

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 13 | November 4, 2020



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Millennial and Gen Z voters could determine election results

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PHOTO BY: Serg Montanez

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



DROP IT LIKE ITS HOT An OU student drops off their absentee ballot in their precinct outside of city hall. Voters were allowed to drop off their ballots up until election day.
PHOTO / EMILY MORRIS

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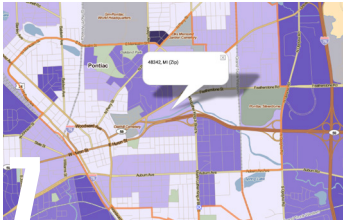
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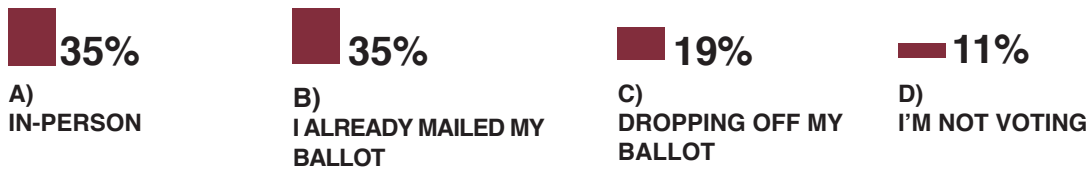
POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SELF CARE THERAPY?

- A) MEDITATION
- B) SKINCARE ROUTINES
- C) EXERCISE
- D) YOGA

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW WILL YOU BE VOTING ON NOV. 4?



CAMPUS

A look back at history: America divided Bush v. Gore

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

History repeats itself, and the election of 2020 can be compared to the presidential election of 2000.

The election between Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Albert (Al) Arnold Gore Jr. had the nation divided into two halves. It was only 537 votes that separated the two candidates.

The 2000 election and the division of America shows that we're in the same scenario 20 years later.

As election day progressed in 2000, the results were changing. To where it confused the nation and the candidates running.

This is something that I know will make an appearance with the 2020 election.

When one of the Florida polls had declared Gore won, not long after the announcement was made — it was retracted. This caused mass confusion and protests. The people demanded a recount.

The Florida Supreme Court ruled in favor of a manual recount of the votes in Florida, the state that was going to decide the outcome of the election.

The machine recount in Florida gave Bush the lead with a 327 vote lead. This led both candidates to go back-and-forth with the courts.

Bush wanted the Supreme Court to reverse the Florida Supreme Court's ruling. Arguing that a statewide manual recount would violate the United States Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment. While Gore argued that there was a uniform standard for recounting votes.

The standard, as stated in Florida statute, was that a vote would count if the "clear intent of the voter" was reflected in the ballot. Days later, The Supreme Court overruled that decision, saying that it was unconstitutional.

In the month following the election, 50 individual suits



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNBC.COM

The Al Gore v. George Bush election took months to decide, and many think this election will be similar.

were filed regarding the various counts, recounts, and certification deadlines.

Finally, on December 8, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that manual recounts had to continue in all counties that had a significant number of under votes that were observed for the office of president.

It took over a month to get some answer. The answer was the Supreme Court agreeing with Bush and halting the recounts. It wouldn't have been possible for manual recounting with a deadline of Dec. 12.

There are clear similarities between the 2000 election and the one on Nov. 3.

With mail-in voting being the choice of most, ballots are bound to get delayed and lost. With the protesting and

fake drop off boxes, it's hard to say how many will make it to be counted.

Based on polls, Donald Trump and Joe Biden are close in the running, much like how Bush and Gore were in 2000.

Supreme Court Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh cited Bush v Gore when explaining why he voted to deny requests for extensions for mail-in ballots.

This is the second time the case has been referenced since it happened 20 years ago.

The 2000 election was one of the closest elections in our history, according to The Bills of Rights Institute. The race we'll see on Nov. 3 might take that spot in The Bills of Rights Institute.

Politically-focused student orgs and their election-based initiatives

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

Amid election season, politically-centered Oakland University student organizations have been focusing on the race for the presidency — working in the interest of their respective groups to educate members, highlight candidates, spread their messages etc.

Christina Walker, president of the Political Science Honor Society — Pi Sigma Alpha — at OU, mentioned her organization has hosted debate watch parties and Zoom sessions with professors to discuss implications of the 2020 presidential election.

"[In addition to the watch parties and informational sessions], a lot of our members have been working on various campaigns, so we have been promoting volunteer opportunities," Walker said.

Pi Sigma Alpha is a non-partisan student organization.

"We are not necessarily busier because of the election, but we are running more American politics centric events than we usually do (typically it is more of an even split between international and American politics events)," Walker said. "The goal of Pi Sigma Alpha is to honor

students who have achieved academic success, but we hope to engage all students interested in international relations and American politics."

The Young Democratic Socialists of OU (YDS) have been working to host political education events and encourage relational organizing. The goal of YDS is to build power toward co-liberatory socialism, as mentioned by YDS Vice President, Kayla Sharpe.

"Co-liberatory socialism is based around defeating capitalism in tandem with centering the struggles of marginalized peoples, because BIPOC, LGBTQ+, disabled and economically disadvantaged struggles are all interconnected, and ending oppressive systems must center these voices the most," Sharpe said.

Sharpe mentioned YDS has taken part in the 'Not MI Campus' petition — dedicated to fighting the unsafe reopening of campuses and working to ensure effective COVID-19 protections.

"Regardless if Trump or Biden wins, marginalized folks will still be suffering," Sharpe said. "Families will be deported, military force will be used against civilians and everyday people will not have access to the resources they need. Electoral politics are for sure one of our tools to

fight for equality, but our focus lies in community care and mutual aid. Since elections excite people politically, our hope is to grow our membership regardless of the outcome and keep building towards a socialist future."

The College Republicans of Oakland University have been striving to promote their candidate and message, through miniature debates, fundraising, etc.

"The main goals of our club are getting our conservative candidates elected to public office and trying to spread the conservative message on campus," said Dylan Pescarolo, president of the OU College Republicans. "The three main issues that motivate us are the pro-life movement, our constitutional rights and preserving capitalism."

