

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

Volume 47 | Issue 18 | January 12, 2022



## LAST MINUTE MATCHUP

Men's basketball dominates in impromptu game against Ohio Christian.

*Page 20*

### GOING FULLY ONLINE

Campus Community share their thoughts on online start to semester

PAGE 6

### DEFEND THE DEN

Golden Grizzlies score comfortable conference win over Milwaukee

PAGES 10-11

### A PROPER HOMECOMING

Jamal Cain talks success on the court, coming back home to OU

PAGE 19

PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**GIVING OUR BEST SHOT** Chris Conway gets up a clean shot. Golden Grizzlies men's basketball finished the game a win over conference rival Milwaukee. Story on pages 10-11. **MAGGIE WILLARD / PHOTOGRAPHER**



**VICE PRESIDENT SPEAKS**  
Murryum Farrooqi shares her vision for student congress. Photo/Noora Neiroukh



**PEOPLE OF OU**  
Influencer Kate Lazarski talks public relations career, journey from OU to NY. Photo/@katelazarski on Instagram



**GUIDE TO A HEALTHIER Y(OU)**  
This week's health column gives an in depth look on skin care. Photo/Gabrielle Abdelmessih

# THE OAKLAND POST

## EDITORIAL BOARD

**Jeff Thomas**  
Editor-in-Chief  
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

**Lauren Reid**  
Content Editor  
lrreid@oakland.edu

**Bridget Janis**  
Managing Editor  
bridgetjanis@oakland.edu

## EDITORS

**Sophie Hume** Photo Editor  
sophiahume@oakland.edu

**Matthew Scheidel** Sports Editor  
mscheidel@oakland.edu

**Gabrielle Abdelmessih** Campus Editor  
gabdelmessih@oakland.edu

**Sarah Gudenau** Features Editor  
sgudenau@oakland.edu

## COPY & VISUAL

**Noora Neiroukh** Photographer  
**Maggie Willard** Photographer  
**Anna Drumm** Photographer  
**Amelia Osadchuk** Photographer

**Jennifer Wood** Graphic Designer  
**Megan Parker** Graphic Designer  
**Carolina Landeros** Graphic Designer  
**Elizabeth Foster** Graphic Designer

## REPORTERS

**Rachel Yim** Senior Reporter  
**D'Juanna Lester** Senior Reporter  
**Grace Lovins** Senior Reporter  
**Joseph Popis** Senior Reporter  
**Arianna Heyman** Senior Reporter  
**Joe Zerilli** Senior Reporter  
**Alexander Gustanski** Senior Reporter

**Christian Tate** Sports Reporter  
**Reece Taylor** Sports Reporter  
**Brock Heilig** Sports Reporter

## DISTRIBUTION

**Sam Poudal** Distribution Director  
spoudal@oakland.edu

**Ryleigh Gotts** Distributor  
**Brandon Sams** Distributor

## ADVERTISING

**Tori Coker** Marketing Director  
toricoker@oakland.edu

## ADVISING

**Garry Gilbert** Editorial Adviser  
ggilber@oakland.edu  
248.370.2105

**Don Ritenburgh** Business Adviser  
ritenbur@oakland.edu  
248.370.2533

**Michelle Kaljaj** Ads Director  
ads@oaklandpostonline.com  
248.370.4269

**Laticia Santos** Ads Assistant

**VOTE AND CONNECT AT:**  
[oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

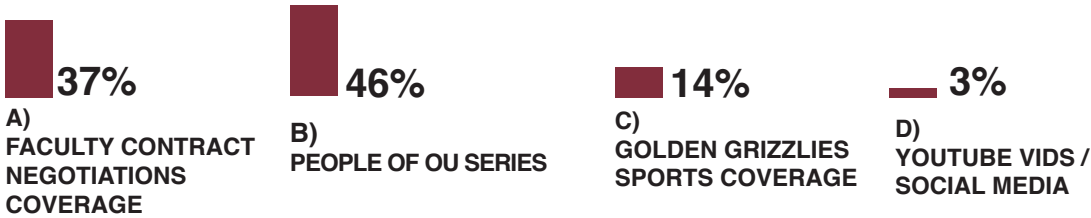
## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE SPIDERMAN?

- A) TOM HOLLAND
- B) TOBEY MAGUIRE
- C) ANDREW GARFIELD
- D) SHAMEIK MOORE (INTO THE SPIDER VERSE)

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CONTENT FROM THE POST DURING THE FALL SEMESTER?



**CORRECTIONS CORNER:** In a previous issue, we referred to Getnet Bekele as Getnek Bekele, which is incorrect. The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com).



## Counseling Center supports students amid climbing COVID-19 cases

**JOE ZERILLI**

*Senior Reporter*

With classes starting online and COVID-19 cases on the rise, Oakland University's Counseling Center (OUCC) is here to help all students get through these challenging times. The OUCC is offering free sessions for counseling and therapy until July 1.

Dr. David Schwartz, director of the OUCC, provides insight on how COVID-19 has impacted the OUCC and how it has adapted to best accommodate students seeking assistance.

The biggest issue that the OUCC has faced is the sheer influx of students seeking counseling due to COVID-19. In October of last year, there was a point where the waitlist reached roughly 80 students and the OUCC was forced to cease most operations.

Schwartz is hopeful, however, that the addition of three new positions will help better serve all those who are requesting counseling or therapy. The positions include a full-time group coordinator and two other temporary full-time positions that will last at least until the end of the school year.

The vast majority of the work is done through remote appointments — in-person meetings are mainly emergencies or walk-in appointments. With the plan to resume in-person classes on Jan. 18, the OUCC intends to follow suit.

"I don't see us going back to many in-person until the 18th but even then [it'll be] mostly virtual,"

Schwartz said. "Therapists have learned to adapt to the style, [and] work has remained very satisfying."

As well as counseling, group sessions are also currently being held online, but the goal is to have them in-person when it is safe. There are two types of group sessions: a social anxiety group and an academic stress group. To sign up, fill out the online Google form.

According to Schwartz, even if students feel that they don't have enough time to set aside for their mental health, chances are they have more time than they think.

"When your plate is full, you have two options," Schwartz said. "Since you can't add another plate or more time to the day, you can either move stuff around or take things off of your plate."

While counseling or therapy is the preferred method, Schwartz also offers alternative options to boost mental health in a pinch. These methods include doing a body scan, simple meditating or keeping a journal.

Schwartz offered one important tip to help manage stress, anxiety and depression: adjust your expectations. In a time where nothing is promised, it is essential for people to realize that they are doing their best given the current situation.

"It's really imperative to adjust expectations to the reality of what we're living in," Schwartz said. "You are doing the best you can in light of the circumstances. Our baseline anxiety is higher now with remote learning and COVID-19. It's

okay to not be okay right now."

The OUCC is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., with extended hours on Wednesdays. If you or someone you know is struggling, please feel free to reach out to the Counseling Center at (248) 370-3465 or go to the office located in the Graham Health Center to schedule an appointment.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The counseling center works to support students amid rise in COVID-19 cases and a remote start to the semester.

## Annual MLK Day of Service to take place Jan. 19

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Campus Editor*

Coming up on Jan 19, The Office for Student Involvement (OSI) will be bringing forth the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The event will be occurring in Founders Ballrooms A and B in the Oakland Center (OC) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend and stay as long as they like.

"People can stop in for 20 minutes, 30 minutes, five hours or however long they want," Emily Bernas, graduate assistant in the leadership and volunteer center, said. "We are trying to do different activities that we did before so that it doesn't feel like the same event. It's also part of African American celebration month, so it's [included in that] calendar as well."

Tables will be set up with different service projects for participants to engage in. This volunteer opportunity aims to provide service to the community and honor Martin Luther King Jr.

"I think the sole purpose of this event is to try and help as many people as we can," Bernas said. "In the last one, we had a lot of hours logged, and lots of the items that were made we ended up donating. In total, we had 713 hours, and then we donated 24,000 items. I think it would be great if we could excel on that and beat what we did last time. But, [to be] a little more realistic, [we're] just trying to help out as many organizations as we can, helping to teach students about the different opportunities that you can do."

Some of the service projects that will be available for participants to partake in include making dog toys, crafting birthday and get-well cards for children facing illness, activity kits and bracelet making. The OSI will also offer virtual options for those who are not comfortable participating in person. In lieu rising COVID-19 cases, this annual day of service could be moved to completely virtual. Take-home options will be provided.

Providing service to the community is an excellent way to give back and find fulfillment in oneself. This event offers the opportunity to give back

and make someone's day.

"They gain a sense of belonging not only for themselves but for the community," Daryl Blackburn, coordinator of Leadership and Service programs, said. "At the end of the day, you're gaining that sense of service for yourself, for the community. You're helping more than just one person — knowing the importance of giving back. Not only that, for this event specifically,

they're gaining the importance of knowing who Martin Luther King Jr. is and why we did this day in honor of him. Just because that was a passion of his, a sense of community, giving back and being involved. That is what we want everyone to get from this."

No registration is required for this event. For those looking for more information on future service events and the MLK Day of Service, visit GrizzOrgs.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME  
MLK Day of Service takes place Jan. 19.



## Q&A: Dean of students talks vaccine mandate ahead of winter semester

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth sat down with me ahead of the winter semester to discuss the roll out of the university's COVID-19 vaccine mandate during the last few months, and provide some clarity on what to expect heading into the winter. Here is the Q&A of our conversation.

**Jeff Thomas:** I imagine it's been a really interesting few months for everyone here at the Dean Students Office. What can you tell me about the roll out of the vaccine mandate?

**Mike Wadsworth:** It's been like a roller coaster since day one with all the stuff we've had to do. I would say that we had sort of a practice run in the summer with university housing, with [the mandate for residents] being announced prior to the all-campus mandate. So we worked together to create a process to gain compliance of the mandate with university housing. [Then] we created a medical committee while we reviewed [religious and medical exemptions], then [vaccine mandate compliance] or the uploads. Obviously, from day one, it's been a team effort. [It] hasn't just been our office. The committee that reviewed exemptions was made up of faculty and staff from different areas, with expertise in different areas to help us review. So we did a lot of that over the summer with university housing. Then as we approached the start of the school year, when the all-campus mandate was announced, we really had to shift that process into a high gear because [we went] from, I don't recall what the total numbers in housing were this year, but [we went] from worrying about a couple thousand students to 17,000, or whatever enrollment is. So the amount of information that came into our office at that point was just overwhelming. I mean, it was enormous amounts. Since that time, we have done something with the mandate every day. We're either reviewing exemptions, reaching out to people for non-compliance, meeting with students [or] taking phone calls.

**JT:** What do you think students really need to know about the mandate right now?

**MW:** When students were submitting their exemptions, a lot of them would submit one for the fall then submit one for the winter. We were

reminding them that if you have an approved exemption or you've uploaded, you are good through the academic year. The academic year in my head is through summer. And so you don't have to submit every semester. And I say the academic year, because I have no idea what COVID is going to look like come summertime as we prepare for next school year. I have no idea what we might do. Right. But it's important for students to know that if they have an approved exemption, or they've uploaded their vaccine record, that whatever you've done is good for the school year, meaning through the end of summer. And then, I would assume, depending on what's happening with COVID, by summertime we'll be making announcements, hopefully, for the next school year.

**JT:** When we spoke in September ahead of the Oct. 8 deadline, you elaborated on how the vaccine mandate was being enforced to the Student Code of Conduct. That for those who were non-compliant, there'd be hearings on a case-by-case basis. As of this morning, there were 673 students who are coming to campus for class who are still non-compliant. Have there been any hearings for non-compliance this fall?

**MW:** There have been some hearings for non-compliance. And so non-compliance could be you don't have your vaccine card uploaded, or you don't have an approved exemption on file or you haven't participated in the required testing as a result of having an approved exemption. So there have been some student conduct hearings on those, there have been students who, through that process have become compliant, were sanctioned and are potentially still students, but are now compliant as well. I think the thing that's important for people to know, is the Dean of Students Office authority is the Student Code of Conduct. That's what we can enforce, and so everything we do has to be related or run through that process.

