
- 54. Gardener's tool
- 56. Pins are made here
- 58. Barkeeps records
- 61. Cruise ship accomodation
- 63. Dark brown fur
- 64. Fishing rod
- 65. Rani's attire
- 66. Fjord
- 67. Earth rulers in a 1968 film
- 68. Just gets by
- 69. Bed starter

Down

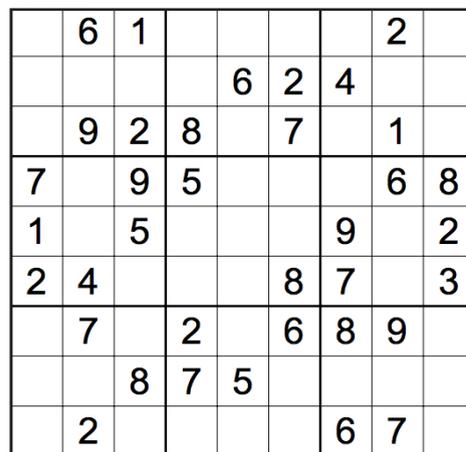
- 1. Take a --- at (try)
- 2. Plate place
- 3. Turnpike
- 4. Places for stagnant water
- 5. Serve well done
- 6. Impudent reply
- 7. Overthrows
- 8. Sight from the cuckoo's nest?
- 9. Erodes
- 10. Kitchen tool
- 11. Proverbial septet

- 12. Natural effortlessnes
- 13. Blue shade
- 19. Hobby shop inventory
- 21. Lou Grant portrayal
- 24. Stocking stuffers?
- 26. High standards
- 27. On your toes
- 28. Item at the Mad Hatter's party
- 30. Extraordinary
- 31. "--- of the State" (1998)
- 32. You can get this in bars
- 33. They are behind glasses
- 39. One person's opinion
- 40. Bullpen success
- 43. Law-making bodies
- 45. "Can't Cry ---" (Sheryl Crow)
- 48. A or B, on a record
- 50. Fuel rating
- 52. In and of itself
- 54. Intersection sign
- 55. Opposite of flushed
- 57. English author Kingsley
- 59. Wasn't colorfast
- 60. Hardens
- 61. Place for a soak
- 62. Durable hardwood
- 63. Boom preceder

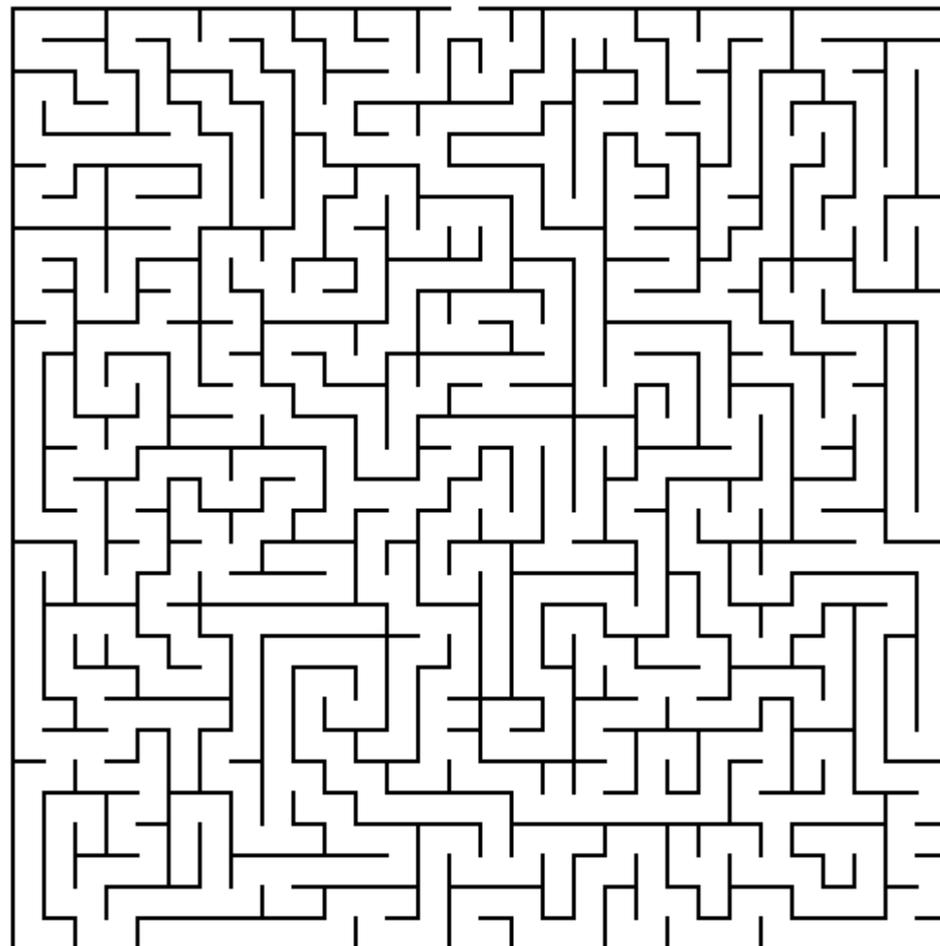
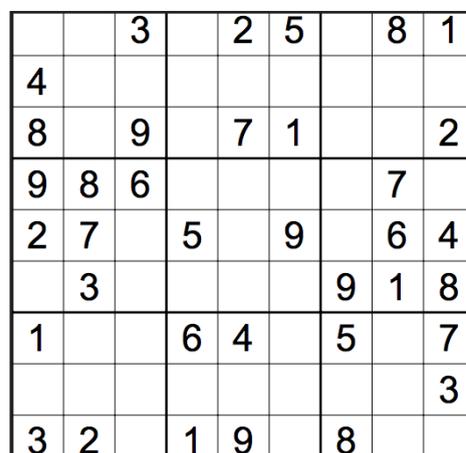
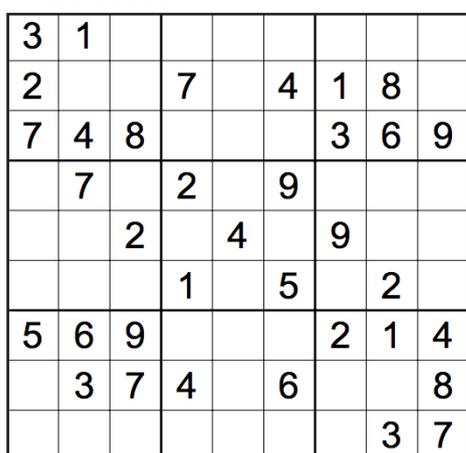
NOVICE



