

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 44 | Issue 18 | Feb. 6, 2019



MEET META KERN

Page 15

TESTING & PREVENTION

Get tested and learn how to ask for consent during SPB's "Sexpo"

PAGE 5

FEEL THE BASS

OU partners with inventor to create an alternate form of the amp

PAGE 7

THE BALL RETURNS

Meadow Brook hosts its annual Ball for the 45th year

PAGES 8 & 9

PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



WATERCOLOR SKIES Michigan sunsets often offer a nice release to a stressful day full of classes and work. Even with the chilly winter temperatures, the warm orange and pink colors give hope that spring and summer will be here soon.
TREVOR TYLE | LIFE&ARTS EDITOR

THE OAKLAND POST

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

Elyse Gregory
Photo Editor
emgregory@oakland.edu
248.370.4266

Laurel Kraus
Managing Editor
lmkraus@oakland.edu
248.370.2537

Patrick Sullivan
Web Editor
ptsullivan@oakland.edu

EDITORS

Katie Valley Campus Editor
kvalley@oakland.edu

Trevor Tyle Life&Arts Editor
ttyle@oakland.edu

Michael Pearce Sports Editor
mpearce@oakland.edu

Jordan Jewell Engagement Editor
jjewell@oakland.edu

COPY&VISUAL

Katie LaDuke Chief Copy Editor
Mina Fuqua Copy Editor
Jessica Trudeau Copy Editor
Zoe Garden Copy Editor
Erin O'Neill Graphic Designer
Prakhya Chilukuri Graphic Assistant

Ryan Pini Photographer
Nicole Morsfield Photographer
Samuel Summers Photographer
Sergio Montanez Photographer

REPORTERS

Ben Hume Staff Reporter
Dean Vaglia Staff Reporter
Jonathan Savich Staff Reporter
Bridget Janis Staff Reporter
Taylor Crumley Staff Reporter
Devin Boatwright Staff Reporter
Alyssa Ochss Staff Reporter

DISTRIBUTION

Kat Malokofsky Distribution Director
Alexander Pham Distributor
Lauren Ramer Distributor

ADVERTISING

Angela Gebert Ads Director

ADVISING

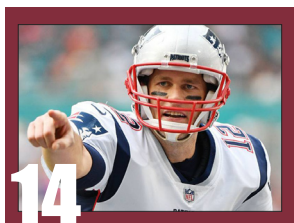
Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533



4

CELEBRATING AFRICA
CMI hosts its annual Taste of Africa to kick off African American History month.
Photo | Ryan Pini



14

GREATEST OF ALL TIME
Tom Brady of the New England Patriots picked up his sixth Super Bowl win.
Photo | Sporting News



16

BETTER THAN FOOTBALL
Watching football can be fun, but there are better uses for your time.
Illustration | Prakhya Chilukuri

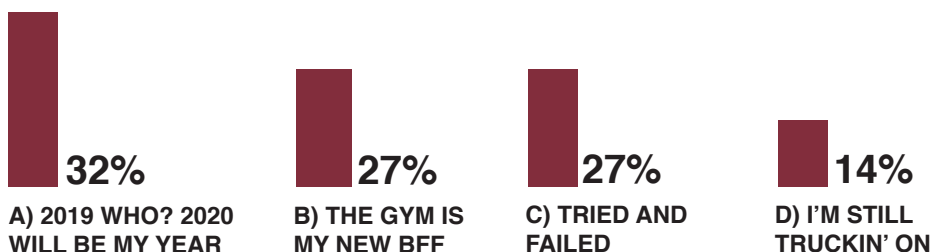
POLL OF THE WEEK

WHEN WILL SPRING WEATHER START?

- A) IT'S HERE NOW
- B) ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- C) BEGINNING OF JUNE
- D) WE'RE SKIPPING STRAIGHT TO SUMMER

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS GOING?



For more content and to vote on this week's poll, head to www.oaklandpostonline.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the editor: better public transit

Dear Editor,

I applaud Dean Vaglia's article from Jan. 31 about the dire need for better transportation options for the Oakland University community. I am an alumnus of Oakland University and a transit advocate, currently sitting on the Regional Transit Authority's Citizen Advisory Committee.

During my time at Oakland University from 2007-2013, I took the SMART bus a total of three times. I lived in Royal Oak with my parents and thought it would be interesting to try out. This was before SMART's FAST service (an amazing service, if you ask me), so I was limited to SMART's local Woodward service, the 450 and the 756. There's a reason why I didn't care to do more than three trips. SMART (and by extension DDOT) has been doing everything they can with the resources available to them, and in the past five years both have performed much better than the previous 20. Though there's much still to be done. That's what happens when communities are allowed to "opt-out" of service, the worst part about

our transit funding.

SMART routes from Utica, Waterford or even Oxford would be an amazing sight to see. Taking the bus is not scary. It is safe. It is affordable. And yes, there are people riding them. There is freedom to be had in leaving your car at home. Admittedly, taking the bus is not for everyone. Obviously one might be better suited with a car on days where pre- or after-school employment or other appointments cannot be reached by transit. But I would guess for many, a park and ride situation would help so finding parking is never a burden.

But if students, faculty and staff wish to have transit options made available to them, they must demand it from their elected officials. They need to hear you! These communities are suspicious of transit because they think it is more money that's going to Detroit. When we know it's not. The 2016 transit millage would've had 85 percent of the millage raised in each county stay in that county. They are also smug about it. Many are aligned with L. Brooks Patterson, the career politician and Oakland County executive, whose anti-transit attitudes has cost this

region dearly, in both economic development and the brain drain.

Many of you students, staff, and not-yet-tenured professors, too might leave for "greener pastures," like Chicago, Minneapolis or New York City, or abroad where transit is an essential backbone of major metropolitan needs. For the past 25 years, metro Detroit politicians have been blind to the fact that regional transit is key for economic development and growth. If you are anti-transit, you are anti-economic growth.

But at Oakland University, we are growing. And therefore better transportation options must become available. The means expanding SMART's service into Rochester Hills, Utica, and points north and west. It is a must. If the Rochesterers wish to claim Oakland University as their own, they need to support the university completely and that includes transportation, not just in squabbles with Auburn Hills. At least they already "opt-in" to SMART.

Zachary Baker
Oakland University, '13

LOOKING BACK

Problems with the construction of O'Dowd

Defective glass and worker strikes increased the cost, delayed the opening of the new building

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

As O'Dowd Hall was being built, there were a series of strikes from carpenters and electricians delaying the completion, which was set to be in June 1980. As fall rolled around, Oakland University decided to keep it shut for the semester because of a glass window problem arising.

"We were ahead of schedule," said George Karas, university engineer at the time. "If we didn't have the strikes and the glass problem, we'd be in there."

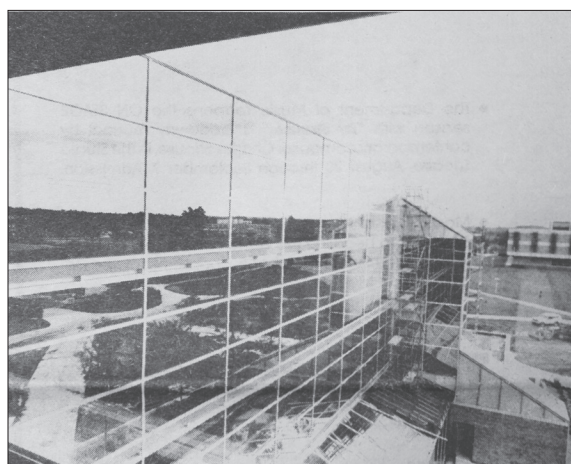
The problem with the glass was that about 60 windows were beginning to break. The building was an \$8.5 million building, and each window was valued at about \$1,000. OU decided to shift classes to other time slots and different buildings since O'Dowd Hall was not ready to be occupied.

"We have lost approximately 76 days due to a variety of worker strikes since the beginning of June," Karas said.

The replacement was said to cost more than \$500,000 and would take several months to do.

Due to potential safety hazards with the broken glass and the building, OU ended up putting up a fence to protect the area.

According to the architects for O'Dowd Hall, the problem with the windows was due to defects in the



OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

The windows began to break, costing \$500,000 to fix.

glass and not with the building design. The windows began to crumble to powder and tiny pieces of glass, and this delayed the opening of O'Dowd Hall until further notice.

