

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 45 | Issue 25 | April 1, 2020

## THE NEW NORMAL

*Satires take humorous stance on making the best of isolation and social distancing*

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Engagement group serves community by distributing supplies

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PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**A GLIMMER OF HOPE** Oakland University may be temporarily closed, but the Golden Grizzlies will soon return to campus stronger than ever. PHOTO / NICOLE MORSFIELD

## THE OAKLAND POST

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### EDITORS

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[nmorsfield@oakland.edu](mailto:nmorsfield@oakland.edu)  
**Ben Hume** Web Editor  
[bhume@oakland.edu](mailto:bhume@oakland.edu)  
**Lauren Karmo** Campus Editor  
[laurenkarmo@oakland.edu](mailto:laurenkarmo@oakland.edu)  
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[rachelbasela@oakland.edu](mailto:rachelbasela@oakland.edu)  
**Michael Pearce** Sports Editor  
[mpearce@oakland.edu](mailto:mpearce@oakland.edu)  
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[ekovac@oakland.edu](mailto:ekovac@oakland.edu)

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**Garry Gilbert** Editorial Adviser  
[gjgilber@oakland.edu](mailto:gjgilber@oakland.edu)  
 248.370.2105  
**Don Ritenburgh** Business Adviser  
[ritenbur@oakland.edu](mailto:ritenbur@oakland.edu)  
 248.370.2533

### ADVERTISING

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



**“AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ARE WORKING IN INSANE CONDITIONS TO TRY TO BRING YOU THE LATEST IN A SITUATION THAT IS UNPRECEDENTED FOR ALL OF US ... REGARDLESS OF YOUR SUPPORT OR NON-SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, I’M BEGGING YOU NOT TO TOLERATE ATTACKS ON A LOT OF JOURNALISTS RIGHT NOW WHO ARE WORKING THEIR TAILS OFF.”**  
 – DEVIN SCILLIAN, WDIV NEWS ANCHOR

## TIPS FOR STAYING HEALTHY

- WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.
- USE HAND SANITIZER THAT CONTAINS AT LEAST 60% ALCOHOL.
- AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE, ESPECIALLY WITH UNWASHED HANDS.
- STAY HOME WHEN YOU’RE SICK AND AVOID CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK.
- REGULARLY DISINFECT OBJECTS AND SURFACES SUCH AS DESKS, CHAIRS AND COMPUTERS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [OAKLAND.EDU/CORONAVIRUS](http://OAKLAND.EDU/CORONAVIRUS)



## CAMPUS

# Volunteerism takes shape on campus with new TEAM initiative



COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Though campus is closed, the Oakland Center will be used as a distribution center for sending out food and other necessities to the community to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
*Sports Editor*

After closing most residential facilities and opening up the Oakland Center as a hub for COVID-19 relief, Oakland University established The Engagement And Mobilization (TEAM).

Since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer put the state of Michigan under a stay-at-home order, TEAM has worked to provide relief to the people of Oakland County.

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz spoke on the challenge of social distancing while still helping others in the OU magazine's official release.

"We are mindful that it is of paramount importance to maintain good health and social distancing, yet we know there are many needs in our community that Oakland University campus community members can assist in fulfilling," Pescovitz said. "That is why OU has established The Engagement And Mobilization, or TEAM, group to find places where we can help our community through this crisis."

TEAM consists of volunteers, comprised of students, staff and alumni. Local businesses have volunteered goods and services as well.

Examples of items donated to assist TEAM include trucks, enclosed trailers and staff to help with food donation, and the OU Food Pantry donated some of its supply.

"Seniors now are homebound, and they're saying, 'we need food, how do we get it?'" said Diane Baldwin, campus-community engagement coordinator. "We're working with OPC [Older Person's Commission], because some are Meals on Wheels qual-

ified and some aren't."

Companies and departments on campus have also donated time and services to help TEAM in the community. Glenn McIntosh, co-lead of OU Engagement Mobilization TEAM and OU/Pontiac Initiative, announced on Friday, March 28 that residential facilities would be turned into sleeping quarters for healthcare workers who cannot return home.

Chartwells donated refrigerator space to help accommodate storage for food, and the School of Music, Theatre and Dance began sewing homemade masks, which are being donated to Beaumont Hospital, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, food distribution workers, in-home caregivers and others in need.

"We have a huge web that is working across all schools, including students and faculty," Baldwin said. "Even though this work is somber, it is exciting to see people pop up. They are responsive, intuitive and they're just there saying, 'Yep, I can do that.' They take it and run with it."

The masks were initially denied, but on Wednesday, March 25, Beaumont announced they were accepting homemade masks made under proper safety precautions.

Masks are in high demand for healthcare workers, who have seen their supplies dwindle as cases of COVID-19 increase.

"The handmade masks are also really good for food workers, front-line volunteers, visitors at hospitals or people who are caring for someone in their home, too," Baldwin said. "There's so many volunteers now. They [masks] are very useful in minute contact. Oakland County Sheriff Depart-

ment also reached out and asked for our masks."

TEAM is working seven days a week, adapting to the hour-by-hour changes in COVID-19 news and gradually expanding its reach.

Those interested in volunteering in person or virtually, can email [engagementwithou@oakland.edu](mailto:engagementwithou@oakland.edu) or call the communication hotline (248) 556-3330 for more information.

Volunteers can also visit [mycovidresponse.org](http://mycovidresponse.org). This site, led by The Pontiac Community Foundation and Oakland University, has taken the lead in creating a centralized database connecting a network of volunteers and a wide range of community organizations and agencies.

Current volunteer opportunities include:

- Working at Pontiac High School or the Oakland Center to distribute food to school children
- Collaborating with OUWB SOM students to provide groceries to families who visit the Gary Burnstein Clinic in Pontiac
- Delivering food and supplies to people's doorsteps
- Assembling boxes of food and supplies for distribution
- Volunteering at community food distribution events
- Providing social support through email, phone and/or video calls
- Virtually tutoring K-12 and college students
- Collecting, sorting and distributing books for children
- Staffing phone lines
- Providing child care for essential workers

# COVID-19 impacts international students

**LAUREN KARMO**  
*Campus Editor*

International students attending Oakland University have not been sent home during the campus closures and forced move-outs of most on-campus students. Separate policies have been tailored specifically to aid these students' unique situation during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Office of Global Engagement, which houses the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO), has been working remotely as of Monday, March 23 to keep international students in the U.S. and able to do their course studies. The biggest challenge faculty has faced with working remotely is processing all the paperwork to keep students in the area.

"We continue to serve international students remotely and we are able to, based on guidance from the U.S. government, allow them to take all of their classes online, and we are able to scan and send some immigration documents that would usually need to be originals," Executive Director of Global Engagement Rosemary Max said via email. "It is very important that we continue to process immigration benefits for students."

Typically, international students would not be allowed to take more than one online class per semester according to the national body that governs over them. That rule has been waved for the time being, allowing these classes to still count for students.

No students have been sent home at this time, according to Max. Despite that, some students have willingly chosen to go home based on the circumstances they

have faced here.

"Given the fact that classes are online, students have chosen to go home or stay in the area," Max said. "Some have had trouble because of the flight situation right now. We don't know what will happen with flights yet or what countries will be the next hotspots, so the next few weeks will be hard to predict. We are working with students on an individual basis to see what their concerns are and to see how we can address them as best we can."

Many students face difficult situations in their home countries, from their own challenges with the coronavirus to civil wars and other conflicts. Going home was not an option for these students, which is why the Office of Global Engagement is working to keep them in the U.S.

As many of these students work while living at OU, many are worried about their financial situation, and some have lost their jobs due to the virus. Director David Archbold works with these students, as well as with students who have graduated from OU and continue to live and work in the area. According to him, these students are concerned about the job market, and don't know what the future holds.

"It's hard especially to work with those students and to try to reassure them that things will get better, and you know that they may have lost their job currently, there's hope that they'll be able to find something else," Archbold said. "Right now, everything's pretty chaotic, but my hope is that by the end of May or some time in May, we will have flattened the curve on the spread of the coronavirus in Michigan and will slowly adapt to what the new norm will be."



COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

International students have struggled following the shift to online classes.