TOUGH



INTERMEDIATE



LIFE&ARTS

Get a handle on your stress before stress handles you



ORA PESCOVITZ, M.D.
Oakland University President

NOTE: Welcome to my new column! As many OU students already know, I love my time with students. We thought this column might be one more way for us to spend time together. Let us know what you think. — Ora

When my schedule feels overwhelming, and my to-do list has grown quite long, I take a deep breath and say to myself, “Stay focused.”

That, of course, is easier said than done.

As we know, in life, not everything goes according to plan, but it’s wise to have a

plan. Especially at this time in the semester.

With midterms coming up, it’s a good time to have a plan to deal with whatever comes around at test-taking time, which can produce anxiety and stress.

It is important to know some anxiety is actually a good sign. It is your mind telling you to “be prepared.” Anyone who has competed in an athletic competition, debate, or has performed in a concert, play or dance production can relate to that feeling before the curtain goes up. That rush of adrenaline is your mind nudging you to be in top shape for your competition or performance.

But let’s face it: Sometimes, we can also be affected by out-of-control anxiety and stress.

In mid February, many students are rearranging their schedules to find even more time to study. Some of you are feeling pressure; you might be stressed out. A good grade on your midterm exam or paper could put you in position for the type of final grade you’re aiming for.

It’s important to acknowledge you’re feeling stress because you want to do well. You care about your academic career, and many OU students are also juggling demands of work, money issues, family and friends.

So, you’re anxious. Feeling irritable. Restless that there’s not enough time in the day to accomplish what you want. And, despite all the caffeine, you find yourself le-

thargic, having stomach issues, headaches; maybe you can’t sleep. Maybe you’re irritable or even depressed.

You’re not alone.

About 45 percent of college students feel “more than average stress,” and 88 percent have felt overwhelmed within the past year, according to the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment.

If not managed properly, stress becomes a vicious circle.

It won’t go away with one-too-many drinks of alcohol, getting high or binge eating. Actually, when you wake up after a night of excess you’ll find your stress hasn’t gone anywhere; it’s still staring you in the face.

The three major mental health issues facing college students are stress, anxiety and depression, according to the Collegiate Mental Health 2017 Annual Report.

Frankly, if you don’t get a handle on stress, then stress will handle you.

Consider a few ways of dealing with stress:

- When you have healthy eating habits, your body gets the nutrients it needs to combat stress.
- Exercise produces endorphins that improve sleep and reduces stress. Maybe try a new kind of exercise like yoga, Pilates or take a Zumba class.
- Remember to take a break. Have a

hobby? Spend time doing something you enjoy. No pressure.

- Make sure you have a support group of friends, family and counselors. When you lose perspective, they won’t.
- Stay organized. Make and remake a list of your top priorities. There’s time for studying, and time for fun. But you probably don’t want to confuse the two.
- Stay positive. Rise to the challenge. Don’t let negativity – your own or the skepticism from others – put you in the wrong frame of mind.

Many students find their own way of dealing with stress. But there might come a time when you need help. If so, please know an OU counselor is available to meet with you. Consider making an appointment to discuss the best ways to cope with what might seem overwhelming.

Counselors are available at 248-370-3465, or visit: <https://www.oakland.edu/oucc/>

We are here for you. Stay healthy, and good luck on midterms.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz is president of Oakland University. She earned her medical degree from Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. She has received numerous awards for her research and teaching.

Exploring love, disapproval and addiction through song

KATIE VALLEY
Campus Editor

The musical tale of a man seduced by a Roma woman dealing with family and self disapproval, and a story of a character facing addiction will come together for a song cycle event by Oakland University’s School of Music, Theatre and Dance starting Feb. 28.

OU voice students, along with faculty members Alta Marie Boover (mezzo-soprano), Drake Dantzler (tenor) and Victoria Shively (piano) will perform Czech composer Leoš Janáček’s “The Diary of One Who Disappeared” and OU composition faculty member Ben Fuhrman’s new composition “Needle Point.”

The performance will feature partially-staged singing and piano, where performers will be in costume and a choir will be offstage for some movements.

“Needle Point” will be making its world premiere during this production. Fuhrman, who is a special lecturer in composition and music tech, said “Needle Point” explores the opioid crisis through watching the main character experience addiction.

Fuhrman said he hopes audience members listening to the “Needle Point” cycle will have a “more visceral connection” than they would have while seeing opioids and other drugs on the news.

“It’s this type of thing we kind of viscerally tune out because it’s almost what we’re accustomed to—it becomes background noise,” he said. “So, I’m trying to bring that more to the forefront through setting it to music.”

Traditional piano techniques will be used in “The Diary,” since Janáček’s writing is “evocative, romantic and lush,” according to Shively, pianist for both works and OU special lecturer. In “Needle Point,” however, there will be many more atypical piano techniques.

“Instead of just using the keyboard in the traditional manner, I will be playing inside the piano a lot—striking the strings with percussion mallets, dropping the keyboard lid, using guitar plectrums, as well as other contemporary techniques,” she said. “Composer Ben Fuhrman has made every effort to describe what is a devastating societal problem through sound.”

On top of the differing piano techniques, Fuhrman will be processing sounds digitally during “Needle Point” through software specifically written for the performance. A microphone on the piano will feed into a computer that will distort, delay and filter live sounds.

Thematically, the cycles speak to each other, according to Fuhrman. Dantzler, the main vocalist for the performance and also an associate professor at OU, said “Needle Point” was designed to reflect “The Diary” in both length and theme: In “The Diary,” a man is seduced by a woman, and in “Needle Point,” a man is seduced by pain killers and drugs.