Pescarolo mentioned College Republicans have been hosting Friday "Action Days" since September, where they generally pick two candidates (potentially a congressional, state representative, among others) to knock on doors, pass out brochures and talk to voters. They also attended the Lansing Trump Rally on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

To learn more about Pi Sigma Alpha, YDS, or the College Republicans of Oakland University, check out GrizzOrgs or connect with them on Facebook.

President delivers state of the university

LAUREN KARMO
Marketing Director

Virtual State of the University Address acknowledges current issues, plans for future

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz delivered the State of the University Address virtually from Meadowbrook Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 29. During the address, Pescovitz presented the issues the university is currently facing going into this next year, as well as reviewed the accomplishments from the past year.

Pescovitz discussed enrollment; impactful members of the Oakland University community; strategic goals such as community engagement, research and diversity, equity and inclusion; overall finances; the “Strive for 45” campaign; recent changes to the university’s leadership structure; and the pandemic response and health plans.

Finances

Pescovitz said OU is in a good financial spot based on numbers from enrollment and the recent Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting.

“In spite of the pandemic, we remain strong and one of the most fiscally sound higher education institutions in the state,” Pescovitz said.

As of June 2020, the university has maintained that among the 15 Michigan public universities, it is in the bottom five for total operating revenue per undergraduate student, instructional utility costs per square foot and building square footage per student. This has allowed it to keep costs low and freeze tuition for this past academic year.

The president also mentioned the university’s efforts to make tuition more affordable. The “Strive for 45” campaign and the Golden Grizzlies Graduate program have been the main focuses of the university to help alleviate student debt.

“We must focus on making higher education more affordable,” Pescovitz said. “The Golden Grizzlies Graduate program addresses student debt ... Addressing how to help students succeed means understanding the financial challenges facing students.”

Diversity, equity and inclusion

With the heightened attention toward diversity, equity and inclusion both locally and nationally, Pescovitz addressed the efforts OU has taken.

“In recent weeks, I’ve established an endowed scholarship for social, racial and environmental justice,” Pescovitz said. “I hope that this is one of the many significant actions that reflect our commitment to be-



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

ing engaged and working for a better world. The gift is keeping with the spirit of our annual Keeper of the Dream, an event that pays homage to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior.”

This scholarship is one of the university’s attempts to support students and faculty. Others include university-wide unconscious bias and LGBTQIA+ supportive training, a commitment to diverse hiring practices and several disability support services.

Student safety and experience

With additions such as the Golden Grizzlies Health Squad and the “Grizzlies Protect Grizzlies: Healthy Together” pledge, OU is looking at ways to maintain student safety against COVID-19. At the recent BOT meeting, low numbers of COVID-19 cases have been reported on campus compared to other public universities in the state.

The president spoke directly to students, saying, “The pandemic will not last, but the character that each of us displays during these difficult times will sustain us.”

She acknowledged the atypical college experience students are getting this year, but encouraged students to be flexible as they look toward the future.

“I know that this year isn’t the experience that you expected when you thought about attending college, but frankly, as you go through life, you will inevitably have to deal with situations that you didn’t see coming your way,” Pescovitz said. “If you’re compassionate and open to learning, there will always be hope for a better tomorrow.”

GRIZZLIES PROTECT GRIZZLIES

Cumulative on-campus positive cases since October 3:

41

Faculty or staff:

6

Students not living in OU Housing:

31

Students living in OU Housing:

4

On-campus isolation rooms occupied

0/112

All information is from OU COVID Public Dashboard

CAMPUS

OU Political Science Professors address 2020 Presidential Election

LAUREN REID
Staff Reporter

It's no secret that the 2020 presidential election has been quite the wild ride. Amidst all the chaos, Oakland University political science professors David Dulio and Peter Trumbore gave some insight into their thoughts.

"[I'm most excited for the election] to be over," said Dulio, director of the Center for Civic Engagement and professor in the department of political science. "I think we're probably in for a protracted post-Election Day period for at least two reasons — delays in counting some absentee ballots (not necessarily in Michigan, but other states) and lawsuits (both presidential candidates have teams of lawyers at the ready)."

When it comes to the impact the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had on the election, both Dulio and Trumbore, professor and chair of the department of political science, agree the pandemic has played a monumental role.

"COVID-19 has had a huge impact on this election," Dulio said. "It has been an issue that has driven the debate — where there is significant contrast between the candidates for president. Candidates running for various offices have been infected, many voters are choosing to cast their vote via absentee ballot this year, the list goes on. We're told we'll see record turnout this year in terms of raw votes. It'll be interesting to see the vote totals and the turnout percentage after all votes are counted."

Trumbore touched on the record voter turnout, saying there has been a huge expansion in terms of people voting.

"We've already seen record numbers of early voting and absentee voting (as of Thursday, Oct. 29) and that's not just in Michigan, but across the country," Trumbore said. "We've seen depending on your partisan leaning, different issues matter for different parts of the electorate. Democrats overwhelmingly say the handling of the pandemic is the top electoral issue, [while] Republican voters say the economy is most important."

When all is said and done, regardless of the outcome, not all Americans will be happy. To mitigate the anguish between groups with differing opinions, Trumbore mentioned we must respect that we don't have to, and can't always, agree.

"The bottomline is we have to rebuild our connections to each other one relationship at



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

David Dulio, a professor in political science, is most excited for the election to be over.

a time," Trumbore said. "We have lost our ability to disagree with each other, but still respect each other and respect that we don't have to agree in order to stay in [a relationship]. The work of rebuilding that has to take place on an individual basis."

As a society post-election, Trumbore encourages students and the greater community to work to reach across divisions.

"[I keep coming back to] being able to live with people that we disagree with, which requires us to reach across those divisions," Trumbore said. "It's incumbent on everyone to try and do that, whether [their] side wins or not. It doesn't mean we don't disagree or advocate for the policy positions we think are important — but we have to be able to do so in a way that is constructive and not destructive."

What students can do with a political science degree

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

There are three different types of political science undergraduate programs at OU students can enter — international relations, traditional political science and public administration. All three of these programs contain the idea of studying all levels of government in different settings.

These majors come with building the skills of critical thinking, data analysis, accessing relationships, understanding the relationship between cause and effect and writing. For students, these skills are applicable to a wide variety of career paths.