**JT:** Has there been any disenrollment of students for non-compliance with the mandate?

**MW:** I'll say a few things. So I talked to some students at the beginning of the semester, who chose to disenroll before the 100% tuition [due date] because of the mandate. So I know some students made that choice because of the mandate, or [at least] that's what they stated to me when I spoke to them on the phone or to other staff members in our office. I do not disenroll anyone, right, it has to be through the Student Code of Conduct. And so the hearings that we have had have resulted in students being sanctioned, and they have also complied, but they've been sanctioned at the same time. But none of those hearings resulted in a student being disenrolled. So the result of a student conduct process could be suspension, which would be the same I guess, as disenrollment. But luckily, the students that we've interacted with in that process, we have been able to gain compliance. That doesn't mean they weren't sanctioned or penalized for not being compliant for a certain period, but we've been able to gain compliance. The thing that I want to stress is that the last thing our office wants to do is separate a student from the university. Sometimes students do things that are so heinous that they have to be, but our goal is always to help students be successful. So whatever we can



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD  
The Elliott Clock Tower.

do to help students be compliant, stay here and be successful is what we're going to try to do.

**JT:** I wanted to ask about the medical and religious exemptions. This morning the total number of students coming to campus with exemptions was 9% of all students currently coming to campus. So 1,263 students who are coming to campus for a class, and have received exemptions from uploading their vaccination status. It's my understanding that those students are required to be enrolled in a testing program. Is that correct?

**MW:** Yeah. So anyone, faculty, staff or students, that has an approved exemption on file is also required to participate in testing.

**JT:** How does that testing work?

**MW:** The university has contracted with an outside company, Helix, to perform the testing. The exact wording is on the Graham Health Center website. So if I got tested today, then my next test would have to be at least five days out, but not more than nine days out. I think that's what the wording says on there. And then, depending on exposures, or positive tests, things like that, where somebody contracts COVID, there are other stipulations, as far as you know, when they can test again. So if somebody does go through the testing program and is positive, then the Graham health Center is directing what they're supposed to do. But then, I believe when somebody tests positive, then they're not tested again that next week. There's more different time periods and that kind of stuff.

**JT:** I have received concerns from staff and students that the testing process, with so many people having exemptions, is maybe not as thorough as it could be. Can you speak to those concerns?

**MW:** I would say that the concerns that I've received in this office are the opposite. The concerns we got more are, you know, "why do you keep sending me this follow up for testing?" and stuff like that. So when somebody misses, they get a follow up. So we get complaints from time to time that "I got tested last week on this date, I was going to get tested here, but I missed it. **CONTINUED ON PG 5.**"



PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD  
Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth.



## CONTINUED.

And now, the next day, you sent me an email that says, 'hey, you failed the test last week, what's going on?'" And they're like, I missed my class or something like that, but they've rescheduled. So I would say, the concerns and the complaints we get are that we're being too stringent. And too, I don't know what the word is, but too forceful on making sure that people are testing

**JT:** What are the consequences for not complying with the testing program?

**MW:** All of our goals in this process is to gain compliance. We've had conduct meetings with students who failed to test on a regular basis. And so a student could be sanctioned for anything, but our goal in that meeting is to figure out how they are going to comply. Our goal when we go into the process is never to get rid of the student or to remove them. Our goal is to gain compliance. I know there was a few students who may have been put on probation, because they fail to test on a regular basis. But it wasn't like, "Okay, you're on probation just go." It was, "Okay, you're on probation, and you've agreed to test" and if they came back to our office, then we would have to look at another sanction. If they came back, it would mean that they hadn't complied like they agreed to. There's a lot of students who don't come to campus at all that are taking online classes right now. There were some students who were in that category who were also in some club sports.

Their club sports weren't taking place on campus, so they thought they didn't have to

test. The wording that I used with students was, "The mandate is for students who are coming to campus, whether you're coming to campus for class or coming to campus for anything, you have to comply with the mandate." And so these students, they weren't coming to campus for anything, but they were participating in an OU sponsored activity with other students. And so that was another group that we had to have some meetings with to make sure we got the compliance as well.

**JT:** Via social media, there was an announcement of a deadline for December 13, for compliance with the vaccine mandate for the winter semester. What will be the consequences of not uploading before December 13?

**MW:** The major goal of that deadline was for new students coming to the school. So you have students who are applying and starting here in the winter. It was important to give them a deadline. If you're going to be a new [student during the] winter semester, it'll be the same process we've done all [fall] semester. We'll reach out to those students as we approach the deadline. We'll start communicating with students to say, "Hey, we don't have this information yet, just a reminder, it's coming up." We did the same thing back in October. And then we'll keep doing that to try to gain compliance. Then we will probably have some more conduct meetings, try to gain compliance with those students. But again, the whole goal is to get as many of these students here in compliance as we can. And so basically if [you've] already done what [you're] supposed to in the fall, the Dec. 13 date means nothing

because [you've] already done it and it's carrying over. It really was targeted at the new students, [or potentially] returning students who [weren't] here in the fall.

**JT:** As of this morning, there are 673 non-compliant students that are currently coming to campus for courses. So if those students are a mix of part-time and full-time students going into the winter semester, in tuition dollars, the low end is approximately \$3 million and the high end would be approximately \$5 million in what they're paying in tuition. This semester the university has repeatedly made a point about a deficit in tuition dollars coming into the school because of COVID-19. Is the university willing to lose \$3 to \$5 million in tuition to enforce this mandate in the winter?

**MW:** Luckily, that's not my decision. I'm not the person responsible for final enrollment or final budget numbers. All I can tell you is that [our office] will do everything we can to help those students be compliant so that they can stay here. And it doesn't mean that those students don't face consequences under the code of conduct, but we will do everything we can to keep those students here.

**JT:** Where should students go for more information on the mandate?

**MW:** There's information on the Dean of Students website. There's a button for exempt forms if they want too. I believe the university still has up the general COVID-19 information page, that's where you have a lot more information about the mandate in general, for not just students, but faculty and staff as well.

## Dec. 13 BOT meeting: New member and graduate program, CAS dean speaks

### JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

On Dec. 13, Oakland University's Board of Trustees (BOT) met for the last time of the year to discuss the introduction of a new graduate program, renewal of charter for three Detroit academies and to hear from the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

The meeting started with Robert Schostak — chair of the BOT — acknowledging the tragic events that occurred at Oxford High School two weeks ago. Members of the board and those in attendance all stood in solidarity for a moment of silence.

Afterwards, OU President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz gave an update on COVID-19 compliance rates, with 96% of students and 98% of full-time faculty and staff complying. She also spoke about teams and programs that have represented OU such as OU's Brass Band and the OU men's soccer team.

She then discussed Dr. Xiangqun Zeng, who — along with her group — will work with University of Michigan and Michigan State University to create wearable technology that can monitor exposure to air pollutants.

Next to speak is the CAS Dean Elaine Carey, who started the position this year. She spoke about how the CAS is the heart of OU and why the liberal arts are an important part of not just OU but of the community.

"It is because it provides broad knowledge, transferable skills, a strong sense of values and ethics, civic awareness and engagement," Carey said. "[It] teaches students research skills, the ability

to locate, evaluate, and understand information."

After the president's report, Schostak recognized new member David Kramer and welcomed him to the BOT. To learn more about Kramer, please read the Post's previous article about him here.

"I'm anxious to jump right in and to be additive to the board but I'm also conscious of the fact that when you join any organization that there's a learning curve and that you need to get up to speed and you can lend your expertise and makes decisions only when you have some basis of information," Kramer said.

The first new item that the board passed is the new graduate degree program for the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences — Master of



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC REIKOWSKI  
Newly appointed Board of Trustees member, David Kramer.

Physician Assistant Science. The director of the program will be Dr. Lindsay Gietzen and the first cohort is set to begin in fall of 2023.

For more information about the program, please visit <https://www.oakland.edu/shs/clinical-and-diagnostic-sciences/master-of-physician-assistant-science/>.

Next on the agenda were the renewals of charter for Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences (DAAS), Detroit Edison Public School Academy (DEPSA) and Dove Academy of Detroit. They are all lined-up for reauthorization in 2022 and the office of public school academies recommends a five-year term.

Judene Bartos, executive director for the office of public school academies, spoke with the board about the importance of approving these contracts and why each school is eligible.

"We examined academic, fiscal, and organizational areas of the schools, and this year was a little bit different because of the pandemic," Bartos said. "We were able to look at their academic programs' strength, their physical strength and their organizational strength, and found them all to be very worthy of reauthorization."

The BOT agreed on reauthorization for all three schools and now must wait for an agreement to be prepared by the academies that incorporate Michigan Department of Education Requirements. Afterwards it would need to be approved by the office of the Vice President for legal affairs and general counsel.

The meeting closed with open comments from the public, all of which were criticizing or protesting certain OU policies regarding COVID-19. The BOT did not comment on any of the complaints.



## OU community's thoughts on returning fully online

**ARIANNA HEYMAN**  
Senior Reporter

In a move reminiscent of 2020, President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz announced the beginning of the winter semester will be remote. With the Omicron variant surging, it is difficult to predict if students and staff will return on the expected Jan. 18 date. Students and faculty have mixed reactions to the return of completely online learning for the first two weeks of the semester.

**Madi Saunders, Graduate student, OUWB**

"I'm indifferent to having classes online. For medical school all of our classes are recorded so I watch a good chunk of my classes at home. I'm hoping classes go back in person so that I can meet my professors and go to class with my friends. Class being online makes it easier to fall behind since I can watch my classes whenever I want and set my own schedule. I definitely need to be more disciplined with classes online. My classes shouldn't change too much as long as my APM and doctoring classes remain in person."

**Hailey Allen, Junior, Political Science**

"As much as I was excited to come in person to OU, I feel like it's necessary to be online until cases slow down because so many people are getting ill and there's no testing available. In my honest opinion, online classes tend to be easier so I'm not sure I'm getting the full class experience. It's also a lot harder to socialize and network with students and professors online, so that's an impact."

**Nina Nakkash, Senior, Psychology**

"I like online classes in winter to be honest. It saves me the drive in the snow, parking in the snow with

young drivers/college students and for people that have later classes it can feel safer (because it gets darker quickly). Online classes are also good for us self-learners/independent learners. I can definitely see the downside for certain classes like theatre or art classes! So, I would actually prefer my classes to be online in January/February. As for how it has impacted me, it means I have to take classes at home. Luckily, I have WiFi in my house and it works decently. Also luckily, we have a home office that has decent seating and lighting for an online environment. I can't imagine online classes for people that live in a noisier or more distracting environment than I do and for those who don't have reliable WiFi."

**Christine Stover, Professor, Communication**

"I'm not happy about the remote start for 2022, but I am understanding as to why we are doing this. My feelings are due to the fact I prefer the interaction face to face in class. So much is lost to distraction and virtual fatigue from all this online interaction. As a professor, having to pivot and think on my feet has been part of this profession since March 2020, so I can easily switch formats in a heartbeat. Now, do I believe that the students benefit as much online? Absolutely not, and I don't feel the connection to them either. It feels like malpractice. I have an audio production course that I would be devastated to have to continue online for the rest of the semester if that became the case."

Undoubtedly, both students and staff would like to return to campus. While there is still much uncertainty about the trajectory of the winter semester, what is certain is that we are in for another long winter of COVID-19.

## OUPD offering self-defense classes for OU community

**GRACE LOVINS**  
Senior Reporter

*Content Warning: Topics of sexual assault and sexual harassment.*

According to a 2018 research study provided by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, roughly 80% of women in the U.S. reported experiencing a form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime. Of this 80%, around 24% of survivors reported being between the ages of 18 and 24 at the time the incident took place.

Given these statistics, several programs dedicated to helping women learn self-defense tactics in order to protect themselves in aggressive situations have been developed. One of these programs being Rape Aggression Defense Systems (RAD) — A national body that offers programs a variety of programs for education and training on self-defense.

The Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) has been proud to offer RAD classes to the OU community since 1998 with the help of OUPD Lt. Terry Ross — one of the first instructors of the program at OU and current RAD coordinator for the department. OUPD continues to offer RAD training with two different starting dates this winter semester.