# Honors College responds to COVID-19 concerns

**RACHEL BASELA**

*Life&Arts Editor*

It's been over a week since Oakland University went virtual, and the Honors College (HC) has responded to many of the questions being asked by its students. Clarifications were made by HC faculty via email about students' meeting requirements and annual ceremonies being postponed.

Students who are set to graduate from the HC were advised by Dean Graeme Harper that the HC Medallion and Award Ceremony will not take place on Wednesday, April 15 as it was previously scheduled.

"This postponement does not change your status as a [soon-to-be] Honors College graduate, of course," Harper said in an email sent Wednesday, March 11. "We will update you in the month ahead of progress on the Honors College Medallion and Awards Ceremony."

The HC staff also told seniors their poster presentation requirement has been met as long as they have turned in their posters. Since Research and Scholarship Day — originally scheduled for Monday through Wednesday, March 23-25 — has been canceled, a digital book of the seniors' work will be put together in the coming weeks, according to an email sent Saturday, March 14.

Final HC theses can now be submitted through Thursday, April 30, though the original Friday, April 3 deadline still stands for draft submissions.

"Submit a draft of your thesis on April



OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

The Honors College, headquartered in Oakview Hall, respond to student concerns virtually. 3 (by 11:59 p.m.), as previously noted," Harper said in an email from Tuesday, March 17. "If your April 3 draft is not your final version, you can submit the final version by April 30."

With registration for next year's classes opening this week, HC advisers are

available to meet remotely. According to a Wednesday, March 18 notice from Harper, "The Honors College is open for email and phone and/or video link discussions and appointments, as usual."

All HC students are required to participate in at least 10 hours of involve-

ment that benefits their community and is unpaid. The deadline to complete these hours has been extended to August 31, per Harper in his Tuesday, March 17 email.

Since the university is not holding events for the duration of the semester, students who have not completed their HC event requirement do not have to be concerned about making up a missed event.

"We will be waiving the HC event requirement, as it stands, for 2019-2020," Harper wrote to HC students Tuesday, March 17. "For those who have already completed this, your Honors College event attendance will count as involvement hours."

Another requirement that is being changed due to the circumstances of remote learning is the Sophomore Imagination Lab. The Tuesday, March 17 email presented a plan for students who might be concerned about not completing their requirement.

"For any second year student who has not completed the Imagination Lab — which is a requirement — we will offer a 'remote' option over summer 2020," Harper said via email. "Some transfer students have also been advised to take this, and you too should access the summer 'remote' lab when it is advertised."

As many HC students and faculty are feeling the effects of the novel coronavirus on their education, plans have been set in place to combat fear and answer questions. More information will come in the following weeks as Harper and the HC staff continue to update the community.

## Faculty weigh in on COVID-19's economic impact on students

**LAUREN REID**

*Staff Reporter*

While the coronavirus outbreak continues around the world, the U.S. finds itself in economic turmoil. As unemployment rates rise and the stock market falls, our consumer-driven economy is working to navigate this new reality. Oakland University faculty in the School of Business Administration gave some insight into the situation, with one word trending among them — uncertainty.

"Uncertainty is the greatest concern," said Anandi Sahu, professor of economics. "Not knowing when the number of virus infected individuals will peak and when life can return to normal

has put numerous economic decisions on hold, affecting not only current economic activity, but also the future."

Uncertainty has proven to be an anxiety-inducing factor during the COVID-19 outbreak, as it is difficult to predict a timeline.

According to Timothy Hodge, assistant professor of economics, "uncertainty leaves questions hard to answer."

Hodge believes we will eventually bounce back. He said the economy will return after being "grinded to a halt," but how long that takes is still unknown.

"How long we take [to bounce back] will affect just how long-term the impacts will be," Hodge said.

Department of Economics Chair

Ronald Tracy mentioned that he was more concerned about short-term impacts of the economic downturn, such as unemployment and shortages of medical equipment, among others. He believes the COVID-19 economy will have a notable impact on individuals, as many won't have the resources they once thought they had.

"This is horrible," Tracy said. "It's unbelievable what's happening and how quickly. Unfortunately, the whole world is dealing with it. [In the] short-term, it's chaos."

However, Tracy still believes the downturn won't last forever.

"After a downturn, there is no reason to believe we won't recover and be strong," he said.

As far as combatting our cur-

rent economic state, Sahu said the battle is to be fought on two fronts: one that reduces the spread of the virus and one that supports workers.

"[We need to] reduce the spread of the virus and treat the infected the best we can," Sahu said. "Only this step will restore public confidence. [Then, we need to] help the economy and its vulnerable workers in the most aggressive manner during the lockdown period."

With regard to current OU students and college students in general, Hodge believes maintaining good marks and continuing to stand out will be of benefit. Hodge graduated in 2007, during a recession, and understands the stress an economic downturn can

have on students.

"For students still in school, focus on the things that are required in the new marketplace," Hodge said. "Maintain marks and stand out to get opportunities."

He also encouraged students looking at graduate programs to apply now to increase their chances of getting in.

"With recessions, learning and retooling are in high demand," Hodge said. "[It's important to take] initiatives to operate in this new environment. Take the time to see what the next 10-15 years look like."

Among a great deal of disarray, OU students can have faith that the economy will come back around.



# Undergraduate Admissions continues to serve future Grizzlies

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

Amid the outbreak of the coronavirus, the Undergraduate Admissions office is hard at work to make sure students still have access to important resources.

Since face-to-face meetings were canceled March 11, the university has had to adjust to remote learning. For the Undergraduate Admissions office, this means virtual events and meetings with advisers.

Mae Dennis is the visit coordinator for Undergraduate Admissions and is responsible for the planning of events like “Go for the Gold.” She said the virtual events and meetings available to students will still provide them with all the information they need for their time at Oakland University.

“We’re just trying to serve the community as best as we can right now through our homes,” Dennis said. “We did have to cancel a few of our events, but we didn’t want to cancel everything because that would really be putting a lot of students in a tough situation.”

Most of the events prospective Grizzlies would have attended to get information about the university have been transferred into the online setting. A list of those events can be found on the OU website.

Another online option for future Grizzlies is the virtual map, where students can tour the campus at their own pace, while still getting the crucial information they need.

Kelly Flemming, the senior associate director in Undergraduate Admissions, said the pandemic hasn’t changed the fact that students still want to go to college in the next year or two, so the core work they do in the office hasn’t really changed, either. They still want to help students transition to life at OU.

“We are definitely being very mindful that students have a lot on their plate, especially now, and that they have family priorities and other things that are really taking a big priority in their life,” she said. “So, we are trying to be a resource to them like we always are and available in as many ways as possible to answer questions and help them through this process.”

According to Flemming, the office had already been piloting virtual meetings as an option for students who weren’t able to travel to talk to an Oakland adviser. She said they were lucky the online option had already been in the works when everything got canceled.

Additionally, she said the online meetings are run the same way they would be in-person and even have some benefits.

For example, advisors will be able to screen share and show students where they can find different resources and how to sign up for orientation.

Prospective students can call or email the Undergraduate Admissions office or contact an adviser directly to set up an appointment.

“It feels really good to me to know that students still have [that] opportunity and that we’re able to provide



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTO INTERN

The Undergraduate Admissions office is offering virtual meetings between students and advisers.

that,” Flemming said. Dennis said she hopes the campus and local communities can see that the undergraduate admissions team is still there to provide access to future Grizzlies, even though it may look a little different.

“If you have questions, still reach out because we are here to serve as best as we can,” she said. “If you want a virtual tour, if you want to attend a session or talk with an adviser, definitely reach out because we are here to help.”

# Summer 1 classes moved online due to coronavirus concerns

KATIE VALLEY

Content Editor

Summer 1 eight-week classes at Oakland University will face a large change this semester: courses will be held entirely online.

An email from the Office of the Registrar sent Sunday, March 22 said instruction for 2020 summer 1 classes will be remote “at least until June 30 and potentially through August,” amid the possibility of continued campus closure because of the coronavirus.

The decision comes after Senior Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich said Friday, March 20 administration has a contingency plan for students taking summer classes. The decision was being discussed then, and administration has now decided to maintain its online-only status through at least the summer 1 semester.

According to Piskulich, the demand for online courses is considerably higher during the summer.

The summer 1 semester runs Monday, May 4 through the end of the final exam period Wednesday, June 24. The current start date for the summer 2 semester is Monday, June 29. Further information on the status of the summer 2 semester will

likely be released closer to the date.