"The idea behind our degrees is to help students develop skills that they need to be successful in any kind of work environment," David Dulio, professor in the Department of Political Sciences said.

The different kinds of specializations offered by OU's political science department allow students to focus on what they are interested in. For instance, there's foreign affairs and policies, global justice and sustainability and a law and court specialization.

"They are designed to give students some exposure to a real focused set of course work for a particular field within the broader disciplines," Matthew Fails, associate professor in the Department of Political Sciences said.

While getting a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science is more of a broad topic, it focuses generally on the study of multi-government, elections and voting behavior. Students do have options to narrow their degree focus. Getting a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in international relations focuses more on global politics, economies and philosophy. This program has more of a focus on the inner workings of relationships between nations.

Public administration is where students can learn about skills relevant to a state or local government setting. This program focuses on city management and county government areas of politics.

"One of the great things about our department are the opportunities that students have available to them," Dulio said. "That can range from the kind of opportunities that exist in the classroom ... co-curricular activities [and] extracurricular activities."

In public administration there is more of a direct link between the course of study



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW FAILS

Matthew Fails believes the specializations are designed to give students exposure to a focused set of coursework.

to a job. Students that take this route are more likely to go on to get their Masters degree. This degree can help students that are interested in being a city clerk, city manager or someone that does budgeting for local government.

For political science majors, this can help students who are interested in being state representatives. They can work as legislative assistants or directors or work the non-profit aspects. This comes in handy for the OU students who go on to law school or other graduate programs after their undergraduate education.

It's important to keep in mind that being a political science major doesn't mean the jobs after college have to focus directly on politics.

Students with these degrees can go into various international organizations, public health, the intelligence community or formal policy making. "Poli-sci" students also have opportunities in the private sector, as many use their education to become entrepreneurs, data analysts or brand managers.

"To be a political scientist does not mean you want to go into politics, it does not mean you want to sit around and talk about politics all the time," Fails said. "It just means you're interested in studying those things."

Student Congress encourages young voters

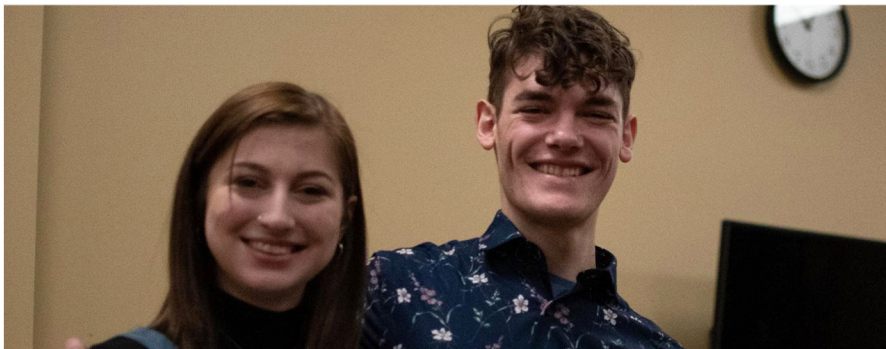


PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
OUSC president and vice president Ethan Bradley and Annabella Jankowski.

RACHEL YIM Staff Reporter

Historically proven, young adults have voted at lower rates than older demographics.

To help change these historical trends and continue to increase voter turnout rates, the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) is leading the effort in engaging students this election.

Normally done through tabling in the Oakland Center and Vandenberg Hall in past years, the majority of effort of the OUSC in encouraging student involvement in voting this year involved digital methods, according to OUSC President Ethan Bradley.

The tasks involved creating and posting digital marketing to encourage students to register and vote, as well as to teach them how to do so by providing resources from the Michigan Department of State and nonpartisan organizations.

They also introduced Free Stamp Friday, where students can get free stamps from the Office of Student Involvement ticket window once a month. This idea provided OU students an easier opportunity to vote their absentee ballots.

Their effort doesn't end in spreading the words out to the OU community. Bradley and Jeremy Johnson, director of Civic Affairs, have worked with the Residence Life association and the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society to provide voter engagement training sessions that help attendees learn about voting and how they can get others involved in the voting process.

Students can access resources about the registration and voting process include:

- Michigan Department of State student voting guide
- Campus Election Engagement Project candidate and issue guides

- Campus Vote Project voting procedure guide
- League of Women Voter personalized ballot guide
- ACLU voting rights guide

The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) from Tufts University shows an exceptional voting rate among registered students of 80.9% for OU, compared to a national average of around 75%, with overall voting rate of 56.7 % compared to the national average of around 50%.

"With the election, my goal is to see our total voting rate go up," Bradley said. "We hope that our efforts over the past four years have increased our registration rate above the national average, but given the challenges this year has presented, I would be happy with any increase in our overall voting rate."

OUSC Vice President Annabella Jankowski said that OUSC's primary goal is its students' safety during the pandemic, but she also emphasized the importance of student engagement in voting.

"OUSC has always been working to get students involved civically and registered to vote so that they can participate in all elections throughout the year," Jankowski said. "It is important to spread awareness about voting and the different methods with which students can vote."

Casting a ballot may not always be an easy process for college students — yet, through raising awareness of these different voting resources, OUSC hopes to build momentum to create a culture of voting among the students by emphasizing the importance of political action into the curriculum and campus culture.

"OUSC is going stronger than ever, and we have been able to continue working on our initiatives despite being in this hybrid setting," Jankowski said.



Information courtesy of Oakland University
and the Center for Disease Control.

COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay home when you are sick.
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. Immediately throw tissues away.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.
7. Keep all age recommended vaccines up to date including annual flu vaccine.

FEATURES

OUIECE works to improve equity in Pontiac

Pandemic illuminates internet issues faced by families with young children

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

After COVID-19 pushed many local schools to adapt and embrace a hybrid learning approach, families learned quickly that internet access is not created equal.

According to the Census data, nowhere in the 48432 zip code of Pontiac has quality internet, a contrast to their neighbor, Rochester Hills. The percentage of households in Pontiac with internet access never exceeds 80%.

The surrounding area tells a different story, with barely any other counties having as low of a percentage of households with internet.

Coco Moulder, a teacher in Pontiac schools and the co convener of the early childhood education sector of OUIECE. OUIECE works with families in Pontiac to assist families with young children in Pontiac and address disparities within Pontiac, according to OU's website.