Sergeant Brad Beldo, OUPD and RAD supervisor, states the RAD program is made up of specific components including a lecture and physical self-defense training.

The lecture portion consists of discussions about things like recognizing predator tactics, awareness and support systems available if an attack were to occur. The physical portion touches on things like the mechanics of generating power as well as how and where to hit targets on an aggressor.

"The goal of RAD is to escape. It's not to pound somebody into the pavement, it's to deal with the situation and get away from that situation. Now, does that mean you may have to hit somebody? Absolutely. But we show where to hit, we discuss vulnerable targets — the eyes, the groin — we discuss where you don't want to hit somebody," Sgt. Beldo said.

With instructing RAD classes, Sgt. Beldo aims to create awareness and safety not only while students are on OU's campus, but after they leave the university.

"We are concerned, we care about the community as a whole, we want everybody to be able to feel safe, feel secure, and be able to go about their lives, but we also want people to be cautious and be careful," Sgt. Beldo said. "Safety, self-defense or a safety mindset extends outside of Oakland University, as well. We want you to feel

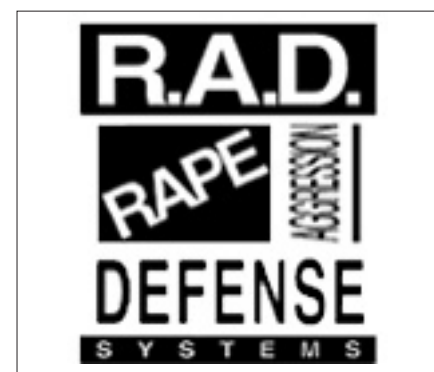


PHOTO COURTESY OF RAD.SYSTEMS.COM  
The RAD Logo — Rape Aggression Defense Systems.

safe here but moving forward, as you progress in your careers, as you move on in your lives, we want you to be able to feel safe anywhere you go."

Sgt. Beldo also emphasized the benefits of RAD as students are able to incorporate techniques or strategies they may have learned outside of the program into what they will learn in the class.

"What I really like about RAD is that first and foremost it's a women's centered self-defense which is good in and of itself," Sgt. Beldo said. "But what I love about RAD is the fact that it says: 'You know what, we are not the only system.' Knowledge is a great thing."

"It's a very good program but they say if you see something else from a program that you like, use it. So it's not like this is the be all, end all. This is a starting point; this is giving you options that you might not have known that you had."

Not only does the program provide education on what to do if you find yourself in an aggressive situation, but it aims to provide empowerment to the participants.

"We had a student say once, 'Thank you for giving me permission to defend myself.' We don't give you permission to defend yourself, you've always had it. And seeing that level of empowerment like 'You know what, yes I can do this. I can survive, I can generate power, I can escape,' that's what we focus on. We want that empowerment," Sgt. Beldo said.

The class will be instructed by OUPD's Sgt. Brad Beldo, Detective Shona Collins and Officer Elizabeth Marcu and will take place in Hillcrest Hall. Classes are free to all OU students and affiliates and \$35 for any non-affiliates. The Basic RAD class being offering in Jan. has been postponed and is expected to begin in April. There is another class slated to begin Feb. 7 for any students interested in attending. More information and the link to registration can be found on the OU events calendar.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

The beginning of the winter semester is remote with the plan to return to in-person learning on Jan. 18. Students and faculty share their thoughts on the return of online learning for the first two weeks.



# People of OU: OUSC VP strives for long lasting impact, representation

**LAUREN REID**

Content Editor

Stepping into the role of Student Congress (OUSC) vice president last October, Murryum Farooqi wants to create a cooperative, accessible climate in OUSC — one where students aren't afraid to speak out and stand up for what they believe is right.

Beginning as a legislator in fall 2020, Farooqi also served as Diversity and Inclusion Director in spring of 2021 before being elected to her current role.

Farooqi takes her role sincerely and earnestly, working to be a voice for the student body by pushing initiatives, listening to others and creating a supportive environment.

"[I want to] represent the students, and also represent minorities, that's something that only really happens when you have people of color and minorities in those positions," Farooqi said. "That's not the only solution [you need to implement] — but especially in OUSC — it's really important to have everybody."

Some of Farooqi — and Student Body President Andrew Romano's — initiatives include the textbook petition, which aims to provide affordable course materials, the Raise the Wage campaign striving for a \$15 minimum wage, potentially creating a committee for

indigenous groups and working to give land back with an outdoor workspace, along with looking into additional ways to reduce the cost of college and other various initiatives.

Additional initiatives aren't as publicized, but OUSC does address and troubleshoot a wide variety of issues — such as Graham Health Center counseling, dining hall sustainability, among others.

"We hope our change is permanent and helps students," Farooqi said. "That's why anyone is in student congress — you want to make a difference on campus and make things easier for your peers."

Farooqi also wants to foster a positive, accepting climate in OUSC — one where empathy and problem solving can flourish.

"[For me], it's important to be compassionate and open. It's also important for people to not be afraid to ask questions. I ask a lot of questions — that's been my trademark in many math classes: the question-asker. But it's important to create an environment where people aren't afraid to ask questions, you shouldn't put someone down for not knowing something. Own up to your biases, and be open about what you don't know."

Additionally, Farooqi wants to ensure no student is overlooked

— such as people of color and the Muslim community on campus — but believes everything is "interconnected," and only focusing on one group can be harmful.

"It can be harmful to say 'I'm only representing these people and I'm not going to do anything else.' Fighting for one minority is helping another minority — it ends up being more harmful if you're only focusing on one group, or say you only care about one."

In terms of being a leader, Farooqi humbly says she's still getting used to everything, but it's obvious from speaking to her: she possesses extremely admirable qualities, is passionate about representing students and motivated to make campus a better place moving forward.

Farooqi is empowering the campus community in more ways than one. As an individual who wears traditional cultural clothing, Farooqi mentioned she hopes to "fight back against the narrative that nonwestern clothing is primitive or uncivilized or not American."

Born and raised in America, Farooqi's family has roots in Pakistan. She hopes to inspire others on campus, presenting what she calls nonwestern clothing, as normal and accepted.

"I want to hopefully help empower

my peers on campus who might love their traditional clothing, but are afraid to wear it. Pakistani culture is a part of who I am and it doesn't make me any less American. It's the same concept when it comes to being a student leader that wears hijab — people always connect hijab or covering up to oppression, so women and girls wearing hijab are seen as weak and powerless. Being someone who wears hijab in a position of relative power definitely sends the opposite message."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MURRYUM FAROOQI  
OUSC Vice President, Murryum Farooqi

# Keeper of the Dream award recipient shares thoughts on interracial issues

**RACHEL YIM**

Senior Reporter

The Keeper of the Dream (KOD) Scholarship Awards at Oakland University celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Established in January of 1993, the KOD Scholarship Award honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy in the Civil Rights Movement, and recognizes individuals who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and involvement on

campus and in the community by being proactive with the deconstruction of cultural and racial stereotypes as well as contributing in the creation of a diverse campus community.

The honor of the 2022 KOD Scholarship Award went to seven OU students, including: Azana Jones, Destiny Williams, Isabella Mahuad, Kelly Knight, Keyara Pepper-Cameron, Markeal Williams and Ta'Niyah Harris, each of them receiving \$5,000.

One of the recipients of the award is Isabella Mahuad, a junior double majoring in international relations and Spanish.

"I'm very grateful and excited to be receiving this award," Mahuad said. "It's great to know that I've made a positive impact in my time at Oakland."

*Rachel Yim: There are a variety of disparities that exist in our society despite constant effort in promoting equality. What kind of disparities do you think need the most attention from people and what do you think will be the most efficient solution to address these issues in the long run?*

Isabella Mahuad: Unfortunately, there are a lot of issues worldwide, and they tend to be interconnected and affect one another. Given how complicated they are, it's really difficult to come up with a single straightforward solution. However, I do think that actually listening to communities most directly harmed and giving them a voice in how the solution should be approached is incredibly important.

*RY: Since you come from an Hispanic background, was there any time or incident where you faced*

*cultural barriers, any type of discrimination or role conflict in your life? If so, what was it and how did you cope with the situation and overcome it?*

IM: Being Lebanese as well as Latine made it so my experience was a little different in that way. People don't usually realize I'm Latine until I tell them. However, in school my teachers would assume I wasn't as capable as other students because they knew I spoke Spanish at home. It took a lot of work from my family to ensure I was being placed correctly.

*RY: How do you plan on spending your scholarship and what are your plans after graduation?*

IM: I plan on putting the full scholarship toward my classes. I've been really interested in research, so I hope to continue to grad school after graduation. I really like working with people and helping others, so I hope to go into a career that gives me those opportunities.

*RY: Lastly, is there anything you'd like to say to the OU community?*

IM: I would recommend getting involved with the CMI for any students interested. They are a fantastic office with so many resources for students, KOD is only one of the many forms of support they offer.

The Awards celebration will take place from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 17 in the O'Rena with Emmy and Golden Globe-nominated actor Anthony Anderson as the keynote speaker. For more information, visit the Center for Multicultural Initiatives website.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU NEWS  
The 30th annual Keeper of the Dream recipients. Isabella Mahuad (upper right), gives some insight into the award's impact.



# New Communication, Advocacy and Social Justice minor

**SARAH GUDENAU**

*Features Editor*

The Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations at Oakland University is offering a new minor in Communication, Advocacy and Social Justice. The 20 credit minor will be available starting fall of 2022.

As per @oucomjrnpr's announcement post on Instagram on Monday, Jan. 3: "This minor allows students to investigate the communicative processes that shape social and environmental inequities while also learning persuasive strategies to struggle against and transform them."

The proposed minor class schedule includes requirements such as Persuasion, Persuasion and Social Change and Multicultural Communication, as well as a list of classes for students to select three additional courses. The classes will gear students toward developing their persuasion skills, understanding systems that sustain inequality and identifying what social justice looks like.

While the course list has yet to be finalized, the minor has been in the process of being developed for a few years.

"It was a group effort, as all great things are!" says Dr. Valerie Palmer-Mehta, professor and communication internship director at OU. "Rob Sidelinger proposed the idea of the minor to me. I subsequently worked with Tom Discenna and Rebecca Mercado Jones to develop it. Kellie Hay also contributed."



PHOTO COURTESY OF @OUCOMJRNPR  
The Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations announced a new minor in Communication, Advocacy and Social Justice. The minor will be available in fall of 2022.

Professor and Communication Program Director Dr. Robert Sidelinger proposed the idea for the minor after representatives from admissions said that advocacy and social justice are key search terms that students seek when looking at schools.

"This was probably a year and a half, two years ago, and if we think about what was happening two years ago in the media and in the United States, that was around the time the Black Lives Matter movement was really at its height, along with other things going on," Dr. Sidelinger says.

"I think that's why students were looking at social justice when they were looking at colleges."

The minor will suit students with a range of majors and post-graduation goals, from those interested in getting involved in political or non-profit organizations to grassroots movements to social entrepreneurship. Dr. Sidelinger included that the major may also be attractive to students interested in social work, journalism and public relations.

"Well, it would be for anyone that's interested in, of course, social justice and advocacy – those students who are interested in working with at-risk groups, people with disabilities, people of color, folks on the spectrum, the elderly," Dr. Sidelinger says. "There's a variety of what you might consider at-risk groups, and so how do people advocate for them on their behalf, as well as how can those individuals advocate for themselves?"

Dr. Sidelinger also stresses the importance of minors in general. Minors allow students to explore a topic of interest without the in-depth demands of a major, which provide a different perspective outside of a major and are also beneficial to building a resume.

"The Communication Program seeks to provide relevant, timely and innovative offerings for OU students so that they can become effective, strategic and ethical communicators in a diverse, global society," Dr. Palmer-Mehta says. "We are very excited about offering this minor to OU students!" financial aid homepage on OU's website.