Libby-Owens-Ford, the then glass company, ended up paying for a half-million dollar bill on replacing 494 exterior panels. While at the time, when replacement would begin or how long it would take was unsure. But accord-

ing to James Oathout, an official at Libby-Owens-Ford, "it [was] a very high priority item."

At the time the officials at TMP Associates, their contractors and the Libby-Owens-Ford glass manufacturers were refusing to say why the windows were breaking, what was causing it and how it could be fixed.

Libby-Owens-Ford said they were going to stand behind their products. Some of the broken windows were being replaced by panels, but those were also broken. A TMP official said the replacements may have been from the same production run.

The budget continued to shrink, so at that point it was possible O'Dowd Hall would not open until summer. Karas continued to say all the problems should be worked out by early next year, but still didn't decide at the time if O'Dowd Hall would be occupied during the glass replacement.

The Michigan legislature passed a bill appropriating \$164,700 for OU for O'Dowd Hall. This ran through Sept. 30, but only \$124,000 could be used that fiscal year which ended Jun. 30.

Ray Harris, an OU budget Director at the time, said O'Dowd Hall would be ready mid-December 1980 to the end of January 1981, but did not think classes would be held there until summer or spring semesters.

The process was planned to take longer so the cost of overtime pay and other aspects would be minimized as much as possible.

Taste of Africa kicks off Black History Month



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

African music and dance performances kicked off the celebration.

ALYSSA OCHSS

Staff Reporter

After Oakland had just come back to school from a three-day break courtesy of the polar vortex, African music was playing over the speakers, and people filtered into the Taste of Africa event hosted by the Center for

Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) on Friday, Feb. 1.

Food was served, which included anything from collard greens, to candied yams to catfish in celebration of African culture and to kick off African American History Month. Coloring pages of prominent figures throughout African American history were spread out among

the tables, which was a way to get the guests involved before the big show started.

If anyone needed help or had questions, the members of the CMI were clad in white T-shirts that had Africa on them, and they were ready to help. Omar Brown-El, the senior director for the CMI, said a few words before the first group performed on stage, saying the event was about expression.

“We’re not only hoping Oakland University students come out and understand the importance of African American history and culture, but our faculty and staff do the same in a surrounded community,” Brown-El said.

Several performances were put on including an African drum ensemble with Professor Emeritus Marvin “Doc” Holladay, who had played with many different and prominent jazz musicians, a dance performance

by Ja’Laayah Gordon and vocal performances by John Randle, Kyran Felder and Parrish “PJ” Roberts. A dance group named Golden Luxury also provided a performance for the audience. They had about six to seven members who performed to a medley of African American artists.

The African Drum Ensemble was the first performance that went live. The group specialized in music from Ghana and included freshman Taylor Herrmann, a vocal performance and anthropology student. It was her first year in the group, and she said she hoped to enlighten people about the culture of Ghana.

“Music is music no matter what, and it is truly the universal language,” Herrmann said. “Having so many different performers here is really cool because I get to see things I haven’t seen before.”

The dance performances were

scattered throughout the vocal performances, and each dance brought a different energy to the table. Gordon, a marketing major with a dance minor, danced with a lyrical solo performance to “I Know Where I’ve Been,” a song performed by Queen Latifah in the movie “Hairspray” during a peaceful protest to end segregation.

Gordon said she hoped to inspire others to follow their dreams, and she said she was honored to be a part of the event.

“It’s so wonderful as a chance to see the people who paved the way before us and I am so honored to be a part of it,” Gordon said. “I love seeing all the inspiring performances and the wonderful vendors.”

The event ended just before 7 p.m., and many guests seemed to enjoy it.

If you want to learn more about African American History, visit the celebration month’s website.

Found Footage Festival comedy show to take on The Habitat

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Found Footage Festival: turning your VCR trash into comedy treasure.

The Found Footage Festival (FFF) is the comedy duo of Joe Pickett and Nick Prueher, and they are bringing their VHS clip-comedy show to Oakland University.

The premise of the Festival is simple, as Student Program Board (SPB) marketing director Samantha Miller explained.

“Pickett and Prueher find old footage in all sorts of places such as garage sales, Salvation Army, dumpsters, footage given to them by friends, etc.,” Miller said via email. “[Pickett and Prueher] do live commentary on the videos along with updates [on the people in the videos].”

The clip show format of the festival can seem like the standard “America’s Funniest Home Videos” (AFV)/“-Tosh.0” affair, but Starr Brown – mainstage director for SPB – believes the duo’s comedy makes them stand out.

“[Their comedy] is kind of a mix,” Brown said. “From what I understand and what I’ve seen, they can do the wholesome comedy [of AFV] and they can do and mix in the edge [of Tosh.0], which is what I think makes [the festival] interesting and relevant to college students.”

According to the festival’s website, Pickett and Prue-

her began looking for weird VHS tapes in 1991, starting with the discovery of “Inside and Outside Custodial Duties,” a janitor instructional video found in a Wisconsin McDonald’s. After building a collection of safety videos, home movies, instructional tapes and workout videos, they began FFF in New York in 2004.

The festival has been featured on Jimmy Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon and NPR, and has been featured by critics for The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle. The show has also been to the HBO Comedy Festival in Las Vegas and the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal.

While the duo’s comedy certainly is a key part of the show, there would be no festival without the grainy VHS content. The videos have been drawing in audiences since 2004, and Brown believes she knows why it is still relevant over a decade since FFF began.

“It’s old things and things that you might never had seen if you had not come to [the festival], and old VHS tapes just have so much funny stuff on them,” Brown said. “Nobody digs through VHS tapes anymore because we don’t have any VHS players to play, so all of this old stuff is kind of getting lost in the modern technology. When you find video memes on Facebook and Twitter, you find Bob Ross and that woman with the sponge painting.”

To anyone on the fence about going to the 7 p.m. show,



PHOTO COURTESY OF STARR BROWN

The duo compiles old VHS tape videos for comedy.

Brown has this to say.

“[Pickett and Prueher] are super funny individuals, and everybody in our office has gotten a kick out of all the stuff we’ve seen from them so far,” Brown said. “We’re 10 different individuals with different interests and what we find funny is all different, so there’s something that everybody will find funny in the show.”

“You’ll expect crazy videos, lots of laughter and to be thoroughly entertained,” she said.

Learn about safe, healthy, consensual sex at Sexpo

With sexually transmitted diseases on the rise students are encouraged to seek further education

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Were you taught safe sexual practices? Do you know how to ask for consent? Are you up to date on your sexually transmitted disease (STD) vaccines? The answers to these and more can be found at Sexpo.

Sexpo—short for “sex expo”—is an event put on by the Student Program Board (SPB) that aims to teach Oakland students about safe, healthy and consensual sexual practices.

Held on Tuesday, Feb. 12 in the Oakland Center Ballroom B, Sexpo is supported by the Graham Health Center (GHC) and Oakland County Health Department (OCHD).

The event will start at 5 p.m. with a presentation from Planned Parenthood, after which visitors will be able to go from table to table to learn about safe and healthy sexual practices until 7 p.m.

“I think [Sexpo] is important—espe-

cially for students that have not had the right sex education in high school—for new and incoming students to let them know that this is what is happening, these are the resources that we have on campus for any sex related questions you might have,” said Flavio Di Stefano, SPB diversity director.

The GHC and OCHD will be providing free and confidential chlamydia and gonorrhea testing, as well as providing information on contraceptives and the HPV vaccine, according to GHC Director Nancy Jansen.

“It is critical at this age that students prevent STDs,” she said. “Nationwide, STDs are on the increase and that’s true even locally in Oakland County and true here on campus. In the county, there [were] over 4,000 cases of chlamydia last year and over 1,000 cases of gonorrhea, and these numbers continue to grow.”

The GHC provides the information and services that will be at Sexpo on a daily basis. Other daily services include

administering the HPV vaccine (among other vaccines), HIV/STD testing, regular and emergency contraceptives, and condoms.

“

It is critical at this age that students prevent STDs.. Nationwide, STDs are on the increase and that’s true even locally in Oakland County and true here on campus. In the county, there [were] over 4,000 cases of chlamydia last year and over 1,000 cases of gonorrhea, and these numbers continue to grow.