As part of the university’s COVID-19 response, Undergraduate Admissions, Student Financial Services and the Office of the Registrar have suspended all in-person services, including face-to-face appointments, campus tours and enrollment management events, through Monday, April 13, according to the OU coronavirus webpage. These services are all offering virtual services to students at this time.

According to the coronavirus webpage, all summer study abroad programs are currently under review, meaning they are not canceled yet. However, if a program is canceled, students will be reimbursed by the University for any expenses not reimbursable from other sources. Students should check with their academic advisers about alternative coursework for the summer in case of a program cancellation.

Registration for summer classes is now open for current students, with an opening date of Friday, April 3 for guest students. Students can set up virtual meetings with their departmental advisers if they need any assistance with course registration.

“Students should have confidence that we are going to be making all of the necessary preparations to make certain that

they are able to attend classes in some format, and that they will have the opportunity to achieve graduation, which is what we count, ultimately, for student success,” Piskulich said.

The Office of the Registrar is available to answer questions concerning the registration process via email, instant messaging, and web conference at [regservices@oakland.edu](mailto:regservices@oakland.edu) during the office’s standard hours of operation, Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Current Classes and Instruction section of OU’s COVID-19 webpage offers some tips for students transitioning to online learning:

## Email is more important than ever

Check your email three times a day (turning on email notifications on your phone can help).

Organize emails from each class into separate folders.

## Routine is key

Use Google calendar or planner to create a weekly schedule. Include time for reading, reviewing course materials, working on assignments and studying for quizzes and tests.

Create a “study space” free from clutter and distractions. Be sure to add breaks!

Set a notification so you don’t forget to

log in at online meeting times.

## Academic support is always available

Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction are being delivered online

View the tutoring schedule at [oakland.edu/tutoring](http://oakland.edu/tutoring).

Schedule a Writing Center appointment at [oakland.edu/ouwc](http://oakland.edu/ouwc).

Check [espace.oakland.edu](http://espace.oakland.edu) for updates from your SI leader.

Stay in touch with your professor via email and Moodle or by “e-visiting” their office hours regularly.

## The delivery is different, but the course is the same

Staying on top of course material is even more important when you are not able to be physically present with your professor and classmates at regularly scheduled times.

Study with the same effort for online classes as you would with in person. Rules related to academic integrity still apply in the online environment.

## Practice patience and self-care

Be patient with your professors and with yourself. This is a big adjustment for everyone.

Find time to take breaks, get outside and socialize with others virtually through phone calls, texts, FaceTime, etc.





SAM SUMMERS | PHOTOGRAPHER

A coyote was spotted on Oakland University's campus near one of the parking lots.

## Campus coyotes: What we know and what we don't

**SAM SUMMERS**

Staff Photographer

Every night, many students of Oakland University vacate campus, leaving it empty and silent as they return to their homes. At this late hour, an entire ecosystem of nighttime critters comes alive in the biological preserves which cover 110 acres of campus.

For the most part, these animals stay hidden in the woods. A select few of them, however, spill over onto the main campus, lurking in the shadows as they search for scraps of food left lying around by students earlier in the day. One of the species that visits campus regularly is the coyote.

You might be a bit surprised that we have a coyote population at OU. If so, you're probably wondering: Do these predators pose any threat to students? Luckily, according to Biology Professor Sandra Troxell-Smith, the danger posed by the coyotes is low, since "they are more scared of us than we are of them."

That means it's pretty unlikely that students will have a face-to-face encounter with a coyote. If a student gets close, the coyote will probably run away.

Despite this, it's not impossible to have a run-in with a coyote, as they do make their way onto campus. Though much of their diet consists of small rodents found in the preserve, one thing keeps them coming back to the main campus.

"They don't have to hunt," Troxell-Smith said. "They can just go raid somebody's trash can."

If a coyote does enter campus, it is almost certain to do so late at night, which means students and coyotes are not typically in the same place at the same time. Nevertheless, it's good to know what to do if you see one, in case you do find yourself walking around

campus late at night.

The best way to handle an up-close coyote encounter is to try and deter it from attacking. You can do this by making loud noises, yelling and, if worst comes to worst, throwing things at the animal. The most important thing to know, however: don't ever run from a coyote.

"That initiates its prey drive," Troxell-Smith warns. "If it's getting close to you, that's when you want to use those deterring methods. Otherwise, just leave it alone."

While it is certain that the coyotes live in the campus's nature preserve, everything else about them remains a bit of a mystery, as the biology department has yet to initiate any studies about the population. Nobody is sure how many coyotes live in the preserve, and it is unclear how they got there in the first place.

The students of BIO 4350 have, however, set up camera traps in order to monitor the wildlife in the preserve, and coyotes have shown up on the cameras. Recently, students recovered a trail-cam from the nature preserve which had recorded a picture of two coyotes walking together through the woods.

There could, however, be many more living in the preserve. Though more research would be needed to confirm it, Troxell-Smith presumes that a healthy population exists, and they are a vital part of the campus ecosystem, as they are the only top predator in the area.

"The preserve does provide a really good habitat for them, with constant small animal food resources," she said.

At the end of the day, the best thing students can do is be aware of the coyotes' presence on campus. As long as students leave them be, the coyotes will continue to keep to the shadows.

## POLICE FILES

### Botched battery surgery

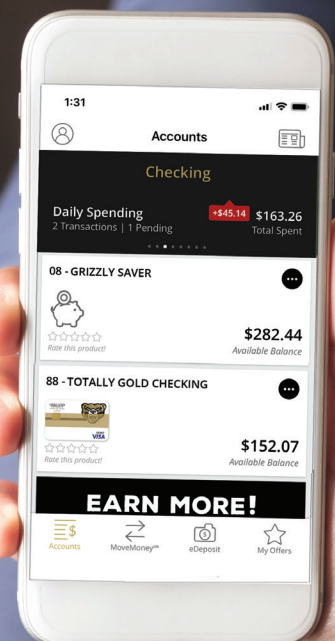
Three officers were dispatched to Hillcrest Hall on Wednesday, March 4 in response to a fire alarm. Upon arrival, the officers met with the occupant of the room, who was the source of the call, and the on-duty resident director. The resident said he was attempting to remove the lithium battery from his cellphone with a knife and accidentally pierced the battery.

The resident noted that as soon as he punctured the battery, it began to spark and smoke. He said he was able to get the battery out of his phone and dropped it on the floor where it continued to smoke and spark, eventually catching fire. He said he then poured water over the battery to put the flames out, but it continued to smoke. One of the officers located the still smoking battery and removed it from the room before bringing it outside to keep the smoke from further filling the room or hallway. The Auburn Hills Fire Department arrived on the scene and helped air out the room. Dispatch reset the smoke detector in Hillcrest Hall, and all units were cleared from the scene.

*Compiled by Ben Hume,  
Web Editor*

## Your All-Access Account Pass: The OUCU Mobile App

- Send money between OU Credit Union members instantly with Member2Member<sup>SM</sup>
- Lock and unlock your OU Credit Union Visa Debit and Credit Cards
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- View exclusive Local Loyalty discounts at area businesses



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There is no charge to download the OUCU Mobile app, however data and connectivity fees from your mobile service provider may apply. Please contact your mobile service provider for more information. Some features may be available for OU Credit Union members only.



# CETL Learning Tips: How to request a letter of recommendation

**CHRISTINA MOORE**

*CETL Virtual Faculty Developer*

You qualify for a scholarship or want to apply for an internship. Often listed with these application materials is a request for letters of recommendation, which often come from your professors. Requesting a letter from a professor may seem tricky if you are early in your college work and haven't yet fostered closer connections with your instructors.

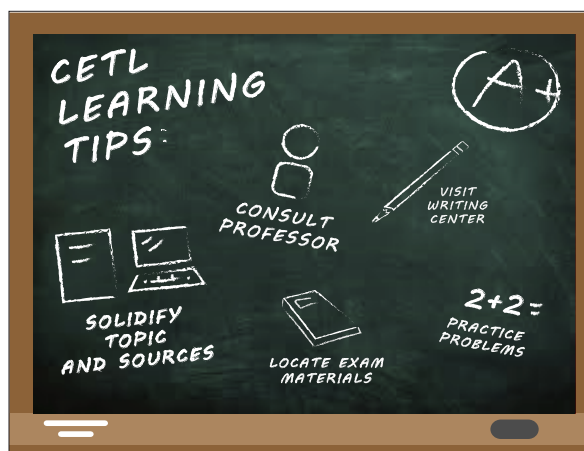
While I recommend making those connections through office hours (even virtually in our current COVID-19 context), you can still request a letter in a way that will help your professor write an effective letter. Some of these and more are reflected in a form Dr. Kelly Hogan gives her students to help her write their letters.

