

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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Natural Black hair is more than  
hair, it's part of identity

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FORMULA SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**GIVING GRIZZLIES** Oakland University kicked off its first-ever Day of Giving, a day dedicated to encouraging alumni and supporters to give to their favorite gift funds. Oakland University Credit Union agreed to match all donations up to \$50,000  
*PHOTO / OAKLAND UNIVERSITY*



**INSPIRE THE CHOIR**  
SMTD to bring in Grammy winner and composer for choir workshop.  
*Photo/Oakland University*



**OFF TO THE RACES**  
Track and Field teams open their season at SVSU Invitational.  
*Photo/Golden Grizzlies*



**PUT ME ON THE SHOW**  
How to win The Bachelor, with sleeping and funky dresses.  
*Photo/Michael Pearce*

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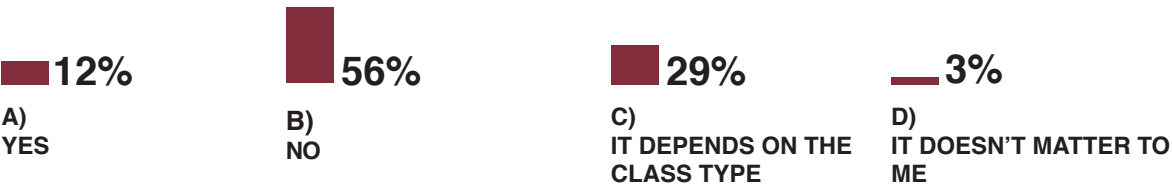
## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHICH REALITY DATING SHOW WOULD YOU MOST WANT TO BE ON?

- A) THE BACHELOR
- B) LOVE ISLAND
- C) LOVE IS BLIND
- D) TOO HOT TO HANDLE

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

DO YOU THINK HAVING YOUR CAMERA ON DURING ONLINE CLASSES SHOULD BE REQUIRED?



## CAMPUS

# GRIZZLIES PROTECT GRIZZLIES

Cumulative on-campus positive cases since January 2nd:

**47**

Faculty or staff:

**4**

Students not living in OU Housing:

**22**

Students living in OU Housing:

**21**

On-campus isolation rooms occupied

**1/105**

All information is from OU COVID Public Dashboard

## Using sewage to track COVID-19

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Sewage at Oakland University can contain more than just the usual “crap,” it can contain trace amounts of COVID-19.

In November, Oakland administration announced their plans to monitor sewage with Aquasight, a Troy, Michigan company, in an attempt to improve contract tracing on campus.

Since November, the university has been closely monitoring the results from the sewage surveillance program to limit the spread of the virus on campus. Vice President of Research David Stone feels the system has been “pretty effective” in the few months it has been implemented.

“We’re able to track the virus from all of the buildings we’re tracking, and it does seem to move up and down and give us an additional datapoint,” Stone said. “We’ve got people in the residence halls who are COVID-19 positive but asymptomatic.”

The sewage tracking is especially important for those asymptomatic cases. Stone and the research team feel the extra data point has been useful to help prevent those asymptomatic people from going to class or traveling into common spaces.

The tracking system works by placing sample collection tools in manholes outside of each residence hall that is being tracked. Almost every dorm is being tracked, except for Van Wagoner and Hill Houses.

Every couple of hours the device opens up and takes some water. Twice per week, the kits are pulled out of the manhole, then analyzed.

From there, if there are certain levels of COVID-19 in the water, the University and Leadership Committee

will alert staff in the building about the levels of COVID-19.

Both Stone and President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz feel that using the sewage tracking system can not only help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus, but also be a useful tool for local hospitals and health care officials.

“As a physician-scientist, I also understand that if we can monitor infectious diseases through this process, it will give government officials and health care providers a big advantage in controlling the spread of disease,” Pescovitz said in the November press release.

In addition to tracking infectious diseases, the sewage tracking system can also track opioid use, which Stone believes could help communities fight the opioid epidemic.

“We’ve forgotten about the epidemic, but it didn’t go away,” Stone said. “In some cases, the things that brought it on — depression and mental health challenges — have intensified, if anything.”

Stone believes in combination with the BioButton — which is still available in the Oakland Center and in residence halls — tracking sewage can lead to more information to assist in contract tracing.

For Stone and his research team, “triangulating” data is critically important. The university cannot afford to constantly test people on campus, and even if it could, people would get “testing fatigue,” according to Stone.

“We’re trying to keep one case from becoming 50 cases in a dorm or on an athletic team,” he said. “The sewage testing helps us limit cases from becoming outbreaks. This is a way to identify cases and nobody has to do anything, so it’s handy in that way.”



JOHN MCTAGGART PHOTOGRAPHY  
Vice President of Research David Stone is leading the sewage tracking system at Oakland University.

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## CAMPUS

## ‘Inspire The Choir’ workshop brings in Grammy winner and composer



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Grammy Award winner Eric Whitacre and composer Stacey Gibbs will lead a virtual workshop on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Zoom.

### DEAN VAGLIA Staff Reporter

The Oakland University School of Music, Theater and Dance (SMTD) will host the “Inspire The Choir” workshop on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free and held over Zoom, Grammy Award winner Eric Whitacre and accomplished composer Stacey Gibbs will feature at the workshop.

