

THE OAKLAND POST

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PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL VALENTINE'S DAY DATE?

- A) DINNER & A MOVIE
- B) STAYING IN TOGETHER
- C) ROMANTIC ROAD TRIP
- D) I HATE VALENTINE'S DAY

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SNOW DAY PAST TIME?



CORRECTIONS CORNER: In an article last week we said that Assistant to the Dean of the School of Business Lisa Peterson works in the Dean of Students Office, which was incorrect. An updated version of that article is located on page 10 of this issue.
The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

Feb. 7 BOT meeting: New projects, university advancement update

JOE ZERILLI
Senior Reporter

After being virtual for the beginning of the semester, the Oakland University Board of Trustees (BOT) met for the first time this year to discuss two new construction budgets, two new distinguished professors, the annual advancement update and more.

The meeting began with President Ora Pescovitz acknowledging the email error that was sent to 5,502 potential students telling them they received the Platinum Presidential Scholar Award.

“We recognize that people are the backbone of our organization, and whenever people are involved, there is a risk for human error,” Pescovitz said.

Pescovitz recognized the Keeper of the Dream event and congratulated those who received awards. She followed up with an announcement about OU being awarded a \$3.2M grant from the National Science Foundation for their collaborative work on their cybersecurity project.

OU will be the home for “College English” — the professional journal of the National Council of Teachers of English — as professor Lori Ostergaard will serve as editor alongside three other professors as associate editors. A new post-graduation dashboard created by members of OU Career Services and University of Communications & Marketing (UCM) provides students with information like percentage of graduates employed, median salary and more.

Vice President for University Advancement Mike Westfall presented the annual university advancement update, and 2021 was a historical year for total new gifts and commitments — raising \$24 million.

“In spite of the challenges that the pandemic presented, \$24 million is the second-highest fundraising total ever, trailing the \$27 million raised in 2009, which featured a \$20 million donation from Beaumont,” Westfall said.

The newly named Oakland University Fund Drive saw a record revenue of \$831,314 — the top performing units were the William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) and School of Music, Theatre and Dance (SMTD). The campaign progress is 71% of the way to the goal of \$150 million with \$106 million raised thus far.

Professor of political science Dave Dulio spoke about recent redistricting and the impact it could have on OU. Some benefits include double the representation, and it creates an opportunity with Macomb County — OU now gets parts of Macomb at the state Senate and congressional level.

Provost Britt Rios-Ellis was next to speak, introducing the two new nominees for distinguished professors: Andrea Eis and Dr. Virgil Zeigler-Hill. Rios-Ellis spoke

on the influence both professors had on their respective areas of research and programs at OU.

“Professor Eis has developed many new courses for her programs and her dedication to her students and the programs has won the admiration of students and colleagues alike,” Rios-Ellis said. “Dr. Zeigler-Hill has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles since 2004, and his work is highly cited with over 10,000 citations on Google Scholar.”

Eis and Dr. Zeigler-Hill were both approved for the title of distinguished professor.

Bill Matt — executive director of Meadow Brook — proposed construction of a new Visitor Center, a second garden tent venue — West Venue — and upgrades to the existing garden tent venue — East Venue — for Meadow Brook Hall. The project will cost \$5.5 million and will be funded through philanthropy for the Visitor Center and Orientation Gallery along with increased event net revenue from the new venue and improvements.

“We hope to break ground and complete both the Visitor Center and the West Venue in 2022,” Matt said.

There was an update about the construction of South Foundation, which has been on hold due to budget limitations and the renovations on Wilson Hall. A budget increase of \$4.2 million was proposed, bringing the total project cost to \$44.2 million.

“We’re hopeful that the state will provide supplemental funding, we have no guarantee that will happen, if the state does not come through the university will have to pay any additional dollars,” James Hargett — interim vice president for finance and administration — said.

Both projects and budgets were approved by the BOT.

The meeting closed with remarks from two professors regarding the AAUP proposal to introduce faculty liaisons to the BOT — strongly encouraging the BOT to reconsider adding a liaison. The BOT had no comments at the meeting.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
President Pescovitz and BOT Chair Robert Schostak during Monday's Board of Trustees meeting.

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Campus workforce responds to AAUP bad-faith bargaining allegations

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

In January, Oakland University's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) leadership released a letter they'd sent to President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz and the Board of Trustees (BOT) detailing revelations from a recent FOIA request that they say indicates the university bargained in bad faith during 2021's faculty contract negotiations.

