

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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State in playoff game

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PHOTO BY RYAN PINI

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



SCOOTING OFF IN STYLE Electric scooters made their legal debut on Oakland's campus Monday, March 9, which have captured the attention of students. PHOTO / RYAN PINI

THE OAKLAND POST

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Photo/Ryan Pini



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Professor and former Rockette talks co-founding her own dance company
Photo/Kelli Titus



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Dixie Chicks make long awaited return after 14-year wait
Photo/Philippa Price

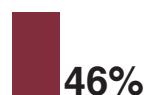
POLL OF THE WEEK

ARE YOU SELF-QUARANTINING TO AVOID THE CORONAVIRUS?

- A) YES, MY HOME DEPOT RAN OUT OF MASKS
- B) YES, BUT ONLY BECAUSE I HATE PEOPLE
- C) NO, I'M ALREADY INFECTED
- D) NO, I HAVE MCAFEE VIRUS PROTECTION

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

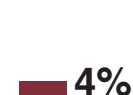
WHAT DID YOU BINGE WATCH ON NETFLIX OVER SPRING BREAK?



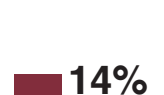
A) "LOVE IS BLIND"



B) "I AM NOT OKAY WITH THIS"



C) "GENTEFIED"



D) "THE TRIALS OF GABRIEL FERNANDEZ"

LOOKING BACK

1994 Dodge Hall fire leads to devastating damages, cancelations

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

At 9:35 p.m. on March 14, 1994, Professor Virinder Moudgil was in his Dodge Hall office, grabbing his things, when he smelled a burning, rubber-like odor. He discovered a chemical fire in a biology lab and attempted to extinguish it with his fire extinguisher. He then called the Department of Public Safety and the police.

"I was so nervous, I had just told them to handle it, and I'll wait outside. [Fire] can take you off the map like that," he said, snapping his fingers. "By the time I left, there was a little smoke in the building. I could have missed it, and it could have gone on for a long time before it was detected."

The damages resulted in Paul Bisson, vice president of finance and administration, and Gary Russi, vice president of academic affairs, having to cancel all classes and activities in Dodge Hall.

Two police officers and 15 firefighters had to be treated for smoke inhalation, and four firefighters were kept overnight for observation at the Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital, according to Dr. Robert Aranosian, director of the emergency room.

The commanding officer of Oakland University's Police Operations Lieutenant Mel Gilroy spoke about the efforts of the firefighters.

"They did a tremendous job containing this fire," Gil-



OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

As a result of the fire, more fire alarms and emergency exits were installed to keep Dodge hall running.

roy said. "They attacked the lab right away. They were laying water down when the stuff started to blow up. That's the people who were at the hospital, those in the first wave."

The Auburn Hills and Rochester Fire Departments

were sent to handle the fire at 10:15 that night. Just when the fire was contained in a single room, Room 304, it sparked up again between 12:30 and 1 a.m.

"We got a room that's burned to the bone," Gilroy said. "The lab itself is totaled. There is serious smoke damage and a lot of water."

The Troy Hazardous Materials Team was called to help out the fire departments, and arrived a little after 11 p.m.

Since there weren't any sprinklers or any ways to extinguish the fire inside the room, by around 3 a.m. the fire had traveled through the walls of Room 304 to the northwest corner of the fourth floor.

The fire continued to spread to the roof but was extinguished before it could reach the Eye Research Institute offices on the fourth floor.

"This was a serious fire, and they worked their butts off," Gilroy said. "I expected the whole third or fourth floors would be burned off."

The fire came within a single room of \$1 million electron microscope — the microscope remained unharmed.

After the dust settled, Moudgil spoke further about what had happened.

"Had something like this happened during the daytime, it would have been a different outcome," he said.

He discussed further about how people could have been injured because of the smoke and flames.

Dodge Hall has since recovered, having dozens of classes everyday, along with an increased number of installed fire alarms and emergency exits.

OU-AAUP WILL HOST

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Q&A TO FOLLOW

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Wilson Hall expansion expected to break ground in September

LAUREN REID
Staff Reporter

This September, Oakland University’s Wilson Hall will begin a 40,000 square foot addition to its current structure. The expansion will be situated along the P2 parking lot toward Bear Lake.

“Student areas are getting quite a bit more space than they currently have,” said Stuart Rose, a senior project manager heading up the Wilson Hall expansion. “It’s all about the students.”

Entering in on the second level of what Rose refers to as “new Wilson,” patrons will find themselves in the OU Welcome Center, which will be relocated from North Foundation.

According to Andrew Stone, a project architect at Albert Khan, along with the welcome center, the Tutoring Center, Undergraduate Admissions and Disability Support Services will also be housed in the new Wilson Hall.

“A primary goal of the expansion is to increase [the effectiveness] of student services and give space back to students,” Stone said.

All of these student-focused offices will have new furniture and renovations. The Tutoring Center especially will see a much bigger space, with windows and an alternative back entrance, giving students direct access.

The bottom two floors of “new Wilson” will be all student-related and function better for everyone, according to Rose. One goal of “new Wilson” is to create a better first time experience for people coming to OU with the larger, upgraded welcome center.

“People can park directly out front

and walk right in, talk to admissions, learn more about the university, talk to an adviser, and everything will be new,” Rose said.

Rose mentioned that, as of now, it can be difficult for people to locate the welcome center. He hopes that, with the upcoming relocation, people’s “first time experience coming to the university [will be] better.”

The third and fourth floors will have an administrative focus, housing the president, provost, general counsel and Division of Operation and Finance (COO), enabling them to have shared resources. New conference rooms and suites will also be added.

These offices will have a larger, lobby-type area, where students and others can comfortably and spaciouly wait for a meeting or conference.

“New Wilson” and the older, existing Wilson Hall will be connected on the first and second floors, and patrons will enter on the second level. The third and fourth floors will not be connected, as they will not line up. In general, floors in older construction are not as high, since they do not contain as many modern, mechanical elements, according to Rose.

Aside from the likely closure of parking lot P2, OU students and staff should not have to worry about major inconveniences or office displacements, as most construction equipment will be kept close to the building. More details are to come on additional interferences as the expansion nears.

If all goes according to plan, the Wilson Hall expansion will be completed by late December 2021.

“We think it’s going to be great,” Rose said. “It’s very needed.”