## Provide key work information and class work samples

At the end of my sophomore year, I decided to apply for a scholarship in my major, so it was important that I got a letter of recommendation from a professor in that department. I really enjoyed a past literature class, but it was a general education course from two semesters ago. I dropped by her office hours to request a letter, but also gave her two assignments I did for that class. She said this was incredibly helpful. I still don't know if she remembered me, but by having my work in front of her, she could see evidence of my thinking and capabilities.

## Provide instructions for the whole process, including due dates and how to submit the letter

Walk through the whole process of writing and submitting the letter, and provide instructions accordingly. This mostly involves when it is due and where to submit it



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

These tips will help you secure a letter of recommendation.

(they normally do not give these letters to you since they are supposed to be confidential), but might also include length, format (PDF or Word document), whether it needs a handwritten signature, etc.

## Provide context, and suggest specific highlights

Share why you want or need this opportunity beyond needing the money or line on your resume. What opportunities will this scholarship or internship make available? What work do you hope to do? What are your aspirations and interests? Highlight anything in particular that is interesting about it, as expressing your enthusiasm helps strengthen the recommendation.

## Include a resume and any other details about yourself,

such as life experiences, responsibilities and interests

Resumes are helpful, but they don't have to be everything if you don't have a lot of work or volunteer experience. How have you dealt with a difficult situation in the past? Do you often care for your siblings? Do you have a massive social media following? Even bringing these non-academic views into your identity can help set yourself apart from other applicants.

## Offer to meet, if possible

Office hours are a perfect opportunity to talk about the letter in real time (even during COVID-19, many professors regularly hold virtual office hours or are willing to meet online), which may provide a valuable exchange of ideas and build understanding. This won't always be possible, especially for professors who have hundreds of students a semester, but it doesn't hurt to offer. It might be a simple sentence in the request email, such as, "If you are available, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further."

## Check in a couple of days before the due date

Even very organized professionals sometimes miss a due date, so safeguard your complete application by emailing your recommendation writer a couple of days before the due date to confirm they have submitted it. This gives them enough time to write it without pestering them too long before the due date. Sometimes your application system will tell you who has submitted letters (such as portals for graduate school applications), but not always.

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Christina Moore

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

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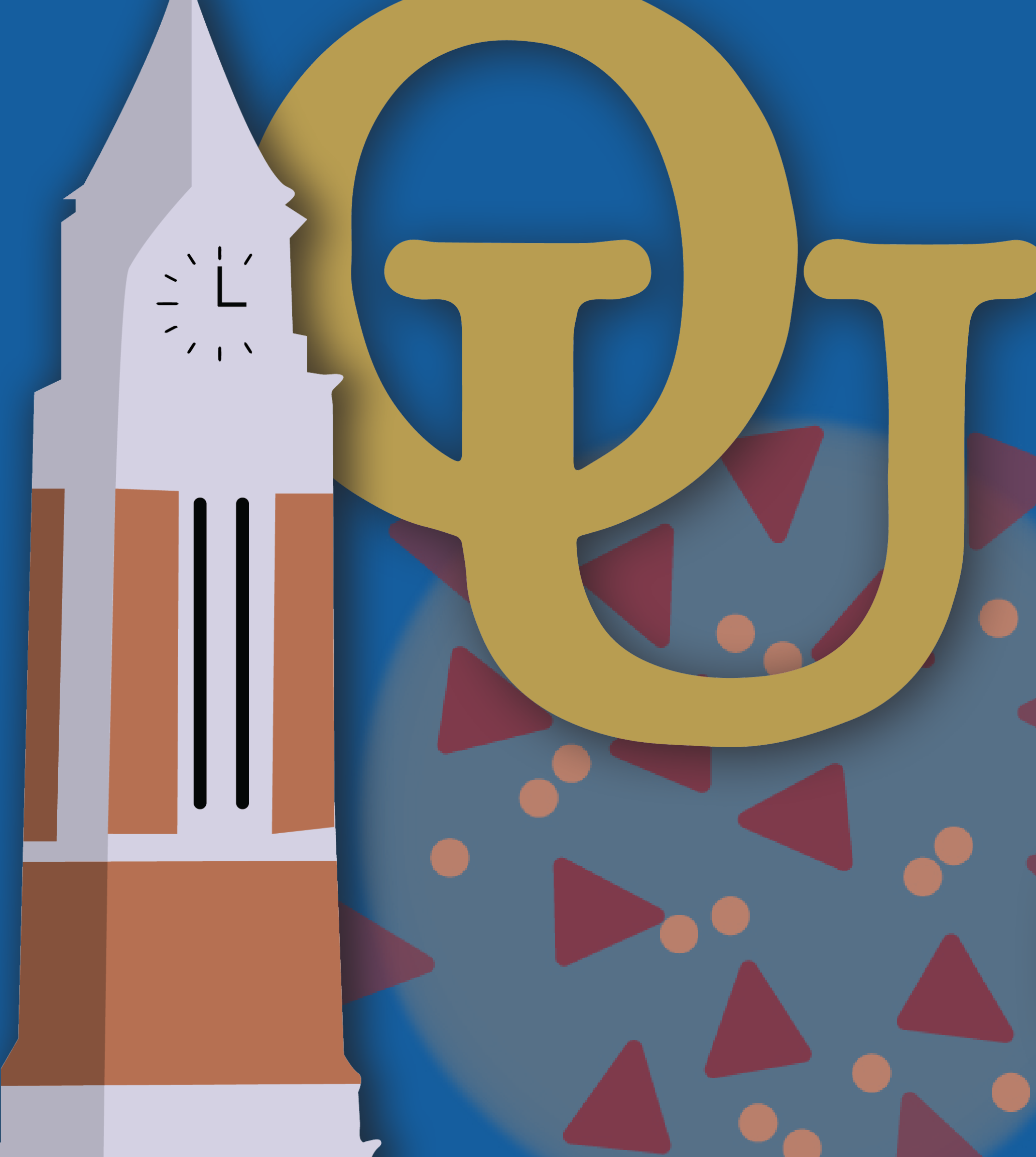
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# COVID-19 Relief Fund assists students affected by pandemic

Just last week, University Advancement approached Student Financial Services and the Office of the Dean of Students to discuss tapping into an emergency funds program to assist students in need during a time of global crisis. Dawn Aubry, the associate vice president for enrollment management, and Michael Wadsworth, the dean of students, collaborated on the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund.

Since then, a goal of \$20,000 has been set to combat the struggles many students are now facing because of the rising pandemic. As of Saturday, March 28, \$3,920 has been raised from 52 donors. Students may contact either of the offices to inquire about receiving funds.

Wadsworth said there have been roughly 50 inquiries since Friday, March 27, but only one of those students has provided adequate documentation to be reviewed by the relief fund committee.

"We've had numerous inquiries at this point, but very few of those inquiries have submitted necessary documentation," Wadsworth said. "So, we're continuing to work with those students to get what would

be needed for review."

Students are asked to complete a form once they have contacted the offices. The form asks for some brief personal information as well as a narrative of the reason for needing funding. Documentation of need is also required in order to qualify for the fund.

"We would just basically need folks to submit receipts, bills or invoices — something that shows proof of needed payment, that kind of thing — so that we have records to show why funds were disbursed," Wadsworth said.

On the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund website, award criteria have been drawn out. One of the points presented on the page details how a student may qualify for funding if they cannot pay for school expenses.

"For example, if someone puts in a form to pay for a printer cartridge, or some school supplies they needed to complete a project, those are things that we're talking about," Aubry said. "It's not for tuition, it's not for their housing on campus."

As for students who were forced to move out of university housing with a two-days notice last week, they might

have experienced unusual financial hardships because of the sudden lifestyle change. Wadsworth responded to students who were affected by this unprecedented event by mentioning it could potentially qualify a student to receive funding.