The university released a statement denying the allegations. Still the tone of the letter from OU AAUP President Karen Miller, in which OU AAUP alleges the university bargaining team, specifically interim Vice President for Finance and Administration James Hargett, withheld pertinent information about healthcare costs from OU AAUP during last year's contract negotiations, raised eyebrows around campus.

In this article representatives from several on-campus labor groups discuss issues facing their respective groups and respond with their concerns about OU AAUP's allegations that the university bargaining team bargained in bad faith.

Now the letter signed by Miller was virtually unprecedented in OU history and marked a new point of tension between faculty and the upper administration, as it featured a call for an investigation into the allegations and the employment status of specific administrators to be reevaluated.

"These actions constitute bad faith bargaining, violating the Faculty Agreement as well as both the National Labor Relations Act and the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act," Miller said in the letter. "In an ethical and transparent organization, this type of behavior would result in employee termination. James Hargett, whose role in these actions has been clearly demonstrated, and any others found complicit, should not be allowed to continue in any capacity at Oakland University."

The evidence OU AAUP provides that they say proves the university withheld information about healthcare costs consists of email correspondence between insurance providers and Hargett during bargaining.

Healthcare was a key issue during 2021's contract negotiations. The idea that the university may have withheld information was alarming because fair negotiations rely on good faith exchanges of information.

"There are certain ground rules that are really fundamental," Miller said. "You've got to be really naive to think that the stakeholders on either side of the table have exactly the same agenda. We can't. Management and labor have different priorities ... So we might get annoyed that they don't appreciate our priorities, and I'm sure they feel annoyed that we don't appreciate their priorities. But, it works. Bargaining works, because everybody's operating with the same set of facts. Management has a dramatic advantage over access to information ... this whole idea that [they] were going to keep information from [OU AAUP] ... it's just so 1930s, it's so pre-Wagner Act."

OU AAUP Executive Director Amy Pollard wrote and submitted the FOIA requests and co-wrote the OU AAUP's letter that detailed how the evidence from the FOIA responses indicated the university bargaining team had withheld information on healthcare costs during 2021's negotiations.

As a member of OU AAUP's bargaining team,

Pollard was fully aware of the significance of healthcare costs during negotiations, and says that discussions within the union about the new costs once an agreement was reached lead to her investigating the situation.

"For some faculty, their contributions went up 80% ... So the employee contribution went up a huge amount," Pollard said. "Once we got the final rates and we had to share them with everybody ... it became clear that [the university bargaining team] must have had some information prior [to negotiations concluding]."

Sending the letter to Pescovitz and the BOT on Monday, Jan. 10, Pollard and Miller wanted some response from the university before notifying all OU AAUP faculty about what the FOIA requests had revealed. When after three days that response didn't come, OU AAUP notified all their members of the letter on Friday morning. The response that did come from the university via The Post that following Tuesday, left a bad taste in Pollard's mouth.

"I felt like we had presented pretty factual information and to be dismissed out of hand was disappointing," Pollard said.

Pollard was not alone in being frustrated by the university's response, with a feeling among faculty being that the bargaining team's response was disingenuous and designed to avoid accountability from the administrators who were involved.

Given the negative feedback we were receiving concerning the university's response to the allegations, The Post reached out to Pescovitz with a request to do an interview where she could address the situation.

That request was denied in an email saying, "This [The Post] is not the appropriate forum for discussing AAUP allegations regarding the collective bargaining process. That question was answered by the OU bargaining team statement provided to you."

It is unclear at this time what the appropriate forum for Pescovitz, president of a public university and one of the highest paid public servants in the state of Michigan, to address allegations that her bargaining team cheated faculty during contract negotiations is.

It is worth noting that while the university bargaining team's response did deny any bad-faith bargaining, it did not address the specifics of the allegations presented by OU AAUP. The response was also not signed individually by any members of the university's bargaining team, which consisted of Vice President of Human Resources Joi Cunningham, Assistant Vice President Peggy Cooke, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration James Hargett, Dean of the School of Nursing Judy Didion and outside legal counsel from law firm Dykema Robert Boonin.

