

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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PHOTO BY SERGIO MONTANEZ

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



HUMOR IN THE HABITAT Comedian LeClerc Andre performs at Thursday Night Mainstage in The Habitat on Thursday, Feb. 6. PHOTO / SERGIO MONTANEZ

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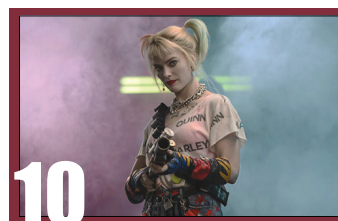
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Freedom Fighters 6.12 hosts event to help combat human trafficking
Photo/Maggie Willard



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Photo/Nicole Morsfield



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Margot Robbie soars in new female-fronted film "Birds of Prey"
Photo/IMDb

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

- A) GETTING SHITFACED TO FORGET I'M SINGLE
- B) OBNOXIOUS PDA TO MAKE SINGLE PEOPLE UNCOMFORTABLE
- C) RUNNING TO GET LAST-MINUTE CHOCOLATE AND FLOWERS
- D) THE ONLY THING I'M "DOING" ON V-DAY IS HOMEWORK ;)

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE SUPER BOWL?

21%
A) THE FOOTBALL

32%
B) THE HALFTIME SHOW

17%
C) THE COMMERCIALS

30%
D) THE ALCOHOL ... I MEAN, SNACKS

CORRECTIONS CORNER: Last week, The Oakland Post published an article titled "OU adds fall break to 2020-2021 academic calendar" that incorrectly stated the break won't be added until the fall 2021 semester. The fall break will be held during the fall 2020 semester from Friday, Oct. 16 through Sunday, Oct. 18. The Oakland Post apologizes for the error. We correct all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

LOOKING BACK

1989 BAM Inauguration celebrates black excellence

AUTUMN PAGE
Staff Reporter

In 1989, Oakland University kicked off the celebration of Black Awareness Month (BAM) with Jazz singer Ortheia Barnes and Free Press writer Susan Watson. Together they launched the BAM Inauguration ceremony.

The theme was “Communications and the Arts.” The idea was to encourage students to reach for the best, and highlight the contributions black men and women have given.

“When you accept less than best,” Watson, the keynote speaker, said then, “you are betraying all of those people who gave so much to get you here.”

Watson, who received awards like the United Press International award and the Associated Press award, was the first black city editor in a major metropolitan newspaper.

Watson felt strongly about how the media only shows one side of the black community: the failing side. She spoke about how the media leaves out “good, hard-working black folks who are making it day by day.”

Watson continued, warning all 150 students, faculty and staff present to be cautious of what they read in the media.

“Don’t accept everything that’s said about you,” she said.

Furthering that point, she told students to express their emotions about what they see in the news and media. She told students to speak out to the media. If they aren’t happy with something in the news, then they need to say something.

“Express your feelings. Don’t be afraid of challenge,” she said. “It’s worth fighting for.”

Watson brought some rhetoric into her speech, discussing how she’s tired of hearing about black leaders, then asked, “When’s the last time you heard about a white leader?”

She continued, asking the audience for names of black leaders. Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and the Rev. Jesse Jackson were two of the several named.

Then she asked the audience to name some white leaders, to which the audience remained in silence.

“Don’t know? George Bush, maybe?” she suggested. “But is he called a white leader?”

To finish her speech, she encouraged students to keep up their grades. Moreover, to hold off on partying until their school work is done.

Following Watson’s speech, Barnes performed her own song, “The Winner



COURTESY OF RICK SMITH PUBLICATIONS
Jazz vocalist Ortheia Barnes accepts the 1989 Focus and Impact award at the Feb. 1 BAM inauguration ceremony.

in You.”

Barnes had been performing regularly at night clubs in Detroit for over a decade and hosted her own radio and cable shows.

She has performed for a variety of people and at many places, such as dignitaries like Pope John Paul II and Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

The ceremony wasn’t just for the students, faculty and staff, as Watson, Barnes and four others received the 1989 Focus and Impact Award. This award is only given to outstanding men and women role models.

The other four included Robert Fink, an OU counseling director; Earl Klugh, a guitarist from Detroit; Carl Owens, a Detroit artist; and Robert Donald, an OU associate professor in English, who had died the previous December.

Both Watson and Barnes received a \$300 honorarium for their roles in the ceremony. Watson donated all \$300 to OU’s financial aid fund for books and supplies.

Today, African American Celebration Month is still popular among campus. The Center of Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) hosts an opening ceremony in the Oakland Center every year. This year, from Jan. 20 through Feb. 20, dozens of events have been held, all hosted by different groups on campus.

More information can be found on the CMI’s website.

POLICE FILES

Beamer burnout

Oakland University Police Dispatch received a call from the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office on Jan. 7 that a caller had reported a black BMW parked in P36 was smoking and possibly on fire. Two officers and the Auburn Hills Fire Department (AHFD) responded to the call.

Upon arrival, the officers observed the vehicle to have a large amount of smoke coming from the front and flames began to come from the bottom of the BMW. They asked all pedestrians within the area to leave the scene and confirmed no one was in the burning vehicle.

While on the scene, the driver of the GMC that was parked next to the BMW came out from the Engineering Center to inquire about his vehicle. He observed that the driver side of the GMC began to ignite shortly after he arrived on scene. He expressed that he had valuable items in his truck that he wanted to retrieve, but the officers advised him to remain at a safe distance until AHFD cleared the fire.

AHFD then arrived on scene and began extinguishing both cars that were on fire. During this time, the owner of the BMW came out of class and realized that it was his car that had ignited and caused damage to the GMC parked next to his car.

In an interview with the owner of the BMW, the officers asked if he had left anything running in his vehicle or if he smoked any substance in his vehicle. The owner said no to both questions. They then asked him if his car had an automatic start function that could have malfunctioned. He also said no to that.

After putting out the fire, AHFD analyzed the inside of the BMW and came to the conclusion it was an accidental fire caused by a battery issue inside the BMW. The two cars were towed and the scene was cleared.

*Compiled by Ben Hume,
Web Editor*

THE OAKLAND POST

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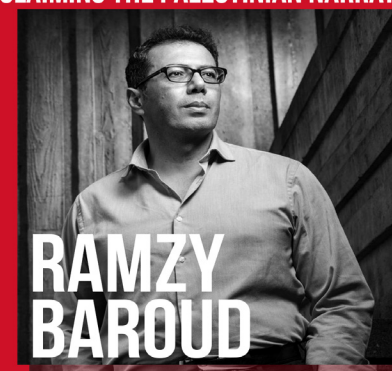


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‘THE LAST EARTH’

RECLAIMING THE PALESTINIAN NARRATIVE



February 18th, 2020
Oakland Center Banquet Room A
Doors open at 6:00pm | Lecture begins at 6:30pm

OUSC announces candidates for 2020-2021 school year

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

The candidates for Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) have been announced.

At the Wednesday, Feb. 5 election kickoff, the candidates for OUSC president, vice president and legislators gave speeches outlining their platforms, goals and why they should earn OU's vote.

Ethan Bradley, a sophomore studying political science and philosophy, is the sole presidential candidate. Currently the legislative affairs director for OUSC and a Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) fellow, Bradley has spent the fall 2019 semester helping students. He is also working with the Center for Civic Engagement to hold a mock caucus on March 3 and organize debate watch parties.

Annabella Jankowski, a sophomore double majoring in international relations and Japanese language and literature with a minor in LGBTQIA+ studies, is running alongside Bradley as vice president. She is involved in various organizations across OU, most recently as the student services director for the current OUSC administration.

"One of the main initiatives our administration would like to pursue pertains to increasing mental health services on campus," Jankowski said. "This would involve adding more hired positions at the Graham Counseling Center to reduce wait times and reviving the iPause program to help students manage stress before going to the Counseling Center."

Other initiatives proposed by Brandley and Jankowski include reintroducing transfer meals, expanding dining options, refining the grading system and providing students with textbook relief. A forum for the president and vice president will be held on March 3 at 12 p.m.



SAM SUMMERS | PHOTOGRAPHER

Candidates for Oakland University Student Congress are announced at the elections kickoff Wednesday, Feb. 5, in The Habitat.

The candidates for OUSC legislators are Dylan Pescarolo, Stephanie Recknagel, Brisilda Musaka, Chantell Phillips, Makarila Gtaston, Natalie Bielecki, Jeremy Johnson and Elijah Sanders.

Pescarolo is the current OUSC steering chair legislator and the vice president of the College Republicans OU chapter. The sophomore is running to change the grading system and make it easier for people to get into OUSC by lowering the minimum signatures required to be on the ballot.

Musaka is a pre-medical student, a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and the secretary of the Mission: Kindness OU chapter. As a legislator, Musaka plans on increasing the visibility and amount of automated external defibrillator (AED) devices on campus, as well as increasing medical emer-

gency training for faculty and staff.

Gaston is a freshman majoring in journalism. She served on her high school's student congress and is focusing on making OU's academic dishonesty policies clearer to incoming students.

Johnson is a freshman and a political science major. His main goal is to improve student mental health by overhauling the Counseling Center and increasing the advertising for peer mentors.

Bielecki is a junior studying public relations and strategic communication who serves as a resident assistant, the marketing coordinator for the National Residence Hall Honorary and works in the ID Card office. In line with her studies, Bielecki plans on overhauling the OUSC's marketing efforts. She also plans on advancing sexual health education and support on campus.

Phillips is a first-year student majoring in communication and plans on using the legislator position to expand mental health awareness, as well as increasing the diversity of campus life by adding more activities for people with disabilities.

Two of the candidates, Recknagel and Sanders, were not at the kickoff to give a speech. Sanders is an OUSC senior legislator with goals to increase OUSC cooperation with Greek organizations, unite political clubs like the College Republicans and Student Democrats, and campus media organizations. Recknagel served as an OUSC judiciary committee chair and plans on increasing cooperation within OUSC, as well as giving students more opportunities to give OUSC their input.

Despite being presented at the kickoff, all of the candidates will need to obtain a minimum number of signatures to be on the ballot. The election will be held March 6-13 online through Engage.

Kindness Week celebrates value of simple, generous acts

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

The Office for Student Involvement's (OSI) annual Kindness Week will be in full force from Monday, Feb. 10-Friday, Feb. 14, with various events taking place throughout the week. From service projects to therapy dogs, the OSI plans and implements activities with one central goal in mind — spreading kindness.

"We are looking for ways to teach others to be kind," said Daryl Blackburn, graduate assistant of leadership and service programs. "We know that [the weeks leading up to spring break] are more stressful weeks with testing and homework, so we pick this week to end on a happy note."

On Monday, the OSI hosted its ExpLOuration Series, where participants discovered their leadership styles.

According to Blackburn, the ExpLOuration Series enables students to "compare their leadership style to their kindness style, giving them more ways

to be kind in those positions."

On Tuesday, therapy dogs were in the OSI office for "Dog Days of Winter." Participants were able to relax and hang out with the dogs, as well as snack on puppy chow and other "pet related" foods.

Oakland University Day of Kindness is Wednesday, Feb. 12. This is an all-day event from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. that will take place in the Oakland Center (OC) ballrooms. According to Blackburn, tables will be set up all around for participants to make service projects for donation.

"In this case, we are showing kindness not only at OU, but in the community," Blackburn said.

He enjoys how outreach spans beyond one campus, as everything made is donated to various nonprofits and organizations.

Cocoa, Cookies and Kindness is Thursday's event, located in Kresge Library. Students, faculty and staff can swing by and grab a free treat as the OSI continues its mission to spread joy and comfort.

"Students love free food, and I know I

do, too," said sophomore Sarah Pasco, a student assistant at the OSI. "Overall, I'm really looking forward to Kindness Week, there are a ton of fun things to do."

The OSI is introducing a new event this year as well with card writing and decorating Friday, Feb. 14. According to Blackburn, students can write a card of kindness to others on campus from and the OSI will deliver them to various departments and offices. The card writing will take place in the OSI office on the lower level of the OC from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aside from Kindness Week activities, exclusive T-shirts are being given away throughout the week. To be entered into the T-shirt drawing, students must grab a Kindness Week punch card and attend three out of the five events to snag some limited merchandise. Participants can stop by anytime to pick up a punch card or try their luck, as T-shirts will be handed out randomly at most of the week's events.

When it comes to the main intention of Kindness Week, Blackburn stressed the

importance of simple, generous acts.

"There are just so many ways that we can be kind to each other and the community" he said. "Doing one of these activities during the week, or everything, is a small act of kindness that makes our community better."

For more information on the OSI and volunteer opportunities, visit its website.



KIM SAILS | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students explore leadership styles during the OSI ExpLOuration Series on Monday, Feb. 10.

Freedom Fighters work to raise human trafficking awareness

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

Freedom Fighters 6.12, an Oakland University-based organization raising awareness on human trafficking, held an event Wednesday, Feb. 6 to discuss potential career paths in combatting this matter. Board members Melinda Movius, Parker Nevicato and Abishek Bagare discussed various careers that work to help survivors and recognize victims of human trafficking, such as jobs with nonprofit agencies and organizations, legal professions, federal government agencies and law enforcement.

“Our group exists to raise awareness about human trafficking among the student body and help at-risk or trafficked individuals by supporting local anti-human trafficking organizations,” said Movius, who is currently serving as the organization’s president.

A few local nonprofits were brought up during the presentation, including the Michigan Abolitionist Project which works to educate people on human trafficking and encourage them to take action, as well as the Joseph Project that aims to make a difference on the legal end.

During the event, Movius stressed the idea that regardless of one’s career, it is possible to come across a victim of human trafficking. Learning the signs and staying knowledgeable could be of benefit for anyone.

“Even communication or graphic design majors are needed by companies to create graphics or videos that spread awareness,” Movius said. “These people could make a world of difference.”

The importance of specific training to recognize victims of human trafficking was also touched on, especially for law enforcement. According to Nevicato, the organization’s vice president,

when law enforcement work through this specified training they score higher on victim identification. Nevicato discussed federal agencies as well and how they often work to provide resources to smaller organizations.

To conclude the presentation, Movius mentioned that attending awareness events is a great way to “be more educated [on human trafficking] than the average person” and recommended that everyone learn more.

In regards to the Freedom Fighters 6.12 in general, the organization is currently embarking on a new project.

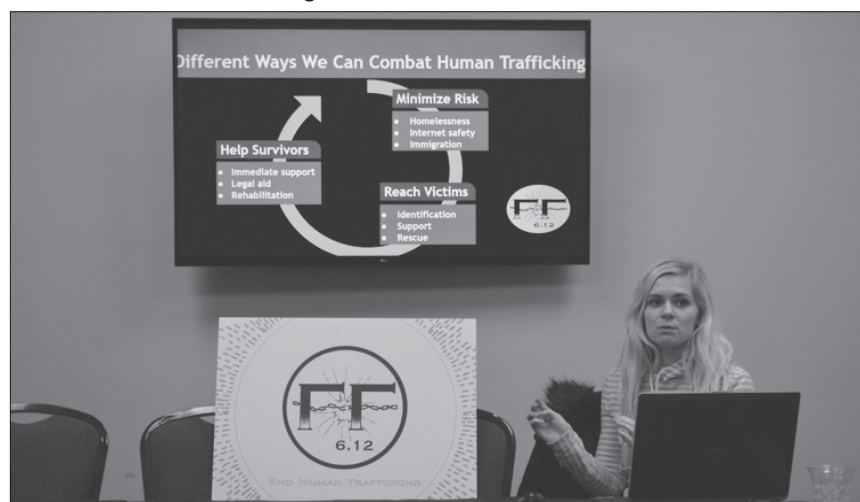
“This semester, we are partnering with SOAP Project at OU Day of Kindness (Wednesday, Feb. 12) to make soap bars labeled with the national human trafficking hotline,” Movius said. “We know of so many people [and organizations] who are doing good work and want to support them.”

These soap bars will be distributed to hotels.

Raising awareness is a primary goal of the organization, and according to Nevicato, “knowing what to look for but also having the ability to educate people on what to do once they are educated,” is a way that the Freedom Fighter’s work to accomplish that feat.

Bagare, the organization’s treasurer, feels that he is making a difference with the Freedom Fighter’s and mentioned that, regardless of his major, “what [he] is doing for the community is what defines [him].”

OU students interested in being a part of the Freedom Fighters are welcome. For more information, follow the organization’s Instagram, @freedomfighters6.12, or search “Freedom Fighters 6.12” on Engage for a list of upcoming meetings and events.



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTO INTERN

OU-based organization Freedom Fighters hold an event to discuss career paths for helping victims and survivors of human trafficking Wednesday, Feb. 5.

CETL Learning Tips: Office hours — should I go?

JENNIFER COON

Special Lecturer

You likely know about office hours, but might avoid this unfamiliar ground. This week’s learning tip comes from Jennifer Coon, a writing and rhetoric instructor here at Oakland University who voices how many faculty feel as they wait with their door open for a student to stop by.

Should I go to my professor’s office hours?

Q: You are doing well in this class. All your assignments are in. You like the content and you’re even thinking about changing your major.

A: YES! Why not look to your professor as a mentor or suggest a research collaboration?

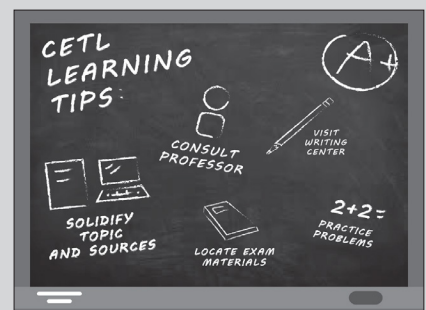
Q: You’re thinking of dropping this class. You are missing several assignments, the content is just not clicking and you’ve got several work schedule conflicts.

A: YES! Don’t drop a class without talking to a professor or adviser first. You might have different impressions of your progress.

Q: You’re doing OK in this class. One low test score. Perhaps you’re unclear about a few small details, but you’re doing OK. No big deal.

A: YES! Get clarification on unclear topics and set a plan to finish the semester successfully.

Visiting your professor during their office hours or “student hours” might seem intimidating, or maybe like a waste of time, or perhaps bothersome.



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Choosing to go to your professors office hours is always a great way to improve.

Whatever the reason, you should know professors are waiting for you. Our role is to listen; to help you develop an agreeable work plan; to model behavior and decorum for this type of (new) relationship; to move you to take action; to talk about your research; and to plan collaborations. The door is open to you because you are the reason we are here. We want you to be successful, and students who visit professors outside of class are infinitely more successful than those who don’t.

Meeting face-to-face might seem outdated due to the technology we use for quick and frequent communications, but nothing beats the give-and-take of a conversation, especially when you are trying to understand a complex topic in your own way. Your role is to question (everything); to make a plan for success; to practice advocating for yourself and your interests; to even look at this as a chance to mirror a meeting with future employers; and to gather clarification that neither books nor Moodle can give.

After extended absences or problems with coursework, you might want to reestablish yourself in the eyes of the professor as someone who really is committed to this class. In the face of group projects, you might bring a classmate or classmates to office hours. Small group conferences can be incredibly beneficial to all involved.

Today, these office hours might be face-to-face, on cell phones, virtual by use of Skype, Google Meet or FaceTime, or on a platform like WebEx. Some professors have open door/walk-in hours, while others schedule appointments. Professors list their office hours/location on their syllabi, on their doors and (some) list them on their Moodle course page.

No matter the format, know that ultimately, our interest in you helps elevate your interest in the class and the coursework. So, engage us. The door is open.

Jennifer Coon teaches writing and rhetoric at Oakland University. If you would like to contribute a learning tip to this column, contact Christina Moore at cmamoore@oakland.edu.

Author of 'Have Dog, Will Travel' visits campus

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

A man with his guide dog visited Oakland University on Tuesday, Feb. 4 to share his extraordinary life stories with faculty and students.

Stephen Kuusisto, author of "Have Dog, Will Travel," is a blind American poet and writer. To share his life experience with his guide dogs and provide advice to the members of the Future Leader Dog Club at OU and people with interest, he presented a speech.

The evening started with an introduction led by the dean of the Honors College, Dr. Graeme Harper, to welcome Kuusisto, presenting the Humanitarian Award, along with a short presentation from Ann Fuelle, the president of the Future Leader Dog Club.

During his one-hour speech, Kuusisto shared the prologue of his memoir with the audience, with additional life stories he had faced that were far from normal.

Olivia Laconis, a freshman at OU and a member of the Honors College, shared her feelings after meeting the author of the book, as she had already read it for the HC 1000 class.

"Seeing Kuusisto in person after reading

his book was surreal," Laconis said. "I feel like I know him on such a personal level despite never meeting him before. He is so vulnerable and open in 'Have Dog, Will Travel,' and this rawness made me connect deeply with him while I was reading his book. I greatly enjoyed his visit to Oakland, and I'm grateful that I was given the opportunity to meet him."

"Have Dog, Will Travel" is a vivid and lyrical memoir in which Kuusisto recounts how an incredible partnership with a guide dog and wondrous adventures with it changed his life — a so-called "a keen affection between the dog and him, a mutual discernment."

As a man with blindness since birth, Kuusisto said his early life was full of disaster and obstacles. He said blindness was perceived as a disease in his childhood.

"Disability has long been defined in terms of illness," Kuusisto said. "This medical model tends to overlook the very real attributional barriers in our society that are the driving force behind people with physical impairments in reality."

To overcome the difficulties he was faced with, the first step he took was to accept his blindness and get a guide dog at the age of 38. In his memoir, rather than describing blindness as an extraordinary or mythical experi-



RACHEL YIM | STAFF REPORTER

Stephen Kuusisto discussed his memoir and his experiences with blindness.

ence, he described it as an everyday discovery.

"Listening to Kuusisto's speech really made me realize that 'Have Dog, Will Travel' isn't just a story, it is his life," Laconis said. "I think it's easy for people to read a memoir like his and treat it like a story, but the truth is that there is a person behind it who lived it. I think it's important to treat everyone with respect and kindness because you don't know what they're going through."

Though accepting one's own disability and overcoming it can be a challenge for many people with disabilities, Kuusisto said he hopes to inspire others in the blind community to get courage and have confidence in their life to tell their own stories.

"I believe that the lives of blind men and women are steep and often brilliant," Kuusisto said.



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OUPD Lieutenant Thompson named to Oakland County's Elite 40 under 40

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

A trailblazing Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) officer has been recognized as one of Oakland County's elite young professionals.

OUPD Lieutenant Nicole Thompson, the department's first female and youngest commanding officer, was named one of Oakland County Executive David Coulter's Elite 40 under 40 class of 2020.

"It is an honor just to be selected," Thompson said. "As I was looking through the list of the top 40 under 40, these are some amazing leaders in their organizations and their community, so to even be associated with them is just quite the honor. Once I found out, I was super proud and excited to go home and tell my two young daughters, 'Mommy got an award.'"

Nominated by Holly Demchak, assistant to the chief of police, Thompson was one of about 250 applicants. After three rounds of review, she was selected as one of the final 40 and invited to the County Executive's State of the County address Wednesday, Feb. 12 in Pontiac.

Thompson's calling to police service might seem obvious to those who know her. Almost everyone in her family is on one police force or another.

"My dad is the chief of police at an agency in Macomb County, my husband is a police officer, my brother and my sister-in-law



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTO EDITOR

OUPD Lieutenant Nicole Thompson is the department's first female and youngest commanding officer.

are police officers in Florida, my two other brothers-in-law ... one is in Livingston County, the other is a Michigan State Police trooper," Thompson said. "You know that 'Blue Bloods' show? It is like we are in an episode of that."

Growing up with her father as a police officer, Thompson was able to see the ins and outs of police life. This led her down the path of earning a criminal justice degree from Michigan State University in 2004

and completing a police academy at Ferris State later that October.

"Right after the police academy, I started applying for jobs, and I actually interviewed with the OUPD and the Utica Police Department," Thompson said. "The previous [OUPD] chief, Chief [Samuel] Lucido, offered me the job, and ever since 2005, I have been here."

Thompson started her OUPD career as a road officer, directly carrying out

law enforcement tasks. During this time, she helped train other OUPD officers, worked as an evidence technician and engaged with whatever tasks she could. One notable arrest from this time saw a wrong way traffic stop turn into three arrests and a haul of firearms and drug paraphernalia.

Since becoming one of OUPD's leading officers, Thompson spends less time behind the wheel of a cruiser and more time behind the scenes of the department's operations. Thompson is in charge of the OUPD's dispatching, training, screening new officer applicants to make sure they are up to Michigan standards, maintaining the department's vehicle fleet, making sure the department is compliant with the Clery Act, and handling OUPD relations with OU faculty, staff and offices, such as the dean of students and its Grizzlies CARE Team.

"Right now, I find fulfillment engaging with all those other areas on campus," Thompson said. "Some of my favorite areas [to work with] are [the] Lowry [Center] and OUCARES."

Community involvement is one of Thompson's favorite parts about being a lieutenant. Aside from getting to work with the myriad other departments and organizations at OU, she also manages programs like "Toys for Tickets" in the winter and donating toiletries to veterans.

"I love interacting with some of the most amazing people here at OU," Thompson said.

Global Festival engages multiple cultures of the community

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

The first annual Global Festival brought Oakland University's campus together to celebrate the different cultures present at the university.

The festival, presented by the International Allies Organization (IAO), took place Friday, Feb. 7 and featured cultural performances and various multicultural clubs and organizations from within and around OU.

"We wanted to create a space that everybody can come and to feel open and safe to celebrate all the cultures that are celebrated here at Oakland University," said Alexis Asaro, president of the IAO and one of the main coordinators of the event.

Abby Sachs, treasurer of the IAO and one of the main coordinators, said there was a lot of student involvement in the creation and execution of the festival.

"It's a combination of efforts by students and professional staff to celebrate the diversity on Oakland's campus," she said. "It's really exciting to see the community get involved and be excited about this event."

There were over 15 informational booths surrounding

the room where students could go to find out more about the different clubs available on campus. Several of these booths involved activities so guests could actively participate in the festival.

Yu Liu, president of the Chinese Honor Society, brought Chinese art crafts and calligraphy to the festival, showing guests how to write their name in Chinese characters with traditional brushes.

"I'm glad people like my culture," he said. "I think it's pretty neat that we can also spread the knowledge and the culture among the young kids."

The IAO's booth was where Vice President Damilola Alao provided students with information about the organization. This organization has a "buddy system" where students of similar interests get matched together.

"What our aim is is for students across campus, regardless of your nationality, to be able to come together and make friendships," she said.

Throughout the event, different cultures showcased 13 traditional performances, including instruments, songs and dances.

Andreea Bordeianu, a College of Arts and Sciences adviser, brought Romanian culture to the festival by getting audience members up and on their feet for the Romanian Hora dance, which she

described as a symbolic dance where people hold hands and celebrate together.

Bordeianu enjoyed seeing people from all over the world come together to participate in the Hora dance, and said participating in the dance felt like home.

"It's so important to have events like this where we can all come together and celebrate things that we can all enjoy, and learn new things about people who might be different from us," Sachs said.

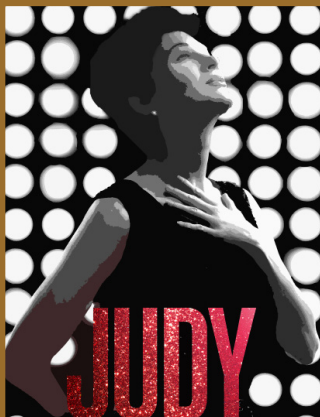
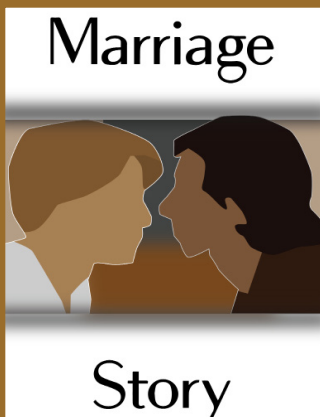
Working in the International Students and Scholars Office, Sachs said international students sometimes struggle with feeling connected to the community and figuring out where they fit in at an American campus, making events like this even more important.

"It's great to have nights like this so that [international students] can really feel like they're a part of Oakland, and Oakland celebrates all the things that make them unique," Sachs said.

Bordeianu said it is important for OU students to have the kind of exposure to other cultures the Global Festival was able to provide.

"Coming to this festival is an eye opening experience, and you can make friends around the world right here at Oakland University," she said.

NOW PLAYING



AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

For 92 years, the Academy Awards have been considered Hollywood's biggest night. From the glitz and glamour of the red carpet to the star-studded surprises within the show itself, it's hard not to feel even the slightest bit of excitement when Oscar season approaches.

Yet this year, the awards seem to have lost a bit of their prestige. Tainted by a generally uneventful pool of nominees lacking in diversity and inclusion (yet again), the hype leading up to this year's show was seemingly dead in comparison to previous ceremonies. Unfortunately, numbers don't lie, and the lack of interest this year showed in the ratings, which reached an all-time low Sunday night — just 23.6 million viewers.

But in spite of the ratings, there was still much to love about this year's ceremony — namely, Bong Joon Ho, whose historic Best Picture win for "Parasite" marked the first time in Oscar history that a non-English language film received the night's top honor. Ho also took home three other awards that evening, including Best Director.

"Writing a script is always such a lonely process," Ho said, with the help of his translator Sharon Choi, during his acceptance speech for Best Original Screenplay. "We never write to represent our countries ... but this is very personal to South Korea."

Chris Rock and Steve Martin were quick to turn heads when they called out the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences within the show's first 20 minutes for the lack of "vagas" among the Best Director nominees, alluding to the notable exclusion of female filmmakers in the category.

Though Oscar showrunners came under fire (and rightfully so) for the insufficient representation among the nominees, the show still gave a few powerful women the chance to shine. "Wonder Woman" star Gal Gadot and "Captain Marvel" star Brie Larson were joined on stage by Sigourney Weaver — largely credited with improving female representation in film with her role as Ripley in the "Alien" franchise — to introduce the Oscars' first female conductor, Eimear Noone.

"We just want to stand here together and say all women are superheroes," Weaver said.

The trio also presented "Joker" composer Hildur Guðnadóttir with the award for Best Original Score, making her the first woman from Iceland to receive the honor.

"To the girls, to the women, to the mothers, to the daughters who hear the music bubbling within — please speak up," she said. "We need to hear your voices."

Despite being the most nominated film of the evening, "Joker" was largely ignored by the Academy, receiving just two of its 11 nominations. In addition to Best Original Score, the film also received a Best Actor nod for Joaquin Phoenix's performance in the leading role. Phoenix used his acceptance speech as an opportunity to address a plethora of social issues.

"I think, whether we're talking about gender inequality or racism or queer rights or indigenous rights or animal rights, we're talking about the fight against injustice," he said. "We're talking about the fight against the belief that one nation, one people, one race, one gender or one species has the right to dominate, control and use and exploit another with impunity."

In one of the night's most talked about moments, Phoenix, who beat out the likes of Leonardo DiCaprio for "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and Adam Driver for "Marriage Story,"

also addressed his own personal conflicts and expressed his gratitude for the "second chance" he was given by his peers.

"I've been a scoundrel in my life. I've been selfish. I've been cruel at times, hard to work with, and I'm grateful that so many of you in this room have given me a second chance," he said. "And I think that's when we're at our best — when we support each other. Not when we cancel each other out for past mistakes, but when we help each other to grow, when we educate each other, when we guide each other toward redemption. That is the best of humanity."

Meanwhile, Renée Zellweger took home Best Actress for her leading performance as the late Judy Garland in the biopic "Judy." Her acceptance speech was largely a tribute to the late Garland, who never received an Oscar.

"This past year, conversations celebrating Judy Garland across generations, across cultures, has been a really cool reminder that our heroes unite us," Zellweger said. "I am certain that this moment is an extension of the celebration of [Garland's] legacy that began on our film set, and it is also representative of the fact that her legacy of unique exceptionalism and inclusivity and generosity in spirit, it transcends any one artistic achievement."

Meanwhile, Brad Pitt and Laura Dern received Best Supporting Actor and Actress for their performances in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and "Marriage Story," respectively. Pitt's acceptance speech directly addressed President Donald Trump's recent impeachment trials, starting the evening off on what ended up being an unsurprisingly politically charged ceremony.

"They told me I only have 45 seconds up here, which is more than the Senate gave John Bolton this week," he said. "I'm thinking maybe Quentin [Tarantino] does a movie about it ... and in the end, the adults do the right thing."

Though Hollywood's intensified political activism was certainly in full force that night, it didn't detract too much from the spectacle of the awards and performances.

In addition to the collection of lengthy acceptance speeches, there were a plethora of performances, including the likes of Best Original Song winner Elton John, Janelle Monáe and Billie Eilish. On the heels of her Grammy sweep last month, Eilish performed a cover of the Beatles' "Yesterday" during the ceremony's "In Memoriam" tribute. The segment stirred controversy after omitting Disney star Cameron Boyce and actor Luke Perry, the latter of whom starred in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," one of the night's big nominees.

But the real showstopper was the surprise appearance of Detroit's own Eminem. Though he won the Oscar for Best Original Song in 2003 for "Lose Yourself," he was not in attendance at the ceremony. After 17 years, Slim Shady finally got the chance to perform his "8 Mile" track on the Oscars stage, serving as the culmination in a tribute to previous Best Original Song winners.

In spite of all the controversies, the end result of this year's Oscars proved to be relatively satisfying, all things considered. One year later, the Oscars are still hostless, bland and out-of-touch. But progress is being made — we went from a Best Picture celebrating social ignorance (sorry, "Green Book") to "Parasite," one that embraces internationalism and leaves us with hope for the future of Hollywood.

‘Birds of Prey’ is a ferociously fun celebration of female badassery

TREVOR TYLE

Editor-in-Chief

On the heels of Joaquin Phoenix’s Best Actor win at the Oscars this past weekend, “Joker” is surely the DC film on most people’s minds at the moment. But there’s another face-painted anti-hero running around Gotham that’s about to be the talk of the town — Harley freakin’ Quinn.

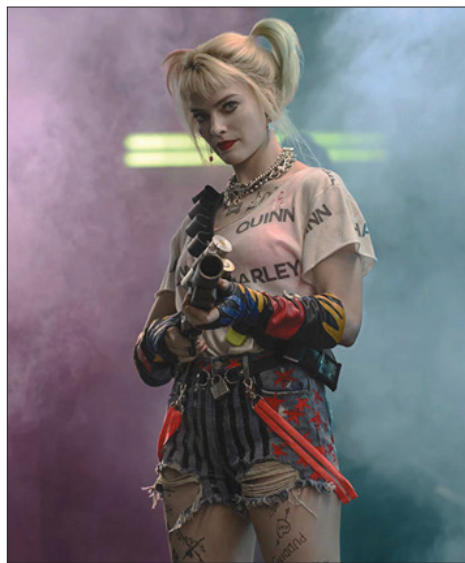
The first of the five female-fronted films expected to dominate the box office this year, “Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)” reintroduces us to its titular lead, who has been absent from the big screen since making her debut in 2016’s “Suicide Squad.” Played once again by the flawlessly fun Margot Robbie, Harley has reached rock bottom since we last saw her. Now sulking in the aftermath of her breakup with the Joker (who — sorry, folks — does not make an appearance in this film), Harley is doing her best to embrace her new-found singlehood.

Unfortunately, though, being single is anything but liberating. Harley becomes the victim of . . . well, pretty much all the people she’s pulled a fast one on over the years. Knowing that she’s left entirely defenseless without the protection of “Mistah J,” her seemingly endless list of enemies comes forward to seek revenge. At the forefront of that list is the formidable crime lord Black Mask, played by an absolutely mesmerizing Ewan McGregor. Harley’s not scared, though — she’s just pissed.

Fortunately, she’s not the only pissed off woman in Gotham. To take on the city’s dominating population of asshole men, she enlists the help of burlesque singer Dinah Lance (Jurnee Smollett-Bell), attempted murder survivor Helena Bertinelli (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) and disgraced police detective Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez).

Make no mistake — they don’t willingly cross paths. The film’s Macguffin is an expensive jewel that teenage thief Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco) has conveniently swallowed, leaving her with a massive price on her head.

“Birds of Prey” is, first and foremost, a celebration of female empowerment and all around badassery. Not only is it fronted by an almost entirely female cast, but it’s also directed by Cathy Yan, making it only the second installment in the DC Extended Universe with a female director. (The first was Patty Jenkins’ “Wonder Woman” in 2017.) While I’m sure this is much to the dismay of plenty of butthurt fanboys still living in their parents’ basement, “Birds of Prey” embraces women lifting each other up, and does so without giving off the impression of trying to seem “woke” — a refreshing shift from DC’s problematic attempt at tackling the mental



COURTESY OF IMDB

Robbie reprises her role as Harley Quinn in DC’s latest movie, “Birds of Prey.”

health crisis in America with “Joker.”

While its box office numbers for opening weekend were disappointingly low — \$33.25 million, the lowest opening for any installment in the DCEU — “Birds of Prey” excels in ways that most of its predecessors failed miserably. (Hell, for as much money as “Justice League” made, I still think it’s one of the worst films I’ve ever seen.)

“Birds of Prey” boasts a colorful energy matched by its wild and spunky lead. Robbie is unsurprisingly brilliant, bringing an irresistible charm to the role that makes us empathize with even the worst of Harley’s behavior. The effortlessness she brings to the role is echoed in her equally charismatic supporting cast.

While the screenplay occasionally feels a bit disjointed, the film as a whole is able to make up for the few issues it has. Its action sequences, though implausible in every sense of the word, are absolutely incredible — I’d even go as far as to say they’re some of the best fight scenes I’ve seen in years.

It’s not quite an origin story, but it certainly brings an exhilaratingly entertaining depth to the already compelling narrative built around its titular antihero, and it’s one that I would very much like to see revisited in a sequel. If nothing else, “Birds of Prey” is feminism at its finest, and as far as Hollywood’s concerned, there can never be enough of that.

From beginning to end, “Birds of Prey” is unpredictable, vibrant, chaotic, edgy and most of all, fun — much like Harley Quinn herself.

Rating: 4/5 stars



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Mother of missing children is suspect of police investigation

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Lori Vallow, a mother located in Rexburg, Idaho, was recently ordered to physically produce her two kids, Joshua “JJ” Vallow and Tylee Ryan — who have been missing since September 2019. The deadline for Vallow was Jan. 31, 2019, and she failed to produce them.

Vallow has a complicated history — her previous husband, Charles Vallow, was shot and killed by her brother, Alex Cox, this past summer. I’m sorry, what?

Before Charles died, he filed for divorce from Vallow, claiming in divorce documents that Vallow believed she was reincarnated and was a god sent to lead people during the second coming of Christ in



July 2020. He also alleged that Vallow told him if he got in her way, she would kill him.

If you thought that was all, Vallow is also believed to be a member of a cult.

Vallow’s NEW husband, Chad Daybell, has a murky past as well — his past wife, Tammy Daybell died of unknown circumstances THREE MONTHS after Vallow’s husband was killed.

Vallow and Daybell were married TWO WEEKS later, according to CBS News. Does no one find this even the littlest bit alarming?

Police said because of Vallow and Daybell’s lack of cooperation and the children’s disappearance, they were prompted to reexamine multiple deaths linked to the couple.

It shouldn’t have had to take two children

to go missing for this to happen.

Back to the situation — it began Nov. 26 when police attempted to conduct a welfare check on Joshua, 7, who is adopted and has special needs, because family from outside Idaho haven’t been able to speak to Joshua since September and were concerned.

According to NBC News, Vallow and Daybell told Rexburg police that Joshua was staying with a family friend in Arizona. Investigators learned it was a lie, and a witness told police Vallow had falsely said Tylee, 17, was dead.

This case spans over multiple states and has sparked a nationwide manhunt — for the children, that is.

When the police went to question Vallow and her husband about her children after discovering that they’d lied about Joshua’s whereabouts, they disappeared.

They had left the state and “abruptly vacated” their home Monday, Jan. 27.

They were spotted on the island of Kaua’i, Hawaii, according to the Kaua’i Police Department. Neither of them have

been charged or arrested yet, Kaua’i police said on Sunday, Jan. 26.

Vallow’s son, Colby Ryan, 23, has spoken out for the first time in an interview with Fox 10 Phoenix. The older brother of the two missing kids said his mother started changing when she moved from Arizona to Hawaii with only Tylee.

Gradually, contact between him, his mother and Tylee had started declining. The day before Thanksgiving, Ryan knew something was astray when police asked him for the whereabouts of Tylee and Joshua.

“I called my mom and I’m like, ‘Two detectives just came to my door, what is going on?’ And she said, ‘I got it, I’ll take care of it ... Love you,’ and that was it,” Ryan said in the interview.

This entire situation is so bizarre, and I think both Lori Vallow and Chad Daybell are clinically insane. Where are the children? Are they still alive? If Vallow and Daybell are in a cult, could that explain them missing?

15 self-care tips for self love this Valentine’s Day

RACHEL BASELA

Life&Arts Editor

Whether you’ll be spending Valentine’s Day with your partner, your friend or yourself this weekend, celebrating self-care should be the center of your festivities. Here are some tips on loving yourself a little bit extra on this romantic holiday.

1. Sleep a little longer

Most of us aren’t getting enough sleep. American culture doesn’t praise rest as much as it does work, so take an extra hour or two this weekend to catch up on your Z’s.

2. Notice your accomplishments, big or small

In the midst of the semester, it can be difficult to feel like you’re caught up. However, try praising yourself for your accomplishments rather than tearing yourself down for the unchecked boxes on your to-do-list. You’ll be surprised at how many victories you’re letting go unnoticed.

3. Make an empowering playlist

Music can shift your mood,



and if you’re listening to songs that aren’t making you feel good, then you’re clouding your mind with negativity. Try picking songs that you can’t help humming along to.

4. Turn off your ringer

Try disconnecting from your phone. Even if it’s just for an hour, let go of the email notifications for a moment. You don’t need to hear every ding that pops onto your screen.

5. Clean your space

Whether it’s just your desk or your whole room, tidy up. A

messy environment makes for a messy headspace, and if your outer space isn’t relaxing, your inner space will reflect that. Make your room your sanctuary. Light a candle, turn on some music and enjoy your surroundings.

6. Give yourself a gift

You don’t need anyone to buy you chocolates or write you a card. Use this holiday to celebrate yourself. Gift yourself something yummy, or write a love note for only you to read. Reward yourself for making it this far.

7. Indulge yourself

This weekend, you have a free-card for indulging. Eat what looks good to you, and don’t let yourself feel guilty about it. Valentine’s Day this year should be about celebrating the love you have for yourself, so if you want to eat a little too much ice cream, go for it.

8. Meditate

Quiet all the noise in your head and find your peace. Calm your breathing, stretch and sit comfortably. While you let your body relax, let your mind let go of any negative feelings.

9. Exercise

Do exercises that make you happy. If you’re not someone who enjoys working out, find something to do at home to get your body moving. You’ll feel stronger and sharper after getting in some physical activity.

10. Journal

Make notes of your thoughts from the week. Once you put it onto paper, overwhelming thoughts might seem smaller and more accomplishable.

11. Pamper yourself

Whether you enjoy baths or skincare, find a way to make your body feel loved. Taking a moment to take care of your body can help whatever struggles might be happening on the inside.

12. Choose a mantra

Think of your biggest achievement — the one that makes you feel the most pride. Then, think of each idea that surrounds this moment. Try condensing these thoughts into one word. Let that word serve as the way you find inspiration in yourself.

13. Try a new look

If you’re anything like me, you might buy clothes that you like, but you don’t always feel confident wearing out. Put on an outfit that puts you a bit out of your comfort zone and enjoy the way you look in it. Let yourself feel confident in something risky.

14. Get creative

Creativity can be expressed in a multitude of ways. Try cooking something challenging, painting something with lots of colors or rearranging your room. There are many ways to find creativity in your lifestyle, so take this as a challenge to be as expressive as possible.

15. Pass along the message

Being kind to someone else can give you a “helper’s high.” Choose to help someone feel loved today, and by doing so, you’ll feel better about yourself.

Take this weekend to grow in the love you have for yourself. Engage in activities that empower you, express yourself creatively and treat yourself to moments alone. This holiday is all about love, so take time to focus on your own personal wellness.

Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society



Dr. Nancy Tuana discusses

RACIAL CLIMATES

March 5, 2020

7–9 p.m.

Oakland Center, Banquet Room A

Environmental and climate justice efforts have focused on disproportionate impacts of anthropogenic climate change on communities impacted by racist prejudices and on low-income communities. Such a focus on injustices concerning current impacts of climate change and other environmental harms obscures the underlying legacies of oppression that are woven into our shared climate. What is needed is recognition of racial climates. Targeting the lineages of the values, concepts, and practices that ground current climate regimes, in this case those animated by (though never exclusively by) racism, provides an understanding of the ways lineages of oppression and environmental exploitation are interwoven.

Join us for this thought-provoking lecture.

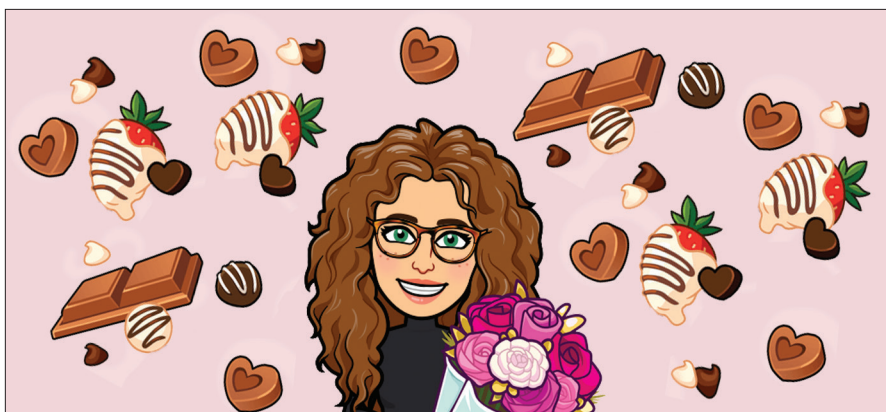
Admission is **FREE**, but reservations are requested.

To reserve your space, call (248) 370-3390 or email zimmerm2@oakland.edu.



Designed to tackle some of today's compelling issues — from war to religion to sexual ethics — the Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society sparks serious, thought-provoking discussions between scholars, students and the community.

SATIRE



ERIN O'NEILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Surround yourself with flowers and chocolate this V-Day. Treat yo'self, right???

Best ways to enjoy this Valentine's Day

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

Everyone has such strong opinions about Valentine's Day, but I'm here to tell you it's really no big deal. There's so much pressure to be in a relationship and do something special or to not be in a relationship and hate everything and be miserable. People just need to calm themselves and enjoy Feb. 14 in any way possible. Grab your partner, your best friend, your mom, whomever, and take these tips to make your Valentine's Day the best one yet.

Buy those kiddie Valentine's cards and give one to all your friends

Reminisce your childhood by buying one of those 12 packs of Ninja Turtle-themed Valentine's cards and giving them out to everyone in the group chat. Or better yet, send everyone a personalized Valentine's "to/from" meme that might be a little dirty but still hilarious. Be sure to tape a dollar store lollipop in the shape of a heart to it, that's key. Make sure you give one to EVERYONE though, so no one is excluded. Throw in some loose candy hearts — the ones you have no idea where they came from or if they're safe to eat — and the scene is complete.

Make a bowl of popcorn and laugh at all the sappy romantic movies

Don't get me wrong, I'm down for a good romance movie, but on Valentine's Day they're more funnier than they are heartfelt. I know I've mocked Hallmark before, and this is no different. There's nothing better than sitting down with that box of chocolates and bag of pop-

corn and predicting the ending of a bad movie and laughing at the clinically insane people who "fall in love" after one coffee shop meet-cute. You might get lucky and find one that'll make you say, "aww," but otherwise, it's time to sit back and enjoy the crazies.

Go to Olive Garden and watch people get proposed to

This may sound crazy, but trust me, it is top tier comedy. The girlfriends with such high expectations left the planning up to their dumb boyfriends, and now they are mad disappointed. To make it worse, the dude thinks that he hit the jackpot, and he is ready to pull that dinky ring out and pop the question. Of course she says yes because the whole restaurant is watching, but did she really want to? That's for you and your partner to decide, but you only have so long before it happens again. And again. And again.

Stop by the grocery store on Feb. 15 and buy the half-off flowers and chocolates

Now I know that this isn't exactly "Valentine's Day," but it's close enough. Grab your No. 1, drag them to the nearest Walmart and get those deals! There are aisles upon aisles of leftover chocolates and candy waiting for you to consume at a discount price. Yeah, the Reese's cups are heart-shaped and the packaging is all red and pink, but who cares? It's time to gorge yourself on sweet sweet candy you got for half the price. That makes it taste even better, don't you think?

Now go, my loves, and enjoy this holiday the way it was meant to be enjoyed — with a lot of laughs, a lot of candy and a lot of fun.

When the rats rule Iowa, democracy collapses

BEN HUME

Web Editor

Allow yourself to imagine, for a moment, the greatest disaster to occur during the era of humankind. Something of a magnitude rivaling two Titanics sinking side-by-side into an endangered wildlife reserve and then blowing up an orphanage. Such is the magnitude of the tragedy that occurred in Iowa last weekend.

Thousands of Democrats full of conviction and pride descended upon their local precinct polling station to cast their lots with their candidate of choice. In any one precinct, the process probably looked something like this — the early arrivals, the old Democrats, show up hours before the event begins and takes their spot behind the repurposed track and field hurdle with the name "Biden" taped to one side.

Then, a sizable group of average folks who all have shirts that say "I'm 1/16th Cherokee!" take their place behind the "Warren" sign. You look around and realize a single person somehow walked in without you noticing and is holding up a "Yang Gang" poster.

There's a group of Klobuchar supporters that all have white T-shirts and jeans on, not talking to anyone around them. A swarm of rats under a trenchcoat stumble behind the "Buttigieg" sign. Then a river of Bernie supporters yelling, "He's not THAT old!" take up so much of the room that the Biden supporters are forced to sit in the rafters.

That is when something begins to feel amiss. The volunteers work as hard as they can, but the equations they were given from the Democratic National Committee are written in hieroglyphs that no one is able to translate. With many precincts in races too close to call, the volunteers are forced to think on their toes, and each precinct tackles the challenge of counting everyone in a different way.

Most take the lowest scoring candidates and tell their supporters to choose their second favorite candidate, adding them to the total votes already there. It is still not enough for most — the race is still too close to call.

So, the volunteers, light on sleep and out of patience, begin to count the final votes. Bernie is winning across many of the precincts, but then each of the individual rats begins to cast their vote from inside of their trench coat carapaces. The numbers swing back in favor of Mayor Pete. Warren is the only other candidate

even close to the two frontrunners, but it is obvious the race will come down to the old man and the rat king.

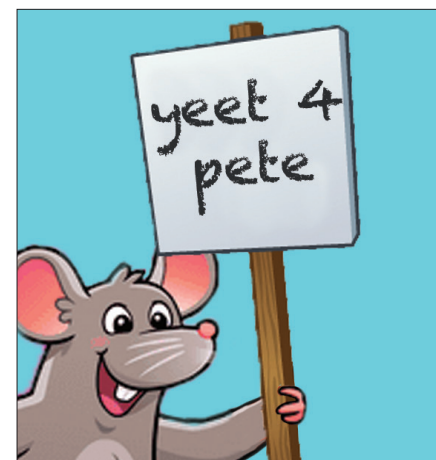
The tabulations are already running hours behind schedule because none of the volunteers are trained with the new Shadow Voting app, and people begin to panic. The formulas used to convert the votes into delegates are coming up with negative square roots and fractions of people.

Many take matters into their own hands. Volunteers have the Bernie and Buttigieg supporters arm wrestle for disputed delegates. They do coin flips to break ties. At many locations, the armies of rodents are too powerful, and they take over the delegate assignments and give as many as they can to Pete. Fires are started, offerings are sacrificed. Chaos reigns.

When asked about the safety and validity of the results from the caucuses, DNC chairman Tom Perez told reporters everything was going according to plan.

"You know, rats are people too," Perez said in an interview. "We know we barely support voting reform for all human beings, but figured why not let Pete give these little rodents a chance? It might pave the way to some real bipartisan voting policies. Also, we really just hate that old socialist guy. What's his name? Bornie? God, we hate that guy, too close to a socialist. Gross."

The Bernie campaign, with 6,000 more votes but two less delegates than Buttigieg, decided to declare its victory. This confused many, as Buttigieg declared himself the winner a day prior. The public is confused beyond belief, and that's apparently just the way it's going to stay.



ERIN O'NEILL | DESIGN EDITOR

They say it's the year of the rat which was obvious at the Iowa Caucus.

Oakland defeats UIC on women and girls in sports night

MICHAEL PEARCE

Sports Editor

Five days after defeating the University of Detroit Mercy on their home court, the Oakland University women's basketball team hosted another inter-conference battle Thursday, Feb. 6, against a team that defeated them earlier in the season, the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) Flames.

Early in the conference season, the Flames defeated the Golden Grizzlies in overtime, 70-64. On their home court this time, Oakland defeated UIC, 63-46.

"We lost to them a couple of months ago, and we needed to show them that we could win," freshman Alona Blackwell said. "We made a statement."

On a night that honored women and girls in sports, the Oakland women led from start to finish.

"It's a great day — it's great for our young fans to see what they could possibly be one day," acting Head Coach Ke'Sha Blanton said. "I think our girls are great role models, so it means a lot to get a win ... especially with the young fans in the stands."

Oakland jumped out to an early lead on the strength of their defense and 3-point shooting. Blackwell, who was recently named Horizon League Freshman of the Week, hit two long-range jumpers early. After her second, the Golden Grizzlies led 13-5, which prompted UIC to take a timeout.

"We just needed that energizer early," Blackwell said. "We were all knocking shots down, we were hot. Everyone was moving the ball around."

After the timeout the Golden Grizzlies struggled offensively,



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTOGRAPHER

Women's basketball defeated UIC 63-46 on Thursday, Feb. 6, a night to honor women and girls in sports.

sively, which led into the second quarter. Five minutes into the second quarter, the team scored three points. After forcing more turnovers, the team got back to the offense that got them the lead in the first, stretching their lead to at most 14, 29-15.

After one half, Blackwell led all scorers with eight points, Jalisha Terry had seven, and Kahlaijah Dean had six. The Golden Grizzlies as a whole shot 6-12 (50%) from 3-point range.

The Golden Grizzlies led 31-19 after two quarters. The defense was the difference for Oakland, they forced UIC

to commit 14 turnovers.

"I'm always glad when they hustle and get steals," Blanton said. "We're starting to come together — and what a great time to come together."

To start the third quarter, the Golden Grizzlies got repeated second chance looks, as they went on a 8-4 run during the first four minutes. Their lead grew to as large as 19 in the third. The 3-point shot continued to be their strength, shooting 3-5 (60%) from deep in the third.

"We told our kids to shoot the ball — they worked a lot this week on 3-point shooting and they were able to knock them down, so we'll continue to put up shots in practice and hope that continues," Blanton said.

The lead continually grew over the fourth quarter for the Golden Grizzlies, as UIC was unable to convert inside. The Flames had just four points after seven-and-a-half minutes of game time.

In their previous match-up Thursday, Jan. 23, the Flames scored 70 points. In Rochester, the Flames only put 46 on the board. Since the loss in January, the Golden Grizzlies have moved up to tied for sixth in the conference, while the Flames are last.

Oakland forced 25 turnovers, limited the Flames to 14% from 3-point range and grabbed 17 offensive rebounds. Blackwell and Dean led the team in scoring with 11 points each.

"I think tonight shows our growth from where we were then and where we are now," Blanton said. "It's a great victory for our players' mindsets as we move on."

Next up for the women's basketball team is an away game against the Milwaukee Panthers on Friday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m.

Women's basketball loses 89-63 to No. 1 IUPUI

BRITTANY WELCH

Staff Reporter

The Oakland University women's basketball team returned back to the O'Rena on Saturday, Feb. 8 for a second straight home game after being on the road the previous week.

The Golden Grizzlies took on Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) for another conference game. In their last game vs. IUPUI, the team lost 76-41. This time around, the Jaguars won again, 89-63.

Freshman Alona Blackwell led the team in scoring with 14 points, she also had three steals. Second on the team in scoring was junior Autumn Kissman, who went 5-7 from the field.

Oakland was off to a slow start, and they trailed behind throughout the whole game. The Golden Grizzlies couldn't start a lead. In the second quarter, the team scored just eight points.

"I just felt like we did some things to hurt ourselves," acting Head Coach Ke'Sha Blanton said. "Early on we gave them a lead and wish we were battling back the whole game."

"We just have to fix a few things from an IQ standpoint, and I think we will be OK," Blanton said.

It was a large loss for Oakland, but the team said it was a learning experience and they are taking what happened in this game on the road next week.

"I took from this game that we just have to keep putting in the work," sophomore Kahlaijah Dean said. "Everything isn't going to be perfect and we have to mentally prepare ourselves for that."

IUPUI also currently has the 2018-2019 Horizon League Player of the Year, Macee Williams, on their roster. Williams scored a total of 31 points in the game.

"We knew she would be tough to defend, we just needed to adapt once the tip was off," Dean said.

The Golden Grizzlies have a few days in between to get ready for their next game on the road, and Blanton said they are ready to get back to work to fix what needs to be fixed.

"A lot of film early on in the week and just trying to show us some things we missed and some things were not doing that we've got to start thinking as the game goes on," she said. "We also gotta get back to the ba-



SERGIO MONTANEZ | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Golden Grizzlies fall 89-63 to the IUPUI Jaguars on Saturday, Feb. 8.

sics of shooting shots and doing the things that we do, which is playing with toughness and grit," Coach Blanton said.

According to Dean, the team knows that defense is the key moving forward.

"We know what needs to be done and we have to apply that every day," she said. "We are prepared for this week's match up, and

we know defense is key so if we continue to defend and stick to our principles we will come out on top."

The Golden Grizzlies currently stand 5-7 in conference with just six games left before the Horizon League Tournament. The Golden Grizzlies are back on the road as they take on the University of Wisconsin-Mil-

Oakland Outlaws run miles for donations

KATIE VALLEY

Content Editor

The Ultimate Frisbee team members are running more than 500 miles this month.

The Oakland Outlaws are hosting a run-a-thon throughout February to raise money to go to future tournaments. The current 32 members will be running one mile for every \$2 donated to the group's GoFundMe page — and they have until Saturday, Feb. 29 to run every mile.

Team Fundraising Coordinator Meredith Stern came up with the idea when brainstorming ways the Outlaws could raise money for tournament fees and increase awareness for the group.

As of Monday, Feb. 10, supporters have donated almost \$1,200 to the Outlaws, meaning the members will be running around 600 miles — something they didn't anticipate when creating the fundraiser and setting its \$1,000 goal.

According to Jacob Lekki, Oakland Outlaws president, the team will use the money for the upcoming USA Ultimate (USAU) tournament, which is the college-level competition Lekki described as the "NCAA of Ultimate Frisbee." The team already qualified for section-



SERGIO MONTANEZ | PHOTOGRAPHER

An Oakland Outlaw runs to catch the frisbee at a weekly practice on campus.

als in Brighton on April 18-19 and will use the funds toward tournament fees and other expenses.

Lekki said the team is trying to open the sport for more people. The Outlaws aim to grow as a team and help heighten OU as a university.

"When we join the team, we don't join just for ourselves," Lekki said. "We're kind of a group of people that didn't get into other sports or make other teams,

so we're really open to that. We want to work together to make our sport inclusive for all people ... and we want to just keep growing that community."

The frisbee team also does community engagements, such as its breast cancer fundraiser in October. The Outlaws are working on having T-shirts available next year and will be selling fan apparel in March.

The team also works with Dakota Highschool in Macomb to help support

their ultimate frisbee family.

Stern said the main reason people should donate is to help increase group awareness.

"OU community members should donate to us because the more funding we get, the more we can spread awareness about the team and build it up," Stern said via email. "We want to provide an ultimate frisbee community. We would be able to fund more tournaments and pay for hotels for those tournaments."

Lekki said running 100+ miles a week as a team will help the players prepare for future tournaments.

"It really helps us out because not only are we receiving donations — and we're so thankful for all of that — but we're also getting in shape and conditioned for our season," he said.

The Oakland Outlaws' GoFundMe page will be open for donations until mid-February to allocate time for the team to accept late donations and run last-minute miles. Donors can contribute to the team's total or ask for a specific player to run by noting it in the donation message.

All miles run will be tracked on a spreadsheet for authenticity.

To keep up with the Oakland Outlaws Ultimate Frisbee team, visit the team's Instagram @ououtlaws and Facebook page.



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