Open to singers and music educators of all levels, the event will feature lessons and seminars from OU professors and faculty, such as Alta Boover and John-Paul White’s “Working Together While Apart” and Drake Dantzler’s “Voice Building for Young Men.”

According to Boover, the isolation of COVID-19 was the driving factor behind organizing “Inspire the Choir.”

“I think we all, in every aspect of life, have a real feeling of some fatigue,” Boover said. “Even in fields where you imagine inspiration is plentiful like the arts. We do not have a lot of our traditional ways of connecting with other musicians, with each other and with audiences. This was intended to get everybody together and talk about things that are inspiring us even when we are by ourselves in our living room.”

Since event planners expect both students and music educators in attendance, there are points in the workshop where people will have a choice between what event to attend. One such choice comes at 11 a.m. where attendees will choose between Boover and White’s or Dantzler’s presentations. Events for educators count toward State Continuing Education Clock Hours.

Gibbs has spoken to OU students in

the past, and Boover was particularly interested in how he can help the SMTD with introducing historically Black music into the curriculum.

“One of the many things [Gibbs] does is he arranges and sets American spirituals,” Boover said. “This is a kind of American music where I think some people are hesitant to take ownership of it because it comes from a tradition of slavery ... This is something that he has been talking about for years, so we wanted to bring him in to talk to our students and say ‘This is what this music means to us as Americans and here is how we sing it.’”

Along with Gibbs’ discussion, Whitacre will hold a question and answer session.

Angela Bonello, an SMTD student and student ambassador for the event, is anticipated for the event.

“[It is] the kind of opportunity we are probably never going to have again,” Bonello, said. “It is just so valuable because they have experienced so much and for a lot of us, they have done what we are striving to do. It is just going to be a really valuable experience to hear what they have to say.”

Whitacre has composed and conducted performances around the world, including virtual choirs utilizing the talents of singers from over 145 countries. Gibbs has composed works for myriad performers and choirs, including the United States Air Force, the Stellenbosch Choir of Africa, the University of Southern California Chamber Singers and the Winston-Salem State University Singing Rams.

While the event is free to attend, those interested in going must RSVP to receive the Zoom links.

## New technology available for students

### EMILY MORRIS Managing Editor

The Student Technology Center (STC) has introduced 100 new laptops and 100 WiFi hotspots for students to borrow, following increased demand.

While the majority of classes are still online, Leo Debiaggi, senior director of STC, noticed an increased need for technology and their inventory dwindling. With 100 new Dell laptops and 100 new WiFi hotspots added to the existing collection — MacBooks, DSLR cameras, webcams and various software — there should be enough resources.

“The demand has been great actually,” Debiaggi said. “We had rented out every single laptop we had at our disposal.”

Whenever staff and faculty have noticed a technical need, students have been referred to the STC, according to Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth. Check-outs have been fueled by emergency relief requests from the Dean of Students office, the Center for Multicultural Initiatives and the Office of Student Involvement.

“Nobody planned to go into pandemic-mode, and I’ve just been really happy to see the resources from the Student Technology Center gathered and put out for students,” Wadsworth said. “Just because we say, ‘we’re going remote...’ doesn’t mean everyone has the same opportunities and resources to do that.”

With another batch of technology, students can stop by STC during regular hours — Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everything is free to borrow for a maximum of one semester for all students enrolled in at least one course at OU.

Previously, technology was only available for a week at a time, but STC extended the check-out time to a full semester to accommodate for increased online class.

“We have to make it one semester at a time,” Debiaggi said. “[If needed,] students can certainly put in [a request] to rent it again.”

The new Dell laptops have five gigs of RAM and are capable of “run pretty much any application,” according to Debiaggi. Students have full administrative access while borrowing the laptop. Each comes with Microsoft Office, and students can install any other necessary software.

The hotspots are from AT&T and Verizon with LTE high-speed internet access.

“Oftentimes, people have internet access... but it might be spotty,” Debiaggi said. “Giving someone a hotspot might be the break they need to complete their course work without any issues.”

Once a student returns any technology, it’ll be wiped of any personal information and restored to its original state.

If there were any damages, the student will be held responsible for any replacement costs.

“I will say that’s extremely rare that there’s actually any damage,” Debiaggi said. “It’s really quite impressive, to be honest with you, that we rent out that much equipment and so little of it ever ends up having any sort of problem.”

Even with the recent influx of tools, he expects everything to be in “high demand,” and he hopes the equipment moves quickly.

“I want none of them [the new technology] in my hands,” Debiaggi said. “I want them in the hands of the students.”



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER

These are a couple of the new Dell laptops, available in the Student Technology Center. Students can stop by STC during regular hours to borrow any technology.

# Elections kick off for OUSC executive board

**RACHEL YIM**  
Staff Reporter

After a busy year, Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) is running an election to select its president, vice president and legislators for the next school year.

OUSC strives to increase unity on campus through leadership, initiatives, events and programs. As its mission statement states, OUSC is the voice for every OU student, and aims to “meet the needs and address the concerns of our fellow students” and encourages students to voice their ideas to create the best “Oakland experience.”

To achieve its mission statement, electing new officers to lead the organization is one of the most important tasks not only for its members, but also for the organization as a whole. Each of these three positions has a specific and important role that plays into teamwork.