While Pescovitz wouldn't agree to an interview on the subject of OU AAUP's allegations, an offer was made to do an interview with The Post later this month in which Pescovitz could "address the specific initiatives being planned that will foster increasingly stronger relationships between faculty and administration." The Post is hopeful that that conversation will be substantive for the campus community.

So with these allegations, tension between OU AAUP and the university's upper administration continues to be a story following last year's contract negotiations, that much is clear. What was unclear was how other bargaining units on campus would

respond to allegations that the university bargained in bad faith. It turns out that they are concerned.

In addition to OU AAUP, there are four other unions on campus that bargain with the university — Oakland University Professional Support Association (OUPSA), Oakland University Campus Maintenance and Trades (OUCMT), the Police Officers Association of Michigan and Command Officers Association of Michigan, and there are two substantial non-bargaining worker populations on campus — the Administrative Professionals and student workers.

OUPSA has about 250 members employed by the university. Their members perform a myriad of essential support roles in offices around campus. Their current contract is set to expire June 30, so they will begin bargaining with the university this spring.

OUPSA is currently on a one-year contract, meaning that like OU AAUP they also bargained with the university last year. OUPSA President Geoff Johnson says for them 2021's negotiations weren't what he expected.

"Last spring we were negotiating. [We were] looking at a standard multi-year contract," Johnson said. "For us, a contract usually is either three or four years. We were getting told by the university 'Yep, that's what we're looking at, a standard multi-year contract.' But then right after Memorial Day, they came back with a 'Well, you know, there's been some change circumstances, things are tough. And all we can really do right now is a one year contract.' So we ended up with a one year contract."

In addition to the length of the contract, salary compensation was also a major issue for OUPSA during last year's negotiations.

"All we got was a lump sum of \$500," Johnson said. "It's certainly better than getting pay cuts. I'm not gonna make any claims that it's nothing. But \$500 doesn't keep up with inflation."

Johnson, who has now spent 23 years with OU, sees the university's offers on compensation as an obstacle to OUPSA's ability to hire and retain talented staff.

"None of us took a job thinking we're going to get rich," Johnson said. "But we thought it's a good job [where] you get to help people out, and you're helping students ... and if you can have a good living, that's great. But [our members are asking], 'Am I actually better off than I was five, eight, 10 years ago?' For many of my members, they look at it, and if they're being honest, the answer is no. I think that's a huge part of the reason that we've had a lot of job openings in the last year. Between the job market and everything else people are just going, 'I'd like to stick around, but it just doesn't make sense to.' And we've had a lot of people leave."

Regarding OU AAUP's allegations that the university bargained in bad faith, Johnson had this to say.

"I fully believe what they're saying," Johnson said. "If they're saying something's [happened], it's because something's happened."

He attributes this belief to his interactions with Miller and Pollard, as well as negative experiences he had as OUPSA president with the university at the bargaining table last year.

"I don't like using this word, but it's the word I used with them, they lied," Johnson said. "... They told us all [raises would only come as] a lump sum. For all the groups other than faculty, that's all that

they were going to agree to ... And then come October, they announced that the Administrative Professionals [were receiving a percent salary increase and a lump sum] ... I'm not gonna make any claims [they] don't deserve a raise, because frankly, I think they do ... They're working hard. It's just the university told us that wasn't going to happen."

With a contract set to expire in November, OUCMT will also be bargaining with the university this year. OUCMT's roughly 135 members take care of the manual labor on campus, and include essential roles like custodians, grounds crew and skilled trades.

OUCMT President Robert Vaughn points out how important their members were in keeping the university operational since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our custodians play a big part in making sure that the buildings are clean and sanitized," Vaughn said. "During this pandemic, they definitely have stepped up their game in making sure that our touch points are being sanitized and disinfected."

For OUCMT, healthcare will be a major issue in their upcoming negotiations with the university. Considering OU AAUP's allegations that the university bargaining team withheld information about healthcare costs, Vaughn had this to say.

"All the employees that help the university are concerned about these allegations," Vaughn said. "If allegations are [proven] true, I'm confident that President [Pescovitz] will hold any persons involved accountable."

Next to OU AAUP, Administrative Professionals (APs) are the second largest group of professional workers on campus with roughly 700 members to OU AAUP's roughly 900. APs perform tasks all over campus at various levels within the administration.