## Student loan repayment plans scheduled to resume May 1

**ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI**

*Senior Reporter*

President Biden extended the pause on student loan repayment plans that were previously set to expire on February 1. This comes as a response to the millions of student debtors still coping with the impacts of the pandemic and need more time before resuming payments. The student loan moratorium was implemented at the onset of the pandemic as a facet of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act (CARES), and has been extended through executive orders. After the pause expires, student loans will begin to accrue interest again after over two years.

According to Nancy Feltzer, interim director of Financial Aid at OU, students and alumni should use the extended pause to seek out information on their repayment plans.

"it is important that both current OU students and alumni with student loans start seeking out their personalized plan information and prepare for the restart of their loan repayments," Feltzer said. "During these first two weeks of remote classes, we do encourage students to call our office to speak with a financial aid advisor who can also put you directly into a virtual meeting. That being said, we are also open for in-person service in the office located in 120 North Foundation Hall. We always have financial

advisors available to help you during business hours 8a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, so no appointment is needed."

The Biden administration has faced scrutiny from both members of their party and constituents on how they are handling the \$1.7 trillion student debt crisis. Isabella Mahuad, a third year OU student, feels the debt crisis could be handled differently.

"I feel that the student debt crisis could be handled a lot better. There seems to be a lot of backtracking and changes to what's going to happen, which makes it really difficult for people to make informed financial plans. I'm not sure whether I know someone who will be affected by the pause expiring, but either way, this has been an incredibly difficult time for everyone, so I understand how the pause expiring could create a lot of added pressure for others."

Biden has faced pressure from his constituents to use an executive order to cancel student loan debt. However, this seems unlikely as instead, the president has voiced support for canceling \$10,000 in student loan debt for all students. According to a College Board estimate, the average student leaves college with \$28,400 in loans, so canceling \$10,000 would be significant.

To talk to a financial aid advisor, students can call their number — (248) 370-2550 — or email them at [finservices@oakland.edu](mailto:finservices@oakland.edu).

Visitors to the North Foundation Hall

office are required to wear a mask and complete a daily health screening form. For more information, visit the financial aid homepage on OU's website.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORBES  
President Biden has extended the pause on student loan repayment plans.



## People of OU: Alumna, content creator and influencer, Kate Lazarski

**GRACE LOVINS**  
Senior Reporter

For some people, social media is just a form of entertainment. For others, it is a way to explore their interests. But for Kate Lazarski, social media is a way to share her passion for showcasing some of her favorite things — travel, fashion and dining.

With over 25,000 followers on Instagram, Lazarski has not only made a name for herself as a local social media celebrity, but has turned her experience as an influencer into a prosperous career in the field of communication.

Lazarski graduated from OU in 2015 with a degree in public relations, advertising and applied communication with hopes to pursue a career in fashion marketing. After leaving Michigan for an internship in New York City, Lazarski realized she preferred a career geared towards hospitality and public relations.

When she moved back to Michigan from New York City, Lazarski started a job in Detroit exposing her to up-and-coming businesses, restaurants and shops. This exposure allowed her to post about her favorite local places on Instagram, leading to her status as a Detroit-based influencer.

Reflecting on her time at OU, Lazarski was grateful of the opportunities she was presented with not only from the university but from peers. She served on the OU Greek Council and was also a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

“Really, I would not have gotten my first jobs if it wasn’t for the internships I had from Oakland and I’m so grateful,” Lazarski said. “We had to do two back then so I did one with the Red Wings and one with Billhighway which is so random but it was the way my sorority paid dues — through Billhighway. So one of the girls got me this internship.”

“My boss that hired me out of college was best friends with my internship boss and truly spoke highly of me. He got me a full-time position out of college because of the internships and relationships that I built — which was huge.”

Lazarski is also one of the creators of 48hrstravel — A guide for locals and tourists to fully immerse themselves in a city with recommendations for shopping, dining, lodging, etc. With help from two of her friends, Marina and Nancy, the trio traveled to several cities in the U.S. and Canada to experience what each city had to offer.

The website was a creative outlet for Lazarski to share one of her favorite hobbies combined with her professional

experience from the communications and hospitality industries.

“I was traveling a lot for work for Bedrock [real estate services] and I realized I’m obsessed with traveling and my job was to find the coolest stuff in each city,” she said. “Ultimately my goal would be to bring it back to Detroit.”

“I was realizing I loved creating itineraries and finding what’s the coolest thing and telling people about it. Me and my two girlfriends started 48hrs — which we haven’t really done since COVID-19 unfortunately — but hopefully we’ll pick it back up.”

Although Instagram serves as a way for her to share her love of travel, food and fashion, Lazarski said she would not rely on her role as an influencer full-time. She has enjoyed the experience so far and hopes to pursue it as long as she can.

“Content creation — I feel like I don’t have a goal. It’s kind of worked out where I never really did and it’s just organically done its thing. I think [my goal is] just going with it and riding it as long as it lasts because honestly I don’t know how long it will last, but it’s been pretty great so far.”

She aims to remain in the hospitality industry, but has ideas on further developing her travel

website. Lazarski currently works as the director of social media marketing and brand communication at Heirloom Hospitality Group and continues to work with brands and businesses for consulting and promotional work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE LAZARSKI  
Lazarski strolls through downtown Detroit last fall.

**ADVERTISE  
WITH  
US!**

contact: [ads@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:ads@oaklandpostonline.com)



**1% CASH BACK  
ON ALL PURCHASES**

Build credit and receive cash back with the  
OU Credit Union Platinum Plus Visa Credit Card.

**Open your Platinum Plus Visa today.**

[oucreditunion.org/cashback](https://oucreditunion.org/cashback) | 800-766-6828

OU Credit Union Platinum Plus Visa cardholders will earn 1% cash back on all purchases. Cash back is not earned on tax payments, any unauthorized charges or transactions, cash advances, convenience checks, balance transfers, or fees of any kind. Account must be in good standing to redeem cash back. Returns result in the loss of cash back equal to the amount returned. Negative cash back will be given if returns or credits exceed purchases.

**OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY**  
Credit Union



# Men's basketball dominates in blowout w

Design by Bridget Janis

Story by Christian Tate

Photos by Maggie Willard

The Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team has won each of their last four games, with the most recent win being a blowout over the Milwaukee Panthers on Sunday at the O'rena.

The Golden Grizzlies came out blazing hot, as they shot a whopping 54% from the field and 35% from the three-point line. As they would jump out to a gigantic lead early on, the Milwaukee Panthers would do the absolute opposite. The Panthers, who were without star freshman Pat Baldwin Jr., would suffer from shooting woes early on in the first period, but would eventually right the ship and end the period shooting 54% field and 42% from the three point line.

The first period of the game would end with the Golden Grizzlies up 15 points, leading with a score of 47-32. This 15-point lead would not even be the largest lead that the Golden Grizzlies would hold that night, as they would keep their insanely hot hand flowing into the second period.

The Panthers, on the other hand, would end up falling into a deep pit of a shooting slump. They would come out of the half and

shoot 10- 27 from the field [a percentage of 37% overall], and shoot an abysmal 1- 7 from three-point land [bad enough to notch a 14% rate from three].

The Golden Grizzlies would come out and take advantage of this, and although they would also shoot worse than their first period performance [with their shooting percentages dropping off a whole 14% from the field and 9% from the three between periods, their performance would still be better than that of the Panthers, leading to them outscoring them in both periods.

The poor performance by the Panthers coupled with the somewhat steady shooting of the Golden Grizzlies would lead to a 28-point lead in the second period. The Panthers would never know the feeling of holding a lead in this game, as they would trail the Golden Grizzlies for the entire run time of the game and end up chalking this game up in the loss column with a score of 86-65.

Overall, the Golden Grizzlies would destroy the Panthers because of the hot start they

got off to in the first period. They would also win the turnover battle, scoring 21 points off of turnovers as opposed to the Panthers four points. The two teams would be just as dominant as each other in the paint, with the Panthers scoring 30 and the Golden Grizzlies scoring 28 points.

The Panthers bench would do their best to help claw their team back into the bench, scoring 28 of the teams 65 points, but their efforts were all for naught. Both teams would have a physical battle out there, and that battle would show in the foul count for both teams [the Grizzlies would end the game with 18 personal fouls and the Panthers would end with 20].

This win will surely give the Golden Grizzlies momentum heading into their next game of the season against Cleveland State University on Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. in Cleveland, Ohio.





# in over Milwaukee





# Talking skincare with OUWB clinical professor Dr. Fatima Fahs

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**

*Campus Editor*

Whether you're watching YouTube videos or scrolling through Instagram or TikTok — you're bound to come across skincare content. There is a seemingly endless list of varying routines, product recommendations and trends to try. It can be overwhelming and riddled with misinformation! To help clear some of that confusion, I asked Dr. Fatima Fahs, a board-certified dermatologist and clinical professor at the Oakland William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) some questions. Here's our conversation:



PHOTO COURTESY OF @DERMY\_DOCTOR  
Dr. Fatima Fahs, a dermatologist and clinical professor at OUWB provides insight to some of her skin care tips.

*Abdelmessih: Why did you decide to join social media as a dermatologist?*

Dr. Fahs: I created my Instagram account, @dermy\_doctor, in 2017 while I was in dermatology residency as a means for creative outlet and expression. I quickly realized that it was an awesome

platform to educate the masses when it came to all things skin. I harnessed that to create posts on topics such as different types of skin cancer, risks for developing skin cancer and how to choose the right sunscreen — it just took off from there!

*Abdelmessih: On social media platforms like Instagram and Tik Tok, it is — unfortunately — common to come across risky skincare trends. Where and/or whom can people get science-backed content from on these platforms or elsewhere?*

Dr. Fahs: I think it's important to take everything you see on social media with a grain of salt. This is not a peer-reviewed publication, any and everything goes when it comes to posting online! So if something sounds really outrageous, then it probably is. I think it's exhausting to always fact check, so instead, I recommend people take these questions to their own doctor if they have doubts or concerns. Remember, you should never be seeking personal medical advice on social media, nothing replaces an in office exam and discussion with your doctor.

*Abdelmessih: There are so many skincare products on the market that it can feel overwhelming when trying to figure out a skincare routine. What is a basic skincare guide morning routine and night routine that you recommend for college students?*

Dr. Fahs: I remember waking up in college, splashing water in my face and heading out the door to class! I also slept in my makeup plenty of times — oops! I think it can be very overwhelming to try and make an elaborate skincare routine in college — and you really don't need to. In the morning, aim for 3 steps: gentle cleanser, an antioxidant product (like a vitamin C serum) and a moisturizer that contains sunscreen. In the evening, make sure to cleanse your skin before heading to bed, especially if you're wearing makeup. If you have energy for a few more steps then consider adding in a topical retinoid (this decreases oil production and acne, helps with hyperpigmentation and promotes collagen production over time) and top it all with a moisturizer. You don't need to spend a ton of money on skincare for it to be good, there are plenty of great drugstore brands that are affordable for a college student's budget.

*Abdelmessih: Why is sunscreen so important and why should we wear it daily? What's the difference between chemical and physical sunscreen and how should one choose which to use?*

Dr. Fahs: Skin cancer is the number one cancer in

the US with 1 in 5 Americans developing skin cancer in their lifetime. One blistering sunburn in childhood or adolescence can nearly double a person's chance of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Wearing sunscreen daily can significantly reduce your risk of developing skin cancer. But you know what else it does too? Reduce your risk of premature aging! Heavy sun exposure over time breaks down collagen and leads to premature fine lines, wrinkles, leathery skin and more.

Chemical sunscreens contain ingredients like oxybenzone, avobenzone, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate, octinoxate, etc. Mineral sunscreens contain zinc oxide and/or titanium dioxide. In general, we tend to find that mineral sunscreens are more suitable for those with sensitive skin as well as babies/kids. More importantly though, you should check your sunscreen label for 3 things. 1) Make sure it says "broad spectrum", this means it protects against both UVA and UVB rays. 2) Make sure it contains an SPF of 30 or higher, this will mean that it blocks out about 97% of UVB rays (no sunscreen can offer 100% protection). 3) If using it for water activities or sweating, make sure your sunscreen says "water resistant" for 40 or 80 minutes.