Dantzler said the show is one to see because of the thematic and technical boundaries it breaks.

“The presentations will push the boundaries of what people think ‘classical’ voice recitals can be,” he said. “The Janáček will be in Czech, a language we often don’t get to hear sung.... The Fuhrman will challenge the audience both in terms of thematic and dramatic content, as well as the idea of what ‘classi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN FUHRMAN
Fuhrman produced ‘Needle Point’ to shed light on opioids. ‘classical’ music can sound like.”

Fuhrman said the performance will be intense and is not exactly suited for children to see because of its heavy subjects, language and drug use, but it still tells an important story.

“It’s going to be a fairly intense performance for both pieces,” Fuhrman said. “These are not light and happy subjects, so it will be kind of a more intense performance than some people may anticipate, but they are tackling important subjects.”

The shows will be Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 3 at 3 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall. Tickets are \$14 for general admission and \$8 for students and are available on startickets.com.

Curtis Armstrong donates memorabilia and reminisces of his time at Oakland

Back in 1975, the now defunct Academy of Dramatic Art at Oakland University taught its graduates the difference between a 16th Century bow and an 19th Century bow, and then sent them off into the world to act... in the cult-classic "Revenge of the Nerds" as a character named Booger.

Pointing out this irony in his book "Revenge of the Nerd: Or... The Singular Adventures of the Man Who Would Be Booger," actor Curtis Armstrong visited campus in 2017, while researching for this memoir, where the idea of donating his extensive collection was first born.

"Dominique Daniel [coordinator of Archives and Special Collections at OU] was the one who said '... would you consider donating your archive to this?' and the interesting thing was, at that moment, it was the first time I had ever thought of what I had as an archive," Armstrong said. "I kind of thought it was boxes of stuff that eventually I was going to have to get rid of, but it's hard to throw away 40 years of your life."

Likely more recognizable to OU students as Principal Foster in "New Girl" or Metatron in "Supernatural," Armstrong has cultivated a four-decade-long acting career since his time as a student at OU.

On Thursday, Feb. 7, he returned to campus, following 17 boxes filled with original scripts, behind-the-scenes photos, character biographies, acting contracts, a nomination for a Daytime Emmy Award and so much more, to be archived in Kresge Library and available to aid acting students in their endeavors.

"This place added a lot to my life and in a sense, I feel like I want to just keep giving back to it, and these are all circles that close," Armstrong said. "It's like realizing that all of the circles, which we all have in our lives, all of mine seem to be here at Oakland University, which really surprises me because you spend a couple years at a university, you take away from it what you can, but you don't expect it to keep popping up in your experience and it does."

Among this collection is Armstrong's own fourth-draft original script of "Risky Business"



from 1982, which was placed on display during 'An Evening With Curtis Armstrong' where members of the OU community came to hear the alum reminisce on his career, including time spent at Oakland and Meadow Brook Theatre, answer audience questions, and host a book signing.

"It is rare to host a speaker who has affected pop culture in such a way that Curtis Armstrong has, and it is rarer still to be able to recognize him as one of our own," said Erin Sudrovech, director of Alumni Engagement.

The audience of around 400 spent much of the evening in laughter as Armstrong chronicled his unconventional career path including his first on-screen performance in an OU orientation video, his passion for Sherlock Holmes and the similar role he ended up embodying in many of the '80s films that set the pace for his career.

Despite his original dream of stage acting, and

more than a few successful years of doing so, Armstrong had quickly found himself typecast as the offbeat best friend alongside powerful lead actors including Tom Cruise, Bruce Willis and John Cusack, often who were largely still undiscovered at the time.

"Something that I'm struck by watching your [Armstrong] character's performances in these films, is that those characters are the human element that allow us, as an audience, access to the lives of these protagonists who otherwise are superheroes to us," said Brendan Kredell, moderator of the evening and professor of cinema studies. "That's where I see myself when I watch these movies, is through the perspective that you're offering."

One of the surprise highlights of the night, particularly for Armstrong himself, was the reveal that Peggy Metzger, his old speech teacher from Berkeley High School, whom he had just been praising, was in the audience.

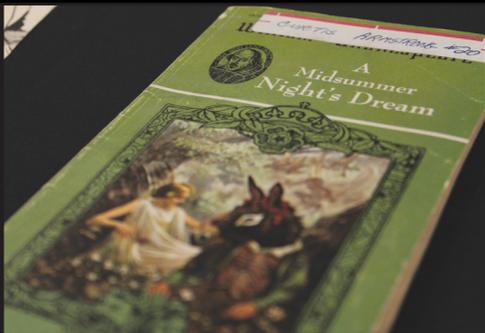
"I cannot believe it," the actor exclaimed as he ran off the stage to hug her.

The audience was also treated to a glimpse into that very speech class by Armstrong's high school friend Dave Stroud, who told the story of "Dummy and Stroud" in which Armstrong would paint lines on either side of his mouth to appear like a dummy, sit on Stroud's knee and entertain the class with comedy skits.

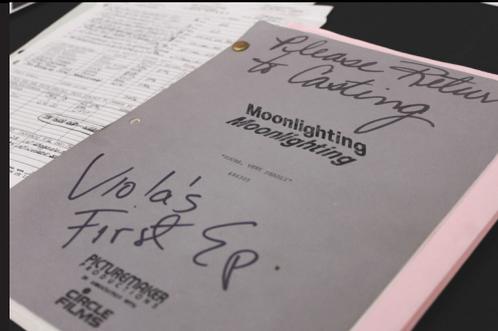
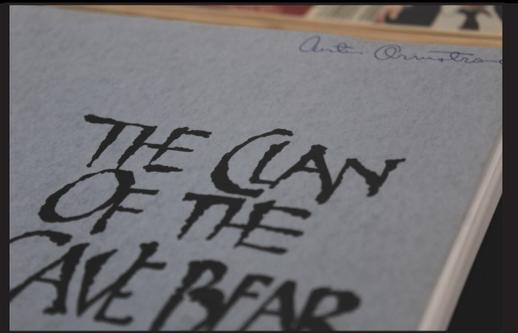
The event, originally scheduled from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., ended up going significantly further into the night when the book signing portion turned into a free invitation for every attendee to get a personalized autograph and photo with the actor.