NANCY JANSEN
GHC DIRECTOR

”

Along with STD prevention, Jansen stresses the importance of avoiding unplanned pregnancies.

“It is devastating for a woman’s education to have an unplanned pregnancy,” Jansen said. “It can really derail her plans to graduate. Even if she does continue with her education or chooses to terminate, you still do not want to go down that road.”

Jansen also would like to make it known that the Sexpo is not a promotion of sex, but a promotion of healthy relationships and sexual practices.

To anyone who believes they know enough about sex or is not sexually active and will not go, Di Stefano still believes they should attend the Sexpo.

“Yes, we are going to talk about sex, we are going to talk about consent, we are going to talk about sexual harassment...,” he said. “You should not feel uncomfortable or attacked coming to Sexpo because whatever question, concern or feeling you have, I am sure there is going to be people there who will listen to you and answer your questions. All of us are going to keep it a professional matter, despite the topic being a

POLICE FILES

A little police station accident

An officer in the Oakland University Police Station was opening the lock on the gun case when a few 2-by-4 wooden planks fell from above and struck him on the head. Some of the boards had nails in them, and the officer that was struck felt the top of his head and found it was bleeding. Another officer in the station assisted him in placing a gauze pad and a cool pack on the open wound. An injury accident report form was filled out.

Brilliant door-opening

An officer was dispatched to the vestibule between Dodge Hall and Hannah Hall to investigate a broken glass door that was called in by the Oakland University Facilities Management on Jan. 11. Upon arrival, the officer observed the broken glass door to be on the Dodge Hall building side wrapped in yellow caution tape.

While inspecting the broken glass, the officer noticed it looked as if someone attempted to kick the interior push bar, missed and put their foot through the broken safety glass. A dispatch was made to contact work control to replace the glass, and no suspect was found.

Lululemon laundry larceny

Dispatch was sent to Hamlin Hall to take a report of larceny from the south laundry room. Upon arrival, the officer was met by the student, who stated she had placed several items of clothing in the dryer of the south Hamlin Hall common laundry room at approximately 12:30 p.m. She said when she returned an hour later, she discovered two pairs of yoga pants were missing from the dryer.

The officer inspected the room, other machines and garbage, but was unable to find the items nearby. The student had no further information, and the suspect was unknown at the time of the report. The officer advised the student to contact OUPD if any further information became available, or if the stolen items were recovered.

Compiled by
Ben Hume, Staff Reporter

Classifieds

63 Oakland Center
312 Meadow Brook Road
Rochester, MI 48309

Rates:
\$0.35 per word (\$7 min.)
Unlimited Frequency
STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Call or email us and place your ad today! ads@oaklandpostonline.com | 248.370.4269

HELP WANTED: VALET PARKING

Valet parking attendants, must be 21 or older, must know how to drive a stick-shift, make up to \$30/hour (248) 740-0900 or apply online at <http://firstclassvalet.com/valet-parking/employment-application>

ADVERTISE ANYTHING*

Need something?
Want something
Want to provide something?

Books
Cars
Garage Sales
Rent

Babysitting
Help Wanted
Carpools
Misc., etc.

SPB offers new event at Meadow Brook

This Valentine's Day week, get ready to spend time with your partner at campus' most romantic spot

LAUREL KRAUS

Managing Editor

Hosted by the Student Program Board (SPB), OU Date Night will take place on Monday, Feb. 11, as a romantic evening for students with a three-course meal and live string quartet at Meadow Brook Hall.

"We knew that Meadow Brook Hall has always been a highly successful event, and there's been issues in the past where they've sold out so quickly, students haven't felt the availability was something that they had access to," President of SPB Christopher Russell said. "So we really tried to create an intermediary where it's a different style of an event... but still kind of a nice, little formal setting where people can just go, relax, not spend too much money, and just have a nice evening out."

In contrast to the ball or SPB's Murder Mystery, which spread throughout Meadow Brook Hall, OU Date Night will be more confined to just a few rooms.

Guests will be seated prom style with 10 people at a table in order to accommodate the 100 attendees. The

doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 7 p.m., and the event is open to students until 9-9:30 p.m.

The three-course meal will include a chicken entree, chef's choice of appetizer and chef's choice of dessert, with vegetarian options, and the live music will be provided by The RONDO String Quartet.

"They have a great track record for Meadow Brook Hall, they play there for weddings all the time," Special Events Director for SPB Joshua Robinson said. "I'm actually really excited to watch them play live."

OU Date Night is considered one of SPB's "special events," which are often geared toward commuter students according to Russell.

"They're just something that we don't do annually, we try to switch it up and kind of bring something interesting and different to campus every year with those," he said.

Recent examples include Painting Without a Twist and the VR Matrix event from the start of the semester.

While the event is taking place for

the first time, Russell reported the plan was to test out the viability and, since it has sold out, there is a strong probability it could become an annual event.

"We're just trying to gauge interest,

“

We tried to create an intermediary where it is a different style event...but still kind of nice formal setting where people can just go, relax, not spend too much money, and just have a nice evening out.

CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL
PRESIDENT OF SPB

”

see how the event turns out, maybe collect some feedback after the event, then go from there to see if this is really something the students would enjoy having on a year-to-year basis," he said.

According to Robinson, the possibility of OU Date Night has been floating around SPB's event ideas for a few years now.

"We were really interested in having it during Valentine's Day week, just because it's right before spring break, a lot of people need affordable options to be able to spend time with their significant other, and we realized we don't have a lot of programming specifically designed for couples, so that's what we were trying to go for here," Russell said.

The next SPB event will Sexpo on Tuesday, Feb. 12, hosted in the Oakland Center, which will include speakers from Haven talking on sexual violence.

"We're trying to hit both sides of the theme here, have a light-hearted and fun event but at the same time understand that there's a few different aspects of it," Russell said.

LATE NIGHT WEDNESDAYS

EXTENDED HOURS EACH WEDNESDAY UNTIL 6:30

The Division of Student Affairs and Diversity open until 6:30 p.m.

The extended hours of our Late Night Wednesdays initiative are being offered to meet the diverse needs of working students, evening students and non-traditional students.

For more information, visit oakland.edu/campuslife.

THE FOLLOWING OFFICES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM:

Career Services
Center for Multicultural Initiatives
Community Engagement
Dean of Students
Disability Support Services
First Year Advising Center
Gender and Sexuality Center
Graham Health Center
ID Card Office
Oakland Center
Office for Student Involvement
Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Office of the Registrar
Orientation and New Student Programs
OU Counseling Center
Pre-College Programs
Project Upward Bound
Student Technology Center
The Tutoring Center
University Housing
University Recreation and Well-Being
Veteran Support Services

EMPOWERING STUDENTS IS OUR PASSION.

LIFE&ARTS

Campus resources help local inventor “play bass, feel bass”

TAYLOR CRUMLEY

Staff Reporter

A new breakthrough invention in the music industry was put into the works by Novi resident Yerko Sepulveda and the help of the Oakland University Mobilization Zone (OUMZ) and OU'S business incubator, OU INC.

BackBeat is a “portable, wearable and invincible” device that plugs into the guitar and transforms each note into a vibration the musician can feel.

“BackBeat is used for bass guitar,” said Dr. Michael Long, the executive director of OUMZ. “Bass players can't hear what they are playing when the frequency is too low. BackBeat is worn on the back strap of the guitar and vibrates to the bass notes.”

According to Sepulveda's Kickstarter page, the idea for the BackBeat was the result of having trouble hearing his bass, among other sounds in the mix. He had the thought that it would be better if he could feel it instead of trying to hear it.

“I made the invention to fit the niche created when musicians are forced to not use on stage amplifiers and make a move to personal monitoring,” Sepulveda said.

Sepulveda launched a Kickstarter campaign and raised over \$129,000 to help bring BackBeat to life. He eventually met

Long, who used his connection to OUMZ to help further develop the project.

“The Mobilization Zone builds and supports platforms that integrate OU's faculty, students, business engagement efforts, technology-focused business incubators and its regional governments into a single, collaborative entity,” Long said.

Conceptualizing and launching a company or product like BackBeat requires resources inventors don't often have or cannot afford. According to Sepulveda, this is why OUMZ and OU INC are so important to people like him.