"So, I just want to give a quick shoutout to University Housing because they've done a really incredible job of accommodating students who needed to stay and who needed lots of different things during this process," Wadsworth said. "But, yes, those could be a possibility. We look at everything on a case-by-case basis."

Aside from students who were affected by having to move away from campus, many students have inquired about receiving an award from the relief fund because of sudden unemployment.

"Without looking at and tabulating every one of them, I would say the most common thing I have seen in the inquiries has been loss of employment, whether on campus or off campus," Wadsworth said.

As COVID-19 persists in the U.S., many people are wondering when the crisis will end. If this car-

ries on into the summer months, Aubry said the relief fund will continue as need grows.

"We're still fundraising for this special relief fund, but we'll continue to do so if there's still a need," Aubry said. "I think that we can always make different decisions about future funding, whether we continue with the special relief fund or if we shift to utilizing other funds as well."

In a time of taking things day-by-day and not knowing what might come next, the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund and other possible funding from OU departments will continue to help students in need.

"The university has some emergency funds available, and we'll be evaluating all of the funds since they all could be of different levels," Aubry said. "As we have requests come in, if we feel another fund is more appropriate, the Student Financial Services and the Dean of Students [offices] can work with departments, depending on if it's one of their funds, to help allocate those resources to students that are in need."

"It's important that we are sending a message that we care and that you're important to us."

by Rachel Basela | design by Ashley Averill | graphics by Jimmy Williams and Ashley Averill





# Assistant professor Blumer-Schuetz recognized by AEM Journal

**DEAN VAGLIA**

*Staff Reporter*

The Applied and Environmental Microbiology (AEM) journal has selected Oakland University assistant professor of biological sciences Sara Blumer-Schuetz for a spotlight on her research into how bacteria, including pathogens, attach to surfaces.

The research paper “Caldicellulosiruptor bescii adheres to polysaccharides using a type IV pilin-dependent mechanism” will be published in an upcoming edition of AEM, a peer-reviewed journal published by the American Society for Microbiology.

“It was pretty exciting,” Blumer-Schuetz said about having her work in AEM. “It is a renowned journal ... They publish a lot of solid, good work, so I was very excited to get this project accepted for publication by AEM.”

The research focuses on the bacteria *Caldicellulosiruptor bescii*, specifically a type of protein on it called pilins. Pilins are able to attach themselves to cellulose by forming into filaments, allowing the bacteria to break down plant biomass.

The research is important because it figures out how pilins work and what role they play. It is also important because *Caldicellulosiruptor bescii* — a safe bacteria to work with — has many similarities with disease-causing pathogens like *Clostridium difficile* (C. diff), Botulism and Gangrene.

“The most direct application of my work would be to engineer better plant biomass degrading bacteria to



COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Sara Blumer-Schuetz's research will be included in the Applied and Environmental Microbiology journal.

develop chemicals,” Blumer-Schuetz said. “If they are able to adhere to plant biomass, that helps the process of degradation.”

A less direct result of the research is that *Caldicellulosiruptor bescii* can be used as a safer bacteria to use in pathogen research, meaning researchers do not have to put themselves into harmful situations with dangerous pathogens.

The paper was researched and written with help from graduate students Asma Khan and Valerie Hauk, un-

dergraduate student Mena Ibrahim and OU professor Thomas Raffel.

Blumer-Schuetz first became interested in biology in college at Michigan Tech as a chemical engineering major.

“I happened to have a lot of friends that were foresters and they needed to take a botany elective as a part of their degree,” she said. “So, having the greatest logic, I decided I wanted to hang out with my friends.”

One of the biologists she studied under was Janice Glime, whom Blumer-Schuetz credits as the person who got her interested in biology.

“She shared her passion and excitement about botany with the students,” Blumer-Schuetz said. “From that point on, I was hooked. I had never considered biology as a career, per se, but that really impacted my interest in the field.”

The research for the featured research grew out of the founding project of the Blumer-Schuetz Lab.

The switch to online learning and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order have led Blumer-Schuetz to stop running experiments for the time being.

“Our wet lab experiments were decelerated as we saw the university sending students home,” Blumer-Schuetz said. “The actual hands-on experiments are stopped and now my students are looking at data and writing and thinking about what the data is indicating.”

Blumer-Schuetz is unsure when she will resume running experiments.

“I am more waiting on direction from the university’s administration,” she said. “They will let us know when we are able to get back.”

# Don't let coronavirus quarantine kill your relationship

**DEAN VAGLIA**

*Staff Reporter*

As the virus keeps us indoors, cabin fever can drive a wedge into even the most loving relationships. Thankfully, your relationship does not need to die in quarantine.

Terri Orbuch is a professor of sociology at Oakland University specializing in interpersonal relationships, marriage and divorce, and relationship maintenance. With the COVID-19 quarantine’s social distancing plunging relationships everywhere into uncharted territory, Orbuch has a few strategies that can help partners maintain — and maybe even improve — their relationships.

No matter if you live with your partner or are states away, each person in a relationship must take care of themselves.

“The first thing I always recommend is something to do individually,” Orbuch said. “I think it is really important in any relationship or any couple that you make sure as an individual that you are happy and healthy and that you are doing things like self-care techniques for yourself.”

While everyone has unique needs, an important part of self-care is getting a good seven to nine hours of sleep each night. Some form of exercise from going on walks to intensive workout routines and eating healthy is encouraged.

Once individual care is focused on, keeping relationships together relies on socializing. This means that a separated relationship can stay in touch with virtual dates.

“Virtual dates are wonderful,” Orbuch said. “I recommend video, but if you cannot [use video], audio is fine.”

Virtual dates can be based around any number of things, such

as simultaneously making a meal, playing board games, working on a puzzle or just talking over a meal. Doing an online workout together is another idea that can help relationships beyond just being social and exercising.

“When you exercise with your partner it could actually increase your passion and excitement within your relationship,” Orbuch said. “That is because what we know is the arousal that is produced through exercise in each partner’s individual body ... can actually get transferred to your partner.”

When talking with your partner(s), Orbuch suggests one way this time can be used to get to know each other better — or even get to know each other all over again.

“The notion is that you want to get to know that other person, so you want to ask them questions about what makes them tick,” she said. “What are their passions? Their goals?”

The questions asked can range from creating intimacy to more trivial things like their ideal superpower or dream job.

Relationships located under one roof have their own unique challenges. While self-care and having dates still apply, partners must be ready to help each other through this tough time. Laughing together helps with reducing stress, but partners must also be open to discussing their fears and anxieties.

One way fears can be discussed without them consuming the whole relationship is by designating some time to talk about fears, like over dinner or during a relationship meeting.

Partners must also understand that while being together can help, people also need to have some time to themselves.

“There is nothing wrong with wanting a little alone time,” Orbuch said. “Now partners are at home 24/7 ... It is very different from what it used to be where you had time alone and apart and you did your own interests and activities ... It is

important to say to your partner, ‘Can I have a few hours this afternoon to do X?,’ whatever X may be.”

COVID-19 has obliterated daily life for many people and made traditional relationship activities like going on a dinner date nearly impossible. But with the advice of Orbuch, you — and your relationship — might see this through to the end.

“It is possible to keep your relationship alive,” Orbuch said. “I want to emphatically say that in these times of quarantining and social distancing and COVID-19 that you can still maintain your relationship.”



COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
Sociology professor Terri Orbuch shares tips and tricks to keeping the romance alive while in quarantine.



PUZZLES

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		50				51		52				53	54	55
56	57						58		59		60			
61					62				63					
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

ACROSS

1. Jacob's pop  
6. Emulates Perry White  
11. Cut with a blade  
14. Fad  
15. Ms. Hawkins  
16. Reverential salutation  
17. Stable for newlywed horses?  
19. Embarrassing shade  
20. Eschews the diner  
21. Supports  
23. "CSI" proof  
24. Third in a group  
26. Bug  
27. Skipper Joe  
29. Resides  
32. Possible lunch or dinner item  
35. Kind of bag  
37. T-bone source, most likely  
38. Snack food  
39. Spiritual philosophers  
41. Ella's forte  
42. Narrow fissures  
44. Catch one's breath  
45. Europe's highest volcano  
46. Strained  
50. Named  
52. Common conjunction  
53. Friend of Belmondo  
56. Fixed a shoe, perhaps  
59. \_\_\_ up (ready to go)  
61. Belligerence aroused by a wrong  
62. Prominent horse hair?  
64. D.C. group  
65. Big name in auto racing  
66. It gives one a leg to stand on  
67. Demand  
68. Verse  
69. RBIs, et al.