"It sounds like something everybody always says... the truth is it's an honor, and I'm really glad to be here," Armstrong said. "It's a very familiar and yet changed place, and it's nice to be back here after all these years."

Armstrong can currently be seen in the YouTube Red series "Champaign ILL," on the second season of Syfy's "Happy!" premiering on Mar. 27, and in a new DC Comics show "Doom Patrol" which is filming now.



Soon to be located in Kresge Library, Armstrong's collection will consist of original scripts, acting contracts and many more materials.



story by Laurel Kraus
design by Mina Fuqua
graphics by Erin O'Neill & Prakhya Chilukuri
photos by Nicole Morsfield

Experts call Mexican border wall a ‘crime against biodiversity’

TAYLOR CRUMLEY
Staff Reporter

The U.S.-Mexico border stretches across nearly 2,000 miles of ecosystems. The talk of building a wall along this border has spiked debate between scientists and politicians over whether it is ethical in regard to the animals in the region.

Last year, Stanford biologist Paul Ehrlich told the Stanford News the wall would be “a crime against biodiversity.”

The border wall will split up populations of species and cause them to be more susceptible to predators and less able to reproduce. It will also obstruct the flow of water, creating scarcity in food and water for species that live on the border.

“One of the biggest likely impacts of a wall will be to prevent many species of plants and animals from moving back and forth across the border,” said Thomas Raffel, a biology professor at Oakland University. “This will tend to isolate northern and southern populations from each other, and in some cases might threaten species by splitting larger populations into smaller, less viable populations.”

According to the previously mentioned Stanford News article, some of the most bio-



COURTESY OF STANFORD NEWS

The border wall will cause habitat fragmentation which almost always results in biodiversity loss.

logically diverse populations live on this border in various ecosystems including forests, grasslands and salt marshes.

The border wall will cause habitat fragmentation, or the division of habitats into smaller pieces, according to Scott Tiegs, an Oakland University ecology professor.

“Habitat fragmentation is almost always associated with losses of biodiversity since it interferes with processes such as the movements of animals and seed dispersal, processes that are needed to maintain healthy ecosystems,”

Tiegs said.

According to Raffel, this is an issue for which humans could pay a heavy price.

“Diverse ecosystems are inherently valuable because diverse ecosystems tend to provide better services to humans,” Raffel said. “A 2014 study estimated that changes in land use cost the world economy up to \$20 trillion every year due to loss of ecosystem services. Humans rely on healthy ecosystems to a much greater degree than most people appreciate.”

In 2005, Congress passed the Real ID Act.

This law gives the Department of Homeland Security the permission to waive any laws that may slow the construction of the wall. This includes the Endangered Species Act which aims to prevent extinction of species and protection of their habitats.

“Protecting the most vulnerable species means preserving the ecosystems they live in,” Raffel said.

Scientists across the globe have banded together to stop the construction of the border wall to preserve the more than 1,500 species that call this area home. A paper published in *BioScience* by Ehrlich and Rodolfo Dirzo warns that extinction is a great possibility for these species if the wall is built.

“The biodiversity crisis and all it entails is a serious threat to our longterm national security,” Tiegs said. “And ignoring our environmental laws, which aren’t very stringent to begin with, only exacerbates the problem.”

Raffel encouraged those who want to see change to call and write letters to state and federal congresspeople about the issue. He also stressed the importance of researching who you are voting for to see if they care about environmental protection. Taking action is the best way to preserve the species and their habitats.

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- Community Engagement
- Dean of Students
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- Gender and Sexuality Center
- Graham Health Center
- ID Card Office
- Oakland Center
- Office for Student Involvement
- Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Office of the Registrar
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'Apex: Legends' releases with diverse roster



BEN HUME
Staff Reporter

genre, sweeping the video game market last week with their release of "Apex: Legends" on Saturday, Feb. 2. The game offers more unique hero-based roster akin to games like "Overwatch," allowing for more opportunity for lore, backstory, and most importantly, representation.

Credit where credit is due, Respawn made a great effort to be inclusive in its roster, with a variety of women and people of color filling out the ranks of their eight playable characters. In a press release on Thursday, Feb. 7, they also announced two of the characters represent parts of the LGBT+ community.

Since large game developers have only recently made efforts to be more inclusive in their development, any game like Apex that makes an effort like this is bound to draw some amount of illegitimate criticism from internet trolls and bots. However, Apex seemed to strike a more common nerve and was accused by a larger minority of players of being, yes, too diverse.

This complaint is not a legitimate one. The idea that not enough straight people being in a first person shooter game somehow ruins the experience means something is wrong with you, not the game. That might not be the wording a homophobe would use, but it's the underlying premise of their dis-

like of the game. Even the apathetic 'who cares' responses are evidence gay characters look unimportant to the vast majority of the non-LGBT+ community. As I'll show, it does matter.

Thankfully, many of the responses have been positive. This is especially true for members of the represented communities, who have outwardly expressed how happy they are these characters exist and are just like them.



For people saying politics shouldn't be in gaming, they're ignoring the fact that whether or not LGBT people exist isn't politics. Developers wrote a diverse cast of characters, where the lore if people seek it out is there.

@EeveeA_
TWITTER USER



"This makes me so incredibly happy as like, Bangalore kinda looks like me and that there's some LGBTQ+ diversity in gaming," said Twitter user @ame-

liegr. "Can't we just be happy that people can see themselves represented?"

Others called out individuals critical of the decision, noting this kind of representation extends beyond politics.

"For people saying politics shouldn't be in gaming, they're ignoring the fact that whether or not LGBT people exist isn't politics," said Twitter user @EeveeA_. "Developers wrote a diverse cast of characters, where the lore if people seek it out is there."

Just so everything is clear — the identity of the characters has no effect on in-game performance, and so there should be no reason for anyone to be mad about game balance, about game enjoyment or about game design. These characters are just a way for people that are a part of the community to feel included in a world that frequently makes them feel alienated and unwanted. These thankful responses are evidence of how important it is for more games to do this.