*Abdelmessih: Besides wearing sunscreen, what are other preventative measures one can take against skin cancer?*

Dr. Fahs: Sunscreen is only the first step. Remember, a tan is considered DNA damage and DNA damage over time is what leads to skin cancer. So make sure you are also seeking shade (especially between the peak hours of 10am-2pm when the sun is the strongest), wearing sun protective clothing if you can (wide brim hat, sun glasses with UV protection, long sleeved shirts/pants) and reapply your sunscreen (every 2 hours when outdoors). If you have a history of skin cancer in your family or many moles on your body, then it may be a good idea to establish with a board-certified dermatologist for a full body skin exam every year. If you use a tanning bed, please stop. Even one indoor tanning session can increase your risk of developing melanoma by 20%.

The main takeaway from this interview?

Wear sunscreen!

If you have any suggestions for future column topics, please email me! My goal is to make this the most helpful it can be for the university community. Email: gabdelmessih@oakland.edu

## AM Routine:

- Gentle Cleanser
- Antioxidant Product  
(like a Vitamin C)
- Moisturizer  
-contains sunscreen

## PM Routine:

- Cleanser  
(Remove makeup if wearing)
- Topical Retinoid  
-decreases oil production and acne  
-helps with hyper pigmentation  
- promotes collagen production over time
- Moisturizer



# Masking is not murder, stop comparing it to the Holocaust

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, American society has borne witness to the strangest displays of human behavior in reaction to this virus. When government officials advised citizens to wear a mask and get vaccinated, some responses have ranged from weird to downright bizarre. One of the most confounding examples of public backlash has been the erroneous comparison of immunization and mask wearing to the Holocaust.

There have been numerous instances where this offensive narrative has made headlines. The first case of this lunacy was in May of 2021 when a Nashville hat store decided to sell yellow Star of David badges as an anti-vaccination protest.

When met with backlash, the store responded via Instagram saying, “all unvaccinated people will be segregated from society, marked & must wear a mask. What comes next? There is a historical parallel to fascism to be drawn.”

No, there is not. Asking the public to protect the lives of their fellow citizens and themselves is far from a sign of fascism. The U.S. has lost over 800,000 lives since the start of this pandemic. How many more will be lost because of selfishness and crazed misconceptions?

This issue made headlines once again when Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene was asked to comment on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s mask mandates for House members.

Greene said: “You know, we can look back at a time in history where people were told to wear a gold star, and they were definitely treated like second class citizens, so much so that they were put in trains and taken to gas chambers in Nazi Germany. And this is exactly the type of abuse that Nancy Pelosi is talking about.”

Not only is the comparison incorrect, but it is dangerous rhetoric being perpetuated by a member of Congress. Greene has a platform and a voice in government. To make this claim is reckless and does harm to the country she represents.

A restriction in personal freedoms in order to protect the public health of fellow citizens is not reminiscent of Nazi Germany. Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask is not the same as the dehumanization and extermination of the Jewish people in the Holocaust.

The U.S. government has a reasonable basis for their policies. There has been historical success in inoculations and other preventative measures to treat illness. Polio and other diseases were not eradicated by a substantial number of citizens opting out of these measures and some of them proclaiming the government fascist. Instead, polio and other afflictions were eradicated because nearly 100% of the population cooperated and got inoculated for the welfare of themselves and their fellow citizens.

Two things are painfully obvious: the first is that many Americans are lacking in historical education. The second — and more frightening prospect — is the lack of trust many U.S. citizens have in their government. If earnest attempts by the government to protect public health are seen as fascist, what does that say about the state of our country?

The perpetuated claim that attempts by the government to stop the spread of COVID-19 is reminiscent of Nazi Germany is offensive, as well as factually and historically incorrect. A temporary restriction of some personal freedoms cannot be compared to genocide, especially when the suspension of these freedoms are in attempt to save lives, not end them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN  
In an interview, Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene compared House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s mask mandates for House members to the Holocaust.

# ‘Emily in Paris’ is a girlboss take on the French

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH

Campus Editor

“Paris is great because she is France,” a quote from the literary genius and French legend, himself, Victor Hugo, whose work and life of stark contrasts embodies the very soul of the city and its people.

Everywhere you go, you are reminded of his books, his poems, his passion and how it perfectly captures the complicated history of France. When I visited in 2019, I was reminded of Hugo while observing Sunday mass in the pews of Notre Dame a week before it burned. As the taxi zipped past the Place Vendôme, I recall seeing a certain Napoleonic ode to a certain remembering column. Admiring the architecture, one couldn’t help but notice “liberty, equality, fraternity,” the principle Hugo so ardently supported, emblazoned on the walls.

Forgive me if I sound like an annoying college student overzealously discussing their times abroad, but I bring attention to one of my favorite writers because his quote so succinctly describes everything that is wrong with Netflix’s most-watched and Golden Globe-nominated comedy series, “Emily in Paris.” It is not great because it is not Paris! Unlike the literature of Hugo, it is merely a mirage of hyper-edited Instagram reels and escapism that barely scratches a stereotypical surface of what it means to be a Parisian. Hugo’s work was often romanticized, but not like this...

I know I’m not one to talk about such things and that comparing a television show to some of the greatest literature known to man may be a slightly unfair comparison, but I think I know enough to realize that whatever “Emily in Paris is,” it certainly isn’t French.

Season 1 was a travesty, but the second season, which made its binge-watching debut on Dec. 22, is truly, as the French would call it, “rignard.”

The second season begins with a conflicted Emily. After a one-night stand with Gabriel, she is left grappling with how she will tell Camille. And if you haven’t already seen it or guessed based on the elementary writing in the first season, yes, there are multiple *ménage à trois* lines — and not even clever ones. If Emily’s life wasn’t already self-complicated enough, her American boss pays a visit to the French office, bringing along, as Americans would call it, a “girlboss” vibe that I found to be quite funny. Leave it to Kate Walsh to save a wilting television show, whether it be as a pregnant advertising executive or world-class neonatal surgeon. Her character did more to highlight differences in the American and French workplaces than Emily ever has. Honestly, she can go back to eating deep-dish pizza and misreading other cultures in Chicago. The plotlines of the other (French) characters are far more entertaining — especially Sylvie and Mindy’s!

Speaking of French characters, the men are very easy on the eyes. I can’t decide if

I’d prefer to be serenaded by the strums of a guitar, prepared a Jacques Pépin-worthy omelette on a well-seasoned pan, or roasted in another language for my outfit choices. Decisions, decisions...

Despite having such charisma at their disposal, the writing on this show is genuinely puzzling. When it comes to French escapism and glamour, there is a lot to reference from! None of that happens, which is surprising for a television show produced by, Darren Star, the same man who created and wrote for HBO’s groundbreaking “Sex and The City.” Even I, a fledgling francophile, saw so many missed opportunities to reference iconic films like “Funny Face,” “Two for The Road” and “Charade” in a witty way — especially when your leading lady, played by Lilly Collins, is an Audrey Hepburn look-alike!

Though occasionally included, French cultural references are usually done in the tackiest way possible. Editor’s Note: The sexual innuendos regarding French cuisine and champagne are getting a little old. Though I have to admit, as a Michigander and not ex-pat living in Paris, I did genuinely laugh at the Mackinac Island bit and confusion over fudge. Also, what demographic is this show geared toward? With how varied and cliché the writing is, we may never know.

Don’t even get me started on the fashion. It’s like they told a 6th grade beret-obsessed me to pick out the outfits.

Emily seems to be oblivious to most things French. How on earth would she know about Christian Louboutin heels? I just know her closet must consist of the Carrie Bradshaw rejects.

While I do mostly have harsh notes for the show’s writers, I have to admit that I enjoy watching the show. Is it realistic? Absolutely not. Is it clever? Barely. Is it an escape from a COVID-ridden world where I can pretend I’m gazing up at the twinkling tour de Eiffel in a fabulous outfit and not eating a Starbucks croissant in my sweatpants? Oui.

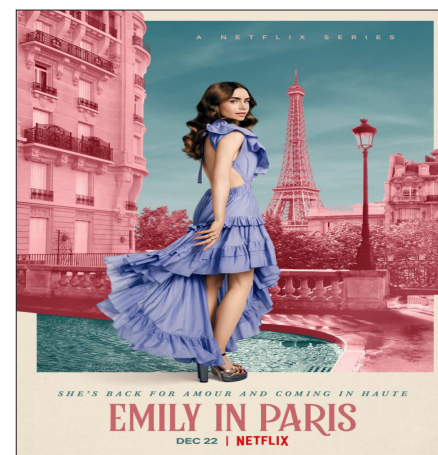


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
Lily Collins, Ashley Park and Lucas Bravo star in Netflix’s “Emily in Paris.”



# ‘Spider-Man: No Way Home’ swings its way to the top

**JOE ZERILLI**  
Senior Reporter

## \*Spoiler Warning!\*

Sony and Marvel have teamed up once again to create another amazing installment of Spider-Man, with “No Way Home” bringing together fans of all ages. The film rounds out the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) trilogy with breathtaking visuals and a gripping plot.

After a year that felt like Marvel had a new project every time you looked, it released “Spider-Man: No Way Home” on Dec. 17. IMDb gave the film an 8.8/10 rating, and as of early January 2022, it has a worldwide box office gross of \$1.3 billion.

The new installment follows the story of Peter trying to learn how to be both Spider-Man and Peter Parker at the same time. He does get some help from his best friend Ned and girlfriend MJ, as well as Aunt May and Happy Hogan.

After escaping legal troubles, Peter and friends try to move on to the next phase of their lives — college. Issues arise in the recruitment process, so Peter seeks out Doctor Strange to conjure up a spell that would cause everyone to forget Peter is Spider-Man.

An error in the spell causes the multiverse to open, bringing in a slew of familiar faces like Doc Ock and Green Goblin. Instead of just sending the villains back to die, Peter and Aunt May attempt to “fix” them before sending them back.

All-star acting from actors like Willem Dafoe — who I felt established Green Goblin as a top-tier absolute menace of a villain — brought it together beautifully. If

only they could get Doc Ock some new lines.

Norman Osborn is unable to hold back Green Goblin and ends up killing Aunt May. Afterwards, Peter’s friends bring in other Spider-Men — Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield — that are able to help Peter overcome the hatred and fulfill Aunt May’s dying wish to help everyone.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
“Spider-Man: No Way Home” was released on Dec. 17, 2021.

You could really tell that both Garfield and Maguire were thrilled to be back on set and they looked like they never skipped a beat. I enjoyed how much time each of them spent on screen and the nostalgia really delivered some heartwarming moments.

Peter realizes that in order to solve everything and to keep those he loves out of harm’s way, he must ask Strange to cast one more spell — that everyone forgets Peter Parker.

Two of my favorite scenes from the film occurred during the final fight: the three Spider-Men swinging in unison and Garfield’s Spider-Man redeeming himself by saving MJ. No matter how many times I see those scenes I still get goosebumps because of how beautifully written and choreographed they were.

After the spell, Peter finds MJ and Ned are better off without him and decides to stay away. The film ends with Peter going off to fight crime, truly embracing that he is now just Spider-Man.

The post-credit scene features the lackluster inclusion of Eddie Brock, whose sole purpose was to leave behind a piece of Venom for the MCU. There is speculation that Eddie Brock may end up being in the same universe as Andrew Garfield’s Spider-Man.

I enjoyed the callbacks to other Spider-Men as well, like Electro saying “There’s gotta be a Black Spider-Man out there somewhere” or Tom Holland’s Peter using a move that resembled one seen in the PlayStation 4 game “Marvel’s Spider-Man.”

One of my favorite things about this movie is how they created a lot of the special effects. Obviously we are in the age of CGI for movies, but “No Way Home” featured quite a lot of practical effects — the bridge scene for example.

I’m very excited to see the next chapter of the Spider-Verse, with the animated film coming out later this year. And remember, with great power comes great responsibility.

Rating: 4.8/5 stars

# ‘Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts’

**ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI**  
Senior Reporter

“Harry Potter” is one of the most influential media franchises of all time, beginning in 1997 when J.K. Rowling published the first book, “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone.” The book was a colossal success and reached the New York Times fiction best-selling list in 1999.