"APs are really everywhere, and involved in everything from the academic side of the house, right to the Student Affairs side of the house, and so on," President of OU's AP Association Marie Vanbuskirk said. "... We are mostly the supervisors of employees on campus and other employee groups. And we are the largest supervisors of student employees on campus. So we talk to the students, and hear from them in many different ways and also guide and advocate for them."

APs aren't unionized and don't bargain with the university, but leadership in the AP association does meet regularly with the administration to discuss working conditions and improvements they would like to see made.

"AP Association [acts] as a liaison for APs to the administration," Vanbuskirk said. "We present all things ... wages or compensation, working conditions, benefits and so on."

Vanbuskirk says AP Association leadership currently has three top priorities for its members – improving compensation, work/life balance and diversity and inclusion. This year APs saw a 1% salary increase, as well as a \$500 lump sum raise.

According to Vanbuskirk, APs are generally happy with their compensation package, though she still sees room for improvement if the university is going to be competitive in attracting and keeping APs.

"There hasn't been significant merit increases in a long time," Vanbuskirk said. "So that's why we are advocating to reconvene the compensation committee so that we can work together to solve this problem ... I do think it's problematic in retaining employees."

The group on campus with the lowest wages and least amount of agency in the workplace is undergrad student workers. Work-study programs and other work opportunities on campus for students are often great ways for students to network and get experience in their field, and because these jobs are highly coveted the student workers occupying them are often seen as easily replaceable. This is especially true with university housing jobs, as landing the right role with housing means getting thousands of dollars a year toward room and board, a benefit which most students simply can't afford to lose.

Student Jeremy Johnson has found himself in the middle of multiple disputes between student workers and the university. As an employee of student housing, he and several other students formed the Oakland United Student Workers Coalition (OUSWC) as a way to advocate for better working conditions for students on campus. And as a Legislator for Oakland University's Student Congress (OUSC) Jeremy Johnson was one of several student workers being denied wages for the hours they were working, a situation that was only rectified after a Legislator strike completely dismantled OUSC's E-Board and The Post published an article on the controversy.

Last year OUSWC organized, leveraging the possibility of a large student protest outside of Pescovitz's presidential housing Sunset Terrace, and were successful in saving housing jobs that were going to be cut. For their efforts, the lead OUSWC organizers Jeremy Johnson, Andrew Romano, Jordan Tolbert, Sam Torres and Emily Sines were retaliated against by the university, losing their jobs and thousands of dollars in housing stipends.

"They wanted to silence us," Jeremy Johnson said. "... We wanted to make OU a better place. We wanted to help our coworkers at the time, and we were punished for doing so."

Since being fired from his housing position, Jeremy Johnson says he's essentially been blacklisted from any on-campus job opportunities, with his current employment as Speaker of the Legislature of OUSC only being possible because in the SAFAC orgs students and not professional university employees are in charge of hiring decisions.

As a member of OUSC Jeremy Johnson remains an advocate for improving the conditions for student workers, pushing to reduce the cost of college for students with free textbooks initiatives and OUSC's "Raise the Wage" campaign. According to Johnson, these efforts have been met with resistance from the university.

"It seems overall like the administration is averse to change and averse to improvement, and has this inability to accept ideas that come from students, or faculty or staff," Jeremy Johnson said.

In response to OU AAUP's allegations that the university bargained in bad faith, Jeremy Johnson was concerned not just for faculty, but with what the implications of these allegations would mean for more vulnerable workers on campus.

"We have seen how unwilling this administration is to negotiate with the [AAUP]," Jeremy Johnson said. "And they're even more harsh against the student workers that they see as disposable. Unlike other workforces on campus, student workers don't have any union protecting them ... They can't advocate for themselves, but they still depend on these jobs to stay in college. And this results in a coercive work environment where people have no choice but to submit themselves to whatever they're being told ... The administration knows

this, and they take advantage of it. For the lives of student workers to improve, they have to be able to advocate for their needs ... People need to be able to say what they think is necessary without fear of being destroyed."

So with these allegations, workers around campus are paying attention to how the university is choosing to respond. To this point there has been no announcement from the administration of a further investigation into the allegations, and the only official correspondence on the allegations was the statement supplied to The Post.

If the university decides to altogether disregard OU AAUP's letter, the faculty union has a couple different options for insisting the university takes action. They could do a vote of no confidence in President Pescovitz, or they could take the university to court and argue their case that the university violated labor laws and the current contract agreement by bargaining in bad-faith.