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY PRIDE MONTH

Mar. 17	Mar. 18	Mar. 20
Desserts & Discussions 4:30 p.m. Professor Sanders leads conversation in Dodge Hall Room 203	Q & Gay with RLA 7 p.m. Vandenberg Hall Glass Rooms Transgender Experiences 1 p.m. OC Gold Room C	Pride Glow Party 6 p.m. Celebrate Pride in the brightest way possible in OC Banquet Room B
Mar. 21	Mar. 24	Mar. 27
Women and Gender Studies Film Festival 12 p.m. HHB Room 1050 GSA Pride Prom 6 p.m. OC Banquet Room B	PRIDE Jeopardy! 12:30 p.m. Hosted by Undergraduate Admissions in North Foundation Hall Room 103	Gender Identities Panel 12 p.m. Conversation with lesser known gender and sexual identities in O'Dowd Hall Room 203
Mar. 30	Mar. 31	Apr. 1
Pride Book Club 12 p.m. “Divinely Queer” by Jennifer Miracle-Best in OC Rooms 128-129	Desserts & Discussions 4:30 p.m. Professor Reger leads conversation in Dodge Hall Room 203	Hot Topic: Black while LGBT+ Panel 5 p.m. Oakland Center Lake Michigan Room
Apr. 2	Apr. 7	Apr. 9
Drag Show 7 p.m. GSA's 17th annual Drag Show in Oakland Center Founders Ballroom	Documentary Screening and Discussion 11:30 a.m. Screening of “We Exist: Beyond the Binary” in O'Dowd, Room 203	Lavender Graduation Ceremony 6 p.m. 8th annual Graduation Celebration in OC, Banquet Room A



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUART ROSE
Wilson Hall will be expanded by 40,000 feet toward Bear Lake this September.

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Filipino-American students host first Cultural Night

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

The Filipino-American Students of Oakland University (FASOU) hosted their first Filipino Culture Night on Saturday, Mar. 7. Called “Ang Aming Harana: Our Serenade,” the event featured a collection of performative arts set around the traditional Filipino courtship act known as Harana.

“Harana dates back to the 1800s influenced by Spanish folk songs and Mexican mariachi bands,” keynote speaker and Beaumont pediatrician Dr. Ernestina Mac said.

Harana traditionally involves a young male suitor performing a love song under a single woman’s window at night. Whether alone or accompanied by other suitors, the goal of Harana is to get the woman to come to the window and invite the suitor in to talk with her and her father.

“In the Filipino culture, courting is different than in America in that you try to be really formal and respectful at the same time they are trying to attract the woman,” FASOU President Alfred-Jason Lava said. “It is a great image, I think, of actually devoting yourself to someone [through Harana].”

Mac shared her own Harana experience with the room.

“I was barely 15 in high school in the mid-’50s,” she said. “If you had a crush



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Music and dancing was shared throughout the night along with various performances.

on somebody ... [the boys] would gather some of their friends and in the night when the moon is full ... All of a sudden you would hear somebody singing by the window. My parents were very strict, so if there were Haranistas singing, they would never open the windows, but I would manage to peek and see if there

was a boy I like.”

Since the topic of the night was Harana, many of the performances had a “love” theme. Included in these performances were Christy Villalonga and Maxine Gungab singing Frank Sinatra’s “Fly Me to the Moon,” musician Jalen Harold singing Allen Stone’s “Give You Blue”

and FASOU’s traditional dance team performing the “Paypay de Manila,” “Sakuting” and “Cariñosa.”

Between each of the musical and dance acts, a play about a Filipino student named Daniel trying to court fellow student Renee was performed with the scenes connecting the performances.

According to Lava, FASOU started in 2018 as a way for OU students to meet up and celebrate Filipino culture.

“Most other schools like Michigan State, Wayne State, University of Michigan and schools all over the country all have Filipino student associations,” Lava said. “The founders really wanted a community like that over at Oakland University.”

Since the club’s founding, it has grown to 40 registered members on Engage and has participated at events around Michigan and the Midwest through monthly meetings and attending conferences like the traditional dance competition Battle of the Bamboo, which was held at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Similar Filipino student organizations from Eastern Michigan University, the University of Michigan and U of M-Dearborn, Michigan State and Wayne State attended this year’s Ang Aming Harana at OU.

FASOU also collected donations through the night for the Liyang Network, an organization that raises awareness for and helps in the fight for the rights of indigenous Filipino communities.

CETL Learning Tips: Make the class presentation awesome

CHRISTINA MOORE

CETL Virtual Faculty Developer

Presentations are a staple way to share ideas with fellow students, professors, co-workers and clients. Slides can provide helpful visual reinforcement, but too many bullet points and uninspired content has produced dread often called “death by PowerPoint.” Don’t fall into that pattern, but think about how you can revamp presentations — an invaluable skill throughout your life. For your next presentation, follow some practices to best demonstrate your ideas, engage your audience, streamline your delivery and be mindful of accessibility.

Consider assertion-evidence design. This principle opts for slides to have a simple statement making an assertion or claim, with an image that shows evidence for or an example of the assertion. For helpful examples and templates, visit assertion-evidence.com/templates.

On slides, less is more. Slides are meant to be minimalist, but it can be tempting to put too many images, text and animations on a slide. Slides and handouts should complement rather than overwhelm your in-person delivery and

audience engagement. Consider these design principles to ensure clear, concise material.

- Use as large of font as possible (minimum 24-point recommended on slides, 12-point on documents), and standard, non-decorative fonts, while still providing enough space for easy reading.
- Break up large chunks of texts over multiple slides. (I’ve heard the reminder that “slides are free.”)
- Use images selectively. Choose a few high-quality images to increase their impact, and cite the sources. Creative Commons offers clear copyright permissions for imagery, and similar sites like Unsplash are helpful.
- Use high color contrast (i.e. white text on a dark color background, or dark text on a light color background).
- If color-coding content (e.g. red font for “bad” practices; green for “good”), also use a text equivalent (headings, parentheses, etc.).

Using accessible PowerPoint templates can help take the guesswork out of these practices. Once adapting these practices, consider implementing additional practices such as hyperlinking descriptive text, using unique slide

titles and including text descriptions of images.

During the presentation, verbally describe what is displayed on the slide. In case participants cannot clearly see slide content, describe what is on the slide. If you are referring to a handout, verbally indicate what you are reviewing on the document and show it on the document camera (helpful for those watching recordings and for participants following along).

Take a break from the slides. If you and your audience are not actively engaged in a slide presentation, select the Black Screen option or mute the projector, which helps staring into the screen’s glow. Also, consider more engaging options for presentations, such as problem-solving, case studies, quizzing, and other interaction.

It may not always be possible to accomplish all of these practices, but these strategies can have a powerful impact on your audience.

Find more Learning Tips at oakland.edu/teachingtips. Share what works well to keep you engaged in learning by emailing me at cmamoore@oakland.edu.

Christina Moore
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Alternative Spring Break sends students on volunteer-oriented trips

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) organization sent 110 students on eight trips across the Northern Hemisphere during Oakland University's annual spring break that took place Feb. 22 to March 2. Trip destinations included Kentucky, Florida, California, Georgia and Puerto Rico.