It was no surprise when that same year, Warner Brothers bought the franchise’s film rights and began working on an adaptation of the first book in the series. In 2001 the film adaptation of “the Philosopher’s Stone” or as it was called in the U.S., “the Sorcerer’s Stone” was released and became the highest-grossing film of the year.

The documentary, “Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts,” takes a retrospective look at the film franchise that began twenty years ago, by interviewing the cast of the franchise on the film series’ iconic sets under the conceit of a reunion. Having grown up with both the “Harry Potter” novels and films, this HBO Max original immediately jumped to the front of my watchlist. I am delighted to say this film is the definitive Harry Potter documentary and a must-watch for any fan of the franchise, either casual or hardcore.

The most impressive feat of this documentary is it was able to gather most of the franchise’s stars and all of the directors to give their perspectives on the development of the series. Seeing Daniel Radcliffe,

Emma Watson and Rupert Grint converse about their experiences on set in the Gryffindor Common Room was a surreal experience. The documentary does a good job of stitching conversations between the costars into a cohesive narrative. You get an incredibly complete picture of the costars maturing, and the franchise growing along with them.

The most interesting subject the documentary interviews is the director of the first two films, Chris Columbus. Columbus is portrayed as a fatherly figure for all of the then-child stars, and the archival footage they show of him working on set is quite moving. The director is proclaimed to be the unsung hero of the “Harry Potter” series, as without his guidance and patient approach to working with the child actors there wouldn’t be the films we all know and love.

The film mostly chooses to ignore the actual creator of the franchise, J.K. Rowling, except for some archival interview footage about the casting of Radcliffe. Her omission is due to the controversy surrounding comments she made that many people consider transphobic. Despite being the creator of the franchise, she adds relatively little to the film, and her contributions could have easily been left on the cutting room floor without any impact. I believe that her being completely absent would have been preferable to this film’s partial commitment to exclusion.

“Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts” is a beautiful retelling of the development of one of the most iconic film franchises of all time.

I recommend this film to anyone who ever picked up a “Harry Potter” book, or caught one of the films either in theaters or through one of the endless television marathons.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
The HBO Max special serves as a reunion for the iconic cast.



# ‘Encanto’ is taking the world by storm, and for good reason

**CHRISTIAN TATE**  
*Sports Reporter*

Disney might’ve created one of their best movies in the history of the company with their sleeper hit production, titled “Encanto”.

In this spoiler-free review, I will do my best to detail everything I think makes “Encanto” the beautiful, unique and poignant movie that it is. Culturally rich and beautifully made in every way possible, “Encanto” is rocking both theater seats and living rooms alike with its vibrant scenes, boisterous music and gripping emotional storytelling. The movie is not just enchanting, but utterly gorgeous and unique in its style.

First things first, for those paying close attention, this movie will delight you in its showing of what truly amazing animation looks like. Every single move the characters make is dynamic, every sound bursting from the speakers is robust and every facial expression is delicately yet intricately designed.

I expect nothing less from what could be considered the best animation studio on this side of the planet, but “Encanto” is just special. There’s something different about it and it gives the movie an air of magic, pun not intended. Every scene is set beautifully and positively shimmering with vivid and energetic colors.

Staying true to the form of its real-life setting in Colombia, almost every scene in the movie is accompanied by scenic views of the intensely bewitching landscape and beautiful flora and fauna that inhabit the country. Unique in its design and comfortable in its culture, “Encanto” is a dinner for the eyes fit for a king.

Aside from the beautiful coloring and design, the actual animation is also a cut above the rest. The dynamic movements of the characters and angles the movie presents during both the normal and the more “cinematic” scenes of the movies are truly breathtaking. Above all else, if you don’t like the story or for SOME REASON don’t like the glorious soundtrack [a topic I will get to in a moment], you have no choice but to love the way this movie looks. The pairing of the lovely ten out of ten character designs with beautiful scenery and masterful animation is a one-way ticket to Dreamville.

The effort, love and care put into this movie’s looks is clear, but what about the way it sounds? We absolutely NEED

to talk about the clear-cut centerpiece of this movie. The crème de la crème, the shining jewel in the glowing crown that is “Encanto”: the soundtrack.

Don’t get me wrong, I love the score of this movie as well, but the soundtrack is where the money lies. Ambitious in every way, the “Encanto” soundtrack is nothing short of perfect. Every song is full-bodied and positively bursting at the seams with quirks and interjections from the character’s personalities and powers.

Dolores whispering her verses, the confident swagger in the moves of Luisa’s dances belying the shaky and timid nature of her lyrics, the practiced and poised nature of Isabela’s lyrics giving off the undertones of her perfect and rehearsed life. Powered by eight original songs from the wildly talented Lin-Manuel Miranda, any song from this soundtrack is sure to be a forever staple in your playlist.

Overall, this story is a magical tale with a heart and solid backbone of musical excellence and stunning visual genius. After one watch, it will be impossible to not hum the introduction song of the Madrigal family, or fall in love with every character that appears on the screen. And that’s a promise.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
Disney’s “Encanto” is beautiful, unique and poignant — making it a must-see.

# ‘The Bachelor’ season 26 premiere — yay?

**D’JUANNA LESTER**  
*Senior Reporter*

Bachelor Mondays are back. After non-stop content for a year, 2022 kicks off with what appears to be a drama-filled, shocking season of “The Bachelor.” In most seasons, a contestant is typically chosen from the final two or final six from the previous season to be the next lead. This time, there’s a change. With Bachelor Clayton Echard chosen over several fan favorites who were in the final four of Michelle Young’s “The Bachelorette” season — like Rodney and Brandon — fans are apprehensive about this season as a whole.

Clayton was a controversial pick from the start. Before Michelle Young’s season premiered, Bachelor Nation found out he was the next lead, which took away the experience of watching him — not that there was much to experience, as Clayton was barely featured in any episode up until his last and has been a meme ever since.

The episode starts off with new host Jessie Palmer introducing Clayton, who pokes fun at himself for “only having eight minutes of screentime” and talking about how he doesn’t like the spotlight. Now, he’s the Bachelor. Ok then. What do viewers learn about him? Clayton’s only two personality traits: being a football player from Missouri and wanting a family. Awesome.

We’re then introduced to the new influencers — I mean contestants — a battalion of boisterous blondes with puns galore. We get the typical flight attendants, nurses, beauty pageant contestants and lawyers, many which you can’t tell apart. There’s even a girl who was engaged before the show, and her wedding was supposed to be tonight. Now it’s getting interesting.

Random blonde number 12 Salley is lamenting about her almost wedding while the other girls prepare for the first limo arrivals of the season. She insists on seeing Clayton before then, and I think we all know where this is going. Break up on the first episode? Before Clayton’s even met any of the girls? Maybe this season does have its upsides.

Salley goes to his room and explains why this weekend is so hard and emotional for her. She talks about how she wants to just be home with her family (and also how good-looking he is because that’s his third personality trait). Clayton talks about how much

he likes her already, and Salley talks about how much she sees in him. If she’s talking about his face or a genuine connection, we’ll never know. Either way, he’s giving out a rose. Again, he hasn’t met any of the girls yet. But that’s not all. She. Rejects. It.

Clayton finally steps out of the limo to chat with his brother Jesse. At least they look like brothers. The thirty ladies are finally introduced to Clayton. The first one out is Sarah, who was also a fellow Tiger.

The second girl is a Southern belle who makes a Northern joke, amazing Clayton. Someone shows up with her ex’s ashes. One girl shows up asking for him to touch her “nips,” then pulls out a shot. Another girl spansks him with a whip, and I’m ready for the season to be over. Bikinis, snakes and a “Mean Girls” reference in one episode? Well played ABC.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN FLEENOR  
“The Bachelor” is back with season 26. Clayton Echard is this season’s bachelor.

After all the women meet Clayton, the cocktail party finally begins. Susie gets the first sit down with Clayton, while Teddi gets the first kiss of the season. Then he kisses three more girls. The drama heats up as the First Impression Rose goes to Teddi and a girl says she “hates” Clayton after talking to him. Predictions for this season? Chaotic mess. And I’m here for it.



# The Weeknd tunes into the afterlife on ‘Dawn FM’

**TORI COKER**

*Marketing Director*

The Weeknd has taken his efforts to revive 1980’s-esque sound in pop music to new heights in his fifth studio album, “Dawn FM,” released to wide and immediate acclaim on Friday, Jan. 7. A kaleidoscope of pulsating synths, funky guitars and gnawingly vulnerable lyricism, the sonic war against mortality functions as a timeless addition to what is already a lighting-in-a-bottle example of a quality discography borne within the modern era of mainstream pop.

The album’s title draws from the entire project’s creative premise — a series of soul-bearing stories narrated in the format of a radio station’s block of “commercial ‘free yourself’ music,” complete with classic transitional radio jingles identifying “103.5 Dawn FM,” an eventual advertisement for the afterlife and actor Jim Carrey as the DJ at the helm of it all.

Documenting a journey through existentialism into a reluctant reckoning with afterlife, the record uses ‘80s-inspired synths and melodies to explore each vein extending from Abel Tesfaye’s battle through a multifaceted darkness. Thematically, its tumultuous visions of toxic relationships, guilt-ridden feelings of inadequacy and uncertain fear regarding what comes after death is altogether best

summarized by the question posed at the project’s introduction: “after the light, is it dark? Is it dark, all alone?”

This is hardly Tesfaye’s first foray into concept albums — recall the visual accompaniment to 2020’s “After Hours,” a series of music videos chronicling a thrill ride gone wrong and the subsequent series of dramatic reconstructive surgeries — nor is it his first attempt at producing art reflective of the 1980’s. His smash hit single “Blinding Lights” referenced the same era sonically, and preceded to break the record for the longest presence on the Billboard Hot 100 chart — proving there was a hunger in his audience for more music of the nostalgic variety.

“Dawn FM” brandishes an even further emboldened nod to pop of a different era. Highlight moments see Tesfaye borrowing the overenunciated vocal techniques so beloved within the new wave genre, most notably on tracks like “Sacrifice” and “Gasoline,” the latter of which delves even deeper into this sensation with near-robotic vocal filters furthering the nostalgic effect. “Don’t Break My Heart,” also demonstrates such vocal work, meshing the once futuristic, echoey tones between moments of smooth falsetto that are more of a classic trademark for the artist — so if you’re a tried and true The Weeknd fan on the fence about this dip into techniques of yesteryear, you’ll still feel right at home.

Along with the aforementioned new wave odes, the album’s seventh track is another undoubtable highlight on the record. “Out of Time” is a concoction of disco influences interspersed within the sea of synths, an effort that could have been ripped right from Michael Jackson’s “Off The Wall” album — a fitting comparison, seeing as this song is preceded by a reflective interlude narrated by none other than Quincy Jones, pioneer producer for Jackson and countless others.

The rare weak spot in Tesfaye’s otherwise overwhelmingly impressive discography often comes in the form of monotonous melodies, hooks that blend together and beg for something more distinct to grant them memorability. This album finds itself within this territory somewhere around the middle mark for me, with tracks like “Here We Go...Again” necessitating more than a questionably placed Tyler. The Creator verse to stand out on the record.

In spite of these forgettable hiccups, even the tracks which succumb to this criticism serve an important purpose — in a project clearly designed to be consumed as one piece with artful, intentional consistency at its core, a few songs which might not be sought out on their own still function helpfully in executing the magical whole.

The Weeknd is consistently reinventing

himself, and simultaneously influencing shifts in the entire landscape of pop music. This album, perhaps more than any of its predecessors, proves with every searing vocal and funky rhythm that Tesfaye is more than deserving of the title of modern Prince of Pop — and likely any other damn genre he sets his mind to.

4.5/ 5 stars

Top tracks: Gasoline, Less Than Zero & Out of Time



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY  
The Weeknd dropped his fifth studio album “Dawn FM” on Friday, Jan. 7.