The role of the president is to facilitate the operation of the executive board. The president makes sure that each executive member has what they need to pursue their projects and initiatives.

The role of the vice president is primarily involved with facilitating the

legislature. The vice president chairs the general body meetings and ensures that each legislator has what they need to proceed with their projects.

Legislators are the final decision makers for anything that the executive board wants to do. They approve the budget, vote on any members that get appointed in between elections and they decide any policies the Congress publicly states.

Legislators also pursue their own projects, which means that they can lobby to get their projects done as long as it is possible for Congress to achieve their goal.

Anyone interested in running for one of these positions should fill out a form to declare their candidacy. The deadline to declare candidacy is Monday, Feb. 15.

According to Ethan Bradley, current president of OUSC, those who are planning on running for vice president or president are strongly encouraged to find a running mate, though they are not required to find someone.

“I encourage all potential candidates to attend an OUSC meeting to see what they will be getting themselves into,” Bradley said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Ethan Bradley, OUSC President, encourages interested applicants to attend general meetings and get a feel for OUSC before applying for president or vice president..

The election itself will take place in the third week of March via a form on OUSC GrizzOrgs page, where any OU students are welcome to cast their vote.

“Qualities that tend to make a good candidate for any of these positions are experience in leadership and self-management,” Bradley said. “None of these positions are under the direct control of somebody who tells you what projects to work on, so candidates should be able to come up with ideas of

how to make the University better and they should know how to pursue those goals on their own initiative, which includes knowing when to ask others [in OUSC as well as outside] for help.”

The student body meetings are on Mondays at 4 p.m. on Google Meet. For more information about meetings or the upcoming election, visit Campuslabs, or email Ethan Bradley at [embradley@oakland.edu](mailto:embradley@oakland.edu).

## CAS dean candidate Moeller takes part in forum

**DEAN VAGLIA**  
Staff Reporter

As part of its search for a new dean, the Oakland University College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) hosted an open forum with candidate Marie E. Moeller on Friday, Jan. 29.

Hosted by Joseph Shiverly, CAS associate dean, the 2 p.m. Zoom-based forum was intended for students to voice their concerns and ask questions to Moeller. While no students offered Moeller questions, Shiverly provided her with questions throughout the forum.

Moeller is currently an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with specialties in professional and technical writing, medical and scientific rhetorics and writing, feminist rhetorics, disability studies and grant writing, according to her UW profile.

When asked about what students could expect from her in regards to communication between them and her dean's office, Moeller cited her use of advisory councils from Wisconsin.

“Right now I am working with a couple of advisory councils of students,” Moeller said. “We meet once a month and have lunch together. I hear what their concerns are, what they are excited about, what they like about the college, what they do not like about the college and things we might change.”

Shiverly mentioned that a number of OU students work full time alongside their studies, and wondered

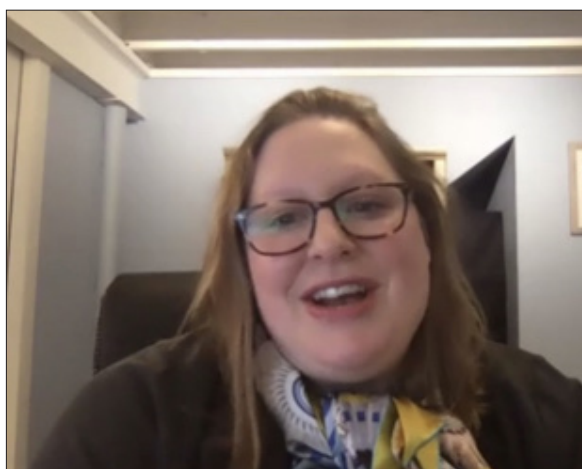


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIE MOELLER  
Marie Moeller and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) held an open forum as part of the search for a new CAS dean.

what Moeller's CAS dean's office could do to support working students.

“As a dean one of my roles is to fundraise, and I think scholarships [are a solution] in particular for students who have that reality of having to work full time,” Moeller said. “If there is a way I can do more fundraising to create more scholarship opportunities so

people do not have to have that kind of balance, that is something I would be keyed into.”

On the question of what she would do with OU's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts, Moeller said that DEI had to be “infused throughout the college.”

“It has to be represented in our curriculum,” she said. “It has to be represented in our co-curricular activities, so speakers that we bring to campus [and] activities that we do on campus. We should have some kind of commitment as a college.”

Moeller closed out the session with her views on what a liberal arts education means to students regarding their employment opportunities.

“Our education is more skills focused than it is technical focused,” Moeller said. “The door that an arts and sciences degree opens is just about any door you would want.”

Moeller's forum was her last forum this week, and the next candidate to have a forum will be Elaine K. Carey of Purdue University Northwest. Carey will have an open forum on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. and a CAS students forum on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 11 a.m.

The search for a new CAS dean began in 2019 when Kevin Corcoran announced his retirement from the position, but his retirement was postponed last May due to COVID-19 complicating the process. The search has produced five candidates: Moeller, Carey, Kelly A. Ritter, John Masserini and Shannon B. Campbell.

Information about the search can be found on the Office of the Provost's webpage.