“The I2B program assists companies in rapidly identifying and evaluating the critical next steps in their progress toward commercialization,” Long said. “Such steps include undertaking projects such as a market analysis, helping develop a solid business plan, et cetera. The program is open to all Oakland students.”

The services available at OU to help entrepreneurs in their businesses allowed Sepulveda to take his invention from a concept to a marketable product. He said he has always wanted to be an entrepreneur, and he finally had the opportunity to do so with BackBeat, and the help of OU INC and OUMZ.

“We used a local advertising group called Woodshed Agency to help with a Kickstarter campaign and social media blasts to get



PHOTO COURTESY OF YERKO SEPULVEDA

Sepulveda experimented with different components to create the early prototypes.

the word out on BackBeat,” Sepulveda said. “I wanted to be an entrepreneur. I needed the right timing and the right idea to make it happen.”

OU INC and OUMZ helped Sepulveda look at his invention from a business perspective by giving him a market analysis and important retail contacts.

“I2B is the primary way OU students participate in the Mobilization Zone,” Long said. “I2B is an experiential learning pro-

gram and not a job. Students get a small scholarship and certificate upon completion of the program.”

Sepulveda's future goals are to expand his product and branch out to help different musicians.

I2B is currently recruiting students for the Winter Session to begin Feb. 8, 2019. Students can apply via by sending a cover letter and resume to I2B@oakland.edu or contacting Michael Long at mwl@oakland.edu.

Oakland hosts first jazz festival for local high schools

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Jazz program hosted its first annual Oakland University High School Jazz Festival on Saturday, Feb. 2, giving high school jazz members the opportunity to play for OU faculty and be critiqued before they audition for college.

Sean Dobbins, Steve Wood, Mark Kieme, Rayse Biggs, Scott Gwinnell, Marion Hayden and Mark Stone were the music faculty that attended the event and opened the festival by playing a couple of jazz songs for the audience.

The group that attended the event were from the MSU Community Music School in Detroit. Some schools had to cancel just hours before the event due to snow days this past week.

Since these groups of musicians were smaller, they were known as combos and were from both middle school and high school ages. Combos are based more on melodies and improvisation compared to larger ensembles, which are based on ensemble interactions.

“Small groups allow students to have more opportunity for self expression through improvisation,” Dobbins said.

The reasoning behind this event was to help grow the jazz program and add to Oakland's community. It also al-

lowed any students and their families to come to OU, meet the staff and ask any questions about the music program.

“It's a chance for them to get to know us, and of course this expansion of the Oakland Center [OC] is beautiful and it is nice to have wonderful buildings,” Stone said. “But what makes a university a place for students to come to is the faculty, and we have a rich jazz faculty headed by Professor Dobbins, but all the

“

Small groups allow students to have more opportunity for self expression through improvisation.

SEAN DOBBINS
SCHOOL OF MTD FACULTY MEMBER

”

faculty were here, and it's just a great chance for the students to get to know who we are and what we have to offer the students.”

Students took time to go downstairs in the OC to get ready to perform. They practiced a few notes, went over the music and got in the zone.

“It's something you can feel, feeling is what music is. It's not about notes, it's about what you find in the notes that you can make into music,” said Marvin “Doc” Holladay, the first director of jazz and world music at OU.

To wrap up the event the students performed and were able to be critiqued by special guest Holladay. He gave critiques such as to stay in pocket, play softer and he even demonstrated for them. He also provided positive feedback as a way to motivate the students in years to come.

“It was an unmatched source of education,” Dobbins said. “You cannot get this type of level of experience and knowledge anywhere, and it was important for us for the students to hear from experience. Our music has been handed down not through books and not through written music, it's been handed down orally, and it's been handed down through experience.”

The faculty hopes to continue this event for the upcoming year, and hopes it will continue to grow and help get OU's name get out into the community.



The Meadow Brook Ball captures the Tiffany magic

story by Alyssa Ochss

design by Katie LaDuke

graphics by Erin O'Neill & Prakhya Chilukuri

photos by Nicole Morsfield

The Golden Grizzlies dressed up in their best on Friday and Saturday to enjoy a night full of dancing and fun at the Meadow Brook Ball. The ball took guests back to the 1940s, and many followed Audrey Hepburn's lead by dressing similar to her famous appearance.

The ball is Oakland's longest standing tradition as it started in 1974 and celebrated number 45 this weekend. Guests and the committee were creating history with each decoration they placed, friend they made and activity they took part in.

Members of the Meadow Brook Hall staff were positioned throughout the hall to provide guests with a bit of the history throughout the night.

Angelina Allen, president of the Meadow Brook Ball Committee, and Meagan Raudabaugh, committee treasurer, said they started planning in March of the previous year and went all the way up to time of the event. Allen said making the event memorable is the committee's top priority.

"[Planning the event means] trying to think of everybody's interests to make sure it's fun for everyone and

something that students can remember forever," Allen said. "It's one of Oakland's oldest traditions, so we like to keep it going."

The theme this year was based around the movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's," originally released in 1961. There was turquoise décor, a flip book station, tarot readings and many other activities and events inspired by the movie.

Sarah Anthony, committee vice president, and Kristina Stevanovic, committee secretary, were really pushing for the theme this year since it was one of their favorite movies.

"We absolutely love Tiffany's, so this really hit close to the heart for us, and I think that's why we were so passionate about planning it," Stevanovic said.

Many guests enjoyed the event with its various activities, as well as the history that surrounded them. Justin Anderson, accompanied by Autumn Frieze, said the ball was a fun way to get involved and get dressed up.

"It's fun to get dressed up and be in a really historical place," Anderson said. "We've actually picked up a lot

[as] we've walked around the house."

Caroline Mitton and Sean Brar loved the décor of the ball as well as the body artist, who they have visited for two years now.

"It's a great event and obviously the student organizations really come together for this," Mitton said. "The Meadow Brook Ball Committee really pulled it off this year, it's really impressive."

The committee members said they appreciated everyone who braved the cold weather to celebrate the ball and the mansion with them. Allen said she remembered what the hall was mainly built for and how it tied into their theme.

"The purpose Matilda [Dodge Wilson] built this mansion was to throw parties and it fit into our theme very well," she said.

The history can be seen throughout Meadow Brook Hall as it is coming up on its 90-year anniversary, and it made the night all the more special for attendees.

"One of my favorite parts is being able to remember how beautiful the mansion is even 90 years later," Raudabaugh said.



One activity for guests was to take part in ballroom dance lessons taught by the Ballroom and Latin Dance club. Other entertainment included a photo booth, spray painted tattoos and raffle baskets.



Guests were encouraged to dress in formal wear with many dressing in elegant gowns and their best suits. One lucky couple got engaged at the ball and was celebrated by other guests as they walked down the stairs.



The theme for the 45th Meadow Brook Ball was inspired by “Breakfast at Tiffany’s.” Audrey Hepburn, the signature Tiffany blue and pearls decorated the mansion for the weekend.

Chicken and horse owners use precautions for winter

In this weather, be more mindful toward your furry friends in these freezing temperatures

ALYSSA OCHSS

Staff Reporter

As temperatures reach a record low and cities are freezing over, pet owners everywhere are urged to keep their pets outside for the shortest amount of time they possibly can. Dogs that aren't noticeably made for the winter should be kept inside.

However, what happens with animals that aren't the inside type? Horses, chickens and other livestock are protected by their coops and barns, but extra measures must be taken to keep them alive and well.

People are allowed to have chickens in their backyards in Rochester and other cities where there is no law against them. There's basic feeding routines for the summer, but how do these feeding routines change to accommodate colder weather and freezing temperatures?

Sophomore Dakota Brecht owns 25 chickens, three horses and two ducks. He said there are special steps that need to be taken to keep the chickens and other animals from getting frostbite.

"When the temperature is too low, the chickens won't lay anything and they're monitored by the temperature," Brecht said. "We put a heat lamp in their coop and lay extra hay down, and then they go back to laying 12 to 15 eggs a day."

Brecht said sometimes they have one or two chickens that won't go into their coops, but they all go in eventually. "Chickens and ducks are smart enough to come in," he said.

He said the horses have a regimented diet while the chickens will eat anything, but someone must be careful to not give chickens too much, since "they will eat until they explode."

Ashley Hayes and Kasey Hayes are sisters who grew up caring for horses in northern Michigan, and now each of them works at a farm or as riding instructors. Kasey cares for 20 horses in Kentucky while Ashley cares for two to three horses in Michigan.

When caring for the horses, Ashley and Kasey make sure the horses have extra hay to keep them warm.

"We feed once in the morning and once at night," Kasey said. "Each one has at least one heavy weight blanket as well. It takes us -- my manager and I -- about 4 hours to do everything."

Ashley said where she lives, they don't have stalls or barns to keep the horses in, per se. She also has a regimented diet for the horses, and some of the portions get increased during the winter.

"We have two run in shelters for them to go in and out freely," she said. "Each horse gets a different pelleted grain and at different amounts and a base of four flakes



ALYSSA OCHSS | STAFF REPORTER

In Rochester, Chickens are allowed in owner's backyards. of hay a twice a day."

She said they take extra precautions, such as making sure their shelters are sturdy, as well.

Both Ashley and Kasey said the horses are well adjusted to the cold weather in Kentucky and Michigan, and they use these precautions as extra protection.

"Horses are pretty resilient," Kasey said. "Everyone is alive and well."

NOW ACCEPTING: CONTRIBUTORS

WRITE FOR THE OAKLAND POST!

We're looking for contributors from

ANY MAJOR ANY BACKGROUND

Attend a contributor meeting!

Tuesdays at 3 p.m. in The Oakland Post office, room 63 in the basement of the Oakland Center.

Or contact editor@oaklandpostonline.com



ADVERTISE WITH US!

Contact: ads@oaklandpostonline.com

PUZZLES

1		2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15						16			
17					18							19			
20									21		22				
				23				24		25					
26	27	28				29		30		31			32	33	
34					35		36		37			38			
39					40	41					42				
43				44					45	46					
47			48			49		50		51					
		52			53		54		55						
56	57					58		59				60	61	62	
63					64		65								
66					67						68				
69					70						71				

- Across**

1. Glazier’s cutting

5. “The Planets” composer

10. “___ want for Christmas is . . .”

14. Hauge of poetry

15. Sprightly

16. Oboe attachment

17. Sign at the edge of a cliff?

19. Daily delivery

20. Kind of address

21. Okapi cousin

23. Glides high

25. Threads

26. Mexican monies

29. Weep convulsively

31. Memory slip

34. Provides data

36. Disappear gradually

38. Word after T.

39. Imagist

40. Hot under the collar

42. 1958 Chevalier film

43. Edifice extension

44. Dull-colored

45. Bit in a brownie, perhaps

47. Ketchup alternative

49. Intricate pattern

51. Blows a gasket

52. Clown since 1946

54. Hail damage

56. Produce place

59. Japanese entertainers

63. Manhandle

64. Tethered dive

66. Puberty problem, for some

67. Epic starring Achilles

68. Position on a ship

69. Rorem and Beatty

70. All choked up

71. Potter’s prop
- Down**

1. 11th U.S. President

2. Sunburn soother

3. Sea power

4. Flattens

5. “___ la vista, baby!”

6. Eyeballers

7. Cover up, essentially

8. Smelting refuse

9. Halfhearted

10. 3-Down group

11. Suspension system component

12. Eric the Red’s son

13. Thumb-twiddling

18. Go out on a limb?

22. Exercise authority

24. Guest room furnishing, perhaps

26. Corncobs and briars

27. First name of a famous plane

28. Hypnotized

30. Horror film regular

32. Fluid transition

33. Leaves

35. Officer’s address

37. Morning condensate

41. Wet behind the ears

42. Palooka’s downfall

44. State of bewilderment

46. Clarinetist Shaw

48. Plinths

50. Alms seeker

53. Satellite path

55. Lacking

56. Fed

57. Compete against the clock

58. December noun

60. Luau dance

61. Last word of the Bible

62. Burned rubber

65. Peeples or Long

NOVICE

				6	2	5	8
			8				7
	1		2	7		9	3
4	8		5			3	
5		2	7		3	4	1
		9		4		6	5
	4	6		1	8		2
8				4			
3	2	1	9				

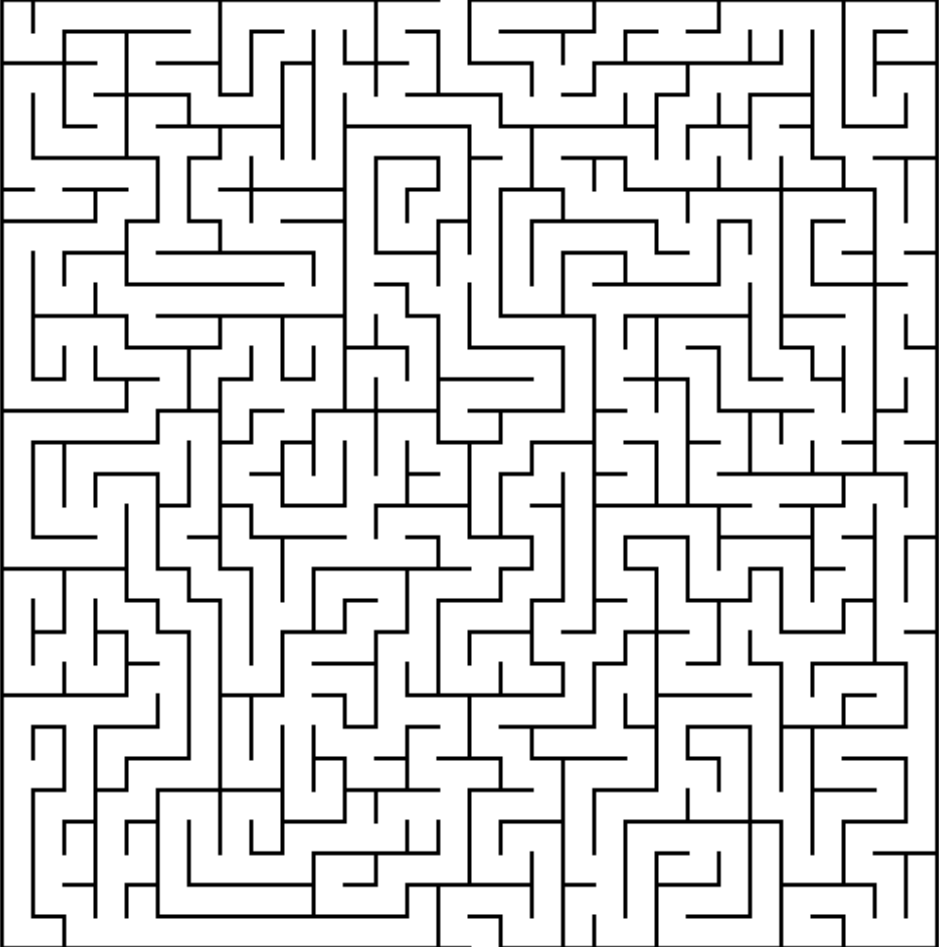
TOUGH

	5		2	9	8	4	7
				6		3	
	6			3			5
					9		4
6		4	7	5	3	2	
9	7		1				9
5	3			4			2
		8		1			
	2	6	8	7	5		9

INTERMEDIATE

		8			3		4	6
7		4			8			2
1		9	5					
	1						8	9
4	9	5				3	7	1
8	2						5	
					7	1		3
9			8			4		5
5	4		3			8		

		6			9		7	
					5	8	4	2
	4		2		1	5	6	
	3	2	5			4		7
7			6		4			3
9		4			7	6	2	
	6	1	9		2		3	
3	2	9	4					
	7		1			2		



The importance of unions in resolving the shutdown

Do not overlook the role of unions in ending the shutdown



BEN HUME

Staff Reporter

Much can be said about the resolving of the month-long government shutdown, and a lot of opinion pieces are still focused on President Donald Trump's failure in "making a deal" for his border wall. Pointing out Republican failures to fund a border wall is all well and good, but not much coverage is focused on the importance of labor unions in ending this hostage situation. And important they were.

The biggest story started getting coverage near the end of the shutdown — the effect the shutdown had on air travel and the growing lines at TSA security points. By Jan. 15, TSA officers that were working without paychecks finally started calling in sick by the droves. Their absences only got worse as they were asked to continue working without pay a month into the shutdown.

This is where the labor unions really made their importance known. On day 33 of the shutdown, Jan. 23, the presidents of the National Air Traffic Controllers

Association, Air Line Pilots Association and Association of Flight Attendants released a joint statement about how the shutdown was affecting flight safety.

Some of the more important lines include how these unions are concerned that "in our risk averse industry, we cannot even calculate the level of risk currently at play, nor predict the point at which the entire system will break," and how any further shutdown would make the safety of all who were flying unknown.

My description of the shutdown as a hostage situation was not just a clever turn of phrase. Every government worker, from the TSA security agents and air traffic controllers to the janitors for government buildings, were all held as political pawns for no real gain. These three facets of the flight industry were just lucky enough to have organizations available to speak for them and make Republican politicians aware of the real damage their power grab was doing.

These three union leaders even voiced their concern and support for other government workers in their joint statement. These unions were critical in moving the discussion forward and showing the general public the real damage the shutdown was doing to the common worker.

I get unions are not the most powerful groups in the nation, due to a multitude of factors that cannot be explained here. But this is a statement that showed what they could do to protect the rights of workers in many other facets of life and business. Their importance here in focusing the media's attention on the suffering workers and sending an ultimatum to the government was critical in resolving this blockade.

The shutdown may be over, but this war is not. The most recent stipend for the government budget only lasts into mid-February, and if there is once again an impasse in negotiations on Capitol Hill, then we might find ourselves in the same place this month.

At the very least, let this be a lesson in the importance of your labor unions. They were important this month, and will continue to be so in the future no matter what.

The "immoral" barrier



TIM KADOW

Contributor

"Build that wall! Build that wall!" This now famous and controversial phrase was, and is, chanted by the millions of President Donald Trump supporters who attend his rallies. Then-candidate Trump made it one of his priorities to discuss the construction of a border wall on the southern border between the United States and Mexico.

This promise has brought much divide in Washington, which led to the longest government shutdown in the history of this country. Trump has now reopened the government until Feb. 15, giving Congress the time to put together a bill that gives him his long anticipated barrier.

According to the International Boundary and Water Commission and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the border extends about 1,900 miles. Of that, approximately 654 miles of walls and fencing are currently separating the two countries. It's important to note a greater portion of these are built to stop vehicles, not people.

In his most recent proposal, Trump requested \$5.7 billion to be allocated

to building a wall with the intent of stopping pedestrian and vehicle traffic illegally crossing, granting extensions to Temporary Protection Status (TPS) recipients, and providing legal status for some 800,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Madam Speaker of the House, Representative Nancy Pelosi has claimed there will be no bill that funds "Trump's immoral wall."

Having a border wall is a relatively recent contentious topic. Democratic leaders and long-standing legislators like Chuck Schumer, Dianne Feinstein, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow and Sherrod Brown all have, at some point, supported bills in the past that provided for the construction of a border fence and wall.

A wall on the southern border will be beneficial for this country in significantly hindering the illegal flow of people, drugs and crimes such as prostitution, sex trafficking and murder.

The reasoning for this is simple: having a barrier such as a wall will force people to go through a single port of entry. This would allow the officers to process and evaluate each individual, family or vehicle in an effective and efficient fashion.

If they tried to come over the wall, the time it would take to get a ladder and come over would be more than sufficient to allow the officers to respond to the situation. Said best by the Chief of the United States Border Patrol, "We certainly do need a wall. Talk to any border agent and they will tell you that."

To claim that a border wall is "immoral" is hypocritical for anyone who owns or uses a door, lock and key. The principle is the same: the protection and preservation of valuable things.

When a border wall is going to protect American interests and safety, how is it immoral? A barrier on the southern border only promotes safety for Americans and allows for those entrusted with protecting the border to do their job more efficiently.

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

Why Netflix's 10 Oscar nominations for "Roma" matter

TREVOR TYLE

Life&Arts Editor

The Oscars may still be a few weeks away, but we are well into awards season, and no film has perhaps been more celebrated this season than Netflix's "Roma." The film's timeless monochromatic visuals, combined with its contemporary release strategy, have made it a force to be reckoned with at nearly every major award show this season.

Directed by Alfonso Cuarón ("Gravity"), "Roma" is a semi-autobiographical approach to Cuarón's own upbringing. The film focuses on Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio), a live-in maid for a middle-class family in Mexico City in the early 1970s. Among the family's triumphs and tragedies, Cleo and the family matriarch Sofia (Marina de Tavira) struggle to maintain normalcy for the children. The former is coping with an unexpected pregnancy, while the latter struggles to hide her husband's infidelity from her children.

The film has been praised not only for its cinematic merit, but also for the platform it has given to so many voiceless individuals involved in its production. Nominated for 10 Academy Awards, "Roma" has been selected by many critics — myself included — as the frontrunner for Best Picture. But whether the film wins or loses, its cultural significance extends well beyond a 13.5-inch golden statuette.

"Roma's" nominations in and of themselves are groundbreaking. It's one of the first films exclusive to a streaming platform to be nominated for Best Picture, and if it wins, it will be the first of its distribution method to do so. (It

would also be Netflix's first win for the Oscars' top honor.) On a larger scale, its nomination, and quite possibly its win, will be important in terms of how future Oscar nominees are selected — and, even more importantly, how films in general are distributed.

It's no secret that box office sales have plummeted in recent years, thanks to streaming services. Yes, they did rise 5.5 percent last year, but unless it's owned by Disney, the chances of a film doing that well at the box office are slim to none.

I'm not suggesting films should be streamed exclusively. In fact, I'm a firm believer that seeing a film in theaters — particularly one as enthralling as "Roma" — is the only way to truly appreciate it in its entirety. But we live in an age of spectacle over substance, which could eventually lead to films like "Roma" never getting the greenlight from movie studios — they're too much money to produce and not likely enough to make a large profit at the box office. Think about it — maybe people don't care about award shows anymore because they don't even recognize half the nominees.

But these declining box office numbers might not be so problematic if more movie studios embrace streaming-exclusive properties. It may not be ideal, but in the age of instant gratification, it may be the only way for films like "Roma" to realistically survive.

And to be completely honest, we need films like "Roma" to survive. As much as I love big budget blockbusters, I also love to be enchanted by something that's not such a spectacle. The power of "Roma" lies in its simplicity — both visually and narratively. From its nostalgic black-and-white cinematography to its stunningly authentic



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Set in early 1970s Mexico City, "Roma" depicts the struggles of a mother of four and a mother-to-be.

screenplay, "Roma" marks a return, in many ways, to the Golden Age of Hollywood in aesthetic, style and theme.

But "Roma" also represents a huge step forward in the push for more diversity in film. Aparicio made history by becoming the first indigenous woman — and second Mexican woman — to be nominated for Best Actress. Meanwhile, "Roma's" dialogue is spoken entirely in Spanish and Mixtec, so if it wins Best Picture, it will become the first foreign language film to do so.

Whether it wins anything at the Oscars or not, one thing is certain — by embracing change, "Roma" has elicited conversations about the future of both the film industry and our own society. And that is certainly something worth celebrating.

'Sex Education' — aka high school's awkward moments on TV

KATIE VALLEY

Campus Editor

A sexually repulsed teen feeling the need to become sexually active to fit in? If that's not part of the teenage experience, I don't know what is.

Netflix's new series "Sex Education," created by Laurie Nunn, presents the life of 16-year-old Otis Milburn (Asa Butterfield) in his conquest for love—and to have sex for the first time. He and his love interest Maeve Wiley (Emma Mackey) open a secret clinic at their high school for students to speak with Otis about their sexual issues, since Otis "has a gift" in sex therapy because his mother (Gillian Anderson) runs her own in-home sex therapy practice.

The show includes a diverse cast and is inclusive of different forms of relationships.

Otis serves clients who face a series of sex issues, from relationship dilemmas, to sexual confidence, masturbation, consent, nude photos and more.

The show immediately made me reminisce about high school, where many people raced to start their mature lives. Though the show contains some nudity and hypersexualized situations, Otis presents an awkward teen character who is funny and relatable.

Although the show is only eight episodes, each about an hour long, it's easy to binge-watch while remaining interested. There were multiple moments that are so awkward, audience members can find themselves laughing along.