# It doesn’t matter if ‘Don’t Look Up’ was bad

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Managing Editor*

Everyone is so far from reality these days, on seemingly unreachable planets, that we have to just try making bad movies with deep meanings and mock people to get anyone’s attention.

“Don’t Look Up” is a satire movie that everyone and their mother needs to watch. It’s a movie that serves a purpose — to bring to attention how ridiculous we have become, how science matters and how the climate change crisis WILL kill us all.

The movie follows Dr. Randall Mandy (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Kate Dibiasky (Jennifer Lawrence), two scientists that have discovered a comet that will entirely wipe out the planet. And guess what? No one cares.

They spend the whole movie trying to convince people and President Orlean (Meryl Streep) to care about the mass extinction of the human race. They attend press conferences, make TV appearances, shout and scream the news as much as they can — but they just become a joke and a meme and no one will take them seriously.

As they try to convince the public

to just look up and see the comet, the President and other members have been starting the campaign, “don’t look up” in hopes people won’t believe Dr. Mandy and Dibiasky.

“Don’t Look Up” is satire, it even says it is based on true events — that haven’t happened... yet. This movie is hitting the mark on the truth behind it’s message: people are ignorant, not believing science and it’s all about the polls, all the time.

Whether you see the side of “Don’t Look Up” that is a metaphor for climate change and the crisis behind it, or the side pushes the message that people deny the facts of science, which can be seen in more situations than just climate change in the real world, this movie is definitely worth the watch.

Netflix really brought out the big guns for this film, having DiCaprio, Lawrence, Streep and many others such as Jonah Hill, Ariana Grande, Timothée Chalamet to all be in the movie and make it as influential as possible. Now, if you’re the type of person that only thinks a movie is good if it has big name actors in it, this definitely will be your favorite movie.

While I understood the movie, I got the purpose and I know it was satire, I just didn’t enjoy it as much as I hoped. “Don’t Look Up” was very hyped up for a film, and sounded

like it was going to be one of the best movies Netflix has ever made, but it wasn’t.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB  
“Don’t Look Up,” starring Jennifer Lawrence and Leonardo DiCaprio, may not have been the best movie ever, but its message is extremely important.

To be honest, it doesn’t matter that “Don’t Look Up” was a bad movie, it does what it needs to do: make people look like fools. I was nervous it would cross the line of “The Day After Tomorrow” or “2012” like a typical end of the world movie, but the director was careful not to cross that line so the message could be understood, and the movie would get its point across. It needed to stand out.

What better way to stand out than to be a little bad and create a satirical but realistic vibe to the whole movie. There was definitely acting in the movie, I won’t say it’s good, but then again not supposed to be. It’s almost hard to form an opinion on a movie that is supposed to be bad, satirical and just serve a purpose of creating a message.

“Don’t Look Up” highlights many things in real life, in the movie they might seem ridiculous, but they aren’t even exaggerating anything — that’s just how ridiculous we are. I can feel the frustration behind director Adam McKay’s message.

Now, will this movie be enough of an eye opener to the people higher up? Who knows, all I know is that climate change is real, science is real and politicians are on thin ice.

5/5 stars for the movie message  
2.5/5 stars



## Detroit Lions bite kneecaps of Packers to close regular season

**REECE TAYLOR**

*Sports Reporter*

The Detroit Lions defeated the top-seeded Green Bay Packers 37-30 in a dramatic game at Ford Field on Jan. 9 to finish head coach Dan Campbell's first season 3-13-1.

After a disastrous tenure under former head coach Matt Patricia, Campbell took over, looking to establish a new culture with new pieces in the first part of a long-term rebuild. After opening the season on an eight-game losing streak, the Lions showed signs of life before going 3-3 to finish the regular season.

Green Bay, who had the top seed in the NFC clinched going into the game, opened with a touchdown from MVP candidate quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who would sit most of the game but finished with 138 yards and a pair of touchdown passes before backup Jordan Love took over. The Lions would go on a run, scoring 14 unanswered points, before a Green Bay touchdown brought them within one. After a field goal, the Lions would lead going into the half 17-13.

In the third quarter, the Lions looked to pull away after a 36-yard touchdown put Detroit up 24-13. This was a strong showing from Lions quarterback Jared Goff, who would go on to put up 238 yards and two touchdowns for the game. The Lions put pressure on the Packers, but even with Rodgers sitting, Green Bay showed why they're the one seed. The Packers scored a field goal in

the third quarter to stop the bleeding. The Packers put themselves in good field position heading into the fourth, where they scored a touchdown with over 14 minutes left to bring Green Bay within two.

The Lions would score on another field goal, to put the game up by five, until a 62-yard touchdown pass from Love and a two-point conversion would give Green Bay their first lead since the first quarter. With under two minutes remaining, running back D'Andre Swift would score a touchdown to give Detroit the lead back. Green Bay got back on the attack, but a Love interception would lead to a Lions field goal, and a second with 48 seconds left on the clock sealed a Detroit victory, 37-30.

Though Detroit won against a mostly resting Green Bay Packers, they locked in the second pick in the 2022 NFL draft and are starting to embody the new culture established by Campbell. His hard-nosed approach to football and calls to go for it on 4th downs are giving the Detroit Lions a reputation as a tough and gutsy team heading into next season.

Detroit, which has a number of improvements to make, has a multitude of draft picks and \$38 million in cap room. As Campbell's roster continues to take shape, expect Detroit to be a franchise on the ascent as they look to get back into the playoffs and win their first playoff game since 1992. The Detroit Lions will roar back. It's just a matter of when?



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS  
The Lions defeated the Packers 37-30 on Sunday.

## Spartans rally back to defeat Pittsburgh in Peach Bowl

**JOSEPH POPIS**

*Senior Reporter*

The "keep chopping" mentality Michigan State Head Coach Mel Tucker has instilled into his team came to fruition once again in the season's final game for the Spartans. The Spartans rallied back from a 21-10 deficit in the fourth quarter to defeat Pittsburgh and win the Peach Bowl on Dec. 30, 31-21.

This year's Peach Bowl happened without the main stars on both teams. Pittsburgh Quarterback Kenny Pickett and Michigan State running back Kenneth Walker III both sat out due to preparing for the NFL Draft.

The Panthers received the ball to start the first half of the game and quickly punted it back to the Spartans, giving them excellent field position. With this advantageous field position on the Pittsburgh 29-yard line, (MSU) Payton Thorne connected with (MSU) Jayden Reed for a 28-yard touchdown for the first score of the game.

Pittsburgh responded on their next drive, which was mainly composed of short runs. Eventually, (Pitt) Quarterback Nick Patti rushed to the left for a 16-yard touchdown.

On the Spartans' next drive, thanks to some solid catches from (MSU) Jalen Nailor and (MSU) Maliq Carr, the Spartans were able to get down in Pittsburgh territory again. The drive ended with a 36-yard field goal from (MSU) Matt Coghlin.

There were no points put on the board for most of the second quarter until the first half's final minute. Pittsburgh would finally have a successful drive when (Pitt) Beville would connect with (Pitt) Jared Wayne down the middle for a 4-yard touchdown to obtain Pitt's first lead of the game 14-10.

The second half of the Peach Bowl got off to a rocky start for the Spartans. (MSU) Thorne rushed to the right on their first drive of the third quarter (MSU) and fumbled the football. (Pitt) Cam Bright would scoop the ball up and return it for a 26-yard touchdown 21-10.

The rest of the third quarter turned out to be unremarkable as both teams could not put any points



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT FREE PRESS  
MSU won the Peach Bowl back in December 2021, defeating the Pittsburgh Panthers 31-21.

on the scoreboard. Heading into the fourth quarter, time was running out for the Spartans.

After receiving a punt from Pittsburgh, the Spartans would compose one of the most extensive drives of the game. From the Pittsburgh 15-yard line (MSU) Thorne passed to (MSU) tight end Connor Heyward for a 15-yard touchdown. The Spartans failed to convert the 2-point attempt 21-16.

Pittsburgh's next drive would go nowhere again, and the ball would return to the Spartans. Eventually, (MSU) Thorne would connect with (MSU) Reed once again for a 22-yard touchdown pass. Following a successful two-point conversion this time around from (MSU) Thorne to (MSU) Nailor 24-21.

The Pittsburgh Panthers would have one last drive to win with two minutes left in the ball game. (Pitt) Beville would drop back and have his pass intercepted by (MSU) linebacker Cal Haladay, sealing the Spartans' win. It would be the Spartans' first New Year's Six Bowl win since 2015.

(MSU) quarterback Payton Thorne would finish the game going 29-50 for 354 yards, three touchdowns and one interception. (MSU) Jalen Nailor was the leading receiver for the Spartans as he caught six balls for 108 yards. Nailor's counterpart Jayden Reed would also catch six balls for 80 yards and two touchdowns.

The Mel Tucker era at Michigan State has arrived and is here to stay. This victory mark's the end of this year's Spartan season, which almost seemed like a fantasy. Going forward, Spartan fans have a lot to be excited about.



## Men's basketball wraps up non-conference play with loss to Michigan State

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Sports Editor*

The Oakland University men's basketball team fell to the No. 11 ranked Michigan State Spartans 90-78 Tuesday, Dec. 21, night at Little Caesars Arena.

It was a quick start for the Spartans, with the team going on an 8-0 run to start the game. Freshman guard Max Christie, a five-star recruit, hit two early three-pointers.

Jalen Moore got the scoring started for the Golden Grizzlies with a three of his own. Jamal Cain hit one as well to keep Oakland in it. MSU led 15-8 at the first media timeout thanks to their strong three-point shooting.

Oakland started clamping down on defense around the perimeter, so MSU responded by dishing the ball inside to seven-foot tall center Marcus Bingham Jr. With their lack of size, the Grizzlies had no answer for Bingham on either side of the court.

However, Cain and Moore kept Oakland in the game offensively, while they struggled defensively with MSU's length and athleticism. The Spartans had nine offensive rebounds in the first half.

Momentum started swinging back into Oakland's favor after they started to get hot from behind the arc. Cain and Moore were leading the way once again scoring 13 and 12 points respectively in the first half.

Late in the first half, Head Coach Greg Kampe received a technical foul. He was arguing a no-call on MSU's Gabe Brown for a potential goaltending.

The Spartans would close the half on an 8-0 run, thanks to five Oakland turnovers down the stretch.

They led 44-35 at the half.

MSU opened the second half the same way they started the game—with some stellar three-point shooting. Point guard Tyson Walker made two and freshman guard Jaden Akins made one to keep the Spartans' lead at double digits at the first media timeout.

The Golden Grizzlies continued to struggle rebounding the basketball. Bingham was killing them on the boards with his length. He had a monster game, finishing with 17 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL—Michigan State's Marcus Bingham Jr. goes for the rebound against Oakland on Dec. 21.

Oakland's defense was uncharacteristically sloppy all game long as well. The Spartans just had too many open looks.

With 5:22 left in the game, MSU Head Coach Tom Izzo was hit with a technical foul. Forward Joey Hauser was called for a blocking foul, and he disagreed. Cain split the following free throws, then proceeded to miss the front end of a one-and-one.

The Golden Grizzlies tried to make it a game again toward the end, but a late turnover by freshman guard Osei Price pretty much sealed the game for the Spartans. They took this one, 90-78.

With the loss, Oakland has now lost all 19 matchups with Michigan State.

Moore and Cain were definitely the highlights for the Golden Grizzlies, but Micah Parrish deserves some credit. He quietly had a very nice game, putting up 19 points and eight rebounds.

All of Oakland's scoring came from just four players—Parrish, Moore [25], Cain [20], and Trey Townsend [14].

The Spartans were struggling mightily with turnovers on the season entering this game. They had just 10 in this game, well below their season average of 15.

The rebounding advantage was 37-28 in favor of MSU. It seemed much worse than that given Oakland struggles on the glass, especially in the first half.

With this game and the non-conference season now in the rearview mirror, the Golden Grizzlies now prepare for Horizon League play.

## SEC foes set to square off in highly-anticipated national title game

**BROCK HEILIG**

*Sports Reporter*

A memorable 2021 college football season will conclude on Monday night as SEC powers Georgia and Alabama battle it out for a spot in history.