Moulder also works on the health side, assisting families with quality health care and mental health resources. Recently, as she's seen families in Pontiac, she has noticed the extremes some have taken to find quality internet for online schooling.

"A grandmother has a set of twins who are in preschool, so she's trying to get three or four-year-olds logged into a remote classroom," Moulder said. "The internet is just dropping — the teacher is in the middle of a sentence and the computer just goes down."

Moulder did research on where the nearest cell tower is in relation to Pontiac and said she could not find one within five miles of the city.

"The kids are not getting an effective, efficient education if half the time their Wi-Fi is going down," she said.

The disparity in speed, availability and access reflects the wealth gap between Pontiac and the surrounding area.

"I don't know why a county like Oakland County, which is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, would not be open to considering the resources that are coming out of 1200

North Telegraph," Moulder said. "It makes no sense."

A recent Detroit Free Press article reported that Oakland County is one of the top counties in the nation for current affluence and prospects for future success. According to the Free Press, Oakland County's median household income is \$96,000.

For citizens concerned about Pontiac's internet access, Moulder suggested reaching out at the local level and talking to officials.

"If you're not making a fuss or saying anything, and you're just complaining but not going to the people who can make a difference, then there's no difference being made," she said.

OUIECE has spoke to local and state politicians, including 29th District Representative Brenda Carter, to enact change in the Pontiac school district.

With the election results looming in the future, the House of Representatives, Senate and presidential elections will all have impact on Pontiac's future.

However, election results will not immediately fix the internet situation in Pontiac. Change will take time, and change starts with the citizens.

"A poverty mindset itself is a monster," Moulder said. "To undo a poverty mindset takes a long time, and that's why we talk about resilience. This is an issue that parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are facing."

This change in accessible internet is something Moulder thinks will only grow in importance over time, because virtual learning is more affordable for schools and for those with quality internet, it can be a viable alternative to in-person classes.

But, in the meantime, OUIECE is offering its space and help to those in need. Moulder also believes local businesses and churches should consider offering their Wi-Fi to families.

"You can use our community room if you need to do your homework, more businesses in the community should be okay with that as long as you are adhering to social distancing and wearing a mask," Moulder said. "That's something that the community could get behind if you have the space."

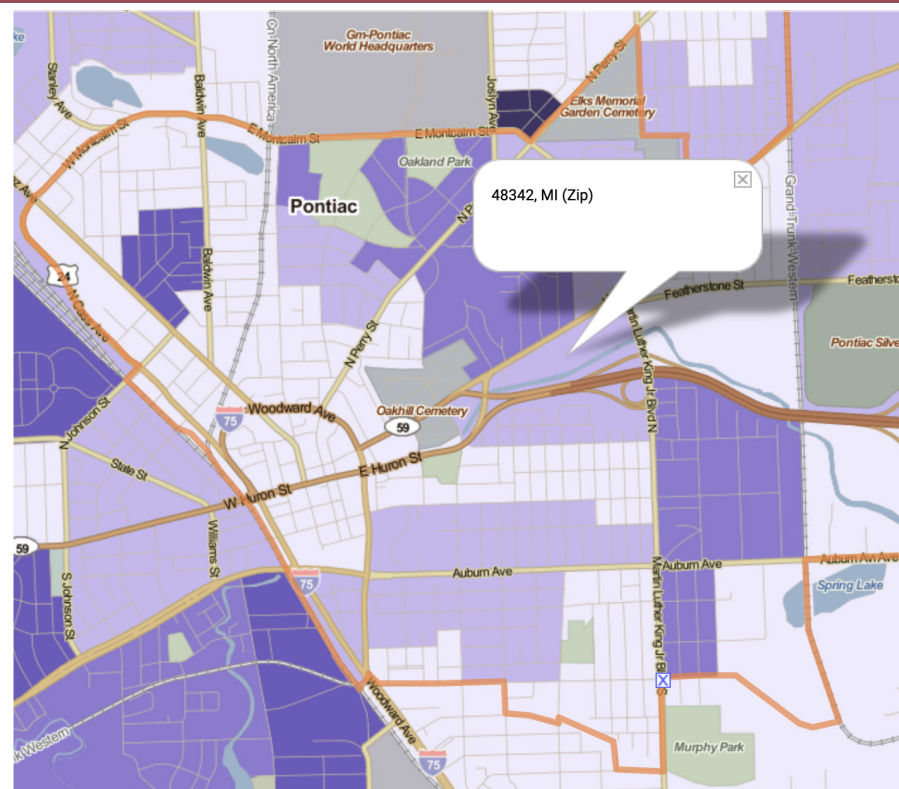


PHOTO COURTESY OF POLICYMAP.COM

This map shows the households with internet in Pontiac, which is outlined by the orange line. The darker the color, the more households with internet access. Pontiac has much lighter areas compared to their surrounding area.

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Campus Black Lives Matter march promotes voting

Story and Design by Emily Morris | Photos by Serg Montanez and Ryan Pini

Two days before the election, students gathered around a snow-filled Hamlin Circle for a Black Lives Matter (BLM) Peace March, setting the timely tone for the week — voting, mental health and supporting Black lives.

Despite a weather advisory alert accompanying the day, a crowd of 20-30 students assembled in the afternoon, hosted by members of Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC), the Association of Black Students (ABS) and Black Lives Matter Oakland University (BLMOU). The muffling 20-40 mph wind lessened as Senior Jai Carrero and President of ABS Sean King directed the voices of everyone gathered in a rotation of BLM and voting opening statements and chants.



Jai Carrero gives opening statements at the Black Lives Matter March on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. A crowd of 20-30 students gathered for the peace march. (Sergio Montanez)

“Some people are staying inside, staying warm, but that’s easy to stay warm, easy to stay in bed,” King said. “There’s bigger things going on that we need to fight for.”

The snow clusters paused while the group marched on the sidewalk, curving toward Elliot Tower. Moving strategically past Hamlin Hall, Oak View Hall and Vandenberg Halls, Carrero assured the messages would be heard.

“Let’s get our voices heard,” Carrero said. “Even for those who are inside, they will hear our voices. Remember that you are doing the work. We are all activists right at this moment.”