Otis spends much of the season pining for Maeve while also exploring his own sex repulsion. Supporting characters' lives are also explored, and the characters have their own sto-



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

A coming of age show about a male exploring sexuality.

ries to follow. It adds a sense of reality to the show and better helps viewers connect to the plot.

Inspirational moments of body positivity from the show are even being shared as clips on social media. The motivat-

ing "It's my vagina" clip has been widely shared, where students stand up in unison during an assembly and claim a vagina in a photo leaked to the school belongs to all of them, saving the true victim from being revealed.

The only thing I was not super fond of was how Otis' repulsion toward sex was addressed. It's mentioned he associates childhood traumatic experiences with sex, but it's not mentioned Otis could be on the asexual spectrum, meaning maybe he does not always experience sexual attraction like his peers. To me, this is a bit shocking, considering his mother is a sex therapist and probably should be familiar with asexuality.

The show presented a great opportunity for asexual representation that it kind of skipped over, but it still did score big with LGBTQ+ representation. Otis is inclusive

toward and willing to learn about different sexual identities through his sex clinic, such as when he researched how to help a lesbian couple with intimacy, and he is not afraid to speak about the "taboos" of sex, even though he's never done it himself.

Otis is not afraid to behave in ways that are not considered "masculine," such as dress in drag with his best friend Eric (Ncuti Gatwa) or dance with him at a school dance. The show pushes to break traditional barriers of gender norms and sexual identity, and it's great to see those efforts.

"Sex Education" tackles many issues faced by high schoolers and paints them so audiences can really feel for the characters' struggles. The big ending to the season left me waiting to see what the next episodes will bring.

Rating: 4/5 stars

EDITORIAL

Stop it, Tom Brady is the GOAT

Appreciating a great for his true talent

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

It's time to stop.

Stop trying to say Tom Brady isn't the greatest quarterback of all time. Despite this year's Super Bowl being possibly the most boring game of all time, Tom Brady exited the game with his sixth ring, most all time from a player and quarterback.

To top it all off, Brady said before the game his goal was to play until he is 45. Currently at 41 years old, Brady has four more years to cement his legacy even further, but he doesn't need it. He could retire this moment and be the best ever still, and it's time to stop fighting that.

Brady currently sits fourth all time in passing yards, about 4,000 yards behind first place Drew Brees. If Brees retires a season before Brady, he could make up that yardage in just one NFL season. He is also third all time in passing touchdowns with 517. 517 is just 22 behind the first place quarterback, Peyton Manning. In a season's time, Brady will surpass that and be fighting with Brees for No. 1.

To top this all off, Brady has the most Super Bowl MVP awards, with four. He has been the most impactful in the biggest game more than anyone else in NFL history. It's time to stop denying this man is the best quarterback of all time. He has an excellent football mind and makes the correct read on almost every play, somehow slicing and dicing defenses with little short passes.

Many times, when arguing Brady's greatness, peo-



COURTESY OF SPORTING NEWS

Quarterback, Tom Brady has earned his sixth consecutive ring.

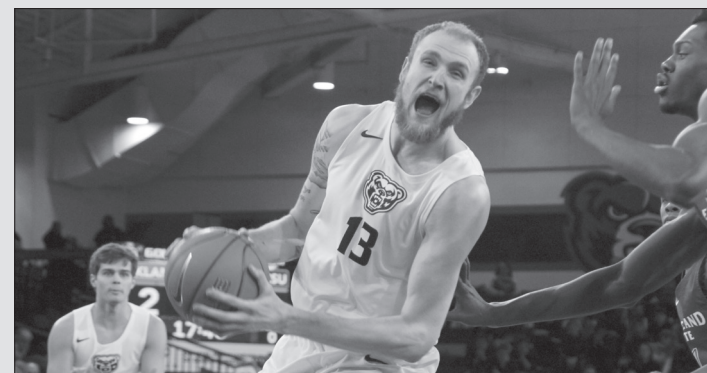
ple will point to the amount of great defenses he's had. When looking at the past Super Bowl winners, I can't find many teams that didn't have a good defense and won the big game. Every team that has won had incredible defensive players. That's the nature of the game, football is based on the team as well as the quarterback, which is the most important position on the 53-man roster.

Brady may not have the raw talent, but he definitely has the best coach of all time. However, having a great coach shouldn't detract from how great he is. We've seen Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick as a head coach somewhere else, he was fired. The Patriots' success isn't all because of the coach, give the quarterback — the most important

position in football — some credit too, because he's great.

It pains me, personally, to write this as a fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. My team loses every single year to Brady and the Patriots. It hurts me to admit this guy is great, but he is. Having quarterbacked the most successful dynasty in sports history since the turn of the millennium is an insane accomplishment, and people need to give it up and admit Brady is the best quarterback ever; I can't fathom anymore why people would try to argue against it.

Are they bored? Are they jealous? I have no idea. I'm just here to tell you it's time to stop trying to find some other Greatest Of All Time (GOAT) quarterback and accept Tom Brady for what he is, the GOAT.



ELYSE GREGORY | PHOTO EDITOR

Men's basketball ends the night in victory scoring 83-68 against Cleveland.

Oakland defeats CSU

JONATHAN SAVICH

Staff Reporter

Oakland led wire to wire as the final score closed out 83-68. They absolutely dominated the last place Cleveland State Vikings thanks to center Brad Brechting putting up a career high of 32 points and five rebounds.

Oakland has been hyper-successful in February since 2009, their record in the shortest month is 60-17 and now they're 1-0 this February. This win is also the 800th win of Golden Grizzly program history. Coming off a loss to Youngstown State, Oakland needed this inter conference win. Oakland's Horizon League record improved to 7-4, putting them in second place alone by half a game.

Oakland started the game ablaze, going up 10-0, it took Cleveland State over four minutes to put their first points on the board. Brechting achieved his career high in points during the first half alone. His former career high was 21 points which he had just set Thursday, Jan. 31.

Oakland ended the first half shooting 64 percent from the field. Brechting helped bolster the percentage, considering he went 11-11 from the field. Xavier Hill-Mais, who leads the team in scoring performed many assist due to the double team he continued to draw. Hill-Mais assisted the ball a total of six times in the first half. Oakland entered the second half up 43-33.

The first points of the second half belonged to Brechting, setting the precedent he would remain hot. Brechting missed his

first shot with 12 minutes left in the second half, before that he was a perfect 13-13, which is an Oakland record of field goals to start a game. As the game continued, the score was at a close for Cleveland State.

"We were banging on the inside," said Brechting, "They couldn't stop X [Xavier Hill-Mais] or I in there and when they doubled X, X had me on the other block... I made my first couple of shots, I started believing in myself. I had a lot of confidence in myself, I felt unstoppable with my teammates right behind me."

Cleveland State was exposed in every aspect of the game, they were beaten down low in the paint, they were beaten from deep and they were beaten in transitional play. Freshman Babatunde Sowunmi was able to check in at the end and attain his first career point from the free-throw line. Other notable stats throughout the game included a double-double by Hill-Mais that was 3 assists short of a triple-double, and Cumberland notched a 20 point performance.

"We're going into next weekend trying to get ourselves in first place," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "That's an exciting thing to have happen in February with a team that didn't have a single person out there that would have said Oakland would have a chance to get themselves on top of the conference."

The 7-4 men's basketball team heads to fellow second place holder, Wright State University, for their next game on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTOGRAPHER

Meta Kern has been supporting the Golden Grizzlies at basketball games since 2005.

Meet Meta Kern, Oakland basketball's biggest fan

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

The Grizz Gang has been consistently regarded as one of the best student sections in mid-major basketball. They have traveled to Detroit, Chicago and Cincinnati to support their Golden Grizzlies.

The home-court advantage the Grizz Gang provides the Golden Grizzlies is felt. Loud cheers, passionate fans and the "O-U" clap on free throws can consistently be found filling up the O'Rena.

Also consistently found in the Grizz Gang is Meta Kern, the 65 year-old woman who says she is "the biggest fan of Oakland basketball."

Her husband, Otis, works at the scorekeepers table as the table ref. Since 2005, Kern has been faithfully attending Oakland men's and women's basketball games while her husband works, sitting in the exact same spot along the railing, in the front of the student section.