"ASB connects students with service learning projects all across the country, helping students gain new experiences and opportunities while also being exposed to new areas and cultures," said Jeremy Heinlein, coordinator of leadership and service programs. "OU was well represented [over spring break] as 110 individuals chose not to vacation, take a break from classes or pick up shifts at work, but instead volunteer and immerse themselves in communities outside of their own."

Students participating in ASB volunteered in multiple, empowering ways, from restoring cave entrances with the American Hiking Society in Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky, to working with Give Kids the World in Kissimmee, Florida, and helping children with critical illnesses.

One student group headed to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where they worked with an organization called Victory Liv-

ing that aims to help individuals with cognitive disabilities.

According to Brittany Thomas, a senior recruitment adviser and adviser of the Fort Lauderdale trip, working alongside students at Victory Living was "one of the best, most life changing experiences of [her] life."

Students on the trip built connections with many individuals at Victory Living, some even through nonverbal interactions like smiling and dancing.

"I got to learn about the students and how amazing they are," Thomas said. "They were able to connect through things like dance and music. When [the students] were taken out of their comfort zone, they really thrived."

There was a lot of reflection on the trip as well, as students and advisers spoke nightly about new discoveries they had made.

"I learned to be more willing to help people and not complain about it," freshman Alex Grant said. "Even though someone might have a disability, they can still be smart and active just like the rest of us. It [was very rewarding] to [be] there and [see] the people you helped make happy."

Other ASB trips headed off to Atlanta, where students worked with Urban Immersion to help local food pantries and after-school programs; Biscayne, Florida, to clean waste and trash from beaches; Santa Catalina, California, to help the ecosystem and protect native species; and Puerto Rico



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITTANY THOMAS

Students volunteer on service learning projects across the U.S. and Puerto Rico for ASB.

to aid in hurricane relief through activities like assisting in community gardens.

"The hope is students bring back what they learned and experienced from their trip and use that knowledge to help our communities," Heinlein said.

This summer, ASB is hosting a trip to Give Kids the World, and is also planning to

offer more trips in the 2020-21 school year, as mentioned by Heinlein.

Students interested in ASB should keep an eye out for applications, as they'll be released in September. As of now, students can get involved by following ASB on Facebook or joining their page on Engage.

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Applications are due by March 27, 2020

For questions, please contact the Division of Student Affairs & Diversity
120 Vandenberg Hall | 248-370-4200 | studentaffairs@oakland.edu

POLICE FILES

I didn't do nothin', baby

An officer on patrol in a fully marked patrol vehicle observed a vehicle approach the median stop sign near West Oakland Drive near midnight on Jan. 4, 2020. The officer observed the vehicle brake at high speed and come to a stop with the squealing of tires. The vehicle then traveled across both lanes and into the right turn lane. If not for a last second correction, the vehicle would have left the roadway. The officer at that point performed a traffic stop and pulled the vehicle over.

The officer approached the driver side of the car and saw the driver going through papers searching for vehicle information. The driver was singing to himself, "I didn't do nothin', baby" as he did not notice the officer at his door. He visibly jumped in his seat when the officer introduced themselves. The subject had red, watery eyes and his pupils were dilated. His speech was slurred and the officer could smell intoxicants. After performing a field sobriety test and a blood draw, the officer transported the driver back to his residence and told him not to return to pick up his vehicle until 10 the next morning. The vehicle was towed to the Oakland University Police Department, and the scene was cleared.

**Compiled by Ben Hume,
Web Editor**

LIFE&ARTS

Second Quickly Boba Cafe opens in Auburn Hills

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

Michigan's second Quickly Boba Cafe hosted a grand opening celebration in downtown Auburn Hills on Thursday, Feb. 27.

After receiving positive reviews and feedback from its customers in the Troy location, three partners—Cheuk Lee, Jay Zheng and Tom Tu—decided to open its franchise in Auburn Hills to expand the brand.

"The first store in Troy is performing very well and exceeding our expectations," Zheng, one of the partners said. "Due to the demand in bubble tea, we decided that Auburn Hills would be a suitable second location to expand the brand because it is close to two colleges."

With full support and love from local residents, families and students, the grand opening of the Quickly Boba Cafe in Auburn Hills was another success for the café, according to Zheng.

The cafe also provides its customers a variety of options: high-quality and freshly brewed teas, to Taiwanese popcorn chicken made-to-order, to curly fries and waffle fries, to cheese sticks, and to veggie spring rolls and chicken rice bowls. For desserts, it serves mochi waffles and egg puffs in seven different flavors.

The cafe offers a modern setting for its customers to socialize comfortably while enjoying boba tea and



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Quickly Boba Cafe is located in downtown Auburn Hills.

snacks and a bubble tea cup that is larger than that of its competitors.

The idea of bubble tea was brought to the team by Lee, who is a graduate of Oakland University. Having majored in business finance and minored in operations management, Lee said his experience at OU has helped him achieve his goals and start his own business.

"My life attending OU was amazing," Lee said. "The professors and faculty staff were always supportive. Career services helped me prepare for my first career."

Lee always wanted to start his own business. His

family used to own a small restaurant where he learned about restaurant business. From this, he said he had gained a valuable experience.

"My main goal at the time was to finish my bachelor's degree and gain experience in the finance industry and most importantly, have fun and enjoy the journey in achieving my goals," he said. "I believe I achieved my goals so far because I've gained so much experience in the finance industry and learned the operations side in the restaurant industry. But, there's always more to learn and achieve, so it is very exciting."

For its successful business, Zheng said Quickly Boba's goal is to maintain and provide its customers a fun atmosphere, delicious bubble tea drinks and snacks. He also said they plan to be more involved with local schools with fundraising events and support the community.

"Recently we held a fundraiser for International Academy East in Troy and have held a K-Pop sleeve giveaway event," Zheng said. "The turnout was excellent."

The Quickly Boba Cafe will be running specials from time to time for OU students and staff. Currently, it is providing a special offer in March for OU students and staff, offering 10% off discount between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, to Thursday, if they bring their student ID.

Both Quickly Boba Cafe locations are currently hiring. For more information, visit each store to fill out an application or follow them on social media for updates on bubble tea and upcoming events.

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PRISONER O

Author Howard Reich shares emotional experience with Holocaust storytelling

A hush fell over Oakland University students and faculty Wednesday, March 4 as author and Chicago Tribune journalist Howard Reich recounted the unnerving feeling of stepping into Dubno, Ukraine — a city frozen in time after a mass execution of the Jewish population during World War II where only few survived. Reich's mother was one of those few.

Reich found himself on this journey into his family's history when his mother, Sonia, ran out of her house on Feb. 15, 2001, in a panic. She ran through the streets of Reich's hometown of Skokie, Illinois, just outside of Chicago, fearing for her life from an invisible threat. After police picked her up and returned her to a relative's home, and a psych evaluation gave inconclusive results, Reich set out to find what really caused his mother's outburst, and if it was tied to her childhood as a European Jew in Nazi-occupied Poland, now present-day Ukraine, 60 years ago.

"She was running for her life," Reich said. "It took a while to figure out she was really retracing the steps of her childhood because she spent her childhood during the height of the Holocaust running and hiding, and she was doing this again."

The child of two Holocaust survivors, Reich spent the majority of his life in the dark as to what really happened to his parents all those years ago.

"My generation, our generation, did not get kind of a comprehensive or, at least, coherent expression of what happened," Reich said. "We have fragments, we have pieces, little pieces, that we can't quite put together, or as a friend of mine who is a child of survivors puts it, she says, 'We knew, and we didn't know.'"

After the 2001 incident, however, Reich became determined to find out his parents' stories. Already an

established music critic at the Chicago Tribune, Reich talked to his editors, and the road to his original article "Prisoner of Her Past" — which was expanded into a book and documentary of the same title — began.

The story took Reich through his parents' past, from the residence in Skokie where his mother lived alone after his late father's passing to Ukraine, and ultimately to the front door of Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor, Nobel laureate and author of the book "Night."

Wiesel took an immediate liking to Reich, and the two connected over their shared history colored by the horrors of the Holocaust. They spent the next four years, which were ultimately the last of Wiesel's life, collaborating on Reich's newly released book, "The Art of Inventing Hope."

"We spoke for just a few minutes, four minutes or so, and he said, 'I want to show you something,'" Reich said. "He ... went to his desk and pulled out a little tablet of paper, a yellow tablet of paper. He said to me, 'I have never shown this to anyone on the outside, surely to no journalist.' It was a document from his past that recently had resurfaced — it was his writings, in Hebrew, on mysticism and Jewish prayer written when he was 13 on the year of his bar mitzvah."

This instant trust between Reich and Wiesel allowed them to dive deep into many topics about their pasts and how it has shaped their lives. Reich looked to Wiesel for commentary on politics, religion, the future and the world as he saw it.

"He told me that his job is to teach the the art in inventing hope where there is no hope," Reich said. "He was one of the most hopeful, positive, optimistic, poetic people I think I have ever known. Anything I would say, he would find a positive way of looking at

it, which was remarkable."

Wiesel shared with Reich his theories of "active pessimism," which is pessimism that moves someone into action. Wiesel explained that while he was inherently pessimistic about the way the world was turning, he felt a stronger obligation to inspire change.

Reich had spent the last two days at OU speaking in classrooms and talking to students, many of which were concerned, as he was, with how to go about making change. There was no way to change the past for these people, but as Wiesel said, "forgiveness is not relevant, not forgetting is relevant. Only the dead can give forgiveness."

Reich often expressed how he felt that there were no words to describe the horrors of the history he discovered, but despite that, he continued searching and encouraged others to do the same, telling students to "read and speak, speak out."

If interested in learning more and helping to continue the story, visit OU's own Cis Maisel Center for Judaic Studies and Community Engagement to get involved.

HER PAST



“She was running for her life ... she was really retracing the steps of her childhood because she spent her childhood during the height of the Holocaust running and hiding, and she was doing this again.”



Chicago Tribune journalist Howard Reich shares his experience learning about his parents' childhoods during World War II and collaborating with Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel on his new book.

Former Rockette leads as professor for dance classes

KATELYN HILL
Staff Reporter

From Rockette to Rochester, Ali Woerner has seen big stages and theaters, bringing her experiences to the students at Oakland University.

Woerner is an associate dance professor at OU and is a co-director for the professional dance group Take Root. However, her journey to Oakland started before she became a professor.

Woerner's parents were big supporters of art, so she was always surrounded by music and art growing up. Though very little of the art she grew up with was dance, she gravitated more toward movement, thus leading her to it.

"I started dancing, and I just really liked creating stories through movement," Woerner said. "I found that fascinating and interesting that you can have a voice through making stories."

She received her Bachelor of Performing Arts from Oklahoma City University and her Master of Fine Arts through the University of Michigan in choreography and performance. Almost right out of college, she was hired as a Rockette and spent around seven years with the company.



COURTESY OF KELLI TITUS
Former Rockette Ali Woerner co-founded professional dance group Take Root.

Later in her career, a colleague and friend, Gregory Patterson, told her about an opening at OU. Woerner, who grew up in Rochester, took the job and has been with the university for 11 years.

During her time at OU, Woerner has co-founded Take Root.

"It's a journey that isn't just a dance experience, it is a full art experience in the most creative sense of the word," Woerner said.

The group was formed in 2013 after collaborations between Woerner and Jonutz reached the public eye. After it caught wind throughout the community, they decided to hold concerts for those who wanted to watch.

"I think if you have the right intentions to do something, then it's going to work out," Woerner said. "Maybe not in the way that you had envisioned it to work out, but it's going to be something."

Woerner said she enjoys seeing how the ideas the group has turn into moves and eventually into a whole routine.

Take Root also does outreach in the Rochester community by helping and teaching others to dance. One of the outreach groups created through Take Root is Dance for Parkinson's Disease, a class held every week so that people with Parkinson's are able to move around and have fun.

According to Woerner, a longtime friend of her parents has lived with the disease for 20 years and was a big inspiration for the program through Take Root. One day, he decided to take a Dance for Parkinson's

son's class and enjoyed it so much that he called Woerner up to tell her she should do something similar. After going through the proper training, she was able to create her own class.

"The more that they're moving, the better they're going to be," Woerner said. "This is getting them out of the house, this is bringing them to a place where there's good music. It really is a fun place."

According to Woerner, it's a very supportive place and offers something for everyone involved.

"It's fulfilling and it's joyful, but I get as much as they do out of it," she said. "We are having that pure human connection that does not involve a screen, does not involve anything that isn't natural."

Though she has seen many highs throughout her career, Woerner remembers the struggles of being a "starving artist." However, she never doubted that dance was what she wanted to do.

"I can remember thinking, 'How am I going to pay my rent?' but it wasn't, 'OK, maybe I should switch careers,'" she said. "I just never remember feeling like, 'I can't do it,' it was more of 'How am I going to do it.'"



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COURTESY OF OUWB

Jason Wasserman published an article on unprofessionalism in medical trainees.

OUWB professor takes on trainee unprofessionalism

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

A professor at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) is the first author on an article about unprofessionalism in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Jason Wasserman, associate professor of foundational medical studies and pediatrics at OUWB, recently published the article, “Responding to Unprofessional Behavior by Trainees – A ‘Just Culture’ Framework,” along with co-authors Michael Redinger and Tyler Gibb.

According to Wasserman, the article adapts a framework that is commonly used by health systems in identifying, characterizing and responding to medical errors by physicians and staff in the context of student lapses in professionalism.