Apex is still a new game, and the myriad internet homophobes hating on these decisions will likely never leave. Only time will tell if future games will finally be able to represent minority groups in a positive light without serious backlash, but I for one am hopeful with the early success of this particular game.

Venezuela and the support for a democracy

TIMOTHY KANDOW
Contributor

Politician and Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido declared himself the legitimate president of Venezuela on Jan. 23, 2019.

That same day, President Donald Trump declared he and his administration fully recognized him as the legitimate president, giving him the support of the most powerful and influential nation in the world, the United States. The European nations quickly followed Trump's lead. This backing gave the new president an immense amount of legitimacy in the global theatre.

Overthrowing the previous president/dictator Maduro is a good goal in which to have. However, having two "presidents" in the same country presents escalating conflict that is bound to happen.

Giving legitimacy to a man claiming the presidency creates inevitable tension that will only escalate onto the people of Venezuela. So although it may appear as fitting for democratic nations to support a democratic leader, the repercussions of such actions should be taken into consideration.

A country should examine the consequences of decisions even if it's of granting legitimacy. The question is, then, should the U.S. even intervene in the



situation in Venezuela.

On Feb. 8, 2019, Trump slapped oil sanctions onto the Venezuelan government. Venezuelan exports of oil to the U.S. provide the biggest source of cash for Maduro's government. Once the sanctions were implemented, funding for the government plummeted

by 40 percent.

When the government owns most everything and controls everything in the economy, the people are the ones who suffer from these sanctions. The Venezuelan economy was bad before, and with the sanctions, their main source of revenue is now halted.

The U.S. should also consider foreign intervention. It is widely accepted that countries such as China and Russia have been in support of Maduro and his administration. If European countries and the U.S. backed away from the situation in Venezuela, superpowers such as China and Russia will continue to support the dictatorship, and the revolution will have little chance of success.

Along with this, Russia and China would ally themselves with potentially one of the richest countries in the world. But if left alone without U.S. or European support, the revolution will have a small margin of success, which will only prolong the terrible dictatorship.

The American Revolution could not have been won without the support of the French to the Americans. Their help came in the form of military technology, arms, men, supplies, ships and a granting of status on at the global level. The U.S. could be Venezuela's "France." With that in mind, each step should be taken into careful consideration, for the implications of a misstep could lead to a war not only in Venezuela.

The views expressed in Opinion do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.

‘Green Book’ isn’t racist, it just doesn’t understand racism

TREVOR TYLE
Life&Arts Editor

It’s been four years since the Oscars were accused of being “so white.” A lot has happened in those four years, and it’s safe to say the Academy has come a long way since then. Minorities dominated several of the major categories last year, and this year, three of the eight Best Picture nominees directly relate to themes of race and discrimination.

But one of those three is not like the others. Unlike “BlacKkKlansman” and “Black Panther,” which have been universally lauded for their progressive stances on race in America, “Green Book” has garnered a considerable amount of backlash for its alleged historical inaccuracies and white savior complex.

Directed by Peter Farrelly, “Green Book” is based on a true story and takes place in the early 1960s. It focuses on Tony “Lip” Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen), a racist middle-class bouncer with Italian roots, and his budding friendship with Dr. Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali), an accomplished black pianist. After being laid off, Tony becomes Don’s driver and bodyguard as he embarks on a two-month long tour of the deep south.

There’s no denying “Green Book” is an enjoyable, well-made film, but the aforementioned “BlacKkKlansman” and “Black Panther” succeed in ways “Green Book” simply cannot. One of the things that makes the former two so stunning is that they are films about black people made by black people — and therefore, they actually understand the complex issues they tackle.

“Green Book,” on the other hand, is a film about racism, backed by a team of all white men and primarily framed from a white protagonist’s perspective.

I firmly believe “Green Book” was made with only the best of intentions, but that doesn’t mean those good intentions necessarily translate onto the big screen as smoothly as they should. Despite some critics’ claims, “Green Book” is not racist. Rather, it doesn’t know how to approach the issues of race it tries so desperately to address — because it’s being handled by a bunch of white men that have never experienced what the real-life Don Shirley experienced as a black man in 1960s America.

One of these oblivious men is Nick Vallelonga, son of the real-life Tony and co-writer of the film. Shortly after “Green Book’s” release, Vallelonga came under fire for a controversial tweet in which he endorsed Donald Trump’s claim that American Muslims were cheering after the Twin Towers fell on 9/11. The ensuing backlash prompted Vallelonga to issue a public apology and delete his Twitter account.

And then there was Mortensen’s use of the N-word during a panel promoting the film’s release. Mortensen immediately apologized for using the word, which, to be fair, was said in a statement expressing how the racial slur is no longer socially accepted. But, needless to say, this just added fuel to the fire in the great “Green Book” scandal.

The real nail in “Green Book’s” coffin, though, came with the real-life Shirley family’s condemnation of the film, who called it “a symphony of lies.” Incidentally,



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

‘Green Book’ attempts to shed light on America’s racist past, but stifles the understanding.

one of the conflicts mentioned throughout the film, but never elaborated on, is Don’s estranged relationship with his family, particularly his brother.

The family further accused the film of being produced without their consent and consisting of historical inaccuracies — much like fellow Best Picture nominee “Bohemian Rhapsody.” In fact, they alleged the real-life Don and Tony maintained a strictly professional relationship and were never friends. Nick Vallelonga, however, maintains his father and Don did remain friends, and Don specifically asked him not to speak to anyone else about what went in the film before his death in 2013.

Regardless of whether any of this is true,

an Oscar sweep for “Green Book” — which is up for five awards, including Best Picture — would essentially be celebrating the social ignorance of its creators. The fact a comic book film does a better job furthering the conversation about race in America than a film specifically about America’s racist history speaks to the effectiveness of “Green Book.”

The film succeeds at almost everything it attempts to accomplish — except successfully understanding America’s race issue. Because until we stop seeing racism solely through a white lens, like we do in “Green Book,” we’ll never be able to fully understand the issue, nor will we be able to fix it.