## FEATURES

# Grizzlies Racing gears up for 2021 season

**DEAN VAGLIA**

*Staff Reporter*

By summer's end in 2019, Grizzlies Racing had a solid road ahead of them.

The Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) team had good showings at events in Germany and Canada and was on track to its first top-10 finish since 2013 had the German gasoline not caused the muffler to blow up.

Even with the fuel-based setback, the Germany showing carried the team through the rest of the season, into adapting a car to test a new engine and starting a new car for 2020. By all accounts, the 2020 FSAE season was shaping up to be an exciting challenge.

Then, 2020 happened. Exciting and challenging indeed.

Losing access to the Engineering Center's garage, Grizzlies Racing had to leave behind a nearly-finished 2020 car as the world went into lockdown.

"We knew we were going to get kicked out before we were officially kicked out, so we were able to grab some things and work on them from home," David Ingermann, head of business and marketing said. "But by and large anything that had to be done with your hands or in person, we have not been able to do for eight months now."

Despite work on the 2020 and test cars stopping, the team found ways to help fight COVID-19. They used



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIZZLIES RACING  
2020 was rough for the Formula SAE team, but with a light at the end of the tunnel, they're ready to get back to work.

3D printers to make face shields and mask holders for medical workers and donated computing power to help researchers run simulations critical to stopping the virus.

But FSAE is more than just building a car and running it through tests and competitions.

There are business and design aspects to the competition — allowing non-mechanics to take part in the FSAE spectacle — and a remote event was held over the summer to judge those aspects of the competition.

2020 has been a challenging time for the team. According to Grizzlies Racing President Hanna Rau, it has been hard finding the motivation to work on cars when Zoom is the only place meetings can be held.

"In person was a lot nicer," Rau said. "We were able to see each other. We would have our meetings and people would be able to absorb the motivation of others. It is really hard to do that over a Zoom call or Google Meet."

Along with motivational challenges, there have been issues recruiting new members and retaining existing ones.

"Getting new members — especially during the pandemic — has been super hard," Rau said. "In a normal year we are able to go to events such as GrizzFest. We will have our car and people will get to see what we actually do as opposed to just hearing about it."

Even with the pandemic still around, a year of preventive efforts and vaccine development have shown a way out. And for Grizzlies Racing, this means preparing for a new season of competitions. The 2021 season begins on May 5 with the Michigan event, where dynamic events will be held at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn as part of a hybrid competition format.

More information about Grizzlies Racing and FSAE at Oakland University can be found at [www.grizzlies-racing.com](http://www.grizzlies-racing.com).

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## Jason Ross Jr. goes beyond the stats as Golden Grizzlies play-by-play announcer

It wasn't long ago that the voice of the women's basketball team was attending high school football games and commentating to himself for practice.

Jason Ross Jr., the play-by-play announcer for the Oakland women's basketball team, has always dreamed of being a professional broadcaster. Now, before even graduating college, he has earned a permanent play-by-play role, started his own Detroit sports brand and is working for major media companies.

The Lawrence Tech University (LTU) student has been honing his craft for years and has described his broadcasting passion as "the most fun thing ever."

"When I was five or six years old, I began going to games with my dad, watching games on TV and listening to games on the radio," Ross said. "I loved watching games and listening to how they were documented by these voices who had the opportunity to go to the games, it was very compelling to me."

Around eighth grade, Ross began exploring the possibility of becoming one of the voices that shaped his childhood. He read books, listened to broadcasts and gathered information from professional announcers.

After graduating high school, he would go to high school games in Southfield and practice calling games into his recording device. Ross continued to practice and network, which opened the door for opportunities.

"I can't count the number of sports on my hand that I've done here [at Lawrence Tech]," Ross said. "We just have so many opportunities to hone our craft, so that's really helped as well."

Through his work at LTU, he met Neal Ruhl, the voice of the men's team at Oakland. Ruhl, who previously called women's basketball games as well, let Ross know the position was opening. Ross got the job, and has been calling Golden Grizzlies games for the entire 2020-2021 season.

"This has been a wonderful experience with the Golden Grizzlies family, I've really enjoyed my time at Oakland," Ross said.

Some of Ross' role models in the broadcasting industry are Mike 'Doc' Emrick, Mike Tirico, Gus Johnson and Trevor Thompson. Ross had the opportunity to meet Thompson, and over time Thompson became a mentor for Ross in his broadcasting career.

Ross met Thompson early in his college career and gave him the chance to report at Red Wings, Pistons and Tigers games. Thompson also let Ross pick his brain and ask about the ins-and-outs of the industry.

"He's someone that has really pushed me over the years," Ross said. "The first time I met him at Joe Louis Arena, I was starstruck because I had watched him on TV for so many years. Now, it's such a blessing to be able to text him and have a conversation with him, like he's just a friend of mine now."

The biggest challenge of Ross' career came when he was given the chance to call the Horizon League swimming and diving championship at OU. Ross had never called swimming and diving before, but he rose to the challenge the only way he knows how — a ton of research.

"I did a month of preparation leading up to that event," he said. "I don't think I slept that entire week."

Preparation is Ross' calling card. At a women's basketball game, he can be seen on press row with pages full of notes about everything imaginable.

"That's probably my favorite part about the job — the preparation that goes into it," Ross said. "I enjoy finding stories on players, because one of my goals as a broadcaster is to humanize the athletes beyond the stats."

Ross was recently recognized for his work by the Black Play-by-Play Broadcaster Grant and Scholarship Fund as one of four scholarship recipients.

"It was an amazing honor," he said. "It truly meant a lot that they respected my play-by-play enough to be able to entrust me with that scholarship."

Once Ross graduates from LTU, he hopes to continue building his new media brand, "The Motor City Roundup," with his friend and co-host Genna Rose.

"Our goal is to be the 'one stop shop' for all of your Detroit sports needs," Ross said. "Genna is an amazing friend of mine, and she actually worked on the Oakland broadcast with me one weekend. She and I have attacked this as a duo, and we're hoping to blossom it into what could potentially be a television show one day."

For Ross, the pinnacle of sports broadcasting would be play-by-play for college sports on ESPN or the Big 10 Network. But, his goals go deeper than a title. He hopes to be an inspiration, just like his idols, like Thompson, were for him.

"I'd really love to pass that [knowledge] down to the next generation and help out others like he [Thompson] has helped me," Ross said.



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# OPINION

## The pandemic isn't going away because we're tired of it

**JEFF THOMAS**

*Features Editor*

With seven-day averages of over 3,000 new deaths and 150,000 new cases per day in the U.S., COVID-19 isn't going away just because people are sick of dealing with it.

The national death toll now towers over 435,000. We are currently in the most miserable stretch of COVID-19 transmission that we've endured so far. On top of that, a dreaded more-contagious new strain of the virus appears to have landed in the states.

Despite all this, states around the country are lifting restrictions and abandoning guidelines.

In Michigan, where total cases are now over 600,000 and the death toll is over 15,000, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed an executive order to reopen restaurants for indoor dining this week. Amid all the controversy of reopening, Michigan's top health official abruptly resigned without explanation.

In California, where total cases eclipse 3.3 million and the death toll is over 40,000, Governor Gavin Newsome has lifted the state's stay-at-home order allowing for outdoor dining, barber shops to bring customers inside and residents to visit family members. California has had the most stringent restrictions in the country, this sudden reversal of policy by Newsome has supporters and critics alike wondering whether the decision was driven by science or by politics.

This brings us to the Biden administration and how they're handling COVID-19. Biden ran a campaign promising

competent leadership and an administration that would represent and work for all American people, in his presidency so far there've been troubling signs to the contrary.

For one, the roll out of the vaccine has been far from ideal. While 31 million vaccinations administered is promising, with sporadic availability of the vaccine, the government getting fleeced by big pharma and questionable allocation of doses — it is doubtful that the vaccine will have an immediate impact in stopping the virus.

Biden's "100 million vaccinations in 100 days" initiative sounds ambitious, but 100 million people is still only a fragment of the U.S. population, well short of the estimated 70% threshold necessary for eliminating the broader threat of COVID-19.

Regardless, it is impossible to justify reopening now when vaccinations have really only just begun. Especially when scientists still aren't certain if the vaccine stops transmission of the virus.

The reopening of public schools is particularly problematic. Public schools have always been petri dishes for everything viral to spread to the broader community. Most teachers still aren't vaccinated, and while kids are at lower risk in general for becoming critically ill with COVID-19, that doesn't mean they're immune to the virus.

The issue of race is also prevalent in all of this. The pandemic continues to disproportionately affect poor and minority communities.

Right now roughly 75% of children dying from COVID-19 are minorities. So when the Biden administration says that children are safe, it's hard not to wonder which children exactly

they are talking about.

Despite the change in leadership, the mentality of our government towards fighting the virus continues to be callous and indifferent towards the needs of working people.

Biden's statement from Jan. 22, "There's nothing we can do to change the trajectory of the pandemic in the next several months" was Trumpian, not only for the sheer stupidity of the words, but also for the profound dishonesty behind them.

To say that "there's nothing we can do" while they continue to drag their feet on COVID-19 relief, continue to resist lockdown and continue to force reopening of institutions is an insult to the intelligence of the American people.

This apathy from our leadership is unacceptable, they must do more. Around the world countries with far less resources than us have responded adequately, saving lives and providing for their people. In the wealthiest country in the history of the world, we have no excuses for not doing better.

To keep plowing ahead with half-measures for stopping the virus is complete lunacy. The immediate cost of poor leadership and indecisiveness concerning the virus is American lives. The future cost will be an elongated economic depression of millions of people.

We should be doing the opposite of reopening. The government should be paying us to stay at home while vaccinations are administered. It doesn't matter how inconvenient it is for business interests or how unpopular it is with a certain fragment of the population, it's the right thing to do to save lives.

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# OPINION

## The Lions are trading Matthew Stafford and I'm sad

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Staff Reporter*

The Detroit Lions have officially wasted yet another generational talent: Matthew Stafford.

After what feels like years of speculation, Tom Pelissero of NFL Network reported on Jan. 23 that quarterback Stafford and the Lions had agreed to mutually part ways. This comes after yet another disappointing season for the Lions, as they finished 5-11 with Stafford carrying the team yet again.

The Lions have now effectively wasted the careers of three generational talents in the last 25 years — Barry Sanders, Calvin Johnson and, now, Stafford.

On Saturday, Jan. 30, ESPN's Adam Schefter reported that the Lions have agreed to trade Stafford to the Los Angeles Rams for Rams' QB Jared Goff, two future first-round picks, and a third-round pick.

I was 11 years old when the Lions drafted Stafford No.1 overall out of Georgia in 2009. Every Sunday for the last 12 years, I've been able to watch him play football.

He was outstanding. In his first full season in 2011 he threw for over 5,000 yards, becoming just the fourth quarterback to ever accomplish that feat at the time.

In 2014, he went to his first and only Pro Bowl, and in 2019 he became the

fastest player to reach 40,000 career passing yards.

Stafford holds countless Lions franchise records. He's the greatest quarterback this franchise has ever had — and it's not even close.

When criticizing Stafford everyone loves to point to his record in the postseason (0-3). But think about this for a second: the fact that he even got the Lions into the playoffs should be impressive, especially considering what little help the organization has given him over the years.

He's never had a running game. He's had a defense once — in 2014 — one of the three years that Stafford has taken the Lions to the playoffs (along with 2011 and 2016).

The Lions have rarely given their star quarterback any help. Guys like Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Patrick Mahomes, Ben Roethlisberger — they've all had help around them.

It's mind-boggling that some Lions fans still to this day have failed to realize what they had in Stafford. Now, all those fans are finally going to get their wish, but there isn't anyone the team can realistically acquire right now who would be better than No. 9, including new Lions QB Jared Goff.

I could be all hum-drum and doom-and-gloom for the rest of this column, but

instead I want to highlight some of my personal favorite moments from Matthew Stafford's career as a Lion.

For the first one, we'll go back to Oct. 28, 2018 against the Seattle Seahawks. Stafford evades pressure and is able to find Marvin Jones Jr. in the end zone for a touchdown.

For the next one, I'm going to throw in virtually the entire 2016 season, where Stafford led the Lions to eight game-winning drives.

I'm sure most Lions fans will remember this next one very well: the game-winning drive against the Dallas Cowboys on Oct. 27, 2013. This culminated in one of the most iconic moments of Stafford's career: the fake spike play.

For my final entry, I'm going all the way back to Stafford's rookie season in 2009, and if you're a real fan, you already know what I'm talking about.

It was Nov. 22, 2009 against the Cleveland Browns, the last play of the game. Stafford evades multiple pressures and heaves it toward the end zone, taking a massive hit after he lets it go. He stays down, writhing in pain as a penalty is called on the Browns.

It was later revealed that he dislocated his shoulder. For most QBs, they're done for the game, if not the rest of the season.

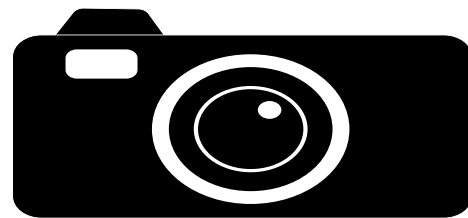


PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIDE OF DETROIT  
Stafford was traded for Jared Goff, two future first round picks and a third round pick.

But not Stafford. He stayed in and threw a game-winning touchdown pass.

Matthew Stafford is one of the toughest players to ever step foot on a football field. He played through several injuries throughout his career, including this past season.

I just have one last thing to say — thank you, Matthew. Thanks for bringing so much joy to me, this city and this fanbase. Now go get a ring. You've earned it.



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## OPINION

## It never was ‘just hair,’ it’s a piece of identity



CAYLA SMITH | CAMPUS EDITOR

## CAYLA SMITH

*Campus Editor*

Turns out a gas pump can cause a long-awaited identity crisis.

A lot of Black women have the same hair backstory that dates back for generations. Many of us grew up with the kitchen acting as two different spaces. It all depends on the context, but with hair — it was a part-time salon.

Every two weeks, My grandma would straighten my hair with an iron comb that you warm with an eye on a stove, and you’d walk away from this with straight hair, a few burns and a sore scalp. This progressed to getting perms every two months for 10 years of my life and left me with damaged hair and chemical burns on my scalp.

This led to my natural hair journey of the past two years. After wearing protective styles like braids, my hair was finally healthy and the perm was completely grown out. I was still getting my hair pressed, so I wasn’t completely natural with wearing my curls.

COVID-19 shut down salons, and the woman who was braiding my hair began charging \$600. Those were the perfect incentives to learn how to do my hair. So I washed and styled my hair, and because of my incompetence with styling and taking care of my natural hair, this was the first time I did this.

My hair turned out amazing and my curls looked beautiful. I was happy to finally embrace a side of myself that I had been afraid to show for years, because of Eurocentric beauty standards and how they’ve been forced onto the Black community for centuries.

I never in a million years would’ve guessed that the liberating freedom and confidence my hair gave me would be stripped away, all because of a stare that lasted a little too long at a Costco gas pump.

I got into my car and started rambling off to my grandma off about whether I should just make a hair appointment to get my hair straightened.

For the next week, I sat uncomfortable in Zoom meetings for both class and work wondering if people were staring at my hair the way the woman did at that gas pump, or if they were paying attention to class.

At work, I wondered if they thought that my hair was “unprofessional” for the work environment and would fire me.

All of these thoughts because I made the decision to wear the hair that has been growing out of my head since birth.

But in the Black community, hair is more than just hair, it’s a part of our identity.

JSTOR Daily mentioned that enslaved women covered their hair with rags, because the harsh weather was taxing on their hair. If you worked in the house instead of the fields, they would often have to wear a wig that mimicked the hair of their enslaver. In New Orleans, Creole women wore their kinks in various styles, so the city implemented the Tigon Laws and this required them to wear a scarf over their hair to signify that they were a part of the slave class, regardless if they were enslaved or not. The 1920s brought the invention of the hot comb that promoted straight hair courtesy of Madam C. J. Walker, which signified middle class status making it easier for Black women to find jobs.

The ‘60s sparked the “Black is Beautiful” movement, reassuring Black men and women that their facial features, skin and natural hair were beautiful as is. Activist Marcus Garvey argued that copying white Eurocentric beauty standards belittled the beauty of Black women, because they weren’t embracing their natural hair.

Shortly after, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, which made workplace discrimination illegal. But, workplace discrimination under the act didn’t include hair.

In 2010, Chasity Jones was offered a job from a company that she interviewed with, but was told that she would have to cut off her locs if she wanted the job. The hiring manager said, “They tend to get messy.” The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a suit on Jones’ behalf in 2013 and lost.

It was then taken to the 11th circuit appeals court and the case got dismissed.

According to Essence Magazine, the appeals court dismissed the case because of calls for the reinterpretation of race in Title VII. The call is for interpreting race more broadly, so that cultural characteristics of race can be acknowledged, too. The court didn’t want to be the first court to take this path.

Without this link between race and cultural characteristics, it gives companies like the one Jones had hoped to work for the opportunity to discriminate against ethnic hairstyles. This is one of many cases that involved discrimination due to natural hair, because the courts have been weary of the reinterpretation of race. The CROWN Act was created.

The CROWN Act of 2019 fought discrimination against race-based hairstyles. The law has been adopted by California, and Michigan has filed but hasn’t adopted the bill yet. The MiCROWN is a petition to help get the bill passed because it’s still sitting in the House, and needs to be moved to the Senate.

According to a Dove CROWN research study, 80% of Black women feel as though they have to alter the state of their hair to fit in at work.

It’s not just hair when there’s history and laws being placed to protect me from being discriminated against. No, I didn’t make that hair appointment. I kept the curly puff on top of my head because I liked my hair and if someone has a problem with my hair, there’s a lot of self-reflection that needs to be done. I understand that it’s a process and that it’s going to take a level of confidence for looks to not bother me anymore, but I’m diving headfirst into this with the help of my friends and family who have been on this journey for years.

The **CROWN** ActCreating a **Respectful** and **Open World** for Natural Hair.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATURALLY GORGEOUS CURLS AND THIAH MANAGEMENT  
The CROWN Act is still on the Michigan House floor, and is yet to be introduced the Senate floor.

## Police Files

### Unreadable Plates

An Oakland University Police Officer was on patrol in a marked police car near Meadow Brook Rd. at 1:00 a.m. on May 20, 2019, when they spotted a grey Dodge without a license plate enter parking lot P5. The officer followed the car in an attempt to read the temporary plate in the rear window. When the vehicle stopped at the traffic light at Squirrel Rd., the officer did not observe any writing on the temporary plate. The officer then conducted a traffic stop just West of the intersection and made contact with the driver, who was driving with another adult in the front seat and a three or 4-year-old in the back seat. Two additional officers arrived on the scene to assist with the investigation.

The driver said she lost her wallet and did not have any form of identification on her. She handed the officer an expired vehicle registration and said she was the owner of the vehicle. She also said her license was suspended, and showed the officer a picture of the license on her phone. The officer was able to confirm the identity of the driver and issued a misdemeanor arrest citation for driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance. She was granted permission to drive her vehicle and was released without incident.

Compiled by Ben Hume, Web Editor

## Police Files

### Kresge Library Scare

A student called Oakland University Police Dispatch on Oct 8 at 8 p.m. stating that she believed she saw a male subject walk out of Kresge Library with what looked like a possible firearm in a plastic bag. She gave a description of the individual and who she believed it may be. Two officers were dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival at Kresge, the two officers were not able to find a subject matching the description given anywhere around the library. The officer working dispatch advised that he would attempt to find an on campus address for the person matching the description. After reviewing the camera footage near the area, a person matching the description was found and was traced to his on campus housing address. When the officers arrived at the address, they found the housing roster and proceeded to the room of the subject. When they arrived, the person who answered the door matched the description of the person they had seen on the camera. They asked him if they could enter his room, and he allowed them in. On his desk was a computer part inside of a plastic bag that looked to be the approximate shape of a firearm. After deciding this object must have been the one that was mistaken for a gun, the officers cleared the scene and notified the library that there was no firearm.

Compiled by Ben Hume, Web Editor

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# Track and field teams open their 2021 seasons



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDENGRIZZLIES.COM

Briana Walker competes in a past meet. The track and field teams kicked off their season at the SVSU classic at Saginaw Valley State University.

## LAUREN REID *Sports Editor*

Oakland University track and field opened their 2021 indoor season on Friday, Jan. 15 at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) after 320 days off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maddie Leigh, Megan Nichols, Connor Goetz and Paige Sanders recorded first place finishes at the SVSU classic — with Leigh winning the mile, Nichols and Goetz placing first in the 5000m run and Sanders placing first in the long jump.

“After going through everything we’ve gone through, [things] have been put into perspective [this year],” Head Coach Katrina Brumfield said. “It’s awesome to be doing this, it’s awesome to be competing. [For sure] we want to win, [for sure] we want to hit those personal bests and bring home a conference title — but it’s also the enjoyment of being able to train, be around teammates and friends and have the opportunity to compete.”

The team also finished strong at the Mastodon opener on Saturday, Jan. 23, where they tallied 51 top-five finishes among both men’s and women’s teams.

Alex Hugh-Plott, Leigh and Lauren Christian earned Nike® Horizon League player of the week after the Mastodon opener. Hugh-Plott placed first in the high jump, Leigh finished first in the 800m and Christian won the shot put event.

“There’s a lot of depth in a lot of areas,” Brumfield said. “There’s a lot of athletes that have the potential to stay in the top of the conference and be big contributors.”

Amid COVID-19, Brumfield said it’s a challenging time, but the team is doing the best they can.

“[We’re] trying to take each day and embrace it,” Brumfield said. “You never know when there could be a pause in activities, so it’s definitely a challenge. The one thing that’s really holding us together is the fact that we’re sticking together and encouraging each other through it all.”

Brumfield mentioned she is really looking forward to the athletes “achieving everything they want to achieve this year despite all the setbacks.”

“It’d be nice to see Jimmie Williams defend his title, it’d be nice to see the freshman and transfers get that first championship experience,” Brumfield said. “I’m just looking forward to so much, and the core of it all is seeing the athletes compete and enjoy competing at the best of their ability.”

Track and field may be going to the Hillsdale Wide Track Classic (Feb. 5-6), but some of the team is currently on COVID-19 protocol, according to Brumfield.

“It’s not [certain] that we’ll be competing [this] weekend, but the following weekend is at Purdue Fort Wayne in Indiana — which would be our next competition for sure,” Brumfield said.

As of now, OU track and field is slated to finish up their season at the 2021 Horizon League Championships — held Feb. 26 to March 1 at Purdue Fort Wayne.

For more track and field news, visit their news tab on the OU Athletics website.

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# How I would win ‘The Bachelor’: A foolproof plan

**LAUREN REID**  
*Sports Editor*

Before I start, I just want to say I watch “The Bachelor” every Monday and listen to the recap podcasts every Tuesday. I joined Bachelor Nation when I was fourteen (a beautiful story, really) and genuinely wanted to go on the show one day — which is weird considering I slowly talk louder when talking to intimidating people. I’m pretty sure that’d get me sent home immediately, and I can’t straighten my own hair.

To win ‘The Bachelor,’ I’d definitely whip out a painfully dramatic fall and put my life at risk when I exited the limo — enough to make the bachelor himself concerned from a medical standpoint. I’m talking an aggressive landing on the concrete, followed by a roll or two and then best case scenario, a concussion.

The goal here is for him to rush over and help me up, boosting our connection right off the bat. Then, at the night one cocktail party, he’d have no choice but to ask me how I’m doing.

I’d also wear a really, really ugly dress, further putting my (social) life at risk but tell the bachelor it holds sentimental value. Not only does this help me stand out, but it gives me yet another conversation starter.

Sure, falling out of the limo in a disgusting dress could easily backfire, but it’s all about confidence.

After I get the first impression rose, which is a given considering my plan, I’m going to sleep for 15 days. This

way, production can’t pose me as the villain, the girls can’t roast me and the bachelor becomes increasingly concerned as to why I literally vanished.

After my 15-day hibernation, I plan on getting a one-on-one date (obviously), where I continue wearing my hideous but “special” gown.

On this date, I will bring a gigantic thesaurus with me so every time I try to use a stereotypical bachelor word or phrase — journey, vulnerability, opening up, etc. — I just flip through my thesaurus and use a similar but fresh word.

For example, instead of “I can see us spending a life together” I’ll say, “I can identify us allocating a duration collectively.” See how fancy that sounds? There is no way I don’t see this working.

After my picture-perfect, one-on-one date, I will get right back to napping because you know what the love experts say, absence makes the heart grow fonder.

I’d wake up just in time for the final rose: the one in which I’d clearly be receiving. Then, I’d throw on my “sentimental value” dress because I need to see that storyline through to the end so the bachelor doesn’t catch on.

When he proposes to me on a slab of wood that production threw up in the middle of a swamp — I mean beautiful pond — I will say yes and pick HIM up just to get myself trending on Twitter.

After the proposal we’d head over to Jimmy Kimmel, and you guessed it, I’m wearing that awful dress my



MICHAEL PEARCE

After years of watching, Lauren knows the secrets.

great-grandmother knitted and brought over from Denmark just for me \*wink wink.\*

All jokes aside, I’d last maybe seven hours on “The Bachelor,” and that’s pushing it. In the meantime, I’m gearing up for the next episode because I’ll confess, I’m in love with Matt James.

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