A no-confidence vote, while not taken lightly, is mostly just a way for faculty to express dissatisfaction and the university is not required legally to take any major action based on that vote. The last vote of no confidence was against President Gary Russi following 2009's faculty contract negotiations, and it did not lead to Russi being removed from his position.

To this point, The Post isn't aware of a major push in the union for a no-confidence vote. A lawsuit, however, is something that has been considered.

"We have discussed this matter with our lawyer," Miller said. "We are discussing other questions. We are in consultation with other faculty unions in the state. We are in consultation with AAUP National. So we're deeply concerned and we can't just pretend this didn't happen."

Despite this controversy, OU AAUP leadership remains optimistic that the situation could improve with better communication between the two sides.

"I think there are ways that we can work well together," Pollard said. "There are ways that the union currently works well together with administration right now. But I think we can do more. That's what we're trying to do. And to not have the other side [be] part of the conversation with us is frustrating."

OU AAUP leadership recognizes the value of shared governance and remains committed to improving the current state of relations between faculty and the upper administration. A lot of faculty frustration following contract negotiations has had to do with their perception that the upper administration and BOT aren't as committed to that ideal as they are.

The BOT's recent rejection of an OU AAUP proposal to add two faculty liaisons to the BOT didn't do anything to dispel the notion that the upper administration isn't interested in faculty having input on major issues facing the university.

Going forward OU AAUP will continue to push for more communication, transparency and accountability from the administration.

"It's fair to say we're not done with the conversation," Pollard said. "We don't want to have a conversation through the student newspaper. It would be good to have a conversation with some Oakland leaders ... We're working together on a daily basis. We still move forward, we still function ... So there is this act of collaboration. It's really important to build on that and to not see it as the administration and the AAUP are enemies. There's certainly work to be done."

Nominations for Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence is now open

RACHEL YIM
Senior Reporter

Each year, Oakland University School of Nursing (OU SON) recognizes and awards Michigan nurses who demonstrate positive impacts in their communities via public nomination.

The nomination for this award is accepted until Mar. 1, and anyone – patients, friends and family members of patients, etc. – who wants to acknowledge their special nurses who have had a positive influence on their lives can participate.

“To have the ability to recognize excellent nurses in Michigan is an honor for OU SON,” Judy Didion, dean of OU SON, said. “To see the local healthcare systems come together on this night to rally around nursing has been a pleasure. Certainly, this event also allows us (the OU SON) to have a moment where we shine in the public’s eye for the work we do to organize the event, process nominations, and obtain sponsors to support the event and the education of future nurses.”

According to Didion, the Nightingale Award was initially developed 34 years ago by Maggee Allesee, a member of the OU SON Board of Visitors, who is a local philanthropist and supporter of nursing. Since then, the OU SON has been the coordinator of the event.

This award is special in that it recognizes nurses from a variety of healthcare fields – acute care, the community, education, research and leadership. The nine categories for nomination of the award are the followings:

- Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing-Demonstrates excellence in patient care as an advanced practice nurse (NP, CNS, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist)
- OU School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni-Any OU SON graduate, making meaningful contributions in nursing
- Excellence in Nursing Leadership-An emerging/experienced nurse leader who champions creative strategies and management in healthcare service to foster quality healthcare delivery
- Excellence in Education-Contributes to quality patient care through education
- Executive Administration-A visionary in leading people and builds effective teams (those holding director level positions and above)
- Nursing in the Community-Delivers innovative nursing services in a non-hospital setting
- Post-Acute Care & Specialty Nursing-Contributes to a particular area of nursing (ex. Rehabilitation, home care, oncology, case management, etc.)
- Excellence in Research-A visionary researcher with a passion for advancements in nursing through research



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Oakland University Human Health Building, home to the OU School of Nursing.

• Staff Nurse-Demonstrates excellence in direct patient care delivered in a hospital, clinic and/or sub-acute care facility (Two awards given)

Didion also emphasized the importance of recognizing OU SON alumni who are positively impacting the delivery of healthcare in the community. Past distinguished alumni winners are Kathy Armstrong (2021 winner) and Christina Boyland (2020 winner). Armstrong is a dedicated Clinical Nurse Manager who works daily with a focus of improving the culture of safety in the hospital, delivering great patient outcomes. Boyland is a passionate Forensic Nurse who focuses on increasing awareness and providing education for the treatment of patients affected by trauma, violence and maltreatment.