DOWN

1. Set securely (Var.)  
2. Handy wrap  
3. Singer Bryant  
4. Helps  
5. Cat type  
6. Capital of Senegal?  
7. Blot  
8. Imbecile  
9. Belonging to the peerage  
10. Teeters  
11. Newly chosen municipal horse?  
12. Word with throw or turn  
13. Forms a union?  
18. Vim  
22. Bad biters  
25. Mistake  
27. Hoffman film  
28. In the beaver state?  
30. Have a disposition to do something  
31. Relative of a mlle.  
32. Throng  
33. Agatha contemporary  
34. Examine a horse race postponement stub?  
36. Prairie bovinds  
40. Puppet  
43. Order at a bar or a pool table  
47. F.D.R. part  
49. Grabs the bill  
51. Tightly packed  
53. Caribbean paradise  
54. Earn  
55. Cerebral output  
56. TV personality Kelly  
57. Eventful times  
58. Odd couple?  
60. Working away  
63. Word with deep or stir

S	A	U	A	S	T	O	V	E	A	C	L	R	E
P	R	I	M	O	O	R	Y	R	D	N	U	A	L
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D	U	E	E	U	V	L	T	A	R	V	A	M	T
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C	H	T	A	T	D	O	L	A	R	T	L	W	C
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I	A	A	S	D	S	I	N	K	P	Y	T	V	P
K	W	A	U	G	A	R	A	G	E	A	S	E	N
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HOUSE

KITCHEN

STUDY

DRYER

PANTRY

GARAGE

OVEN

BATHROOM

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APPLIANCES

CARPET

STOVE

THROW RUG

LAMPS

MICROWAVE

RUGS

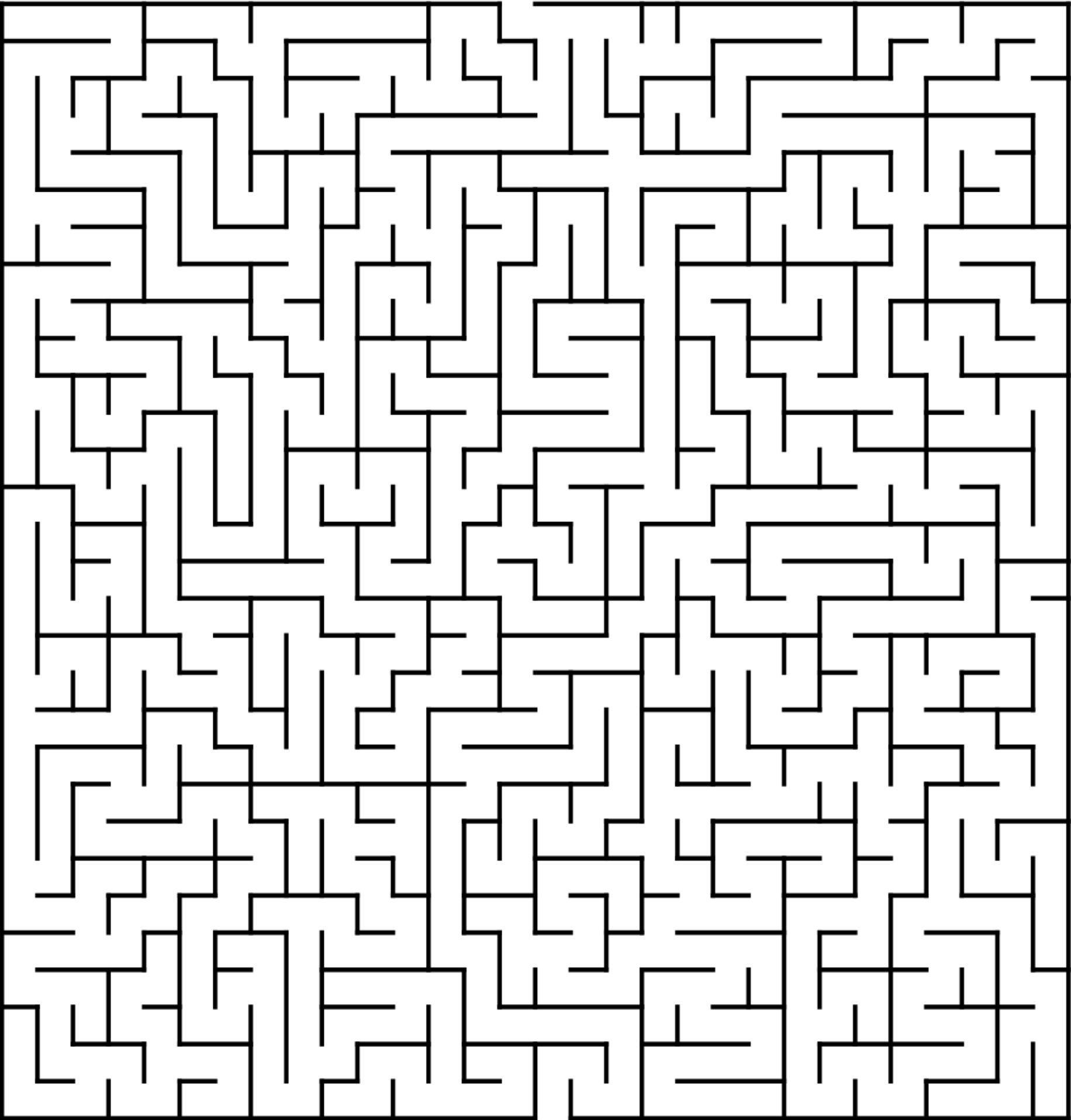
SINK

WASHER

CELLAR









## SATIRE

# ‘Paul Blart 2’: True Hollywood royalty

**MICHAEL PEARCE**

*Sports Editor*

When you think of an American hero, what goes through your head?

Some might think of soldiers, lifelong politicians, firefighters and doctors. But there is only one man I’d ever give the title of “hero” to.

His name is Paul Blart.

We all know the story of Officer Blart. He saved the West Orange Pavilion Mall from the evil Veck Sims and his crew, who were going to steal millions from the mall and possibly hurt civilians. He did it out of the kindness of his own heart and got the girl in the process. But everyone wondered ... what happened next?

Thanks to “Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2,” we know what happened next.

This movie is possibly the second-best movie of all time, behind the first movie — of course. This movie takes all the charm of the first movie—fat jokes, inaccurate weaponry and incompetent villains—and jacks it up to 11.

Officer Blart is a lady’s man, no

doubt about it. Throughout this film, he is macking on cuties and spitting game like a pimp. Despite his portly figure — which we are constantly reminded of throughout the film through hilarious gags — he ends up with not one, but two ladies wanting him.

Speaking of hilarious gags, one of the best gags in the movie is Officer Blart’s interaction with this random bird that never is introduced in any way. It just shows up. This is a testament to the writers at Happy Madison Production Studios and their brilliant way of surprising the audience.

Another hilarious gag that these brilliant writers have created is the vibrating fork. You heard me right, the vibrating fork. No, this is not a late-night TV commercial, this is no Adam and Eve. This is Paul fighting his demons in the beginning of the movie and slaying them in the end.

Our stocky pal Paul — excuse me — Officer Blart, goes through a lot of trials and tribulations as he works to save Las Vegas from high roller art thieves. He battles his weight, his hypoglycemia and the impending loss of his daughter

— who is headed to college across the country at UCLA.

The movie is incredibly detailed, with a metric ton of foreshadowing that only the staunchest movie critic could decipher. Lucky for you Blart fanatics, I can decode the rich cinematography that writer Kevin James and director Andy Fickman have put on display for us.

Thanks to Fickman and James, this movie vastly outperformed its budget at the box office. Officer Blart’s second ride gained \$107.6 million at the box office, while it only spent a meager \$30-40 million estimated.

The crown jewel of cinema accomplishment comes in the movie’s final act, as great films do. Earlier in the film, the covert espionage of skinny legend Raini Rodriguez and her new beau discover the villain’s weakness, and this time — it is Maya Blart who takes down the villain, in a very “padawan becomes the master” change of fate.