#28DaysofBlackCosplay inspires cosplayers to embrace diversity

ALYSSA OCHSS
Staff Reporter

As a celebration of Black History Month and people of color in the cosplay community, black cosplayers have created the hashtag #28DaysofBlackCosplay.

This hashtag has spanned over Twitter, Instagram and other social media platforms to celebrate the cosplayers who post. Every day for the month of February, cosplayers and others can post about themselves and/or black cosplayers they feel deserve the recognition.

This hashtag is not just limited to prominent cosplayers, but to anyone and to any gender. Anyone can post about this hashtag in celebration and support of cosplayers, their journey and the month in general.

Before they start posting, black cosplayers might write a little paragraph of what they do and how they started cosplaying. When one person does it, others can follow suit and be inspired to post their own story. This creates the cycle of being proud of what they have created.

With all that is happening in the cosplay and anime communities, this is a great way to celebrate person of color (POC) cosplayers who are often forgotten and lets everyone know not all is bad in the cosplay community. It introduces people to the cosplayers and gives them a worldwide platform.

The work of the cosplayers is gorgeous. They wear their costumes with pride and they are unashamed of themselves and the community around them. Seeing them makes me want to better my craft as a cosplayer, and I want to support them even more.

With cases of blackfacing on the rise and POC cosplayers getting told their skin color is not “accurate” to the characters, this hashtag is a great way to prove all naysayers wrong. It is important to support the cosplayers and for others to get to know them.

Seeing black cosplayers cosplay a character that is portrayed as white might give young POCs the confidence to cosplay themselves. “Representation matters” is a common phrase, and I believe it’s true. These cosplayers who have

defied the racist posts and discriminatory comments have truly given the next generation someone to look up to.

I hope they continue to represent well and show others that they are not confined to a certain group of characters just because of their skin tone.

I’ve learned about so many new cosplayers through this hashtag, and I have been introduced to their stunning work. It is truly inspiring to see these powerful men and women stand up for themselves and show the cosplay world they are still here.

This hashtag is going to last the full 28 days of February, but that doesn’t mean to stop supporting black and other POC cosplayers after it ends. Supporting them and showing off their amazing talents is a year-round thing, and shouldn’t stop after one month. We should give POC cosplayers year-round support by following them and cheering them on through difficult times and supporting the process of making their cosplays.

Go check out the hashtag to see many fabulous cosplays and the people behind them.

The views expressed in Opinion do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

Eradicated diseases are making a come back because of the anti-vax movement.

Please vaccinate your children to save lives

ALYSSA OCHSS
Staff Reporter

There has been a measles outbreak in Washington recently, and it is the cause of panic for many people. Many news sources are saying the state is cracking down on the vaccine exemption.

Vaccines have been a subject spoken about among the American people for a long time. Questions have been raised as to whether they cause autism, which they do not. There have been studies by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center proving they do not. However, they are still up for debate somehow.

Washington is one of the states that has vaccine exemptions due to religious, philosophical or medical reasons. "Philosophical" means for virtually any reason, parents and other people can decide not to vaccinate.

One of the reasons why measles is spreading so fast is because not everyone in the state has gotten vaccinated. According to The Washington Post, in some communities "being anti-vaccine is as acceptable as being vegan or going gluten free."

When you don't vaccinate your children, not only are you putting the people around you at risk, but those who are not able to get vaccines. People with weaker immune systems, such as the elderly and infants, are more at risk.

Most of these measles outbreaks, according to NPR, are in children who have not been vaccinated. Not vaccinating your children puts them at risk and when your child goes to school, they put their

classmates at risk.

Vaccines keep children and adults from getting harmful diseases and keeps those diseases, such as measles and smallpox, from coming back. Now that people are not vaccinated, these diseases are making a comeback, and they have even caused one state to already go into a state of emergency.

According to the NPR article, the rates of vaccinated children are dropping and the doctors in Washington said the measles outbreak was "100 percent avoidable." Dr. Alan Melnick, the doctor who contributed to the NPR article, also said, "We should have eradicated measles not only from the United States but from the world by now."

These diseases that have been thought to have been eradicated are coming back because people are not vaccinating themselves or their children. It is important to get children and others vaccinated to prevent outbreaks like the one in Washington, stop people from dying from the diseases and protect those who don't have the immune systems to stop it themselves.

People don't want to have another outbreak like the measles in other states and vaccines can help prevent that. Michigan is also one of the states that has exemptions for all three reasons mentioned before, but that doesn't mean it's okay to neglect getting vaccinated for preventable diseases and saving lives.

It is important to prevent these diseases from spreading so people don't end up dying from them, and so they don't come back. To protect those around you, yourself and your children, please get them vaccinated.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Kahlajah Dean has achieved a career high off 29 points during her time at Oakland.

Freshman fills up stat sheet

DEVIN BOATWRIGHT

Staff Reporter

Kahlajah Dean, a freshman on the women's basketball team, was named the Horizon League's Freshman of the Week for the past two weeks. She dominated the court against Youngstown State and Cleveland State, and she shows no signs of stopping.

Dean, a California native, decided to move to Michigan and play at Oakland for a change of pace and scenery.

"I just wanted to get out and explore," Dean said. "It's a big weather change, something way different from California but I enjoy it here."

Being Freshman of the Week is high praise, and Dean's performance shows that. Against Youngstown State and Cleveland State, she averaged 26 points on 64 percent shooting from the field. She also went 9-for-17 on 3-pointers averaging 53 percent.

Against Youngstown State, Dean scored a career high 29 points as well as setting career marks in field goals and 3-pointers.

She was very selfless for her efforts, giving credit to her teammates. She stated without the team's constant ball movement and screen setting, she wouldn't have been as successful as she was these past few games.

"It's amazing being acknowledged," Dean said. "Coming from California and being here is a big difference but my teammates have helped me get used to everything. They pass the ball, set screens

which makes everything a little easier. So without them I wouldn't have gotten athlete of the week."

Dean takes pride in her shot. She's always tuning her jump shot in and out of practice, which helps her knock shots down during those big game moments.