This annual event and hearing about current nurses’ experiences in various settings could also spark interests of students to pursue a career in nursing.

“Too often, the public does not understand the role of nurses and the variety of settings that they work,” Didion said. “To hear the stories behind the awardees is inspiring and demonstrates the impact nurses have on the lives of so many in Michigan. Hopefully, individuals will read about these nurses and consider nursing as a career. Also, because we host this event, we hope they consider OU as their choice to study nursing.”

There are nearly 3 million nurses in the U.S., with the majority of them having spent more than a year on the frontlines of the pandemic. From providing high-quality patient care to actively leaving positive impacts on society, nurses are critical to the success of not only their organizations, but also that of healthcare in general.

For more information regarding the award or to nominate, visit the Nightingale Awards website and fill out the 2022 Nightingale Nomination Form.

Winter career fair rescheduled due to snow emergency

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI
Senior Reporter

The in-person winter career fair was rescheduled from Feb. 2 to Feb. 22 due to the snow emergency last week. The event will be taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second floor of the Oakland Center. The virtual career fair was still held over handshake last Thursday.

Sarah Swarz, marketing and events coordinator for Career Services, hopes that the new date will be better for students.

“We are hoping that since students have had that extra time to get settled back in person that it might be even a better date for this fair to happen. It will be nice for students to be back in their routine. We still have some amazing employers who are planning on attending the in-person fair. I think it all worked out for the best.”

The career fair is an opportunity for students to network with both local and global companies for potential internships and jobs. Swarz says that the fair is a great opportunity to find local employers.

“The in-person fair coming back is wonderful for those smaller companies who are in the Metro Detroit area for students to come and get to know them. I would definitely recommend that students, in addition to those big brand names, explore as much as they can, because you don’t know what you’re going to find.”

Now is also a good time for students to look for a job or internship.

“The amount of job postings

has gone up over the course of the pandemic. You would think that it would have dropped, but the demand from employers is high. It’s been awesome to see all of these positions that employers are adding on and formatting to either remote or hybrid positions. It’s nice that there hasn’t been a shortage of jobs for our students,” Swarz said.

This sentiment reflects MSU’s annual recruiting trend report that states 44% of companies increased their hiring quotas last year and bachelor hiring is up 15%. In addition, employer optimism for college labor is the highest it has ever been in over fifteen years.

A valuable resource Swarz recommends are the school’s career consultants.

“We have career consultants associated with every college on campus and a lot of the time they know intimately about positions being offered on Handshake. They can help introduce students to companies or we can at least give the tips and tricks to leaving a good first impression whether that be in person at a career fair, virtually at a career fair, or just applying for a position. I always recommend students loop us in for whatever they need.”

Students can get in contact with a career consultant by calling the Career Services Office, emailing them at careers@oakland.edu, or by visiting their North Foundation Hall office in Room 154. Students can also meet career service workers alongside employers at the upcoming winter Career Fair.

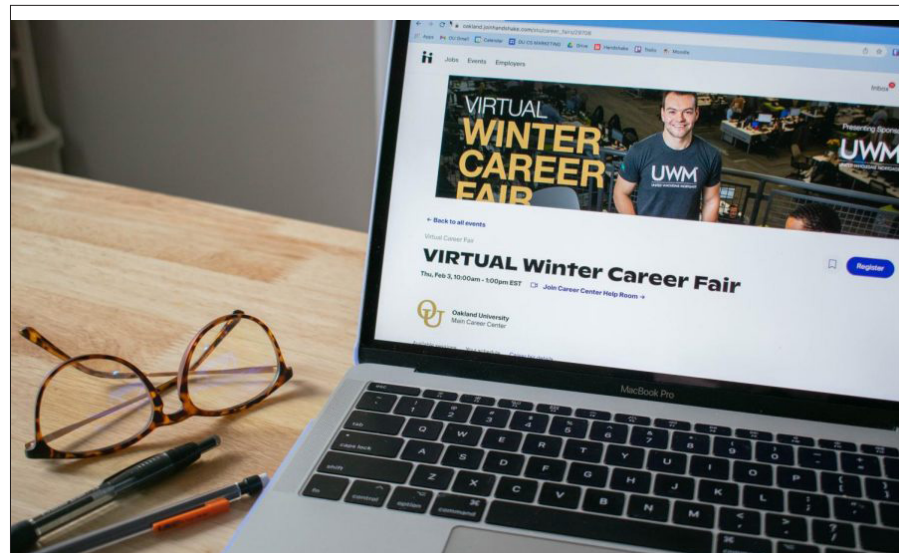


PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The winter career fair has been rescheduled to Feb. 22. A virtual career fair was still held last Thursday amid the snow.