During the peace march, Carrero and King led a rhythmic set of call and response chants. They emphasized Black votes by shouting, “Black votes matter,” “Black kids matter,” “Black women matter” and “Black men matter.” The crowd following roared back in repetition.



Sean King, president of the association of Black students, follows Jai Carrero’s opening statements with additional remarks. (Sergio Montanez)

Once the group sprawled across the stairs behind the Oakland Center, Carrero unpacked their main message, voting on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The music of James Brown’s “Say It Loud” plateauing and lowering to welcome her.

“I still want you all to understand that you are very important — your voices are important,” Carrero said. “Get out there, and vote.”

Carrero acknowledged the uncertainty and history that this election will bring. The BLM movement has caught the attention of the U.S., and her speech served as a reminder of the year’s news. However, she noted votes can change the “leadership” and direction of 2020.

“You’ve seen what’s gone on in 2020,” Carrero said. “You’ve seen a lack of leadership. You’ve seen people claim to have our backs... kill us in the middle of the street. You’ve seen it on [social media].”

King took the stand to thank everyone for attending and point out the resilience of everyone “fighting for this movement.” Making “history” is not “easy,” but attending marches, having a voice and voting is a part of “...the fight we have to fight.”

After Carrero and King established the energy, they invited Student Congress President Ethan Bradley to offer voting assistance. The two most important actions people can take are “actively fighting” and “voting,” according to Bradley. Attendees were encouraged to pick up a voter registration form, which was available on table at the Oakland Center’s entrance. Help filling out the form was also offered.



Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) President Ethan Bradley speaks about voting at the Black Lives Matter Peace March. (Ryan Pini)

To maintain a supportive message, Carrero swayed from the informational and history-focused speeches. Mental health is an important aspect of activism, according to Carrero, and she led the group in a collective BLM-focused meditation session, produced by Dr. Candice Nichole.

"Many of our students haven't had the opportunity to regroup without having more and more thrown at them... Black students are dealing with two pandemics — COVID-19 and racism," Carrero said. "We can't just bypass that."

She wants BLMOU to focus on fighting racism but also give "opportunities to center ourselves and hear positive affirmations." Students are facing alternative classes, pandemic precautions and a heated political climate this year, and each of these elements are new experiences for many too. BLMOU is a "beacon of empowerment" to help students through challenges.

Following the series of speakers and mediation, everyone was welcomed to take a voter registration and continue the conversation. The crowd dispersed, but the message continues through conversations, social media and votes.

"Our ancestors fought, and some died for us to sign our names on ballots... this is a pivotal moment for us right now," she said. "We have loud voices, and they know that."



Jai Carrero and Sean King lead the Black Lives Matter Peace March across campus with signs and supportive chants. (Sergio Montanez)

"Our ancestors fought, and some died for us to sign our names on ballots... this is a pivotal moment for us right now. We have loud voices, and they know that."

- Jai Carrero

VOTE



The ever changing relationship between media and politicians

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

After Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, the term “fake news” hit the mainstream lexicon more than ever before.

Trump repeatedly criticized journalists and publications, which published information that was critical of him. In its evolution, media also began sensationalizing and playing up dramatic aspects of news.

In 2019, media trust was at 41%, with only 15% of Republicans and 31% of independents trusting the media. Due to the rhetoric surrounding journalism, the trust of media has taken a hit over the past four years.

“I think the political climate is more divisive and less trusting when compare to 2008 and before,” political science professor John Klemanski, Ph. D., said. “Political polarization emerged at least by the 1990s, but it has become more intense and has involved more average citizens than before.”

Klemanski said today’s era is a “post-truth” one. The country has been more divided, with media becoming as partisan as party identities.

“The Press is seen as the ‘enemy of the people’ as President Trump famously said,” Klemanski said. “There are plenty of — typically conservative, typically

Republican — politicians who won’t even talk to mainstream media. They grant interviews only to conservative news outlets who are already friendly to their political views.”

This development in society and media has led to a new job market for future politicians and future media professionals.

Chiaoning Su, a professor in the journalism, communication and public relations department, has noticed the shift in media since 2016. In particular, she noticed the rise in political media and the increased need for unbiased political journalists.

“I think students need to learn to put their opinion aside when covering political events so that they are not practicing confirmation bias,” Su said. “The thing about millennials and Gen-Z is that they are so passionate about politics, so it’s very important to be able to distinguish opinion from fact.”

For both Su and Klemanski, preparing students for the real world of covering politics requires honesty.

“I just am very honest with [students],” Su said.

“I say, ‘look, if you want to do journalism, the most important thing is for you to be able to distinguish opinion from fact.’”

Klemanski and Su both believed in the increased need for good political reporting, but in today’s media market, getting a solid, full-time job covering politics can be a tough career to enter.

“News organizations have let lots of reporters go, and rely on fewer reporters on staff, or deal with freelance reporters,” Klemanski said. “I don’t discourage students from going into journalism, but it is a challenge for even the most talented students to find and keep a decent full-time job as a reporter.”

Despite the tension between media and politicians, the public still needs quality journalism surrounding politics. Having a good relationship with the media can make or break a politician’s career.

Despite his negative rhetoric surrounding media, Klemanski believes Trump has mastered the art of dealing with media.

“For all of his complaining about the media, Donald Trump has skillfully played much of the media to his advantage,” Klemanski said. “It’s no longer a disadvantage for a news outlet to be critical of a politician, because that politician can simply argue that the news source is biased or it’s ‘fake news.’”

Good, unbiased journalism can help the average citizen stay informed and know the truth in a muddled media storm.

“Political reporters are greatly needed right now because it’s what people want to know,” Su said.

The media trust levels ebb and flow, but one thing remains — people need quality journalists to disseminate information and inform the public.

Donald Trump's documented problems with women

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

During his time in office, President Donald Trump has created a legacy of self-dealing and high-profile controversies. Especially relevant to this election is the impact his presidency has had on women.

“Nobody has more respect for women than I do,” was Trump’s farcical claim after the Access Hollywood tape was leaked in 2016 where he said he could just walk right up and “grab them by the p****.”

Unfortunately for women, this vulgar misogyny was not an aberration or just “locker room talk,” this mentality of disrespect and disregard for women has been a trademark of the Trump White House.