Dean and her team always put in extra hours of work outside of practice. They all go to the gym often and put in the extra work on their shots and overall communication to make sure they all are solid come game day.

"We [my teammates and I] are in the gym all the time so just trying to get that feeling of knowing the shot is going in when I shoot helps out a ton," Dean said.

On Saturday, Feb. 9 the Golden Grizzlies faced off against long-time rival Detroit Mercy. The Golden Grizzlies won their last bout against Detroit Mercy earlier this season and defeated them again in Calihan Hall. Against Detroit, Dean scored a career-high 30 points and hit nine 3-pointers. Dean says the key to winning this game is solid defense and constant ball movement.

"We know they're our rival so we are always going to play hard," Dean said. "Defense is the major thing, making sure we get stops on defense is very important. On the offensive side we need to move and pass the ball around, find open shots and be selfless. If we can do that then we can get the win."

Dean and the rest of the women of the Golden Grizzlies squad will return home on Thursday, Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, for a game against the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Jaguars at 7 p.m.

Intramural sports adapt to lower participation

BEN HUME

Staff Reporter

Intramural (IM) sports leagues have long been offered for students and staff through Oakland University Recreation and Well-Being, but in the last few years, IM participation has been on the decline in a few main sports.

Dodgeball and softball have been among the hardest hit sports, with many leagues barely meeting minimum team requirements, according to Dan DeSimone, intramural and club sports graduate assistant.

"Some of our less popular sports, like dodgeball and softball took a little bit of a hit, so we're working with participants to figure out ways to better serve them and to make intramurals as conducive to the students as possible," DeSimone said.

According to DeSimone, more popular sports among intramurals, such as football and volleyball, continue to have healthy numbers, but they have begun experimenting with different formats to better suit a new generation of college students.

"Kids these days are different than students even five years ago," he said. "People are always changing. We're looking at possibly doing more tournaments instead of leagues, we're looking at expanding our esports program that we recently started this semester that we had really great turnout for."

Another surprise success this semester was the creation of a wiffle ball event, with students asking for an entire league to be set up for next year. DeSimone and RecWell are also looking at one-day tournaments with more casual games, like KanJam and cornhole.

Student participant and intramurals referee Marcus Dyson seems to think intramurals are imposing on some, especially new students on campus.

"People might be new to the school, and they don't have as many friends, and being a free agent can be a little weird," he said.

Despite his positive feedback after playing in intramural basketball last semester, he sees that joining a team blindly through the free agency sys-



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland offers more than nine IM sports during each Fall and Winter.

tem can be frightening. Dyson also thinks a lack of widespread advertising makes it hard for people to know when sports are happening and how to sign up.

According to DeSimone, though, RecWell is working hard to get information about intramurals to the student body.

"We have a wonderful street team full of student volunteers who work at the recreation center who do a great job tabling and getting out around campus plugging intramural sports," DeSimone said. "We're also active on social media."

With all of these new implementations in mind, DeSimone expects participation numbers to continue growing into next semester.

"We're most definitely going to anticipate more growth, with our new ways to reach students," he said. "Because ultimately, at the end of the day, we want people to have ways to be healthy, have fun, make friends and enjoy their experience at Oakland University. That's the number one priority, the number one goal."

DeSimone greatly encourages intramurals as a way to feel more connected to the campus community, while still staying active and healthy.

"It's really easy to join teams as free agents, to meet new people, to make friends hopefully that you will have for the rest of your life," DeSimone said.

For more information, visit IM-Leagues or follow the RecWell on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. More frequent updates about the status of intramural sports on campus can be found on IMLeagues.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALYSSA GAUDIO

Alyssa Gaudio (left) has seen success and growth for the golf team since taking over.

Women's golf head coach looks for another successful season

DEVIN BOATWRIGHT

Staff Reporter

Alyssa Gaudio over the years has shown that she could be a staple of Oakland Athletics. Being the first ever women's golf head coach here at Oakland University, Gaudio has been very successful since the start of her tenure.

Gaudio started coaching women's golf at Oakland in November 2014. She was excited to have this new opportunity in front of her, even while joining midway into a season.

"I was really excited," Gaudio said. "It was very different to come into a season in December. I wasn't quite sure what to do with what I had, but I was really excited for the opportunity especially with what's around us campus wise and where we are in the community."

Gaudio, a Chicago native, took over a coaching job at Chicago State in 2013. Her team academically held a grade point average of 3.48 and she improved the team's national ranking from 213 to 186, the best in school history. She believes academics play a very important role in the way student-athletes perform.

"I would say yes, especially in golf," Gaudio said. "Depending on the major, it makes things very tough sometimes because students have a huge course load while trying to compete. The fact they're able to balance academics and athletics shows they can balance golf and traveling even more. So I think the better they do in the classroom, the better they do on the course. It's a con-

fidence thing."

The women's golf team has been very successful since its fruition, winning a conference championship the year after Gaudio took the reins. She has seen the growth of this program every year, and she is really excited for what the future holds.

"We've had a strong team all four years since I've been here," Gaudio said. "We've finished runner up three times, won once and finished fourth, but we were only 10 shots out of first. It shows how strong our team is and how strong the conference has become. Every year I've been here, the girls on the team, their stroke averages improve and our team average improves year by year. Sometimes it's not exactly what we want but they keep working harder and harder."

In her first spring season, Gaudio and her team set a 54-hole team record with a 906. Going forward, this season and beyond, Gaudio wants to break records and snag some tournament wins.

"We'd like to keep trying to break records," Gaudio said. "We have such a strong team and if everyone drops a few shots every tournament I think we can eventually break that 906 record. We obviously want to get a few tournament wins and some top three finishes. We started off with a win and we have five more tournaments, so top three finishes would be great and even contending for first would be even better."

Gaudio and the women's golf team will be traveling to Boca Raton, Fla. where they will face off against Florida Atlantic on Sunday, Feb. 17 and Monday, Feb. 18.

Baseball team looks to make a Horizon League title run

The baseball team won't be playing at home until March due to away games and flooding

JONATHAN SAVICH

Staff Reporter

The baseball team's practice was canceled on Friday, Feb. 8 due to one of the turf maintenance machines having an exhaust leak. The dome is an air-sealed bubble, so any kind of air quality issues prompts a major danger.