“I think schools struggle with how to identify, characterize and respond to instances of unprofessional behavior by students, and this is a particular challenge in medical education because professionalism is a core competency of physicians,” Wasserman said.

This type of challenge brings to his conclusion that institutions and faculty need to both hold students accountable and recognize these instances as teaching moments they can use in students’ development.

This was the start of the article — when he and his co-authors discovered the connections to how they were processing the issues of unprofessionalism amongst students and how hospitals had employed “just-culture” strategies to respond to medical error.

The phrase “just-culture framework” in the title of the article represents a safety strategy utilized by high-risk industries such as aviation in response to human errors, according to Wasserman.

His article, mainly focusing on the similar questions about lapses in pro-

fessionalism, also stressed the negative outcome of punishment for human errors. It states that the outcome of the punishment inhibits the institutions and faculty to understand how the system might be improved to optimize how individuals function within it.

“Certainly, there is some level of individual accountability that is necessary, but we also need to ask how the learning environment can be optimized in a way that improves the professional development of our future doctors,” he said.

As medical schools and their faculty often struggle with how to balance accountability and compassion for students and to fully examine how the learning environment might be improved, he emphasized the importance of the framework.

He hopes that medical schools find the framework helpful in terms of thinking and talking about cases of unprofessionalism. More broadly, thinking about medical schools as systems requiring “Just-Culture” might be helpful.

“This framework will not necessarily give you clear answers about how to respond to those instances, but it can help provide an architecture for the conversation, help organize the issues, and give some sense of consistency to the process across multiple cases,” Wasserman said.

Both as a professor and a writer, Wasserman believes in the positive outcome publication of new ideas will bring to the field of medicine. He said he has become increasingly involved in clinical ethics consultation at a local hospital and has enjoyed developing ethics related curriculum at OUWB.

“As emerging professionals, medical trainees by definition fall short of the expected standards of their future profession,” he wrote in his article. “To promote their development, educators’ responses to shortfalls must walk a fine line between formative feedback and punitive consequences.”

Australian professor joins journalism department

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The newest addition to Oakland University’s journalism department comes from the other side of the globe.

Katherine Roff, a visiting assistant professor in the department, always had an interest in journalism. She started with her studies in Perth, West Australia’s capital. Her undergraduate was a double degree in cultural studies and journalism.

“I’ve kept one foot in journalism and one foot in teaching ever since,” she said.

Like serendipity, she never actually decided that she wanted to practice and teach journalism.

“They both kind of found me,” she said. “I was always passionate about media, so that’s why I took journalism classes, and I enjoyed them when I was at university. That was something that resonated with me, it was a good fit, and once you start in that world, things seem to snowball. One opportunity leads to another, and sooner or later you find yourself a professional journalist without ever actually deciding that was your calling.”

According to Roff, her mentors — especially her female mentors — were important in inspiring her to go into teaching and journalism.

“It’s very important, I think, to see yourself reflected in the people you hold up as icons,” she said.

After her university degrees were completed, Roff took her diploma of education and went straight into teaching from there.

Since then, she has always been teaching in some way — first with English as a second language overseas in Costa Rica and Thailand, and later teaching at high schools and at universities during her master’s program.

Roff loves to travel and has lived in different parts of the world. She has lived in New Zealand, Costa Rica, Thailand, Vienna and Austria, and she was still traveling in between.

“I really enjoy getting to know new cultures, and getting to attempt to learn languages is always fun,” she said.

Moreover, she thinks traveling can make journalists, and people in general, better.

“I think traveling makes us better people and it’s not necessarily the travel, but the cross-cultural experience — the ability to understand someone else’s perspective, someone else’s culture and to empathize with that is very powerful,” she said. “You just can’t help but to change the way you look at the world.”



LAUREN KARMO | CAMPUS EDITOR

Katherine Roff hails from Perth, where she completed her undergraduate degree.

Throughout her travels, she has gained much experience in journalism — she was the editor for her university’s newspaper; she worked on a small town newspaper in New Zealand; at APN News and Media, which is New Zealand’s largest media company; and at the New Zealand Herald, the national paper. Currently, she is an editor of a local paper called Peace News.

In Costa Rica, she worked on *The Tico Times* — one of the only English newspapers there.

Her favorite parts of journalism are traveling and constant learning.

“I’m yet to write a story in which I haven’t learned something as well,” she said.

Roff and her family moved here almost four years ago. Her husband, who is originally from Michigan, joined his family’s brewery business, and she said that was what tempted them to come back.

Previously, she taught media classes in New Zealand, and she said she’d love to continue to work at OU, as she’s really enjoying her time here.

She had been familiar with OU and doesn’t live far from campus, so many of the people she has encountered have attended or are affiliated with OU in some way. From that, she heard good things about the school.

“I feel very fortunate to have landed in an amazing department,” she said.

Dixie Chicks make triumphant return with new single ‘Gaslighter’: Why we need them now more than ever

TREVOR TYLE

Editor-in-Chief

Seventeen years after getting fucked over by country music “fans” across the nation, the Dixie Chicks are finally back.

It may sound harsh, but so were the consequences of lead singer Natalie Maines’ career-costing exertion of free speech against then-President George W. Bush’s administration, which took the country trio from the top of the world to the depths of hell.

It was March 10, 2003 — less than two weeks before the U.S. invaded Iraq — when Maines expressed her disapproval of the Bush administration to the audience during a show in London.

“Just so you know, we’re on the good side with y’all,” the Texas-born songstress said at the time. “We do not want this war, this violence, and we’re ashamed that the president of the United States is from Texas.”

The repercussions were almost immediate. The largely conservative following of country music that had helped the band become America’s best-selling female group of all-time disowned them instantly, organizing CD burning parties and banning them from country airwaves.

That wasn’t the end of the Dixie Chicks, though. They shot back stronger than ever with their magnum opus, 2007’s “Taking the Long Way,” which was largely ignored by country radio, but scored the trio five Grammy Awards, including Album, Record and Song of the Year. Its lead single, “Not Ready to Make Nice,” a scathing “fuck you” addressed toward the Chicks’ haters, became their first top five single on the Billboard Hot 100.

That was 14 years ago. Aside from a few solo projects and occasional collaborations with the likes of Beyoncé and Taylor Swift, the trio — which, in addition to Maines, comprises sisters Emily Strayer and Martie Maguire — had disappeared from music. And their absence was felt.

But after such a long time gone, the Dixie Chicks are finally back and better than ever with a new album, “Gaslighter,” set for release on May 1. Last week, the band unveiled the album’s title



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIPPA PRICE

After a 14-year wait, the Dixie Chicks are making their return to music with their fifth studio album, “Gaslighter,” out May 1. track as its lead single, an unapologetic diss aimed at Maines’ ex-husband in the wake of their messy divorce. And it’s absolutely glorious.