In addition to his refusal to provide adequate leadership in this global pandemic that is disproportionately affecting women, according to a published study, Trump has spent much of his presidency blocking women’s access to healthcare.

From cutting international funding for women’s rights to blocking laws that promote equal pay in the workplace, dismantling reproductive health services for women and the inability to appoint women to his administration, Trump and his administration have undoubtedly taken actions that negatively impact women, as the Independent shows.

Trump has campaigned on repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) — commonly known as “Obamacare” — without any details of a solution. According to a New York Times article, around 21 million people could lose their health insurance, and 12 million adults could lose Medicaid coverage following the ACA repeal. Eventually, this would result in an even bigger gap between the rich and poor in the country than that of now.

Women — especially women of color and single mothers — will be highly impacted by this repeal as they heavily rely on the ACA for health insurance. Approximately 19 million women in the U.S., over 19 percent of women, were uninsured pre-ACA. The numbers were even higher for women of color.

These numbers have been a hot button topic in this year’s presidential campaign, on the campaign trail they’ve been ammunition for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

“If you have a pre-existing condition — heart disease, diabetes, breast cancer — they’re coming for you,” democratic vice president nominee Kamala Harris warned in the vice presidential debate.

Despite all this political rhetoric, it seems obvious that Trump’s anti-women policies have created barriers to full equality for women. Is there any real evidence to suggest another four years of Trump’s presidency will be better for women than his first term in the White House? This is the concern for many voters and especially women voters.

While Trump’s reelection may threaten many women’s quality of life, his lack of support from these women could possibly end up costing him this election.

The women vote has always been important — women cast their ballots at a higher rate than men do, as proven by the Pew Research Center. This election, however, with Trump’s controversial policies looming over the political landscape — the women’s vote is expected to be even more significant in determining the winner, according to the U.S. News article.

The U.S. News also suggests that the female voters this year are more involved in the political process and are throwing extensive support to the Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

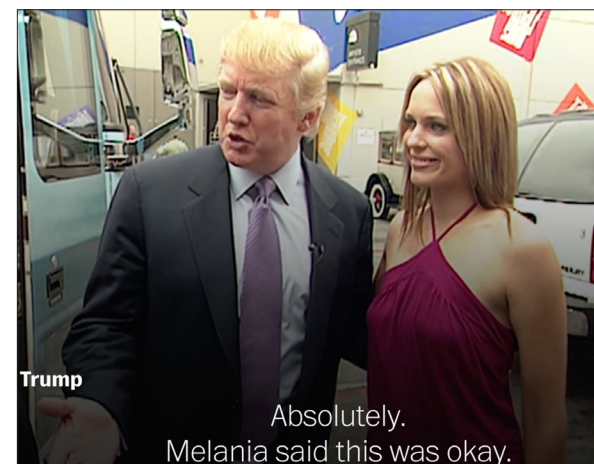
“I got it wrong,” Joan Smeltzer, a Pennsylvanian who

voted for Trump in the 2016 election, said in an interview with CNN News. “And it hurts my heart. I mean, it truly hurts my heart. I feel like I’ve been duped. I really do. I wanted to believe that he [Trump] was better than he is.”

Women in this country fighting to receive their basic rights are not “feminazis,” nor are they objects to be belittled.

It is blatant inequality that this country doesn’t provide the same type of rights and support for women that it does for men. It is indecent and it is not democracy.

While it is true that neither candidate is perfect or can satisfy every American citizen, that voters are having to weigh the pros and cons of both candidates — those considering Trump must ask themselves if we would be able to “keep America great” when the supposedly “great America” excludes women.



Absolutely.
Melania said this was okay.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ESQUIRE

FEATURES

Young voters overcoming barriers this election

EMILY MORRIS
Managing Editor

Young college students may direct the results of the election, while voter turnout shows an unprecedented rise.

Under half of young voters turned out for the record-breaking 2008 election between Barack Obama and John McCain, but this year 60.3% of young voters reported they will “definitely be voting.” Despite challenges posed to first or second-time voters, the majority of young voters are prioritizing this election.

“Young people could wield significant political power [in this election]: Millennials and some members of Gen Z comprise 37% of eligible voters, roughly the same share of the electorate that baby boomers and pre-boomers make up,” according to National Public Radio.

To put that in perspective, voter-age Millennials and Gen Z occupy a similar population of the country as two Midwestern areas (20.8% of the U.S. or over 68 million people), according to the most recent 2019 census.

There are a few factors that throw a wrench in young voter turnout though: distance, routine and uncertainty.

Over 50% of college students live an hour away from home, what may be their voting location. Establishing a new permanent residence is not a simple task for students moving in various dorms, apartments or sorority or fraternity houses.

“You have to have the same residential address for both your voter registration and driver’s license — that’s difficult for college students,” political science Ph.D. Terri Towner said. “You are constantly changing your address. I moved probably 10 times when I was a college student.”

Routine and uncertainty go hand-in-hand for new voters. Taking part in an election is a new process for young people, and its novelty lends to uncertainty.

“There are a lot of offices, a lot of candidates on the ballot,” Towner said. “We may not be aware of every candidate or officeholder that’s listed.”

Towner emphasized that she still needs to do research, even though she teaches politics. To prepare, voters can go to the Secretary of State’s website and download a sample ballot, review each office and visit her “favorite” resource League of Women Voters to learn about candidates.

Additionally, political science Ph.D. Nicole Asmussen Mathew suggested reading the “conservative” leaning Detroit News and the “liberal” leaning Detroit Free Press to find “endorsement intersections” for moderate candidates.

“Party identification is not fully crystalized” for many college students because “it’s a group of first time voters,” according to Towner. However, many people are “intimidated” by voting, and that uncertainty doesn’t have to detour new voters. Doing research and unpacking personal beliefs fits into the college moral well: learning.

Voters can check their if they’re registered to vote and look at a sample ballot as Towner suggested on michigan.gov/sos. Although absentee ballots should be turned in directly to be counted at this point, people are able to register to vote in person up to and on election day as well.

“Have a voice and get out the vote,” Towner said. “There’s still time to vote [until Tuesday, Nov. 3].”