Blart gets the girl, the world is saved, and Maya is off at college. A fitting end to the Blart dynasty. A crescendo that I give 5/5 vibrating forks.



ERIN O'NEILL | DESIGN EDITOR  
Paul Blart: the hero we never wanted, but the hero we absolutely needed.

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# Which dog breed are you based on your major?

**KATIE LADUKE**

*Managing Editor*

I LOVE dogs. I wish I could pet every dog I pass, but the days are just too short for that. If I've learned anything over my 21 years of living, it's that every dog has its very own personality, just like us college students. Those personalities are pretty damn similar to students' majors.

## STEM: Pug

You can be annoying, especially when you try to prove you're the smartest and get into stubborn fits, but you're also incredibly clever and attentive. You're a silent, skilled observer.

## Education: Golden Retriever

Golden retrievers are known for being loyal, but you're also kind, intelligent and trustworthy. Although students will test your patience, you will always be there to help them grow and learn. The perfect temperament for a future educator.

## Communication/Journalism: Border Collie

People admire you for your energy and love being around you. They trust you're honest and find your humor unique. Respecting personal space is something you need to work on, though.

## Nursing/Pre-Med: Rottweiler

While you might look intimidating, you're a friend to everyone you meet. You're a fearless caregiver and devoted to all of your patients. Even in the hardest of times, people can always count on you to keep them steady.



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Are you a golden retriever, pug, rottweiler or chihuahua?

## Foreign languages: Pomeranian

People might view you as pretentious, but you just love what you're studying and want everyone to share your passion. You're extremely playful and the life of every party.

## Social Work: Corgi

You're small but mighty, and your work means the world to you. Although you're very playful, you're willing to protect whoever you need to. No matter how you connect with someone, you always leave your mark on their heart.

## Political Science: Shiba Inu

We're all sick of hearing you guys bicker back and forth about politics. When you guys are in a group, it's literally like dogs barking at each other between fences. But, we can't help but love you because you're so charming and confident.

## Theatre: Shih Tzu

You're the definition of regal. You have it all: the personality, the different looks and the intelligence. People love you because you're extremely friendly and love to give affection.

Just make sure not to overdo it.

## Art: Poodle

You're the fanciest of fancy. You like the finer things in life and don't care what it takes to get them. While you always trust your gut and speak your peace, you're not aggressive. This is why people respect you and want to be around you.

## Business: Chow Chow

People don't always get you. When you say you're going for business, people probably don't ACTUALLY know what you're studying, and, chances are, you don't either. But, it sounds good just like the name Chow Chow. Nonetheless, you're very smart and lovable.

## Health Sciences: Boxer

You're under appreciated and misunderstood. People always lump you in with nursing and pre-med because you also love helping others. You're very cheerful and become a role model to everyone you meet.

## Undecided: Chihuahua

You want to be friends with everyone and try everything life has to offer. You get distracted very easily and need to channel all that energy into finding the best path for you. Be careful with that short-temper. You might piss some people off.

*Don't think I got the right pup for your program? Don't see your program listed? Shoot me an email with your thoughts to [katelynladuke@oakland.edu](mailto:katelynladuke@oakland.edu).*

# Stupid fights to instigate with your sibling in quarantine

**LAUREN KARMO**

*Campus Editor*

My brother and I are best friends, don't get me wrong, but being stuck in the same house together day-in and day-out is gonna lead to some head butting. Now that we're older, we don't fight as much as we did when we were kids, but we have returned to the good old days.

Now that I'm 20 and he's 21, we fight about different things than when we were kids, so here are the stupid fights you can get into with your sibling. With honestly nothing better to do to entertain ourselves, it's time to scrap like it's 2008. Who's ready to throw down?

Just a disclaimer, in case anyone in my family is reading this, I have never ever instigated, stirred the pot or whatever you like to say because I am an angel child, and have never done anything wrong ever in my whole life.

## That's mine

My favorite thing to do around the house is arbitrarily claim ownership over literally anything. That spot on the couch? Mine. The last popsicle in the freezer? Mine. The better blanket and pillow set for afternoon naps? Mine. Everyone knows I run this house, and that it's all mine.

This inevitably leads to the argument of "I had it first," which then leads to "I was born first" (which is a stupid argument, older siblings, you all suck, being born is not an accomplishment, and honestly, if that's the highlight of your life, then try harder). My next move is to yell for Mom, who then awards me my prize.

It's always mine.

## Mom and Dad like me more

Now this is simply a fact. It works well as a good follow up argument — you start with a "that's mine," then you come in hot with this move. It's a known FACT that I am the favorite, which, as the baby of the family, the most talented and funniest child, can you blame them?

My big bro hates this argument because



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

What's more fun than being cooped up with your sibling and starting a fight to the death?

it's one he cannot win — ever. My mom tries to deny it, coming in with all that "I love you both the same" bullshit, which I don't buy. My mom called me her best friend yesterday, and I refuse to believe it's the quarantine talking.

## You breathe too loud

This is hands down my best fight to date. No one can surpass the ultimate insult of being a loud breather, because what the fuck does that mean? You cannot deny that telling someone they breathe too loud is not the epitome of being an annoying piece of shit. If you don't want to get hit with this absolute death wish, then stop breathing like you ran a marathon. Worse than being a loud chewer. Disgusting.

I use this fight during round two of the MMA smackdown, this is a killer line. It works best when a fight has just died down, Mom thinks the dust has settled, Brother is just starting to relax. A fool. I never relax until I win. That's when I come in with "you breathe too loud." It's just \*chef's kiss\*, you know?

There you have it, folks, the perfect recipe for a fantastic, reality TV worthy fight. Use these tips well, and remember, we never start fights in this house, we just finish them.

# The top eight songs to add to your 'Social Distancing' playlist

**SERGIO MONTANEZ**

*Staff Photographer*

You've already watched "The Office" in its entirety twice, but since you've got nothing else to do, now you've decided to watch reruns of it on Comedy Central. Soon enough, you're going to rewatch the final season of "Game of Thrones." That's a new low for you.

Anyway, you got so bored that you made a "Social Distancing" playlist on Spotify. But now you're stuck wondering what songs to add. Well, no worries — I present to you the top eight essential songs to add to your new "Social Distancing" playlist.

## 1. Gloria Gaynor – "I Will Survive"

Oh, you'll survive ... on DiGiorno's pizza and White Claws. Those are the only essential foods you'll need right now, according to America's most trusted news source, Dr. Anthony Fauci.

"It's important to differentiate fact from fiction," Fauci said. "And the fact is black cherry is the best White Claw flavor ever! Miss me wit dat grapefruit bullshit."

If there's one person we should all listen to, it's the Fauci. The point is, this song got you through your most recent heartbreak, and it's going to get you through the apocalypse, too.

## 2. MC Hammer – "U Can't Touch This"

There's one sure way people won't "touch this," and it's you wearing those ridiculous MC Hammer parachute pants. That was a different time in history, but perhaps that'll be to your advantage this

time in history. Buy those pants, put them on, go to your living room, blast the song and just start dancing away. Remember, if someone gets within 6 feet of you, just say, "I told you home-boy, U Can't Touch This," and bust out your best '90s moves.

## 3. Billy Idol – "Dancing With Myself"

Speaking of dancing, I like to call this "social distancing dancing." The name's not creative, I know. Besides, your parents already think you're a freak and they much prefer your younger sibling who got into Yale. Why not let your inner freak out and shake your gluteus maximus like Billy Idol shakes his old shirtless self on stage?

With lyrics like, "well there's nothing to lose and there's nothing to prove," how can you not put that White Claw down and do some head banging until you get a headache? You really got nothing to lose. Friends? Yeah, right. Like you even have any.

## 4. Afroman – "Because I Got High"

What day is it again? How many days are we into the quarantine? You meant to do something today, but then you got high. What are we talking about again?

## 5. 21 Savage – "Bank Account"

You got one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight dollars in your bank account, in your bank account, in your bank account. This song might get you thinking of how much money you're not making right now, but at least you'll be at peace knowing that because you're stuck inside,

you won't be spending any of it.

Oh, wait, hold on. Fuck. You forgot to get more beer. Is \$8 going to cover a 12-pack? A six-pack perhaps? Shit — gonna have to settle for a Natty Daddy tall boi again.