Students encouraged to explore on-campus employment at job fair

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

On Feb. 16, students are invited to explore opportunities for on-campus employment for various departments within the university. The event, coordinated by the Student Affairs and Diversity Connecting Students to On-Campus Student Employment Opportunities Task Force, is open to all current OU students and will take place in the Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Departments such as University Housing, Disability Support Services, Gender and Sexuality Center and the Tutoring Center will be present at the event with representatives at each table to discuss opportunities and employment with interested students. The full roster of participating departments is available on Handshake.

Kelly Dorner, director of internal affairs for career services and co-chair of the Student Affairs and Diversity Connecting Students to On-Campus Student Employment Opportunities Task Force, says the goal behind the job fair is to increase visibility of student employment opportunities especially coming out of the height of the pandemic.

"We have found that there's really an elevated need for students to be educated about on-campus opportunities that exist on campus

because they are fantastic ways to, of course, have a job, have that job be right on campus, to develop in the professional and explore what they like and don't like. On top of that, it's just a fantastic way to build relationships and connect with the campus community," Dorner said.

Sama Joseph, a biomedical sciences major at OU, works in the biochemistry lab on campus running her own experiments as well as aiding graduate student experiments. Reflecting on her time working as a student employee, Joseph encourages students to seek employment opportunities that are both convenient and flexible.

"I have classes on campus of course so what I do like for a lot of the times I go to the lab like before my classes or after I have classes depending on the time so it really works out well for me so I can just manage my schedule better that way. It's just really convenient," Joseph said.

Joseph also states that the work she has been able to do through her on-campus employment has benefited her in terms of her coursework.

"I'd learn about these experiments in my classes but actually getting to do those is a totally different experience. You only learn the main points or [professors] tell you 'Oh, this is the reason why these experiments are done,' but when you actually get to do it on your own and

see the results first hand, it's a totally different thing," Joseph said. "You can actually interpret these results into your own project. It's honestly a really rewarding experience."

Alex Rye, a writing center consultant and Honors College TA, states that on-campus employment has allowed her to grow in her field of study and connect with OU students and faculty while still offering flexibility.

"I'm an English major, so I have learned a lot more about writing and me as a writer through it so it has personally benefited me in that way. Also, being able to work one-on-one with people, I feel like that skill is going to really help me in the future because I'm going to law school, so, working with clients, that's what I'm going to be doing, that's what I do now so that's been super helpful," Rye said.

"I feel like with on-campus jobs and why I've liked it so much is because of the flexibility. They understand and have said multiple times that you being a student comes first. With the writing center, I am fully able to create my own schedule and go in and work when I can."

Dorner encourages students to seek out student employment as it can benefit them both personally and professionally.

"These on-campus employment opportunities are out there, they're a great way to professionally develop, they're a fantastic way to make strong

connections with the university community. We are thrilled to have students back on campus and what better way to really begin to embrace that campus community than looking into getting a position on-campus," Dorner said.

Career Services offers a variety of resources for students to better prepare both for the job fair and as they begin to search for jobs in the professional field. Dorner invites students to utilize these resources, including resume or cover letter reviews and interviewing guides, which can be accessed on Handshake and the career services webpage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREER SERVICES
The on-campus job fair is scheduled for Feb.

16.

Police Files 2/3/2022: Series of elevator entrapments across campus

TORI COKER

Marketing Director

In January there were a total of seven elevator entrapment incidents reported to the Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) around several locations on campus.

The earliest report received by The Oakland Post chronicles an entrapment within the freight elevator of the Oakland Center on Jan. 7, 2022. At 4:14 p.m. that afternoon, one subject reported himself to be stuck between the first and second floors of the building before calling back four minutes later with the news that he'd gotten off the elevator.