No one was affected by the exhaust leak and the problem has since then been addressed. The team was especially disappointed practice had to be cancelled since their season is right around the corner, and the first game is Friday, Feb. 15 against Western Carolina University. The team is coming off of a lackluster 2018 campaign; they finished last season 15-32.

However, 12 of their wins came from inter conference games, and they finished at No. 4 in the Horizon League. Oakland also ranked last in hitting and second to last in pitching in the Horizon League, which leaves room for opportunity and growth, and co-head coach Jack Healey is optimistic.

"I think every year is a building block," Healey said. "We're starting on the third year [with Healey as head coach] and second recruiting class bringing in players to give us a kick-starter with our seniors that we will be depending on."

Coach Healey expects the team to compete for a Horizon League championship with the help of senior pitcher Nick Parr. Healey said Parr brings a bag

of tricks with his pitching repertoire, and he will likely be relied upon as the team ace. Another player the team will look to rely on is senior Ryan Fitzpatrick.

In 2018, Fitzpatrick started in all 47 games in the outfield. As a senior, Fitzpatrick will be looked up to as a leader, and the same goes for this rest of this senior-heavy team. Fitzpatrick found himself as the team's leading scorer, and he led the team with 42 runs last season.

"The goal is to get the Horizon League championship," Fitzpatrick said. "We put in the work and on days like this [the day practice was cancelled] it makes it more difficult. We expect a lot. We want to play sound fundamental baseball. We've let a few things go in the past, but now things are different. Every team can improve, we can improve on hitting and pitching... we're focusing on the little things this year."

Due to the Michigan weather and the fact the field frequently gets flooded because of the location, it'll be some time before the team will be playing at home. Come Friday, the team will begin their usual month-long road trip. The team returns to Oakland's campus on March 29, where they will begin Horizon League play.

Last year Wright State University took the regular season championship of the Horizon league with a record of 39-17 and a 22-6 inter conference record. The last four years, Oakland has been in the bottom half of the league. If Oakland wants to make a splash this year, they'll have to prove it on the diamond.



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

The baseball team plans to improve and hopes to make it to the championship.

Oakland's Valentine's Day Hotspots

These spots are the most romantic places on campus to meet your future significant other

MICHAEL PEARCE
Sports Editor

Looking for love? Well you came to the right place. The Oakland Post's back page is exactly where all the love tips are these days, congrats on being part of the one percent.

People always ask me why I have such a successful relationship, and I don't blame them. It's because I know how love works, and I'm here to help you lonely souls out on this Valentine's Day. I know a few key hot spots on Oakland's campus where there are single people just dying to meet you. I know I sound like an internet ad that will give you a virus, but I'm for real.

Kresge's third floor

The quiet floor, the perfect place for you men or women out there looking for a man. On the third floor you can't be too loud, so it gives you a chance to meet the right man without him being able to speak. It's basically like Tinder, but the creepy guys can't use the most disgusting pickup lines known to man. Heaven! The best part about the Kresge third floor is that you know your date cares about their academics too, because no one who is just half-assing it at the library goes to the quiet floor. That's for the real bookworms and nerds. Go snag yourself a smart one, and thank me later when he can do your taxes

without talking for days about his workout regimen.

The weight room

This is a stark contrast to my other location, because you're going to find someone completely different. Bookworms aren't for everyone. If you want a guy or gal who loves their body as well as has a small addiction to pre-workout, go to the rec center weight room and throw some weights around, literally. The best way to find love is to grunt as loud as humanly possible while lifting something that could send you and your surrounding gym enthusiasts to the hospital. You have to prove you are hardcore, and nothing attracts that one special mate like exuding your natural pheromones while grunting like Serena Williams.

Varner Hall

Varner is the building for the artistically inclined, so there will be a good chance someone can paint you a nice portrait for Valentines Day, and then take you to a hole-in-the-wall coffee place to talk about their screenplay. Also, Varner is the polar opposite of the library in terms of volume. With the hundreds of instruments blaring and singers belting out some killer notes, Varner is the one place on campus no one cares if you shout. In fact, it is encouraged! So make your way to Varner and shout

from the heavens "I AM LONELY!" maybe a nice dance major will be there to teach you how to dance alone, like you will be for the rest of your life. I'm kidding of course, no one can dance competently for the rest of their life. Father time is undefeated my friends.

Happy Valentine's Day, you saps.



ERIN O'NEILL | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

This year, make sure to sing loud and clear for everyone in Varner to hear the song you wrote for your valentine.

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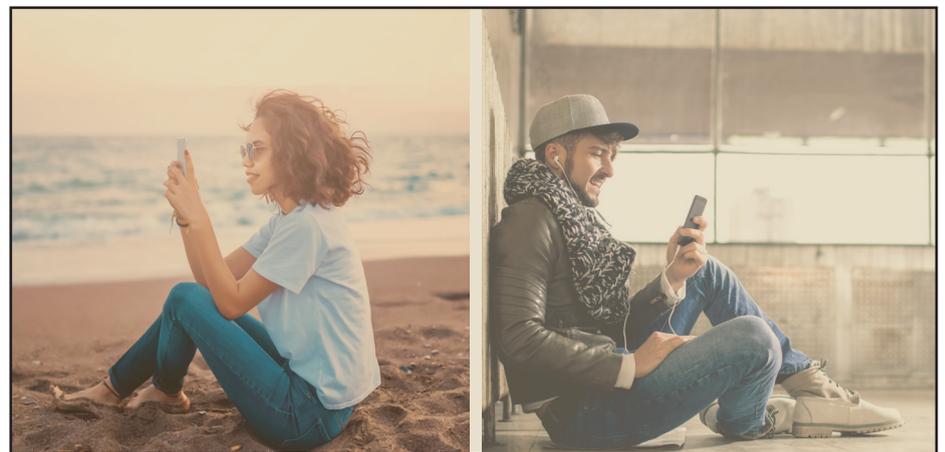
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