I’ve been a devoted fan of the Dixie Chicks since I was 2 years old, and as a child, seeing a trio of musical goddesses I absolutely worshiped get blacklisted by their own so-called fan base was both confusing and disappointing. I’ve spent the majority of my life wondering if the Chicks would ever come back, and I’m elated that it was worth the wait.

Produced by frequent Swift collaborator Jack Antonoff, “Gaslighter” is as brutally honest and painstakingly catchy as the band’s earlier hits — think “Goodbye Earl” meets “The Long Way Around.” A defiantly feminist breakup anthem full of grit, rage and the group’s signature three-part harmonies, “Gaslighter” is exactly what fans would expect — fresh, fun and fierce, just as it should be. The level of care put into the track is immedi-

ately evident — this song was made for the group’s true fans, not the traitorous ex-supporters that turned their backs on the Chicks for speaking their minds.

Within the first 48 hours of its release, “Gaslighter” had reached over three million radio listeners. The Chicks’ return to country radio has been called a “cultural event,” though it remains to be seen if the song will have any longevity given the genre’s largely Republican audience, many of whom still resent the trio for what they said almost two decades ago.

The Dixie Chicks were unfairly made victims of cancel culture before it was even a thing — and honestly, even now, the consequences are far less critical. People who have done far worse had a much easier time finding forgiveness. Take Michael Jackson, who has somehow managed to posthumously maintain his legend status despite a legacy tarnished by continued sexual abuse allegations.

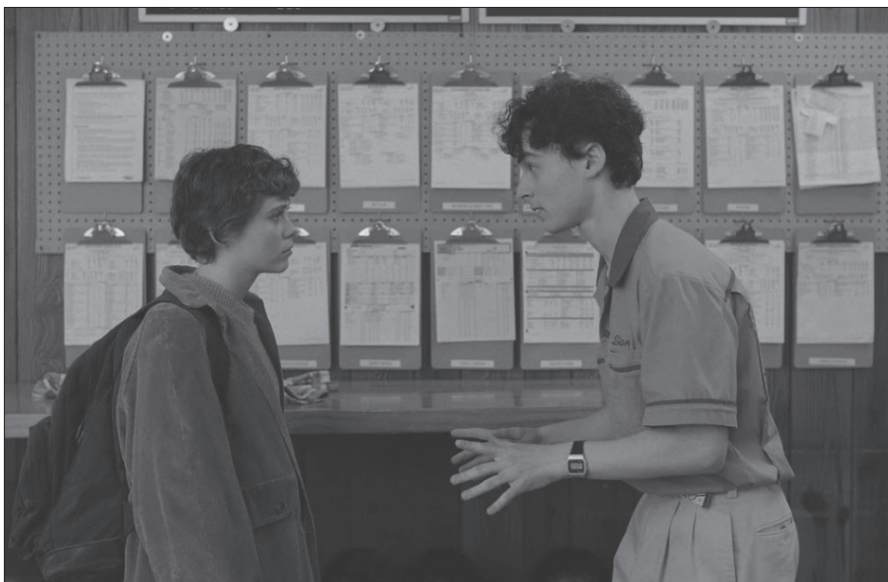
Then, there’s Kanye West, who proclaimed Donald Trump a “hero” and suggested slavery was a “choice” without even the slightest decline in record or ticket sales. No one has better exemplified an inappropriate exercise of free speech than Trump himself — he says whatever the fuck he wants on Twitter, and after narrowly dodging a presidential impeachment, the repercussions for his behavior have been pretty minimal, considering he’s supposed to be the leader of our country.

Only in America can a troop of powerful women be permanently punished for being outspoken about an issue for which they’re entitled to have an opinion. Just as much as I’m sure the Chicks’ return was, in part, intended to coincide with Trump’s attempt at a second term in office, I’m sure their comeback occurring in an era of far more belief-based lenience was no accident.

I don’t believe that double standard has disappeared yet, and even if it has, country music still doesn’t deserve the Dixie Chicks after what it did to them. But the genre has undeniably taken a qualitative dump in recent years, and, truthfully, it needs the Dixie Chicks — perhaps now more than ever. The music industry needs them. We need them.

And damn it, I’m glad they’re back.





COURTESY OF IMDB

The main characters, Syd and Stanley, have to hash out a bump in their friendship.

Netflix releases ‘coming of rage’ series ‘I Am Not Okay with This’

EMILY MORRIS
WXOU News Director

Unraveling sexuality, budding relationships and even the occasional high school dance or football game are all wrapped into Netflix’s newest original, “I Am Not Okay with This.” At the surface, the series appears to envelop all the elements to enjoy in a young adult drama, but there is also a science fiction flair brewing underneath.

Sydney “Syd” Novak (Sophia Lillis) opens the first episode by ominously describing herself as “a boring 17-year-old white girl,” which is immediately discredited with a contrasting nod to the iconic “Carrie” street scene. Sydney is not anywhere near the average teenager, but her character is still personified through a slew of relatively typical teenage activities.

Sydney is haphazardly coping with a death in her family by beginning a diary, building friendships and managing her emotions, specifically anger. Her daily activities are narrated through her journal and give a glimpse into her thoughts, from considering that she has superpowers to developing frustrating acne on her thighs.

Her budding friendship with fellow self-acclaimed weirdo Stanley Barber (Wyatt Oleff) weaves into the most pivotal moments of the series and provides a needed sense of lighthearted comedy. Oleff portrays Stanley as a loose and lovable figure whom is easy to root for, while he selflessly continues to help the unpredictable Syd.

Oleff has acting experience that dates back seven years, including “Guardians of the Galaxy,” “Suburgatory” and “Once Upon a Time.” This has all been accom-

plished before graduating high school — Oleff is 16 years old and has already created quite a history of acclaimed performances. His ease portraying Stanley could also be accredited to his recent acting in “It: Chapter One” and “It: Chapter Two,” both of which Lillis also starred in. Hence, Lillis and Oleff have already been acquainted with each other.

“Through that summer that we had [filming ‘It’], we have this great chemistry together that I hope people really see on screen,” Oleff told Collider in a recent interview. “That’s just us being us. We goof around a lot and I feel like that’s how we’ll always be. I think that really just works well on screen.”

Oleff admitted Stanley is a character that he relates to as well, which helps his acting seem more natural and genuine.

“I play more of the comedic role this time, which is more fun for me to play,” Oleff said. “I get to just play off of her looking at me like I’m an idiot, which is just how it normally is. So it’s perfect.”

Each episode crams Syd’s antics and Stanley’s goofball responses into roughly 20 minutes, which feels like a hefty feat as a viewer. The first season wraps itself up in a similar manner by abruptly cutting off at the climax of their story. Although the plot is laid out thoughtfully, the episodes are a bit cramped.

Even so, Netflix has not announced that there will be a second season yet. Provided there is popularity with “I Am Not Okay with This,” a second season seems inevitable to at least clarify the cliffhanger.

Rating: 3/5 stars

Keeping a consistent sleep schedule as we spring ahead

LIZ KOVAC
Engagement Editor

If it wasn’t already hard to get sleep on a college student’s schedule, it’s even harder to get those precious hours once daylight savings hits and we lose an hour. Thanks, Ben Franklin.

Here are some tips for how to get some sleep now that we’ve sprung forward.

Keep your bed for sleeping

Your bed shouldn’t be your office. Refrain from scrolling social media or doing homework in bed. The comfort of your pillows and blankets is tempting — however, when you work in bed, you fill your sleep space with all the to-do’s that keep tend to keep you from feeling relaxed and cozy. Keep your bed a work-free zone.

Wind down

Whether you meditate before bed or listen to soothing music while brushing your teeth or when you’re trying to doze off, find something that calms you down. Listen to a relaxing audiobook or podcast. I highly recommend the podcast “Get Sleepy.” Each episode consists of soothing narrators who walk you through a calming exercise before reading you a peaceful bedtime story. Top notch.

Avoid caffeine and social media

Plan your day so you do not consume caffeine at least four hours prior to when you go to bed. Also, stay off social media an hour — or at the very least, half an hour — before going to bed. Doing both of these things will give your brain a chance to calm down and prepare for a good night’s rest.

Have a routine

You’ve probably heard this tip before, but it’s an important one. It’s also a chance to snag some me-time. Make yourself some chamomile tea, get a book, light a candle, journal, etc. Give yourself a period of time to unwind from the day and focus on getting sleepy. Finally, keep consistent and do your best to go to bed and wake up at the same times every day. Eventually, this consistency will create a habit that will make your brain tell you it’s time to go to bed.

Exercise during the day

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine’s website, “People who engage in at least 30 minutes of moderate aerobic exercise may see a difference in sleep quality that same night.” So, start moving! Take the stairs instead of the elevator, play a game of b-ball with your friends or go for a walk.

Keep a clean bedroom

The difference of sleeping in a messy vs. clean bedroom is enormous! When your bedroom is messy, you are more likely to feel stressed and cluttered. Give yourself the satisfying “ah” moments of going to bed and waking up in a clean, organized room. You can also do this by washing your bedding more often and making your bed in the morning so you can come home to a nice, fresh bed.

Consider getting a plant

Golden pothos, snake plants, spider plants, aloe vera and English ivy are among the top air-purifying plants to keep in your bedroom. If you want a calming scent to help you sleep, consider a lavender or jasmine plant.



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

These tips will help you get more sleep and will improve the quality of your sleep.

Men's basketball moved onto Horizon League quarterfinals

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

The last time Head Coach Greg Kampe and the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies faced Cleveland State University in the Horizon League tournament, the Vikings won in a low scoring game at Little Caesars Arena, 44-43.

Two years later in the O'rena, the teams faced off again in the postseason, and Oakland won 80-59.

"I'm unbelievably pleased," Kampe said. "To take a 15-point lead to 25 shows the maturity and focus of this group. We played really well. Our defense in the first half was as good as we could play."

The No. 7 Vikings came into the game with the co-Coach of the Year in the Horizon Dennis Gates and All-Horizon League third team forward Algevon Eichelberger. The two teams finished within one game of each other, Oakland won both match-ups in the regular season.

This was the last home game for senior Xavier Hill-Mais, who was without his usual senior teammate Brad Brechting. Brechting was a last-minute scratch with a lower back injury.

"Brad and I have played together for five years, before the game he just said, 'X, be yourself,'" Hill-Mais said. "I knew how much this game means to him, Kampe, the Grizz Gang and the fans and my mom at home."

Kampe was unsure of Brechting's status for the team's Thursday, March 5 game against Green Bay.

Hill-Mais led the team with 26 points, but three other Golden Grizzlies scored in double digits. The Golden Grizzlies ended the season on a five-game home winning streak, something Hill-Mais is proud his teammates will



COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ

Men's basketball moved on to the quarterfinals but eventually lost that game to the Green Bay Phoenix.

have moving forward.

"I'm glad we have that streak for the guys going next year," Hill-Mais said. "Now it's time to win, to take care of business and get to the NCAA tournament. I couldn't be more happy. Winning the last five home games is something I will never forget."

The first five minutes of the game were fast-paced, with many loose balls, offensive rebounds and fast break chances. At the first timeout, Oakland led 9-8, with Daniel Oladapo scoring four points.

The intensity of the playoff atmosphere was present in the players and crowd, both were fired up from the tip-off. The full Grizz Gang erupted when Rashad Williams hit an early 3-pointer from the center court logo to take a 15-14 lead.

Before the game, the Grizz Gang and the athletics department teamed up to provide students with free tacos for "Taco Tuesday."

"Athletics came to us looking for good ideas for the game, they mentioned they wanted to do a Taco Tuesday night," Grizz Gang President Michael Prestininzi said. "I was sold as soon as I heard Taco Tuesday."

Hill-Mais led the team in scoring for most of first half. He repeatedly got inside and either found a hook shot or got to the free throw line. After 12 minutes he had 10 points.

Tray Maddox also reached double digits in the first half on the strength of three 3-point jumpers. Threes were the difference in the first half — Oakland shot 6-17 from three, while Cleveland State made zero of their four attempts. At the half, Oakland led 41-26.

Oladapo scored all seven of Oakland's points to start the second half with the defense focused on stopping Hill-Mais. Oladapo recorded his 14th game with 10+ points this season, finishing with 19.

After a Williams and-one, the Golden Grizzlies stretched their lead to 20 with 15 minutes remaining in the second half. The largest Oakland lead grew to was 25.

The lead never reached lower than 15 again, and Oakland won by a 21-point margin.

"It couldn't have played out any better for us, I'm really pleased with the victory," Kampe said.

With the win, the Golden Grizzlies moved onto the quarterfinals.

The Sporting Blitz

While both Oakland University basketball teams saw their seasons come to an end at the start of March, other Golden Grizzlies teams' seasons have just begun.

Men's basketball

After winning by 21 on their home court against Cleveland State, the men's basketball team traveled to Green Bay to take on the Phoenix in the Horizon League quarterfinals.

The second half proved to be the defining half of basketball, with Green Bay taking over on their home court, winning 78-63. The game was tied 30-30 at halftime, but the Phoenix found their shot and pulled away in a lopsided second half.

Senior Brad Brechting only logged 13 minutes as he dealt with back spasms, and senior Xavier Hill-Mais received double teams every time he got the ball in the post. Rashad Williams scored 15 points but went 2-12 from 3-point range. Oakland turned the ball over 17 times and shot 5-29 from 3-point range as a team.