## 6. Evanescence – "Bring Me to Life"

"WAAKKEE MEEE UPP!" because you are so fucking hungover. You're going to need this song on your playlist for those nights that you decide to drink a whole fifth of Fireball. Oh, what a mistake it was, but it sounded like such a good idea the night before. It's going to happen, more times than you'd like to admit. This is why Mom and Dad really like Steven from across the street — he's not an alcoholic like you are. It's OK, we're all in this together.

## 7. Hot Chocolate – "You Sexy Thing"

After an hour of being curled up in a ball and crying in the shower, you've stepped out into a room full of steam. You wipe down the mirror that's fogged up with a towel and there, you see your reflection and you're just like, "Dayumm ... You sexy thing. I do believe in miracles."

Is that Brad Pitt you're looking at in the mirror? No, it's just you and you're just looking so hot right now. You're literally the hottest person in the room ... because you're the only person in the bathroom. Nevertheless, there's no one there to judge you, only you, and even so, you know damn well you're just hypnotized by your own reflection. You even start to wonder if Hot Chocolate wrote this song about you back in 1975.

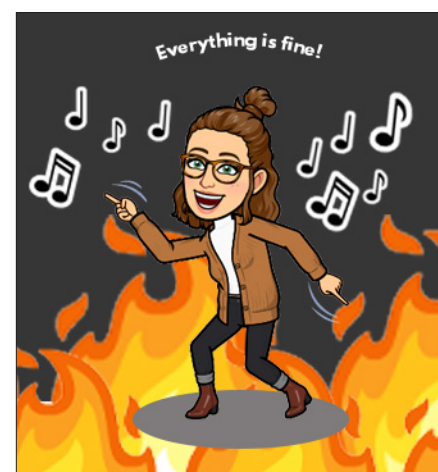
You do you, you sexy thing.

## 8. Any Nickelback song

You made this playlist — you called it "social distancing." You can't have social distancing with people wanting to be as far away from you as possible.

You really want people to leave you alone at this time? You get the biggest speakers that your parents hid a long time ago in the back corner of your attic, and you put them on your front yard and you blast any Nickleback song. Doesn't matter which song it is, you just go ahead and blast that shit.

Just hearing, "Look at this photograph," will have your neighbors voluntarily abandoning their homes forever. You're a fucking psycho, dude, but congratulations on achieving social distancing master level. You did it.



ERIN O'NEILL | DESIGN EDITOR

These tunes are perfect for this near apocalypse, right? Everything's fine! It's all fine!

# Your horoscopes: Week of April 1, 2020

**SERGIO MONTANEZ**

*Staff Photographer*

## Aries: March 21-April 19

After decades of soul-searching, you finally realize that you have no soul.

## Taurus: April 20-May 20

A reoccurring dream will predict a sudden thrill to make workout videos like those couples on Instagram, except the only thing holding you back is your partner — you don't have one.

## Gemini: May 21-June 20

You'll lose both your legs next

week in a tiger attack after jumping into the Amur tiger enclosure at the Detroit Zoo. You thought you could be like Joe Exotic, but you forgot you were carrying beef jerky in your pockets that day.

## Cancer: June 21-July 22

Your first instinct this week is to concentrate and work really hard on assignments for your online classes, while your second instinct this week will be to just give up.

## Leo: July 23-Aug. 22

Traveling is in your future for next week, when you are driving across the states after getting kidnapped by a guy

claiming to have \$100,000 in cash in his van that you could've used to pay off your college loans.

## Virgo: Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your week will start out great, until Tuesday, when you look into the mirror to see your reflection and realize you're still a clown.

## Libra: Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Don't let your pain stay as pain. You can add all different kinds of filters to make it less pain-full.

## Scorpio: Oct. 23-Nov. 21

I'm a Scorpio, so this horo-

scope is biased as hell. Scorpios are obviously the best looking people in the world — Matthew McConaughey, Ryan Gosling and Leonardo DiCaprio are all Scorpios and all are Hollywood hunks. Life just seems to work out for us in every way possible — this week is no different.

## Sagittarius: Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You'll realize this week that the walls to your room are way too thin after your parents heard your loud addiction to Hentai.

## Capricorn: Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Next week is full of freedom

and abundant activities for you, because you won't have to attend your court date after the court ceased operations.

## Aquarius: Jan. 20-Feb. 18

This week, you'll do your part for the environment when you decide to save on toilet paper by going No. 2 on your neighbor's lawn.

## Pisces: Feb. 19-March 20

The alignment of the stars predict your search for true love will finally come to an end this week after you've finished eating that crunch wrap supreme you got at Taco Bell.



# Stay home or you're stupid

**KATIE LADUKE**

*Managing Editor*

It's been one week and two days since Gov. Whitmer told us to stay home and stay safe with her executive order to close everything except essential businesses. But, for some reason, people don't understand what "STAY HOME" means. We already had the hand-washing conversation, but obviously we need to have another talk.

The only reasons you should be leaving your living quarters and venturing into the public are if your job is deemed essential or if you're going to the store for home and personal necessities. That doesn't mean have a game night with the girls or house party with the boys.

You should know better. You could infect someone without even knowing it. Your mom. Your dad. Your best friend. We **MUST** do our part so this nightmare can end sooner rather than later. Living life as normal and being selfish isn't going to do that. It's called social distancing for a reason. If you don't live with them, you shouldn't be together.

The quarantine blues might be here for a while, but here are at least a few things to help pass the time.

## Nap. A lot.

College students are the biggest offender for saying they're tired. Well, this is the perfect time to catch up on sleep your 8 a.m. made you lose out on.

My bed and I have rekindled our relationship and are now better than ever. We take a fat nap **AT LEAST** once a day. Some days it's two or three times. When this disaster is over, I don't want to hear that anyone is tired.

## Make TikToks

As cringey as it is to see people I know on my For You Page, I'd rather see you doing the latest dance in your living room than having a party on

your Snapchat story.

If you need inspiration, just take a look at TikTok royalty @brittany\_broski and @charlidamelio. Literally anything you post on TikTok will give you a chance to end up on the For You Page and skyrocket you to stardom.

## Re-watch "Glee" for the fifth time

What's there to do when you lay around your house for 12 hours a day? Easy. Watch "Glee." You get drama, laughs, musical entertainment and Noah Puckerman's famous shaved mohawk.

If it makes you feel better, blame Sue Sylvester for all your problems. Just do me a favor and check out season 1, episode 7 at 18:14. That's how I feel when I see people not staying home.

## Become a chef

We all love food. Sleeping and eating is the combination to beat all others. Check out those outrageous cooking videos on Facebook. Tasty's page has a lot of interesting ones. The best part is most of the ingredients are basic and can already be found in your pantry.

I hope to see you all emerging quarantine with an extra layer of chub.

## Find the love of your life on Tinder

Tinder boys are probably shaking that most sane people aren't inviting strangers — who could be carrying **BAD GERMS** — into their homes for random hookups. Social distancing means you actually have to have conversations and get to know each other.

Ask her what her favorite color is. Ask him what his favorite movie is. Then, after quarantine, you guys can go at it like rabbits.

Even with everything you can do inside, people will still weasel their way out to be around people unnecessarily. If you're one of those people, you're as stupid as it gets.

Just stay home. It's not hard, but it's all fun and games until you or a loved one gets sick.

## THE OAKLAND POST IS HIRING A MANAGING EDITOR

### RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- HELPING THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MANAGE REPORTERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND COPY EDITORS
- HELPING THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RUN WEEKLY BUDGET AND EDITORS' MEETINGS
- EDITING STORIES FOR PRINT AND WEB PUBLICATION EVERY WEEK
- PROVIDING FEEDBACK AND CORRECTIONS FOR PAGES DURING PRODUCTION
- STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF AP STYLE
- MUST HAVE AT LEAST BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF INDESIGN
- WRITING A MINIMUM OF ONE STORY A WEEK
- GOOD LEADERSHIP AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS REQUIRED
- PRIOR EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE PREFERRED

INTERESTED APPLICANTS SHOULD EMAIL A RESUME, COVER LETTER AND WORK SAMPLES TO: **EDITOR@OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM**

POSITION EFFECTIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER SEMESTER AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

If you refuse to practice social distancing, you're prolonging quarantine for all of us sane people.