The Alabama Crimson Tide enter the national championship game with an impressive 13-1 record, its only loss coming on Oct. 9 on the road against Texas A&M in what was a hostile night environment.

Alabama easily handled the undefeated Cincinnati Bearcats in the College Football Playoff Semifinal, by a score of 27-6. Tide running back Brian Robinson rushed for 204 yards on a Bearcat defense that was physically dominated throughout the game.

The Georgia Bulldogs also go into the championship game with a 13-1 record. The Bulldogs finished the regular season with an unblemished record, a perfect 12-0. Georgia, however, was beaten badly by Alabama in the SEC championship game, by a score of 41-27.

Georgia also won its College Football Playoff Semifinal game rather easily, throttling Michigan 34-11. Georgia quarterback Stetson Bennett picked apart the Michigan secondary, throwing for 313 yards and three touchdowns.

The two teams are now set for a rematch of the SEC championship game on Monday night. However, the recent history of this matchup has been extremely lopsided in the last 15 years, as Alabama is a perfect 7-0 against the Bulldogs since 2007.

Nick Saban, head coach of the Crimson Tide, is also 24-1 in matchups against his former assistants,

which is a category that Georgia Head Coach Kirby Smart happens to fall under. Smart worked for Saban at Alabama, serving as the team's defensive coordinator from 2008-2015.

Saban will look to win his seventh national championship with the Crimson Tide, which would cement his place as one of the best coaches in college football history.

The most intriguing matchup in this game will be when Alabama has the ball. Prior to giving up 41 points to the electric Alabama offense in the SEC championship game, the Georgia defense had given up just 6.9 points per game in the regular season. For the Bulldogs to win a national championship, it will have to do a much better job of slowing down the Alabama offense, which is led by the Heisman Trophy winning quarterback, Bryce Young.

When Georgia has the ball, it will need to use its weapons in creative ways to confuse the Alabama defense. The 24 points that Georgia scored in the SEC championship game is normally more than enough to get a victory. However, when playing against the Nick Saban-led Crimson Tide, 24 points is rarely enough. The Alabama offense is scoring 41.4 points per game this season, which is good for third in the nation.

Perhaps the biggest weapon that Georgia has on offense is true freshman tight end Brock Bowers. Earlier this week, Nick Saban had high praise for the opposing tight end:

"I think this guy is one of the premier players in college football," Saban said. "So this guy is just a phenomenal football player all the way around."

Bowers had five receptions for 55 yards and a touchdown in Georgia's win over Michigan in the

national semifinal. The Tide will need to keep Bowers in check if it wants to improve its chances of winning.

On the other hand, the Georgia defense will need to do a much better job of containing Bryce Young. The Heisman Trophy winner torched the seemingly invincible Georgia defense, throwing for 421 yards and three touchdowns, easily the best performance by any player against the Georgia defense all season.

These two teams met in the national championship back in 2018, when the Crimson Tide defeated the Bulldogs 26-23 in an overtime thriller. It would be a treat to college football fans across the country if the second rendition lived up to the first.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGEFOOTBALLNOWC.ORG—Alabama takes on Georgia in the College Football Playoff Championship Game in a rematch of the SEC title game.



# Shorthanded women's basketball wins in dramatic fashion

**BROCK HEILIG**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland women's basketball team improved to 4-2 in Horizon league play this week, as it claimed a hard-fought 63-60 victory over the Purdue Fort Wayne Mastodons on Thursday evening.

The Grizzlies, who had only six players available, were without many key contributors including leading scorer Kahlaijah Dean and Head Coach Jeff Tungate. Interim Head Coach Ke'Sha Blanton led the team in Tungate's absence.

"Obviously playing a 40-minute game with six players is going to be just, first of all, mentally challenging," Blanton said. "Trying to get our players to believe that they can play through tired, and that once they get to that peak of tired that they can fight through it and continue to play hard."

Oakland struggled on both ends of the floor early, and trailed by 10 after one quarter of play. It was a team effort in the game's opening quarter, with the scoring evenly distributed between Kendall Folley [2], Breanne Beatty [3], C'Erra Maholmes [2], Sydney Gouard [3] and Kayla Luchenbach [2].

The Grizzlies came to life on the offensive end in the second quarter, tallying 18 points. Despite the offensive success in the second quarter, the Mastodons could not miss, and Purdue Fort Wayne took a 12-point lead into the locker room.

Purdue Fort Wayne shot 75% from the floor in the first half, as well as 75% from behind the arc. The Mastodons were led by Jazzlyn Linbo and Sylare

Starks, who each had eight points in the first half.

"In the first half we were trying to conserve energy," said Blanton. "We were playing like we only had six people, and they knew they weren't going to get a sub. Just had to get them in the mindset that 'you're going to be okay, and just leave it all on the court, and we'll figure it out after.'"



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS  
Ke'Sha Blanton on the sidelines coaching against the Youngstown Penguins.

The Mastodons cooled down in a huge way in the second half, much in part to the swarming defense of the Grizzlies. Purdue Fort Wayne recorded only 11 points in the third quarter. A stellar eight-point third quarter from Luchenbach put the Grizzlies right back in the game, trailing by only five heading into the fourth quarter.

Luchenbach continued to dominate in the fourth quarter with a quick layup to trim the lead to three. A Kendall Folley old-school three-point play gave the Grizzlies a 58-57 lead, its first of the game with 5:19 to play in the fourth quarter.

Oakland went ice-cold in the ensuing minutes, and gave the lead back to the Mastodons. With 1:35 left to play, and down by two, Alona Blackwell took over, giving the Grizzlies the lead with two huge buckets on back-to-back possessions. A Sylare Starks last second three-point attempt did not fall for the Mastodons and the Grizzlies finished with a gritty win.

Blackwell led the team in scoring for the first time all season with a season-high 17 points off the bench. Luchenbach and Folley each added 12 as the Grizzlies outscored the Mastodons 33-18 in the second half.

The Grizzlies' next game is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 13 against a struggling Wright State squad, who boasts just one win on the season. The game will tip off at 7 p.m. at the O'Rena.

# Men's basketball star laser-focused on being the best he can be

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Sports Editor*

When he was playing for the Marquette Golden Eagles, Jamal Cain was always viewed as someone with a lot of potential. He just needed to find the right fit and the right situation.

But no one, not even Cain himself, thought it was potential of these proportions.

"My main focus is just trying to get better, just trying to win games," Cain said. "I knew I was gonna score and I knew I was gonna rebound, but I didn't know it was gonna be at this magnitude."

Cain has been named Horizon League player of the week three times already this season, averaging a double-double per game [21.3 points and 10.5 rebounds]. He's become one of the more talked about players in all of college basketball.

"So right now I'm kind of more — I wouldn't say focused on [all of the recognition] — but of course, I'm competitive. So I want to be at the highest point of it," Cain said. "So now I'm more focused on that— more focused on how I go into the game, and stuff like that, just to help those things. Because now that I have some national recognition, you're gonna have to do the right things with that."

Cain has also been viewed as a transfer portal success story. A lot of athletes will look to transfer from a mid major school to a power 5 school, but he did the exact opposite. Cain's advice for players looking to enter the portal is "make sure you know you're entering a good situation."

"A lot of teams have different agendas and certain players that want the ball and stuff like that," he said.

"So just make sure you have a good relationship with the coach and the players beforehand — because the grass isn't always greener on the other side."

Cain, a native of Pontiac, said that while coming home definitely played a huge factor in him transferring to Oakland, there's a bit more to it than that.

"Some of my former teammates were talking about leaving as well," Cain said. "I've been there with Theo John, Greg Elliot, Koby McEwen. I've been with those guys for almost [three or four] years, so with them saying they were gonna leave, that kind of influenced my decision more."

Head Coach Greg Kampe has gushed about Cain since the preseason, even once saying that watching him practice for the first time "was like watching Kendrick Nunn's first practice — you just know with those guys." Cain said Kampe's belief in him has increased his confidence.

"Kampe has had that belief in me since he laid eyes on me — before I even said I was going to be a Grizzly," he said. "That's all the players really ask for when they're trying to chase the dream of playing in the NBA, is a coach that believes in them. I can't thank him more for it."

Off the court, Cain said he is up for anything, however he is currently honed in on basketball.

"I really don't do too much right now, man," Cain said. "I'm kind of locked in right now."

Another development this season has been the relationship between Cain and star point guard Jalen Moore. The defining play of Oakland's season to this point has been the lob from Moore to Cain.

"J-Mo was actually one of the first guys I talked to," Cain said. "He just told me [the team is] excited for me to be here and we were gonna win a lot of games, and our relationship has only grown bigger. It just happened that I'm that lob threat that he always wanted, [and I've] always wanted a point guard that can throw the lob, so it kind of matches perfectly. So we just build that chemistry on the court and off the court, it's only gonna get better."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Jamal Cain shoots a free throw against Eastern Michigan on Oct. 28, 2021.



# Men's basketball dominates in last-minute matchup

**REECE TAYLOR**

*Sports Reporter*

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team defeated the Ohio Christian University Trailblazers 108-40 in a matchup on Friday, Jan. 7 at the O'rena.

This was a last-minute matchup after two straight COVID-19 related cancellations shook up the men's basketball schedule. A potentially historic matchup at Horizon League rival University of Detroit Mercy — which could've seen Oakland win their 7th straight game at Calihan Hall — was scheduled for Jan. 5, and in addition to a Jan. 7 match at home against Green Bay, both were canceled due to COVID-19 outbreaks, leaving the Golden Grizzlies without an opponent for two pivotal matchups.

"I was Bob Barker for 24 hours. Man, it was 'Let's make a deal,'" Head Coach Greg Kampe said, discussing finding an opponent for a matchup on Friday before getting in contact with Ohio Christian. "Their game tomorrow was canceled because the other team had COVID-19, they were sitting at home and he called me back and said, 'We can come.'"

Due to the nature of the game, this will count as a regular season victory for the Golden Grizzlies, but as an exhibition game for the visiting Trailblazers.

The Golden Grizzlies started off with an 8-0 run, before the Trailblazers scored seven straight. This would be the closest the score would get as

Oakland turned up the defensive pressure and used their size and sheer athleticism to overwhelm Ohio Christian to end the first half up 53-18.

During the second half, Oakland set the tone by forcing more turnovers and scoring 23 in transition. Throughout the game, Oakland utilized their larger size to win the battle in the paint 72-24. Oakland kept this advantage and took the win over the Trailblazers 108-40.

Oakland's star forwards Trey Townsend and Chris Conway dominated throughout the game, combining for 48 points — 26 and 22 respectively — and 20 rebounds to energize and lead the Golden Grizzlies. Oakland had four players in double figures, including Townsend and Conway's dual double-doubles, and shot almost 63% from the field. Oakland was active in transition, outscoring Ohio Christian 39-4 off of turnovers, 17 of which were fast break points.

Despite the score, Ohio Christian proved a worthy opponent, scrapping and forcing turnovers versus the more skilled and athletic Oakland team. Ohio Christian took advantage of the offensive rebounds, as forward Devon Miller led the team with five offensive boards and helped them to score 14 second-chance points. Miller was the only Trailblazer in double figures, attributing to 12 of the team's 40.

After a week marred by cancellations and a season of COVID-19 outbreaks, Oakland looks to take on Horizon League rival Milwaukee Jaguars on Sunday, Jan. 9. Oakland is on a three-



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK

Trey Townsend finishes a dunk against Ohio Christian on Jan. 7.

game win streak and looks to improve to 5-0 over the Horizon League with a victory at home. The Golden Grizzlies are currently second in the conference behind Cleveland State. Look for Oakland to challenge for first place with a win this Sunday.

## WINTER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021.**

Students who do not pay their balances in full or sign-up for a payment plan (and make the required installment(s)) may be dropped from classes and University housing (if applicable), and may be subject to late payment penalties and registration holds.

If you have questions or are experiencing circumstances that may prevent you from paying your account balance, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550. We are ready to support you and help with your financial aid and billing options.

Payment  
Due

**LEARN** how to avoid cancellation (drop) at [oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation](https://oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation)