

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 45 | Issue 3 | Sept. 18, 2019

A GRIZZLY IN NEED

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Cesante Ward searching
for new kidney donor*

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announcer Kevin Beers

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PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



ALUMNI WEEKEND Golden Grizzlies from all generations came together last weekend for the third annual Oakland University Alumni Weekend on Mackinac Island, which promised “fun, fudge and fantastic memories.” PHOTO / ALYSSA OCHSS

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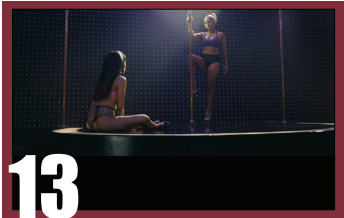
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An OU student is returning to campus after battle with cancer.
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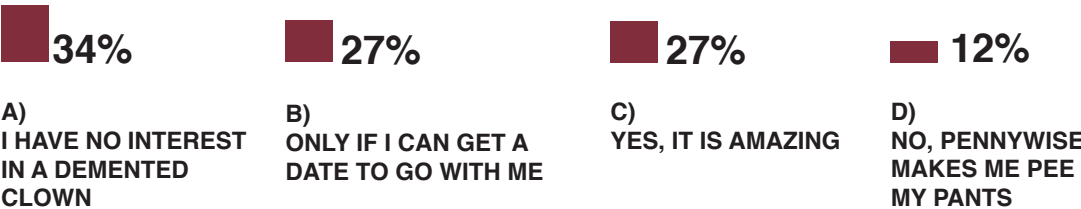
POLL OF THE WEEK

DO LIGHTBULBS MAKE YOUR SKIN LOOK ORANGE?

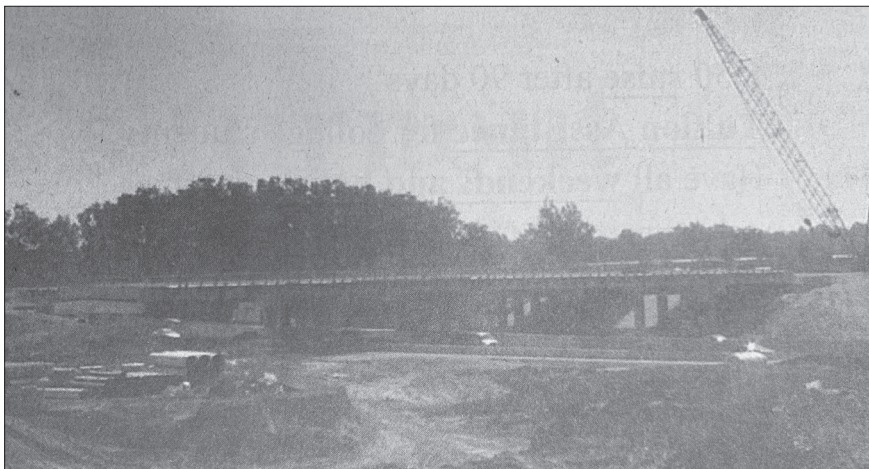
- A) ONLY CFL BULBS DO
- B) I LIGHT UP LIKE A CITRUS
- C) NO, I PREFER THE DARKNESS OF MY SOUL
- D) IS THIS A TRUMP JOKE?

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HAVE YOU SEEN "IT: CHAPTER TWO"?



LOOKING BACK



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Oakland students in 2004 were plagued by the same construction problems along I-75.

2004 construction projects affected campus commute

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

The trend of deeming some months of Michigan “construction season” has become popular due to all the roads that always end up needing to be fixed. Construction issues especially impacted Oakland University students in 2004.

At the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year, the plans for three new construction projects along I-75 were becoming an inconvenience for all students.

According to Louise Schilling, Troy mayor at the time, one of the ideas for this project had been in the works for 20 years. The goal of the interchange for Crooks Road, I-75 and Long Lake Road was to make the road wider to add a fourth lane each way coming from 8 Mile Road to M-59.

Some people disagreed with the construction projects and ended up forming a group called Stop Interchange Now (SIN). They ended up collecting around 10,000 signatures from people in opposition to the plans. The group then was planning to present them to the Troy City Council, in hopes of getting a non-binding advisory question added to the ballot in November.

Schilling tried to explain to the group that it was not up to the city to make the decision of whether the construction plans go through.

“It is a state and federal project and the city just purchases the right of way for it,” Schilling said.

SIN was not the only organization trying to stop the construction from happening. The White Chapel Cemetery was upset because the cemetery would end up losing one acre of property in the process because it runs along both Long Lake Road and I-75.

The second project that was planned was a long-term portation plan for south-east Michigan: the widening of I-75 to four lanes each way for an 18-mile stretch, from 8 Mile Road to M-59, but this project was announced not to happen until 2008.

“We can’t afford to expand I-75 right now,” said Tom Barwin, then-Ferndale city manager. “We have plenty of other roads that need to be fixed first.”

The other project started on Sept. 15, 2004, at the intersection of University Drive and Squirrel Road. Many students began complaining that the construction slowed down their drive to campus because this ended up closing down the main entrance of the campus. The students, faculty and staff who commuted had to find another entrance to campus in the meantime.

“There are many projects that go on in the city,” said Deputy Director of Public Services Ron Melchert when questioned about the timing of the project. “This is the way we managed to get the scope of the work — that’s the way it fell.”

Melchert already began to warn students about construction projects that would happen the next year (2005). While some of these projects may have seemed annoying to some students, they ended up making traffic flow easier in future years to come.

This spring, the construction carried on around OU with East Walton Boulevard having the inside lane in each direction closed for median restoration work, additional changes to curbs and gutters, and repaving the roads.

Construction continues on I-75 with lane closures to repair overpasses, adding a little time to the commute for students who use University Drive to come and go from campus.

CAREER SERVICES

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OU raises over \$19,000 for Bahamas hurricane relief

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

First came the storm. Then came the flood.

On the night of Tuesday, Sept. 3, Hurricane Dorian rocked into the Bahamas. Destruction followed in the Category 5 storm's wake, leveling and flooding the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco Island.

Among the hundreds of thousands affected were the University of the Bahamas (UoB) and its 600 registered students at its Grand Bahama campus. UoB put out a call for help to other higher learning institutions — a call Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz heard loud and clear. Wanting to help a fellow institution and Association of Governing Board of Universities and Colleges member, President Pescovitz made plans for action took place over the following weekend.

"There was a conversation with two vice presidents wanting to know if OU students were doing anything," said Jean Ann Miller, senior director of the Office for Student Involvement (OSI). "At that time, there were not, but the president really wanted to fundraise to UoB."

The result was Dollars for Dorian, a fundraising campaign to aid the hurricane-racked UoB. Announced via a Sept. 10 "President's Perspective" email, Pescovitz informed the OU community of the fundraiser's



SERGIO MONTANEZ | PHOTOGRAPHER
OU students donate to the Hurricane Dorian Relief Fund.

details: the drive would be active for 24 hours on Thursday, Sept. 12. Tabling would take place in the Oakland Center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. while online donations would be accepted through the "Grow Oakland" crowdfunding platform. Two more tables would be set up by Housing in the Hillcrest and Vandenberg residence halls.

Pescovitz would not simply sit and watch as the university she captains raised funds, stating in her email, "The Office of the President will contribute matching funds up to \$5,000 of the amount raised by the OU com-

munity. In addition, I will personally contribute up to another \$5,000."

Her goal was simple: mobilize one academic community to the benefit of another. The result was a snowball of generosity collecting more and more as the days rolled on.

"Any amount is better than no amount," OU Student Congress Vice President Julia Alexander said, urging the involuntarily thrifty college students to donate spare change if they could.

Chartwells also added \$1 and \$5 donation options to cash registers across campus. The athletics department pledged all tickets sales from the Sept. 14 women's volleyball and men's soccer matches.

Even the non-academic branches of OU's community stepped in. The historic Meadow Brook Hall pledged 50% of all revenue from Sept. 12 tours to the fundraiser. The OU Police Department turned minor infractions into meaningful donations with a cool \$387.55 from parking tickets and parking meters going to the drive. The Golf and Learning Center chipped in \$383 thanks to its own \$1-per-round fundraising.

By the end of the day over \$9,000 was raised across the campus community, triggering the extra combined \$10,000 from Pescovitz and the President's office. In total, OU raised \$19,307.05, including the matching funds from Pescovitz and the Office of the President.

Meadow Brook Hall hosting 'Downton Abbey' life tours in September

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

Award-winning series "Downton Abbey" from Julian Fellowes has made a comeback.

As many people have probably heard of a TV series called, "Downton Abbey," this historical drama contains the lives of the Crawley family and their servants in the family's Edwardian country house. Over its six seasons, the series received the honor of three Golden Globe Awards and 69 Emmy nominations in total, which includes 15 Primetime Emmy Awards. Thus, it made this show the most nominated non-U.S. television show in the history of the Emmys.

After almost four years since the last season of "Downton Abbey" ended, this show has now come out with a movie. It reunites all of the main characters from the TV series in a sweeping cinematic story about the king and queen visiting Downton Abbey in the 1920s. For those who are huge fans of the TV show version of "Downton Abbey," the upcoming movie is finding out what happened to the characters since the show ended.

The movie will be released on Sept. 20, but Meadow Brook Hall is providing an opportunity for people to experience "Downton Days" before the movie comes out to cele-



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Located right on campus, Meadow Brook Hall is one of the biggest attractions to tourists.

brate the release of this new film.

Meadow Brook Hall, a Tudor revival style mansion, is hosting a unique tour called the "Servant's Life" tour. This tour provides visitors the chance to see life as it was lived in the "downstairs" of Meadow Brook Hall.

Jill Moran, the manager of community events for Meadow Brook Hall, briefly explains what this tour is going to look like.

"The 'Servant's Life' tour is an hour-

long tour, and it's really a unique experience stepping back to history and gaining an insight into the life of the servants here at Meadow Brook Hall," Moran said. "This tour is solely dedicated to the servants' area and where they lived. So, it's a different part of the hall where they can get the experience."

Visitors will get a chance to see life as it was lived at Michigan's own "Downton

Abbey" when the head housekeeper invites them to be part of their staff.

"There are many similarities from the movie, you know, they have a very similar setting that it's in the 1920s and etc.," Moran said.

Through various interpretive events and programs, Meadow Brook Hall shares its most important legacy of the Dodge and Wilson family and their magnificent country estate on automotive heritage, social, family and regional history, and historical art and architecture.

"We are non-profit, and the hall operates as a self-funded auxiliary of Oakland University," Moran said. "And, the funds are used to carry out commission, which is to preserve and interpret its buildings, grounds and collections that visitors may get entertained, educated and inspired by history."

Unlike other tours, people not only get a chance to learn about various roles that servants played, but they can also actually put them into an action by using tools and techniques. Moran and many employees' preparation for these exciting tours will provide visitors a new perspective of the mansion.

"Unfortunately, all the tickets were already sold out, but we are hosting the annual 'Servant's Life' tour in February, for which people can buy tickets starting around October," Moran said.

Forums will allow student feedback on courses, teaching methods

KATIE VALLEY

Content Editor

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) will host its fall Students for Exemplary Teaching (SET) Forums on Oct. 3 and Nov. 20 for students to get a chance to express the positives and negatives they have seen at Oakland University.

The forums run for about an hour, with CETL Director Dr. Judith Ableser facilitating the events. Ableser said the forums help CETL to better support OU students, the center's biggest stakeholders.

"I know the university is about student success," she said, "and we feel that if faculty can be more successful with their students, then their students can be more successful ... We want to hear from the students what they think is important."

CETL provides resources and professional development to faculty, academic staff and graduate students to enhance "student success and learning by supporting the overall success of the faculty and the university community through pedagogical, professional and leadership development opportunities," according to the CETL webpage.

The objective for the SET forums is to create workshops and resources for faculty based off of student opinion, which the center has done for about seven years, according to Ableser.



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

CETL Director Dr. Judith Ableser, right, works with Dr. Kathy Schaefer at a faculty meeting.

There will be two forums this semester — the first with the general theme of "Highlights & Lowlights: Share Your Classroom Experiences at Oakland University" and the other exploring the question, "Do Students Cheat More in the Technology Age?"

At the "highlights and lowlights" forum, students will be asked to give feedback on teaching methods they have seen, effective and ineffective class strategies, and more. The "technology age" forum will explore the cheating scene surrounding the ease-of-access to online resources.

Student comments Ableser has seen include the positive use of Moodle for courses and reviews of lecture methods, though the forums do not focus on specific professors. Ableser said students should attend the forums because their voices matter and help the center understand further perspectives.

"We are up on the literature, we are up on best practices and that, but it's from an academic's perspective, not a student perspective," she said. "We want to make sure that we're incorporating the students' perspectives."

Elijah Sanders, Oakland University

Student Congress (OUSC) senior legislator and former Student Academic Support Committee member, has been attending the forums since fall 2015. He said he would like to see more students in attendance because CETL helps advocate for them.

CETL and the OUSC have coordinated to improve the student experience for years through student-inspired resources, according to both Sanders and Ableser. Sanders also emphasized the importance of students taking advantage of every opportunity to get their voices heard.

"Student activism and involvement is important, especially when engaging in the classroom," Sanders said. "If you do not get involved, you're kind of silencing your own chance to create a change and benefit yourself because ... [your professors'] job is to help you. Your job is to let the university know what your needs are, and CETL is one of the best ways that you can do that."

Sanders plans to attend the forum and use his stance as an OUSC legislator to draft a bill concerning important student issues, working with CETL to the extent to which he can be involved.

The forums are Thursday, Oct. 3 from 12-1 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 5-6 p.m., with lunch/dinner provided to students. Both will be in Elliott Hall, Room 200A. Students must register for the events at least a few days in advance via the CETL webpage, under the "Students for Excellence in Teaching" tab.

WRITE FOR THE OAKLAND POST

We're looking for contributors from

**ANY MAJOR
ANY BACKGROUND**

**Attend a staff meeting Mondays at 4 p.m.
or Tuesdays at 3 p.m!**

**Contact our Content Editor
Katie Valley at
kvalley@oakland.edu
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Graduates earn 4,380 degrees, certificates

TAYLOR McDANIEL
Staff Reporter

Picking where to go to college is a decision that can take research, commitment and financial assistance.

So, what would make someone want to attend Oakland University for that next step in their education?

If a student currently attends school at OU, they are one of approximately 19,000 scholars to have started in the fall semester. Whether a student is one of the 2,717 incoming freshmen, 1,409 transfer students or is continuing another year on campus, OU was chosen for a reason.

Director of Admissions Shane Lewis said OU offers many unparalleled opportunities.

“We have a phenomenal faculty who are experts in their field, who help their students get connected to experiences within a career field that is right around the corner,” he said.

Lewis also mentions an amazing student and residential experience, phenomenal scholarship and aid packages for students, clubs, career shadowing and on-campus jobs.

“[Students] can take the knowledge they’ve gained, the connections they’ve made, and use that to launch their career,” Lewis said. “You just don’t have that everywhere.”

According to the latest statistics from the U.S.

“

We have a phenomenal faculty who are experts in their field, who help their students get connected to experiences within a career field that is right around the corner.

SHANE LEWIS
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

”

Department of Education, 4,380 degrees and certifications were given out to graduating students at OU from the 2017-2018 school year. Almost 23% of those were in the health profession and related fields — making it the most popular program area of that year.

This continues to ring true for incoming students to OU. For first-time in any college (FTIAC) students, or many freshmen, roughly 265 have chosen a nursing major — making it the second most popular major behind business administration. Seventy-four of the new transfer students have also

selected the nursing major, while 105 have chosen nursing, but specifically the RN to BSN Completion program.

“We want it to be the most cutting-edge transfer situation in the nation,” said Jason Pennington, director of advising for the School of Nursing. “I say that with no irony.”

Coming in at No. 2 for the 2017-2018 school year was business administration with 806 bachelor’s, graduate and professional certificates earned. Business administration also continues to dominate FTIAC and transfer student majors — 339 and 196, respectively.

The third top major for freshmen was undecided — and that’s OK, according to Lewis.

“That’s the beauty of general education,” Lewis said. “It gives students an opportunity to really get their feet wet in a variety of areas before they kind of nail in what they’re most passionate about, what they want to earn a degree in and eventually what they want their life long career to be.”

The First Year Advising Center (FYAC) is also available for academic advising, helping first-year students determine what their majors or career paths should be and assisting with career assessments if necessary.

Lewis wants students to know that the advising offices at OU are here to guide them with the considerable resources available.

“We are passionate advocates for the transformative nature of higher education,” Lewis said.

News Briefs

Campus

The Fall 2019 Study Abroad Fair will take place at the Oakland Center on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Students, program directors and representatives will be on hand to answer your study abroad questions for any one of 300 programs in 45 countries. Freebies and refreshments will be provided.

The Fall Writing Marathon will take place from 5-8 p.m. and will begin in the Oakland Center on Thursday, Sept. 19. Pizza and pop will be provided as you explore campus, sharing things you find as inspiration for writing. For more information, visit the Writing Marathon web page.

The Brooksie Way will take place on Sunday, Sept. 22 and start at 8 a.m. Oakland University students, staff and alumni can register for the 12th annual race at a \$15 discount by going to the Brooksie Way website and finding the relevant code. Proceeds go toward health-related programs, activities and mini-grants.

National

Astronomers may have spotted an interstellar object entering our solar system on Sept. 10. If it is confirmed, it would be only the second interstellar object to be recorded entering our solar system. As of right now, scientists believe it is a comet. The European Space Agency is continuing to monitor the object to study its properties.

Atlanta Braves outfielder Charlie Culberson was taken to a hospital after being hit with a 90 mph fastball the night of Sept. 14. He exited the game fully conscious, with blood coming out of his cheek. He gave the crowd a thumbs-up as he was carried off of the field. The next day, Culberson was reported to be awake and alert, with some damage to the bones around his eye. He is still safely recovering from the injury.

Compiled by Ben Hume,
Web Editor

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LIFE&ARTS

America's got OU talent that's buzz-worthy

RACHEL BASELA

Life&Arts Editor

Detroit native British NiCole Burnett didn't expect to meet a man that would impact her life in her husband's barber shop.

However, life can be surprising in the way it unfolds, and Burnett found herself as a new vocal coach of the Detroit Youth Choir (DYC) since she met Anthony White in 2017, the man who has taken talented kids from Detroit to a golden-buzzer-worthy audition on "America's Got Talent" ("AGT") this year.

Burnett came to Oakland University after graduating from high school. However, she didn't know what she planned on studying, so after two years, she left OU and began working.

At an anniversary celebration at her workplace, she was asked to sing "Black Butterfly," a song by Deniece Williams. Burnett's voice left her coworkers in tears, and a respected coworker, who she considered to be a mentor, pushed her to take her talents to the next level. So, Burnett found herself back at OU, studying music education.

Upon her graduation in 2006, Burnett taught music at various schools in the metro Detroit area and performed in plays, including "Perilous Times," a play by T J Hemphill. She made connections through participation in plays that allowed her work in music, so when she met White, she was offered a position as a vocal coach.

"Anthony White and [my husband] go to the same barber," Burnett said. "So we met, and I had already been following Detroit

Youth Choir. I saw them on the news, I saw a lot of things they were doing and I really admired what [White] was doing. But, this was from a distance of seeing them on TV. I really wanted to work with them. When I met [White], ... he said, 'I've heard of you. I heard you were good at vocal coaching.' So, we started making arrangements for me to join the team."

Now at the DYC, Burnett does warm-ups with the choir, helps kids overcome voice challenges individually and in group settings, and gives suggestions to White on the production of the choir in regards to vocals. Burnett and the vocal coaches that direct the group share the responsibility of teaching different songs to the choir in preparation for concerts.

After contributing to the success of the group, seeing the children on a national platform receiving the highest compliment of the golden buzzer left Burnett at a loss for words.

"I heard about it before I saw it," Burnett said. "Mr. White called me, and he told me that they got the golden buzzer, and I was speechless. My heart was filled with an overwhelming amazement, joy, relief, gladness. It was just an overwhelming feeling because these children have done something monumental ... We know how moved and inspired they make us feel when we hear them sing, but to make America feel that way, too."

Host Terry Crews' and the judges of "America's Got Talent's" approval and admiration of the DYC was extremely empowering for the kids.

"We took them to the audition just for the



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITISH NICOLE BURNETT

Burnett and staff represent the Detroit Youth Choir in the midst of their "AGT" run.

experience," Burnett said. "They went and knocked it out of the ballpark. It was just a very good thing to see that the same beauty, the same awesomeness, the way we often say, 'You guys don't understand the power that you have,' to witness them prove it to themselves was a beautiful thing."

But here's the million dollar question: What will Mr. White and the DYC do with the prize money if they win "AGT"?

"There are two things that are very important," Burnett said. "Education for the kids — whether they put it away in a stipend or find another way to have it ready — it is important they have resources for when they go to college. It is important to ensure that their expenses are covered. The other thing is to have

a place of our own to rehearse. We don't have our own place."

Burnett shared her own advice to OU students who are pursuing an arts education similar to hers.

"At the School of Music, Theatre and Dance, the faculty ... have everything that you need to get you to your successful place," Burnett said. "But, you have to have a positive attitude and be open for growth. I was new to classical singing when I arrived. I had a lot to learn. Sometimes when people have accomplished a certain level of success, there can be a resistance toward the people who are trying to teach or train them. For me, being open put me in a good position. It allowed [the faculty] to pour so much into me."

Join us for a **screening** of a recent **Extinction Rebellion** video:

CLIMATE CHANGE: HEADING FOR EXTINCTION

(And What to Do about It)

Tuesday, September 24
Founders Ballroom B, OC Third Level
11:30-1:30pm
Bring a lunch and join us!

After the screening we will discuss future steps students and faculty can take to advance democratic responses to the climate emergency that include reductions in carbon emissions and environmental justice measures.

NOW HIRING: STUDENT STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer is responsible for communicating with staff reporters on what stories need photos, attending events to shoot photos and sending them to the photo editor.

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Position effective immediately. Interested applicants must send their resume, cover letter and work samples to:
editor-in-chief Trevor Tyle at editor@oaklandpostonline.com and
photo editor Nicole Morsfield at nmorsfield@oakland.edu.

Voice of the O'rena: Kevin B

Kevin Beers has been the public address (PA) announcer for the Golden Grizzlies for 15 years. Throughout that time, he has become a staple of the O'Rena, having multiple famous calls like "That's traveling, and you can't do that!"

But, Kevin is more than just the PA announcer. He wears many hats and has multiple jobs. He serves as the vice president for Rochester Community Schools and works at HealthQuest Physical as a public relations coordinator.

A natural people person, Kevin uses his communication skills in all three of his jobs. Whether it is negotiating deals with the superintendent, increasing HealthQuest's community visibility or making a crowd go wild, Kevin is always connecting with people.

He has been the voice of the Golden Grizzlies' game day experience since 2005, and throughout that time he has seen NBA players, overseas players and future coaches play on the blacktop. Over the past 15 years, the person he's seen grow the most is his son, Griffin.

"We had a huge rivalry with Valparaiso that we never were finally beating them that day. A guy traveled nowhere I said, 'Thaaaaat's traveling,' and without any all my mouth opened and out came, 'and YOU can't' was an instant buzz in the crowd, and there was one who looked over at me and just laughed out"

Griffin works as a team manager for the men's basketball team, and has been around Oakland basketball for almost his entire life.

"One of the biggest reasons he's going to Oakland is that he feels he grew up there," Kevin said. "I mean, I've been doing this since he was four years old. I'm thrilled he's there because I miss seeing him every day."

Kevin got his start in PA announcing after doing a radio show and coaching basketball at the high school level. Moving into announcing was a way to combine both of those interests.

He has many interests outside of broadcasting and sports. Becoming a professional songwriter is another ambition Kevin has had an interest in for years, that he is now starting to act upon.

"When I was 17, a girl named Sandy broke my heart," Kevin said. "I tried to write a song and it was terrible, the first couple of songs I wrote were just awful — but it was a great release. You can write as an emotional release, and that's where it has been valu-

able to me throughout my life."

After his closest childhood friend's death from Lou Gehrig's disease six years ago, Kevin expressed his love for his friend.

"The day after, I wrote a song that turned out to be that to turn to," Kevin said. "It was a collection of experiences that just helped me get through other people that would relate to me about."

He then connected with a local band that helped him record the song at a recording studio. When they got the song, it led him to look into songwriting.

Kevin looked into it, kept working on it, and made progress. One of his most recent releases was a song written by Blake Shelton.

A big Michigan sports fan, Kevin has worked for Sanders and Bad Boy Pistons at the edge of Oakland University. He has also worked as the PA announcer for



Beers sits with friends for the Golden Grizzlies game against Connor Thomas.

story by Michael Pea

Beers

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Oakland player
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member what I was talking

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orking at the craft and made
cent songs is under consider-

an, Kevin became a Barry
s fan, but had little knowl-
y sports before taking the
r the Golden Grizzlies.



Kevin making a public announcement at a men's basketball game next to scorekeeper Otis Kern.

Photo courtesy of The Oakland Press

"I had been to some games and worked a summer camp for Coach Kampe," Kevin said. "I knew enough, and back then it was pretty new in Division I still. The level of play has been phenomenal."

Since 2005, Oakland men's basketball has seen a considerable jump in notoriety throughout the college basketball landscape. Head Coach Greg Kampe has become a coaching legend, and the school is no longer just thought of as "Oakland, California?"

"That 2005 tournament bid was when people first realized Oakland University wasn't in California," Kevin said. "When they won back-to-back Summit League titles, that's when it really took off. That skyrocketed the program."

In 2017, Oakland faced off against Michigan State at Little Caesars Arena (LCA), in front of a crowd that set the LCA

record for a college basketball game. Kevin got to call that game, acting as if it was a home game for Oakland, despite being a neutral site with many more Michigan State fans than Oakland fans.

"That is my only call in that arena, and it was brand new," Kevin said. "It was packed, I was very surprised. What a cool experience that was. There were 15 to 20 times more MSU fans than Oakland fans, so I did everything I could to make it Oakland's home game."

Calling basketball games for 15 years has been a learning experience. Throughout his career, Kevin has constantly been thinking about how to connect to the crowd without taking away from the game.

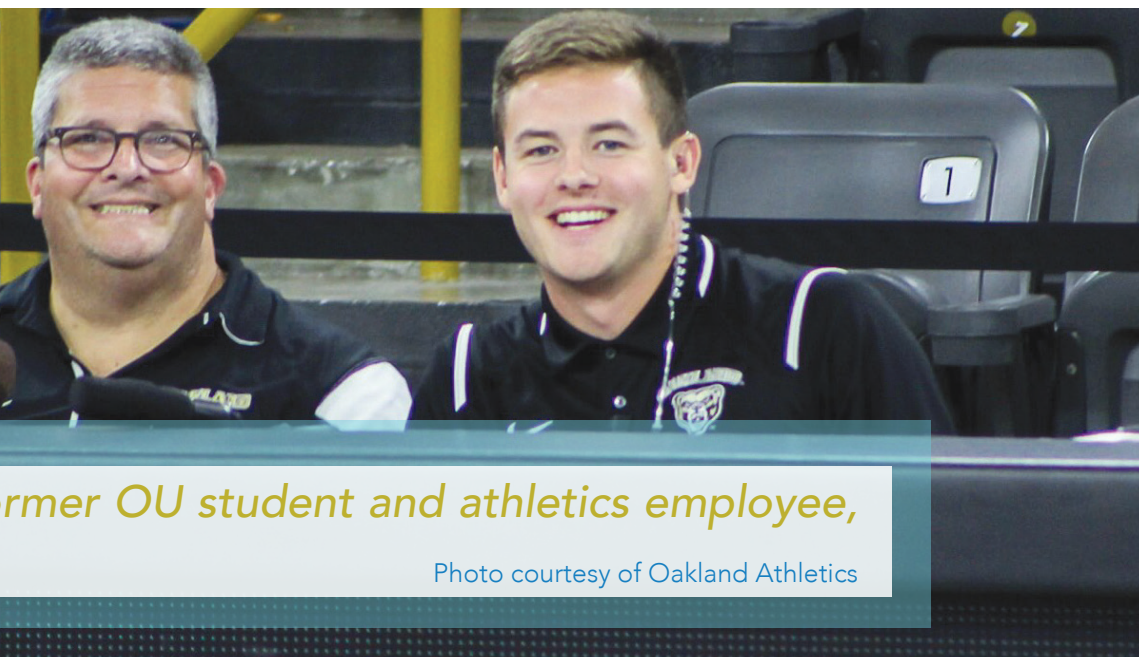
His signature calls come from a variety of sources. Sometimes players request a nickname or catchphrase, other times it's journalists or fans. Perhaps the most famous Oakland game day chant is "That's traveling, and you can't do that!" Where the crowd echoes, "you can't do that" with a pattern of claps.

That call came completely out of nowhere for Kevin. During a Valparaiso game, a player traveled. What happens next has stuck with the O'rena crowds and the Grizz Gang for years.

"It was weird how it happened," Kevin said. "We had a huge rivalry with Valparaiso that we never won, and we were finally beating them that day. A guy traveled, and out of nowhere I said, 'Thaaaaat's traveling,' and without any forethought at all my mouth opened and out came, 'and YOU can't do that.' There was an instant buzz in the crowd, and there was one Oakland player who looked over at me and just laughed out loud."

From a DI newcomer to a NCAA tournament threat in 2010 and 2011, Kevin Beers has seen it all. Throughout his time here at Oakland, he feels like he's an alumnus with how invested he is in the school. Most of all, he's proud of the school he represents and the athletic programs they have.

"What the program has become is so special," Kevin said.



Former OU student and athletics employee,

Photo courtesy of Oakland Athletics

orce // designed by Mina Fuqua // graphics by Jimmy Williams

Alum hopes for living kidney donor

Cesante Ward had his previous transplant fail three months after graduating in 2018

TREVOR TYLE

Editor-in-Chief

Twenty-three-year-old Cesante Ward was eager to pursue a career with his new bachelor's degree in human resource development when he graduated from Oakland University in August 2018.

But in the midst of "trying to adult," another obstacle was thrown his way — he suffered from a kidney failure.

Ward was born with chronic renal disease. As a result, his natural kidneys were underdeveloped and their functions eventually deteriorated over time, forcing him to rely on dialysis until the age of 12, when he received a kidney transplant.

Transplants from deceased donors, like the one Ward received, typically last between 10 and 15 years. Last December, that transplant failed, forcing Ward to go back on dialysis, which he believes is only a temporary option because of its potentially negative long-term health effects.

"College is already tragic enough," the now 24-year-old OU alumnus said. "Three months after graduating is when it all went downhill again."

Now Ward is looking for a new kidney donor.

"A lot of people don't know that they can live with one kidney," he said. "I'm kind of looking for a living donor, just because they last longer."

According to the American Kidney Fund, the average wait time for a deceased kidney donor is about five years. A transplant from a living donor, however,

can be scheduled within a year and typically last between 15 and 20 years.

However, the number of individuals in need of kidney donors far exceeds the number of living donors. As of January 2019, Ward estimated that, in the U.S. alone, over 101,000 people were in need of kidney transplants, with only 6,500 living donors available.

But desperate times call for desperate measures, and after six months of silence, Ward, a self-proclaimed introvert, saw no choice but to return to social media to spread the word.

"I despise social media," he said. "I was so uncomfortable getting back on it."

His first Facebook post received well over 200 shares, for which he was grateful. In speaking out about his own situation, Ward said he also hoped to raise awareness for others fighting similar battles.

"There's just a lot of people with disabilities you can't see," he said. "There's a lot of people that aren't even open about it, just 'cause it's so close to home. And I think a big part of just going through life in general is connections, especially in college."

Ward has been advocating for individuals with similar disabilities for much of his life. For years, he volunteered at North Star Reach, a summer camp based in Ann Arbor for children with serious or life-threatening illnesses. This year would've marked Ward's 11th year as a volunteer there, but the extensiveness of his treatments prevented him from returning. Currently, he undergoes treatments for three-and-a-



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTO EDITOR

Ward was born with underdeveloped kidneys due to chronic renal disease resulting in deterioration.

half hours, three days a week.

"It kind of just makes me think that petty stuff that we go through in college and everything is nothing," he said.

Ward spent five years at OU, during which he worked for the on-campus Barnes & Noble Bookstore, the School of Education and Human Services Counseling Center and University Housing. He also served as vice president of the OU Bowling Club and was involved with the Center for Multicultural Initiatives. He said his experiences

during his time at OU ultimately gave him the courage to share his story and advocate for himself.

"[College has] made me open up and talk to people," he said. "That's how I came to appreciate college life is getting involved. Otherwise, it's just crying on your scantrons to get your answers — wherever the teardrop lands!"

Ward said it's important for people to realize that donating a kidney is a big commitment and is a personal decision. Interested individuals will go have to go through an extensive interview

and several tests to ensure their kidney is compatible with the recipient.

"A donor is saving a life at the end of the day," he said. "That connection or bond between those two people is going to be amazing."

For more information, visit the United Network for Organ Sharing website. Those interested in becoming a kidney donor for Ward should contact the University of Michigan Transplant Center at 1 (800) 333-9013 or visit the center's website.

THE OAKLAND POST

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LIFE&ARTS

Student battles cancer and college classes

KATELYN HILL
Staff Reporter

The last thing a student might expect from their freshman year in college is a cancer diagnosis.

This, however, was the unfortunate reality for Clinton Township native Megan Ritz. The Oakland University student got her brain cancer diagnosis in May of 2018 — a diagnosis that was as confusing as it was shocking.

“It’s just so weird to me because you always hear about how people have lung cancer because they smoke cigarettes,” Ritz said. “All the risk factors didn’t make sense for me because I did everything that you’re supposed to do.”

After being told that she should not go back to OU, Ritz and Beaumont’s educational liaison Janis Traynor researched some options for the ambitious freshman. They soon came across online classes that Ritz could take through Macomb Community College (MCC) that would be a good route for the pre-med student.

These classes would allow Ritz to effectively battle her cancer while still

keeping up with school.

“Just because this [cancer] has got me down, it won’t hold me down,” she said.

Ritz said the classes she was taking were complex already, but taking them online added an extra level of difficulty since she had to basically teach herself the material.

Not to mention, she was going through chemotherapy at this time. Finals week was during one of her inpatient chemo sessions.

Side effects from the chemo have impacted her as well, preventing her from flexing her right foot, which will keep her from returning to OU’s Vitality Dance Club. However, Ritz said her experience with cancer was bittersweet.

“I spent my 20th birthday in the hospital and, even though I was getting chemo and it wasn’t great that week, it still felt amazing because I still had the support of so many other people around me,” she said. “I would say that even on the cloudiest of days, the sun will always rise.”

She said not only did her relationships with her friends and family grow stronger, she made some new friends among the Beaumont nurses as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEAUMONT CHILDREN'S
After her diagnosis of brain cancer in 2018, Megan Ritz is now in remission and returning to OU.

Throughout her journey, what kept her motivated was simply doing good and proving that she could continue her education while battling cancer.

“I want to prove that even though you are going through all this, that you can still do something with it,” she said.

Ritz is now in remission and has

returned to OU’s campus, continuing where she left off a year earlier. She said she is looking forward to being back at school, having her freedom again and putting everything behind her so she can move on with her life.

She is also really excited for the Vandenberg Hall tater tots.

FALL 2019 PAYMENT DUE DATE

**OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY**

The fall semester is here — start it off right and avoid any last-minute financial surprises by being proactive.

Reminder: the fall payment due date was August 15. If you haven’t paid your account balance in full, it is past due. Please contact Student Financial Services immediately.

You can avoid class cancellation (drop) by paying your student account in full. Consider all your financial options. An OU payment plan helps spread tuition and costs into smaller, more manageable installments and be sure to pay your installments on time. Obtaining financial aid, utilizing external sources, and/or using your own funds are other options for you. Know which charges can be paid with your financial aid (an authorization may be needed) and which charges you must pay out-of-pocket.

We are here to help. If you need help understanding payment options or how to pay for your education, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550 or stop by North Foundation Hall, Room 120, as soon as possible.

Payment
Due

LEARN how to avoid cancellation (drop) at oakland.edu/financialservices

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Across

1. Symbol of happiness
11. One of a holy 12
15. Emphatic turndown
16. Eleanor Roosevelt's real first name
17. Sierra Nevada peak
18. Fancy
19. Cut back
20. Connect
21. Cod catchers
22. Lower 10
23. Stable sound
26. Criticize
27. Its first vol. was published in 1884
28. Up to
29. "I Could Have Danced All Night" singer
31. Offspring
32. Like sloops
33. UK's "Computer Superstore"
36. First host of "How to Boil Water"
37. Ornamented
38. "The Devil and Daniel Webster" writer
39. Late bedtime
40. Good source of vitamin A
41. Sony/Comcast purchase

of 2005

44. Requirements
45. Phrase of acknowledgment
47. Butler's home, for a time
48. Lavish love
50. Progress impediment
51. Entourage
52. With nothing to do
53. U.S. World Heritage site
56. Red, for one
57. Careless
58. First male on the cover of "Vogue"
59. They're tuned in B-flat

Down

1. Shape up
2. Face on a \$5,000 T-bond
3. Sent out
4. Car loans, e.g.
5. Perry's creator
6. Indeed
7. Stoked
8. Settling down
9. On the way
10. Doc Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's"
11. Dupe
12. Receives, in a way
13. Welds

14. Memorable blond of pulp fiction
23. Is willing to
24. Sight starter
25. Charleston, West Virginia's airport is named for him
28. Bucks
30. Exam for some srs.
31. Film voice of Frank Oz
32. Legion of Honor recipient of 1881
33. Not too quick
34. Neck
35. The Rock or Triple H
36. Ancestor of Moses
38. Heron relative
40. Home of "The Inverted Pyramid"
41. Carter's predecessor as governor of Georgia
42. "The Third Man" author
43. Bourgeoisie
46. Hail
47. Papal headpiece
49. "Reader, I married him" speaker
51. Bernese or Northern Limestone
54. Tigger's best friend
55. Hostile sound

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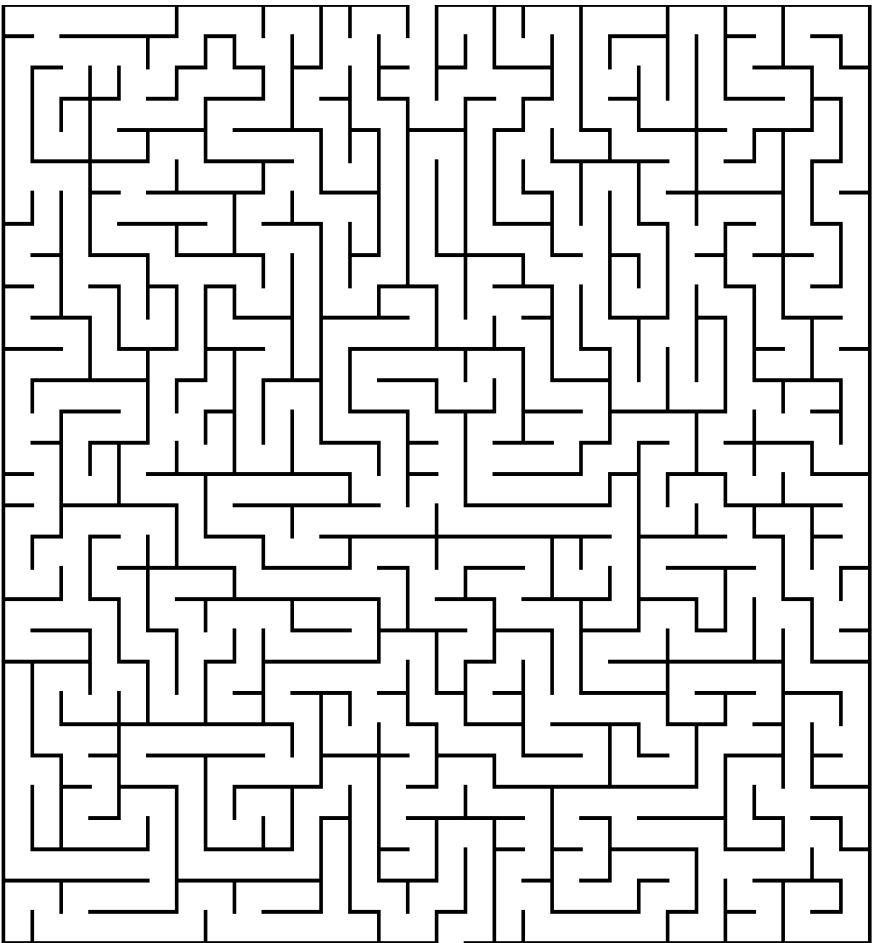
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'Hustlers' features compelling actors, creative song choices

TAYLOR McDANIEL

Staff Reporter

When I first saw the trailer for "Hustlers" a few months ago, I was instantly pumped. Constance Wu, Lizzo, Cardi B, Lili Reinhart, Jennifer Lopez, Keke Palmer — a powerful girl squad of brilliant, strong actors and/or singers working together to take down rich, white men.

Need I say more?

The film — based on a 2015 article called "The Hustlers at Scores" — has earned positive critiques so far. Rumors of an Oscar nomination are already being buzzed about for Lopez's — who trained for two and a half months before shooting to perform a full pole dancing routine that she absolutely nailed — brilliant and convincing role as Ramona. Lopez plays the ring leader of a group of strippers who manipulate, drug and then max the credit cards out of men — mostly regulars from the strip club, Wall Street guys.

"Hustlers" also had what the Los Angeles Times called a "killer soundtrack."

If you grew up in the 2000s like I did, you would have recognized — and bopped along to — almost every song that played during the film. The movie — which alternates between the past and present — even appropriately uses many of the songs for scenes matching the year the tune was actually released.

If you saw the trailer for "Hustlers," you would have heard Cardi B's "Money" play. As the film is about how



COURTESY OF IMDB

Lopez and Palmer in "Hustlers," a film about strippers. much moolah white men have and how the main characters try to finesse it, the song is quite fitting. Dorothy (played by Wu) even said toward the end she had been expecting there to have been a "magic number" of money that would have been enough for the go-getters to stop, but that time didn't come until they were forced to.

"Gimme More" fills the strip club walls as a montage

of dancing and making and thus spending a plethora of dough occurs. The Britney Spears classic enhances the theme of no amount of money ever being enough, while also being catchy and making my friend and I dance in our seats.

If you can believe it, Usher makes a surprise cameo in the movie. The best-selling artist of the 2000s decade plays himself as he strolls along in the strip club, throwing money in the air as "Love in this Club" streams through the speakers. The dancers put on a show for the singer as Ramona — an improvised moment from Lopez — leans down and asks him what his name is, "Usher, baby" being the response he gave. Obviously, because it actually was Usher — baby.

In 2013, when all of the women who participated in the illegal activity are arrested, "Royals" by Lorde can be heard. Now that the women are caught, they never will be royalty and are forced to give up the "fantasy" of having money and being carefree.

Other honorable mentions include "Beautiful Girls" by Sean Kingston, "Club Can't Handle Me" by Flo Rida featuring David Guetta, "Birthday Cake" by Rihanna and "Dance (A\$\$)" by Big Sean.

Whether you're going to see the newest drama/thriller for its kick-ass soundtrack, girl power themes or star-studded cast, the fact that Usher literally walks through a club throwing bills while his own song plays should be incentive enough for a trip to your local theater.

Rating: 4 / 5 stars

Height stereotypes come to life, but are overexaggerated in 'Tall Girl'

KATIE VALLEY

Staff Reporter

Netflix released its latest coming-of-age film Sept. 13, aiming to invoke another teenage feel-good message to viewers.

Called "Tall Girl," the film features main character Jodi Kreyman (played by Ava Michelle), her best friends Fareeda (Anjelika Washington) and Jack Dunkleman (Griffin Gluck), and Jodi's sister Harper Kreyman (Sabrina Carpenter), along with Jodi's love interest, foreign exchange student Stig Mohlin (Luke Eisner).

Growing up as the "tall girl," 6-foot-1-inch high school student Jodi cannot escape from the constant, burning question, "How's the weather up there?" She's bullied by many students at school, being called ugly and giraffe-like.

Her outlook on height changes, however, when she meets Stig — who's taller than her and from Sweden, where many women are tall — and tries to win his affection. She then realizes there's more to her than her height and to love standing tall.

The film shines in spreading a positive message to women who are tall and made the romantic comedy lover in me emotion-

al at times, but Jodi's struggles were a bit overexaggerated.

The self-love story can definitely be inspirational to women who feel self-conscious or are bullied about height differences. Nonetheless, height may not be the most pressing concern in a society where tall, blonde models are idolized. In elementary and middle school, towering over friends may have been a thing to be teased about, but in high school, Jodi's tallness is a unique trait that some people would praise in the modern world.

Jodi's physical features work against her, canceling out some of her issues with height. It didn't make much sense for her peers to be calling her "ugly" when as soon as she puts her hair down and wears some makeup, one of her former bullies finds her attractive.

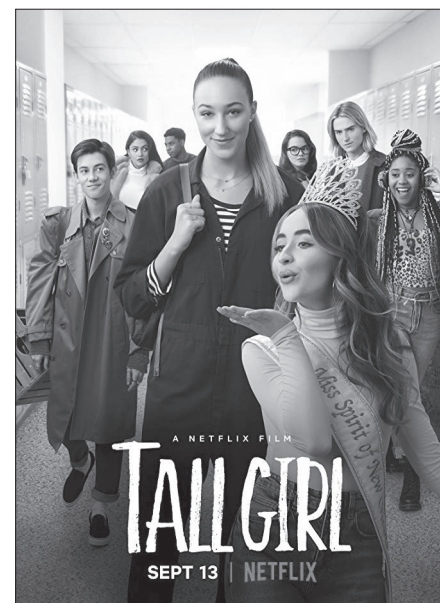
Despite issues with the seriousness of height discrimination, the film includes some strong points. It delves into the subtleties of height-based issues, such as Jodi's feet hanging off every bed she sleeps in, awkward tall person/short person hugs, bumping heads on doorways and even includes Jodi asserting to Stig how different it is to be a tall woman versus being a tall man.

From Jodi rebuilding her relationship with her literal pageant queen (and much shorter) sister Harper through seeking boy advice, to finding out her love interest is not who he seems, Jodi's life produces some feel-good moments.

One moment in particular involves Jodi's parents' efforts to help her feel more comfortable about herself. Her parents both being shorter than her puts them at a disposition: they cannot help her without "otherizing" her — or involuntarily overemphasizing her tallness. Jodi's father (Steve Zahn), in particular, struggles to empower his daughter, but a sweet moment at the piano makes for a happy scene.

Jodi's friends also support her throughout almost the entire movie, despite some hiccups in their relationship. Fareeda continuously strives to empower Jodi in her efforts to be OK with being 6'1", with both Jodi and Dunkleman coming to her to vent out their frustrations. Dunkleman's continuous pining sets him at an odd place: in a love triangle between him, Jodi and Stig — who lives at home with him — helping Dunkleman to emphasize his admiration for Jodi.

Overall, though "Tall Girl" is lacklus-



COURTESY OF IMDB

The film is about a girl criticized for height. ter in the "coherence" department, the positive moments make it more interesting, especially to someone who's a sap for romance. I have to admit that I teared up a couple of times when moments got particularly sweet.

Rating: 2 / 5 stars

Women's soccer falls 2-0 to MSU

DEVIN BOATWRIGHT

Staff Reporter

The stands were packed on a cloudy Sunday at Oakland University as the Grizzlies faced off against in-state rival Michigan State Spartans. After a tough back and forth game between Oakland and Michigan State, the Spartans came out on top with a 2-0 win.

Every seat was filled as the crowd set the second highest attendance record in program history, with 1,053 in attendance. As the rivalry game kicked off on Legacy and Alumni Day, the Golden Grizzlies had an aggressive start. For the first half of the game, Oakland took five out of their six total shots and marked four corner kicks as well. This effort and pressure was matched by last year's game against the Spartans where the Golden Grizzlies took eight shots and had five corner kicks.

Despite Oakland controlling the ball and taking lots of shots in the first half, the Spartans scored the first goal of the game in the 17th minute. Paige Webber of the Spartans scored her third goal of the year off of a deflection from a header. This would be the only goal of the first half.

At halftime, the soccer team gave recognition to all of the alum and legacy families that have come through the

women's soccer program here on campus. With thunderous claps and cheers from all around, the crowd had a resurgence and was ready to jump back into the action.

The second half was a trying half for both sides as there was not a single goal made until the 85th minute by Camryn Evans of Michigan State, who was assisted by the previous goal scorer, Paige Webber. This would be the game's dagger and Michigan State would walk away from Oakland University with a win on the road, extending their winning streak to three.

Coach Juan Pablo Favero commended the way his team played regardless of the outcome as they transition into Horizon League play.

"I thought we came out so strong in the first half," Favero said. "I thought we outplayed them in the first half for sure. The second half was a little dirty as far as possessions, we couldn't keep the ball as much as we should've. We played amazing, though, and there were many positives we'll take into this once as league play starts soon."

The Golden Grizzlies start Horizon League play Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. against Youngstown State on their home field at Oakland. The game will be on LGBTQIA+ Pride Night, sponsored in part by the Oakland University Credit Union.



SERGIO MONTANEZ | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Golden Grizzlies faced off against MSU on Sunday, Sept. 15 with the second highest crowd attendance record in program history. The Grizzlies fell to MSU 2-0.

THE OAKLAND POST IS LOOKING FOR

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SPORTS

Women's soccer leader to enter senior season

DEVIN BOATWRIGHT

Staff Reporter

Sierra Grodsinsky, a senior forward for the Golden Grizzlies women's soccer team, has made her mark within her team and this community. Her work ethic and passion for the game of soccer has led her to significant minutes at a Division I soccer program.

Early on in life, Grodsinsky had to make tough decisions to pursue her dream of collegiate soccer. She had to leave her friends and give up most of her high school experience to be dedicated to the sport. After joining Vardar North in her eighth grade year, Grodsinsky officially made soccer a huge part of her life, saying she doesn't regret her decision and it was the right move to make for her collegiate soccer dreams.

"Going into high school, that was a big commitment to make so early on," Grodsinsky said. "I'd be giving up part of my high school life, so to speak. Leaving my friends was also very, very tough. I ultimately made the decision because I knew I wanted to play Division I soccer and this was that step I needed to take."

In her junior season at OU, Grodsinsky led the team in shots, started in 12 of 18 games and recorded a game-winning goal against UIC on Oct. 20. Her 22 shots taken were a step up from her sophomore season, where she only took one.

Grodsinsky plays this year with her younger sister, Sydney, who is a freshman. Grodsinsky said playing with her sister now and over the years has always been amazing. Their bond as sisters is close-knit — and it stretches into the game as well.

"Something about being on the field with her — I can't explain it, it's just a sister thing," Grodsinsky said. "I remember one time in high school, she got fouled on the outside and we just looked at each other. She threw in a really quick pass and

I one-timed it into the corner. We didn't say a word to each other but we just knew what we were going to do."

Grodsinsky is proud of her sister, saying she has a "beautiful first touch," which was something Grodsinsky struggled with at first.

"I see so much of what I looked like playing in my freshman year in her as well," she said. "Being able to see her grow as a player, as a woman and helping her along the way when I can is such an amazing thing to be apart of."

The Golden Grizzlies played their in-state rival Michigan State this weekend, losing 2-0. Grodsinsky loves the fight that her team always brings to this rivalry game and expects to come out on top this year.

"We always show them that we are going to fight for this win," Grodsinsky said. "Every year we've come out strong and fast-paced, really trying to put pressure on them. I can't speak for them but I'm sure they felt as though this game would be easier than going up against another Big Ten school, so our mission was to go out there and prove them wrong."

The Golden Grizzlies team looks to defend their home turf against Youngstown State on Friday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.



COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS
Sierra Grodsinsky nets first goal of the season against UIC.



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Parafencing, which is fencing while using a wheelchair, is the first accessible club sport at OU.

Wheelchair fencing comes to OU

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Accessible sports have a long and storied history. It's about time Oakland University took a stab at them.

The Wheelchair Fencing team is a new team within the Fencing Society at OU (FSOU) that competes in parafencing, which is fencing while using a wheelchair. According to team captain Alissa Bandalene, it's the first accessible club sport at OU.

For Bandalene, parafencing was a no-brainer. She was an able-bodied fencer prior to becoming disabled, and when she heard about parafencing, she immediately wanted into it.

"When I first learned about it, I saw YouTube videos, I started researching a lot," Bandalene said. "And then I was like, 'Hey, I want to do that. Where can I do that or how can I do that?'"

But the nearest parafencing academy is across the state in Grand Rapids — too far for a regular commute — and local fencing academies did not give Bandalene a "real strong response" when asked about fitting in parafencing. So, she turned to the FSOU.

"I approached [FSOU] last year at GrizzFest, and they were really welcoming and really excited to be open to a new type of outlet in the sport," Bandalene said. "The coaches were incredibly welcoming and knowledgeable, and it turns out they had connections with the wheelchair fencing community already."

That parafencing connection is Alex Gioiella, an FSOU coach and senior referee for the United States Fencing Association. Gioiella first came into contact with parafencing in around 2014 when she met some parafencers at an airport.

"I ran into a [parafencer] I had seen a lot and we were joking around, and he said, 'You know, when are you going to come and play in our sandbox?'" Gioiella said. She was then invited to watch some parafencing

— "wheelies," as they called themselves — who encouraged her to become a parafencing referee.

Given that Bandalene is FSOU's first (and so far only) parafencer, the team lacked the proper parafencing equipment at the start. But Bandalene's daily wheelchair and a team-made wheelchair base of plastic desk chairs do for now, though Bandalene said they are working toward acquiring the proper equipment.

While Bandalene is the only member allowed to compete in parafencing events like the North American Cup in Kansas City, Missouri and the Parafencing National Championship in Detroit, able-bodied members take turns sparring against her.

While the uninitiated may think an able-bodied fencer has little need to practice with parafencing, Bandalene attests that this is not the case.

"[Able-bodied fencers] can focus on their blade work instead of their footwork because you are taking the footwork out of the equation," she said. "And when you are taking the footwork out of the equation and you are put in such close quarters with the other fencer, then you are really focusing in on your techniques with the blade."

The lack of footwork also forces fencers to use leaning rather than lunging to evade their opponent's jabs and thrusts. This is such a prevalent factor that parafencing wheelchairs include a bar fencers grab to assist in evading.

After a year with FSOU, Bandalene and the society are ready to open up parafencing to the wider OU community.

"We are very excited to welcome new fencers," Bandalene said. "Anyone can come, even if they have never fenced a day in their life. All you have to do is show up to practice, say, 'Hey, I want to learn fencing' and we will be like, 'Alright, let's get you started!'"

FSOU meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5-7 p.m. in the Recreation Center's Activity Room.



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Why marry a nice, pretty lady when you can have firepower to keep you warm at night?

An open letter from a proud gun owner

BEN HUME

Web Editor

It is a sad day in this great country of ours when another public space bars me from displaying my beautiful firearm openly for all to see. Today, the source of my insufferable sadness is Meijer. The store has decreed that guns like mine make employees and patrons of their store uncomfortable.

But I know the real reason they're uncomfortable.

I doubt it's the magnitude of killing power that my beautiful rifle carries — that killing efficiency is not meant for people, only for evaporating small rodents in my backyard. No human should be scared of my gun, because it is not meant to kill them. Their fear is a simple misunderstanding, which leads to a simple conclusion.

They are scared of our love. It is the only explanation I can muster.

The folks at Meijer have seen the care that I have provided for my sweet gun and they are afraid of how much I love her. My love for her knows no bounds — it rivals the love of Romeo and Juliet, Jack and Rose, Bonnie and Clyde. Eliminating my ability to be with my lifelong partner because you think you're uncomfortable shows that you are a coward and do not believe in true love.

This heartache that takes hold of me leads me to desperate measures. If I cannot show my heartfelt appreciation for my lover in public for all to see, I feel

I cannot perform my duties as a proper man. I will have no sexual use, my body would be nothing more than a pile of useless flesh. I will cease to function. I might as well castrate myself, for I will have no other lot in life. Taking away my gun is tantamount to killing me.

In fact, why stop there? If Meijer does not allow my expression of free speech, I should take them to the highest court in the land. I must fight for my right to express my love to whomever I wish, something that I am sure these Democratic sympathizers could not understand. I will dedicate my every waking hour to fighting for my equal right to marry my inanimate rodent killing machine, which is of course its only function.

If I am not able to secure my right to own a gun like mine in such a dangerous world, I would have to take drastic measures. Like every civil rights leader before me, I will be forced to take drastic measures to secure my freedom and safety. I will do anything for my one true love — because I know she would do anything for me.

If you are one of those who would stand between me and my happiness, know that I will go to any length to remove you from my life. Impeding my quest for equality makes you evil, an enemy of progress. You are not an ally of the good if you cannot see that God himself has blessed our union, the union between man and rodent-killing machine.

That is, of course, its only function.

The VSCO Girl Diet

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

Hello, my friends. One thing has come to my attention throughout my two years of college: I'm getting fatter.

So, with this being my new reality, I need to start dieting. I have recently discovered a new diet to embark on, and I figured I should share it with you all. It is simply called "the VSCO Girl Diet."

For those who are unaware of what a VSCO girl is, it's a girl who takes edgy photos of themselves and random things. This girl then uploads these 800 heavily edited photos to VSCO, a photo sharing app, to avoid clogging her Instagram feed and ruining her "theme."

I don't know about you, but my Instagram "theme" is just me.

The first tenet of the white girl diet is meal replacement. I know what you're thinking — "Michael, meal replacement is very common for people, especially for breakfast!" You're correct, but the VSCO Girl Diet is entirely based off of one drink for meal replacement that makes it unique: iced coffee.

Many meal replacement drinks are protein-based and have some semblance of nutrition. Not this one. Iced coffee is great, but has lots of calories, sugar and caffeine, which is all we need for this diet.

Drink your iced coffee for breakfast and lunch and do not shut up about it. Post a picture on any social media with a very annoying filter, and brag to all of your friends about how "you just drank

iced coffee for breakfast and lunch" and you're soooooo trendy and crazy at the same time.

Important aspect number two is to be vegan, but not really. You'll be a vegan when you feel like it. Understood? Good. Never eat red meat, but sometimes fish is ok. No pork, but the occasional mozzarella stick won't hurt anyone. Being a fake vegan is a truly important step. You want to seem woke, but doing the work to avoid all animal products is too much work.

The last step to achieve personal nirvana and aligned chakras is the most difficult of them all. You must eat very small meals whenever you do eat, no matter how hungry you are.

I don't care if you're starving. Life is a beach and you need a beach body. As Jo Bennett from "The Office" said, "You're too fat, no one's gonna like you if you're too fat." These are your words to live by. Every body is a beach body? NO! NOT FOR A VSCO CELEBRITY LIKE YOU! Your six followers and your uptight mother expect better of you. Eat half or less of everything you order, and then just throw the rest away. It is the most surefire way to stay skinny so you can fit into extra tight mom jeans.

Alright guys, well now that I shared my diet with you all, I hope to be seeing all of you skinny legends on campus. If you see me dying on a StairMaster, just know that my diet is working. I will see you all on Twitter ferociously live-tweeting "The Bachelor" as if anyone cared.



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Having a Hydroflask is guaranteed to help you achieve that legendary beach bod.