The Oakland men's basketball team has gone from the Summit League to the Horizon League in the last 14 years, amassing 264 wins since the start of the '05-'06 season. In that time, the team has been to two NCAA tournaments while in the Summit League and captured one Horizon League regular season title.

The women's basketball team has 220 wins since the start of the '05-'06 season, including multiple runner-up finishes in the Summit League tournaments.

The student section used to be located along the eastern wall of the O'Rena, behind the visitor's bench. Kern sat in her

season ticket spot, along the northern wall behind the basket. After the Grizz Gang moved to the northern wall, she decided she was just going to stay in her spot, sitting with the student section permanently.

"This is where I always started," Kern said. "I thought, 'I'm not moving, y'all work around me.' I love the student section. All my friends ask me to come over and sit with them and I tell them no, I want to sit here. This is where the action is."

Grizz Gang members who have seen the team go through ups and downs have seen Kern there with them through it all.

"She has gotten to know a lot of students, especially since the Grizz Gang came and invaded her spot in the crowd," said Austin Davis, who has been in the student section for six years. "Now that we're in her section she is always front and center cheering on the team with us. Anyone that has got to know Meta over the years is better off."

Kern isn't just known by the students, but the athletics administration as well. She is close to men's Head Coach Greg Kampe and has his phone number on quick-dial.

"Greg Kampe and I have been friends for years," she said. "I've seen the program grow every year. Kampe and I talk all the time."

As someone with kids of her own and who has seen many graduating classes come and go, Kern urges current students to live in the moment and take advantage of what college athletics have to offer.

"Come to the games, enjoy yourselves, have a great time and enjoy your time at school," Kern said.

Horizon League's best runner is focused on a championship

The sophomore enjoys the atmosphere of his team, and he looks forward to improving his performance

DEVIN BOATWRIGHT

Staff Reporter

Last week, Zach Stadnika, a sophomore at Oakland University on the track and field team, was named the Horizon League's Athlete of the Week. For him this is only the beginning.

"It was nice to be mentioned," he said. "For me though, I just have to focus on the end of the season most importantly. It's an extra perk, something cool I accomplished at the end of the season but let's hope I can keep improving."

Stadnika got his start in track and field very early on in his life, but he never thought it would turn into something he would pursue on a collegiate level.

"I started when I was little," Stadnika said. "It was more distance running like 800s and what not. I don't really run 800s anymore. In high school I started doing the multi events and being a collegiate athlete became an opportunity. I didn't think that'd be a reality for me in high school, but it's definitely awesome to have the opportunity to be here and compete."

Stadnika is currently ranked 16th in the nation and ranked first in the Horizon League. He doesn't feel any added pressure with such high rankings, and he is solely focused on the success of him and his team.

"I wouldn't say it adds more pressure on us," he said. "We are really focused on winning another championship. The big-

gest focus right now is playing as a team and being there for each other every day in practice to make sure we're still in the running at the end of February."

In the last meet, Stadnika broke one of his own records in the men's heptathlon. He scored 5,225 points and achieved a personal record in three events. Even with this amazing performance, Stadnika feels he has much more room for improvement and wants to constantly get better.

"It's kind of hard before conference to play at that level," Stadnika said. "Now I'm kind of where I want to be, everything sort of fell together. My sprints were very good to start each day and everything was on par, so nothing too outrageous or crazy. I did well but there is a lot of room for improvement."

Stadnika loves the atmosphere his team has. Everyone cares for each other and wants one another to be successful. This selflessness makes Stadnika and his squad want to compete hard every weekend for each other and is why they are so successful now.

"I just love the team's atmosphere," Stadnika said. "We all care about each other and in that type of atmosphere you want to compete with your teammates every week. We're together for an entire year since the seasons stretch out so you get to know one another and enjoy being around them."

The track and field team's next meet will be at Notre Dame at 5:05 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, and then 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4.



COURTESY OF OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Stadnika, Horizon League's Athlete of the Week, praises his team's selflessness.

Things to do instead of watching Super Bowl LIII

PATRICK SULLIVAN

Web Editor

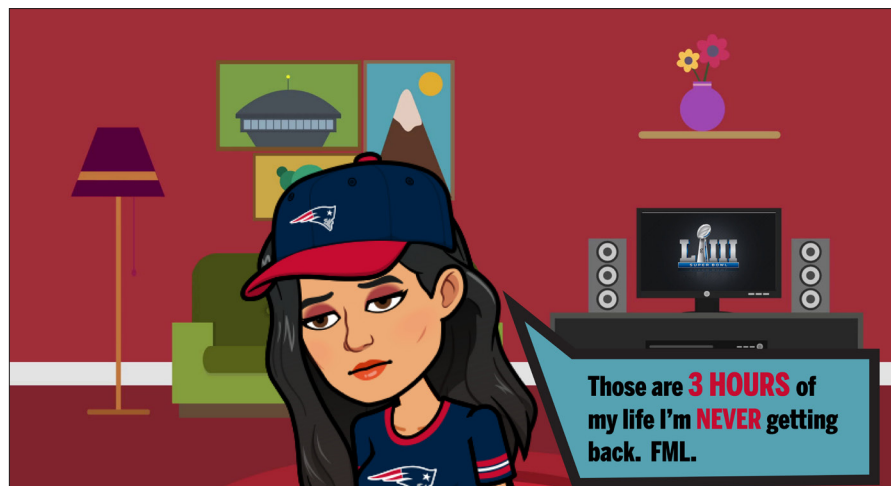
Super Bowl number 53 was last Sunday, and that was nearly four hours of my life I'm never going to get back. Now, I'm not the biggest football fan, and I'm sure if I was, I would be absolutely stunned at the amazing defense played by both teams for the duration of the game.

But unfortunately I'm vaguely interested in football at best, and seeing a loop of 10 commercials and then one team punting over and over again was almost as exciting as watching paint dry.

Because my opinion is usually right and what everyone believes, I'm sure there are some other people out there that feel the same way. So, in order to make all of you feel bad, here are some things you could have been doing instead of watching Super Bowl LIII.

Watching Season 2, Episode 35b of Spongebob Squarepants on repeat

We all know what episode this is. I don't have to mention the title, or any details about the episode for us all to know what I'm talking about. This episode is exactly 11 minutes and four seconds long, and the



PRAKHYA CHILUKURI | GRAPHIC ASSISTANT

Finding the love of your love can be difficult, but it's better than watching the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl lasted three hours and 38 minutes from 6:30 p.m. to 10:08 p.m. In theory, you could watch what everyone wanted to see during the halftime show 19.6987 times.

Sleeping

When was the last time you had a good night's sleep? I'm talking about a nice, long eight to 10 hours of nothing but laying down and getting cozy in bed. Wouldn't it

have felt great if you decided to go to bed a few hours earlier, rested up and gotten up refreshed for Monday morning?

Instead of being responsible though, we all decided to watch Tom Brady get his fourth Super Bowl ring in five years.

Finding love

It's a weekend, and you decide to go get coffee and cheesecake at Dessert Oa-

sis in Rochester as a treat for yourself. While waiting in line, you start to have a conversation with the person standing next to you.

The both of you decide to get a table together and keep talking, and even though the minutes have started to turn into hours, neither of you notice. You both are so engrossed in one another, that neither of you can pay attention to anything. The both of you have never felt this way before, and you want this feeling to last as long as possible.

That could have been you, but you just had to see what crazy antics the Budweiser horses would get up to this year.

Literally anything else

Do you know how long it takes someone to learn how to juggle? Apparently it can range from anywhere between 15 minutes to an hour or two, according to a quick Google search.

I'm not saying you should learn how to juggle, because honestly the world has enough jugglers as it is (example: Rams wide receiver Brandin Cooks). What I am saying is you could have done literally anything else, and gotten more out of it then watching Super Bowl 53.

NOW HIRING: CHIEF COPY EDITOR

Application deadline is February 9, 2019. All applicants must send a resume, cover letter and three InDesign work samples to editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

- Must be very experienced with InDesign
- Must have a strong understanding of AP style
- Must be able to work both Monday and Tuesday

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHIEF COPY EDITOR INCLUDE:

- Assigning pages to copy editors
- Helping copy editors understand InDesign and AP Style better
- Editing copy editors' pages for print publication