College educated and non-college educated voters split

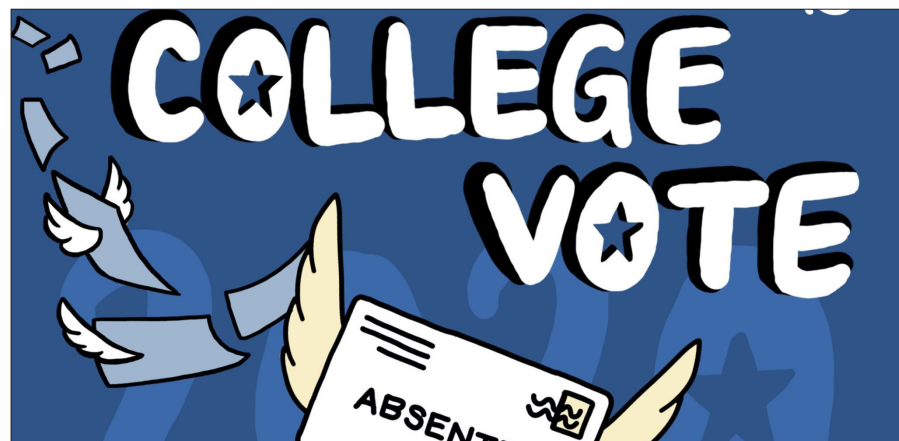


PHOTO COURTESY OF YALE UNIVERSITY

This election may very well come down to the college educated and non-college educated.

JEFF THOMAS
Features Editor

Heading into Tuesday’s election, the polls are not looking great for Donald Trump. While it isn’t impossible that lightning will strike twice and President Trump will overcome the polls in consecutive elections, numbers indicate that a repeat of the Democrat’s 2016 demise is exceedingly unlikely.

Most major national polls in the past week show Joe Biden eight to ten points ahead of the incumbent president. While polling indicates that races are tightening in key battleground states during the final days of the campaign, the numbers are still mostly in Biden’s favor.

What’s worse for Trump is that polls now show that the demographics that carried him to victory in 2016 are wavering in their support. Non-college educated white voters in particular now occupy a smaller demographic than they did four years ago — and of that diminished demographic, Trump now garners less support.

Since 2016, this key Trump supporting demographic has shrunk from about 45% of the electorate to 41% of the electorate, according to the Brookings Institute.

In 2016, Trump was able to claim victory in the electoral college thanks to about 80,000 votes spread across battleground states Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. In those states Trump was historically successful with non-educated white voters, garnering about two-thirds of the demographic’s support. The conditions of this election just aren’t right for Trump to be able to replicate that kind of success against Biden.

In the last election Trump was able to prey on the economic insecurity many working class voters were feeling after President Obama’s two terms. He honed in on the Democrat’s desire for globalization and dialed that knob up

until rust belt workers were lining up in droves to attend his campaign rallies. This election, however, Trump has been the direct cause of perhaps the worst working class economic turmoil in the nation’s history.

The Trump administration’s bungling of COVID-19 is yet another scandal that will forever taint The Donald’s legacy. Under his leadership hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost and millions of Americans have been forced into poverty.

This is more than enough to tilt the election in favor of Biden, who despite all his faults, has run a campaign that at least on the surface level seems sympathetic toward all the people suffering during the pandemic. Frankly, it is hard to imagine a challenger being in a stronger position against an incumbent president than Biden is against Trump in this election.

What hope Trump has of claiming victory in 2020 lies in his devotion to his white base. He caters to them almost exclusively, and numbers do indicate that Republican voters are more enthusiastic about Trump than Democratic voters are about Biden.

According to a recent Pew Research poll, 68 percent of Republicans “strongly support” Trump, compared to just 57 percent of Democrats feeling that way about Biden.

Still, those numbers could be merely rhetorical when considering how strongly many Americans now oppose Trump. Resentment of Trump alone is pushing legions of crucial voters into Biden’s camp.

Among other massive missteps, Trump narrowing his base of support and catering so specifically to a shrinking demographic of voters is likely to be the end of his presidency.

In short — we will soon find out whether non-college educated white voters will be enough to beat the odds and sway another election Trump’s way.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NPR

Address changes and inability to miss work or school can prevent young voters from getting to the polls.

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FEATURES

U.S. shows record high 18-29 aged voter turnout



PHOTO COURTESY OF YESMAGAZINE.COM

JEFF THOMAS
Features Editor

2020 has been one for the history books. As insane as the past ten months have been, there's still more to be written as the results of the presidential election keep rolling in.

The race will likely come down to thin margins in a handful of battleground states. For the Joe Biden and Donald Trump campaigns, when it comes to winning those margins - key demographics are the name of the game.

Early voting data is showing a historic surge in 18-29 year old voter turnout. 2020 is poised to be the first election in which this new demographic of voters will throw their weight around in a significant way. All indications are that higher youth participation will favor Biden over Trump.

The Teen Vogue and Ipsos 2020 survey of young voters found the issues young people are most concerned with include climate change, affordable healthcare, student debt relief and social issues such as racism and a woman's right to abortion.

When it comes to policy, there are significant differences between the candidates regarding these issues. While neither candidate is perfect on these issues, Biden has been more willing to address the concerns of young voters than Trump.

Biden has campaigned on listening to the scientists, expanding the Affordable Care Act, a plan to reduce student debt and a commitment to representing all Americans.

Trump, on the other hand, has run a campaign virtually devoid of concrete policy positions. His stances on climate science and what medical experts say about COVID-19 have fluctuated to whatever is most politically convenient at the time. For

years, Trump has said that he wants to repeal and replace the ACA, though no plan for replacement has ever been revealed.

Trump has consistently stoked divisions in the country as an end to his political means, dividing the American people and fostering resentment and unrest.

The campaigns are, of course, aware of where young voters stand. As the election has entered this final stage and both parties have pivoted their focus to getting out their voters, the candidates have taken different approaches to the youth vote.

As enthusiasm and interest in the election has risen among young voters, the Biden campaign has expanded their outreach and worked to get voting resources into the hands of young people. Perhaps most notably, the Democrats have been lining up celebrity endorsements left and right to stir support for the former vice president.