This ended the Golden Grizzlies' season, denying them a trip to Indianapolis for the semifinals and championship game.

"I was really happy about how well we played in our last five games and were able to play so well in the tour-

namment game at home," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "But, when you lose and your season is over, it's always devastating. It's hard to talk about the future right now because you just feel so bad for Brad and X."

Women's basketball

The women's basketball team traveled to Wisconsin as well for the tournament, except their game against Milwaukee was in the opening round. After leading for most of the game, the Panthers pulled ahead in the fourth quarter to eliminate Oakland from the tournament by a final score of 73-65.

Jalisha Terry led the team with 13 points and four assists. Alona Blackwell scored 11 points, adding three 3-pointers.

"We led the game for — I don't know — 30 some odd minutes," Acting Head Coach Ke'Sha Blanton said. "They gave it everything they had. It just came down to Milwaukee being able to hit some big shots late and getting to the free throw line, and we weren't able to get there."

Softball

Softball took part in the Louisville Tournament, which took place from Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8. The

Golden Grizzlies went 0-5 in the tournament, facing the University of Illinois, Northwestern University and the University of Evansville.

The closest game was Saturday, March 7 against Evansville. Oakland led for most of the game, scoring one run in the first inning then two runs in each of the next two innings.

After a scoreless fifth inning, Evansville broke open the game, scoring four runs in the top of the sixth inning. A three-run home run from the Evansville center fielder gave them a 7-5 lead, which they held onto to win.

Four Golden Grizzlies drove in runs against Evansville in the two run loss. Shannon Carr drove in two runs with her second inning RBI double, and later on a walk, the fourth ball she took led to a run scored on a wild pitch. Marisa Muglia and Rachel Zeroni both drove in runs of their own with RBI singles.

Next weekend is the last weekend before Horizon League play begins for the softball team, as they travel to Kentucky again to compete in the Murray State Tournament.

Compiled by Michael Pearce,
Sports Editor

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- ▶ What is it? Be The Match is a nonprofit organization that registers potential bone marrow donors just by a simple check swab!
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The All-American coronavirus task force

SERGIO MONTANEZ

Photographer

In late January, President Donald Trump formed a task force to handle the deadly coronavirus. By the end of February, Trump named Vice President Mike Pence the head of that task force.

Last week, in a press conference where Pence was present, White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham announced the task force had undergone staff rearrangement, letting the majority of the staff members go. However, Grisham disclosed that new members of the task force had been placed, making it an “all-star team that parallels that of the ’95 Chicago Bulls.”

The news broke with little to no media exposure, with many news media outlets choosing not to cover the story. The Oakland Post has a responsibility to inform the community through any means necessary. We are living in a desperate time where new cases of the virus are popping up around the country, making us all vulnerable to a virus we can basically prevent from spreading by taking the necessary precautions — WASH YO HANDS, PEOPLE.

Anyway, I did a little digging into the so called “all-star team,” and I present to you the new members of the task force:

Mike Pence: The leader and the superstitious one

Let’s start off with the fearless leader, the man himself, Vice President Pence. He’s a “Christian, a conservative and a Republican, in that order.” Don’t you dare tell him he’s a Republican first, a Christian second and a conservative third — his mom will hear about this. He may be afraid to socialize with women without his wife’s approval, but he’s going to zap that dick of yours if you so much as think of engaging in any kind of sexual act with another man (unless it’s two women, that’s totally OK). Pence’s main plan to combat the virus is to pray it away. He intends to introduce a bill to the House that makes it mandatory for every American citizen to pray for the coronavirus to go away for at least 10 minutes every day.

He’s not just the head of the force, but he gives head ... way to Trump to take credit for the handling of the situation once it’s been eliminated — if it’s eliminated.

His special attack is “Science: fiction.” It’s where he denies any sort of science. Technically, the coronavirus doesn’t exist.

McAfee Antivirus Software: The MVP

Yes, you read it right, the world’s leading security program is on the team to take down a human virus. Does this really surprise you?

“There’s no better way to fight a virus

What could be better than an all-star team of Mike Pence, Kaitlin Bennett, Alex Jones and Corona?! IT’S CORONA TIMMMEE.

than with an antivirus,” Pence said during the press conference. “We are preparing to equip every member of the task force with McAfee ghillie suits.”

The ghillie suits will be made from broken pieces of the installation CD. As requested by Pence, the ghillie suits will come equipped with crucifixes, silver bullets and wooden stakes, in case of werewolves and vampires.

“We will be prepared for whatever comes our way,” Pence said.

Is anyone going to tell Pence that McAfee is a computer software?

Kaitlin Bennett, AKA “Gun Girl”: The biological weapons expert

She loves to put microphones right up against people’s faces and berate them about LGBTQIA+ individuals using bathrooms. But you know what she hates the most besides leftists? Leftists coming to take her guns away. You thought guns were deadly? Well, if there’s one thing deadlier than Gun Girl with an AR-25, it’s Gun Girl shitting her pants. That’s right, Gun Girl is not just going to show up guns blazing to fight the coronavirus, she’s going to show up to literally defecate on the virus itself.

“Rather than arming Ms. Bennett with Tony Montana style weapons, we’re going to encourage her to switch her diet to just Chipotle to ensure the best possible outcomes,” Pence said.

Two viruses pinned against each other, who will win? On one end, we have a microorganism that affects the immune system. On the other end, we have an organism that gets on everyone’s nerves.

Alex Jones: The emotional support guide

With a show like “InfoWars,” how could you not expect Jones to join a “militia” style group to “fight” a war? He has to reassure the public of his masculinity and there’s no better way to do it than to join a cult — I mean the army, or an “army.” That sounds scary to just think about.

“The coronavirus is a government-made pathogen to turn all men gay,” Jones said in a press release on the InfoWars website. “The virus is released into water pipelines that run across the bed of the Pacific Ocean from China to America, where the mixture of chemicals, when consumed, restructure our DNA and RNA to make our brain believe that we are sex-

ually attracted to the same sex.”

Jones will be in charge of keeping everyone in mental stability as they go out into the trenches of war.

Corona: The Hawkeye of the team

I know what you’re thinking — why is Corona there? They’re a Mexican company, isn’t it supposed to be just Americans in the team? Turns out, the Mexican-based beer gave a hefty donation to Trump’s reelection campaign. Who knew you could buy politicians as long as the price is right? Beside the point, the industry giant now has a personal feud with the virus as they have suffered collateral damage in their stocks. Nothing hurts a company more than losing money ... and people not getting drunk off their products.

There you have it, folks — the task force that is going to save us all from a pandemic. America is in good hands. We have nothing to worry about. Absolutely nothing. Nothing at all. I’m not worried about anything, why should I be? Nothing is going to go wrong. You know how when you say something over and over again it begins to sound ridiculous and begins to feel like it has no meaning at all? Neither do I.

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