In the run up to the election, Republicans took the opposite approach to indicators that there'd be a high youth turnout - working to put obstacles in front of young voters to suppress the demographic's turnout. As disgusting as it is, voter suppression has become an all too common strategy in U.S. politics.

Additionally, President Trump has repeatedly attacked the validity of absentee ballots and early voting and in general acted to undermine the legitimacy of the election.

Despite all the chicanery and bad faith politics, young voters have turned out to the polls in record numbers. If Biden wins, the demographic will have played a pivotal role in pushing his campaign across the finish line.

Let's hope Biden and the Democrats repay the favor by pushing the country into the direction young people want.

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'The Comey Rule' on Showtime caters to 2016 election

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

The 2016 election is still a big topic to this day. The scandals behind it and the secrets that were let out during the process still hang over U.S. politics. With election season here, "The Comey Rule" was released, but was it released four years too late?

"The Comey Rule" is a two part mini series that adds up to a three hour watch. This was released during the end of September on Showtime. This series is based on former FBI Director James Comey's book "A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership".

In this miniseries, James Comey (Jeff Daniels) is portrayed as a man that cares about his family and the people he works with. It portrays him as the "good guy" of the show, which would make sense since it's based off a book that he wrote.

The series follows Comey throughout the 2016 election and the early months of Donald Trump's (played by Brendan Gleeson) presidency. As the episodes relate to each other they take on two different subjects in Comey's relations to the election.

The first episode talks about the handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation and the FBI reopening of the investigation. It shows how the email scandal affected the election and the months leading up to Trump's presidency.

By having the first part being about before the election, the show portrays the cause and effects of Comey's



PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIENEWS
This Comey Rule series is mainly just Comey attempting to redeem himself.

actions as the viewers follow along with his decisions before and after the 2016 election.

It looks further into if reopening of the emails was throwing the election in favor of Trump, but throughout the episode Comey claims that he doesn't know if the emails are even significant. Since the email release took place not too long before the election, there is good reason to be skeptical of his view that the emails were not that significant. At the end of the first episode it shows details of looking through the emails and the resulting findings.

The second episode opens up with a "F*** You James Comey" song as Trump had just won the presidency and Comey had become one of the most hated men in America. This episode focuses on Trump and Comey as Trump takes on his presidency.

Comey works throughout the episode trying to "get along" with President Trump, still disagreements begin to arise. It shows the process of Trump posturing to use the power of Comey, the Bureau and the Department of Justice to accomplish his goals.

As the audience watches this series they can come up with different conclusions on Comey and how the situation went. Some may see this series as a way of trying to portray him as the "good guy" even though many believe that he wasn't. In general, this series gives more enlightenment to the topic, more clarification on exactly what happened.

While I do believe this series can give an average American more insight into what went one during the 2016 election, I feel it could be highlighting some parts in the wrong way. The topics discussed throughout the series are downplayed to be less of a big of a deal than they were in during the 2016 election.

The series is opportunistically riding the wave of heightened political interest politics brought on by the 2020 election, and is mainly just Comey attempting to redeem himself by giving his side of how his actions influenced the 2016 election.



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OU Athletics adapts to promote racial equality

ANDREW BERNSDORF

Contributor

In the wake of change, Oakland University has been working toward change in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

On Oct. 14, George Floyd should have celebrated his 47th birthday. After being under an officer's knee for nearly nine minutes, Floyd is unable to celebrate.

These protests sparked change throughout the country as people took to the streets to protest the killing of unarmed Black people and police brutality. Following the protests, a surge of support for the Black Lives Matter movement occurred along with change across the nation.

In June, 67% of adults said they somewhat supported the Black Lives Matter movement. According to the Pew Research Center, the majority of U.S. adults support the Black Lives Matter movement.

Following the protests, change swept the nation. Major cities like Minneapolis and New York City vowed to defund their police departments and fund other important departments.

Major companies such as PepsiCo., which owns the heavily criticized Aunt Jemima pancake mix, has said they will rebrand

"to make progress towards racial equality." Johnson & Johnson also announced it would stop selling products that help people lighten their skin.

After his murder protests erupted across the nation, the number of protests peaked in June with 550 protests occurring around the nation including in Oakland County, impacting students at OU.

In response to the movement, OU's athletic department has been implementing changes to make progress towards racial equality.

Athletic Director Steve Waterfield has been a big part of this change in his department.

"One of the things we do within an athletic department and university is supporting and lending a voice and encouraging people to pursue causes that resonate with them," Waterfield said.

Waterfield has made it mandatory for all of the student athletes at OU to engage in monthly seminars with Dr. Tommy Shavers to discuss diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Shavers is co-founder and CEO of NESTRE Health & Performance, a neurostrength company focused on increasing brain health, mental wellness and human performance.

Waterfield describes the DEI seminars as a "series of conversations within our student athletes and staff about diversity, equity and inclusion, racial equality, social justice."



SAM SUMMERS | DESIGN EDITOR
Steve Waterfield, athletics director, has made seminars mandatory for athletes.

Waterfield has let Shavers take over these meetings and lead these discussions in a way so student athletes can engage in meaningful conversations.

"If each of us can figure out some way that we can make progress or create change, that one turns to two and we start to work together," Waterfield said.

In order to truly maximize full potential, Waterfield encourages student athletes to use their platform to bring awareness and promote racial justice in an "educated, meaningful way that is effective."

Sam Smith, a sophomore at OU who is also a member of the OU swim team, said OU is doing a good job of bringing about change within the community.

"The fact that they [OU] are willing and open to conversation is a great start," Smith said.

Smith also said OU should expand off the idea of conversation and expand it to the whole school. Smith advocated for an idea to the school where all students are invited to an open discussion to express their ideas and feelings.

"Oakland University is all about pride," Smith said. "What better way to show pride than to give back to the community and figure out ways to support the Black Lives Matter movement."

Since June, support for the Black Lives Matter movement has decreased. According to the Pew Research, the support has dropped 12%.

"I am proud we are engaged in this dialogue with Tommy," Waterfield said. "But it can't be a one year deal."

Waterfield hopes the DEI program will stick around for years and become a part of the culture at OU.

"One of the biggest things is understanding," Smith said. "We need to understand both sides before we can appreciate our own side."

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