Just over an hour later that day at 5:49 p.m. the OUPD was alerted of another elevator entrapment within East Vandenberg, with the caller stuck on the fifth floor of the building. Schindler Group — the elevator manufacturer — was contacted in reference to this incident at 5:56 p.m., and as of 6:25 p.m. OU Housing was reported to be on scene with the caller.

The following day around 12:38 p.m., two additional subjects were reported to be trapped on Vandenberg's sixth floor. Dispatch then contacted both Schindler Group and OU Housing, with the incident's final update the former's acquisition of the keys to the elevator at 2:11 p.m.

Two days later on Jan 10, multiple calls were made



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
An outside view of the Oakland Center — one of several buildings on campus where community members have had difficulties with elevators.

from a Hillcrest Hall elevator reporting the entrapment of four subjects, beginning around 8:43 p.m. and lasting for some time before the connection would remain intact. The trapped students were given an estimated time arrival (ETA) of one hour at 8:57 p.m., and were finally able to escape the elevator at 10:06 p.m.

Fast forward to Jan. 21 at 7:39 a.m., when another call is made from a student trapped in the elevator on the third floor of East Vandenberg Hall. The police contacted Schindler Group after arriving on-scene, and the latter subsequently freed the student from the elevator before declaring the machine to be out of working order for the rest of the day.

On Jan. 25, a guard on duty within Vandenberg Hall contacted the OUPD around 10:39 p.m. to report an elevator stuck between the sixth and seventh floors with no one inside. As of 10:57 p.m. that night, the incident was concluded with a comment stating that Schindler Group would "check" the elevator the following day.

While the Post was in the process of acquiring the above information, another elevator entrapment was reported on Jan. 30, 2022 at 2:51 a.m. We await more information on this incident, but can confirm it occurred within Hamlin Hall.

Recreation and Well-Being's Love Well week promotes self-love

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

Starting Feb. 14, Oakland University Recreation and Well-Being will be hosting a week-long celebration of Valentine's Day called Love Well week. The purpose is to bring people together and to celebrate not only romantic relationships but all types of relationships while also learning to love oneself.

Starting off on Monday, Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day — is the pet therapy program from noon to 2 p.m. in the Oakland Center (OC). This event is focused on feeling the unconditional love and affection from the dog.

"It's not all about showing love but receiving it," Cortney Heileman — health and wellness coordinator — said.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15 is a table called "Be My Sweetie" which focuses on understanding and learning the history of Valentine's Day. It is not just about learning the culture behind Valentine's Day but what it means to each individual.

The table is running from noon to 2 p.m. in the OC with chances to win prizes and candy by playing plinko and answering questions.

Wednesday, Feb. 16 will be a collaborative event with RecWell sports and group fitness in the OU Rec from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be a ping pong tournament and registration is open until the night before at 11:55 p.m. for \$5.

There will also be a Be my Yoga Valentine class from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in studio 919 which is for

partners only — but not just romantic relationships. During all of this, the wellness staff will provide mocktails and information about what consent is and isn't.

On Thursday, Feb. 17 is another table event in the OC from noon to 2 p.m. about love languages. It will feature quizzes about what a person's strongest love language is and even their weakest.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Oakland University Recreation and Well-Being will be hosting Love Well, a week-long celebration of Valentine's Day to promote self-love.

"It helps in all relationships to understand your own personal love language," Heileman said. "It's a chance to learn a bit more about themselves and their personal needs, how they like to be treated and how they like to treat others."

Rounding off the week on Friday, Feb. 18 is a virtual trivia night at 7 p.m. which will be hosted on the OURecWell Instagram. People can answer questions in the comments to get involved and for a chance to win prizes.

"We started doing virtual due to the pandemic, and found it was a good way to keep engagement when people may be tired of meeting in-person," Heileman said.

This is the third year of the program, and it is a collaborative effort within the Rec Center with as much community and campus partnership as possible. It started when the staff was really excited for Valentine's Day and wanted to create a week of celebrating for everyone to enjoy.

The goal is to help people learn through educational programs and to promote personal growth, but also to get people more involved on campus and with the department.

"[We want to] break the stigma that Valentine's Day needs to be all about love and ease the societal pressure of being in relationships," Heileman said. "[We want] opportunities for those who don't have plans and to celebrate a multitude of relationships."

The Well-Being suite will remain open during regular office hours.

Retired OUWB professor named first professor emeritus

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) proudly announced its first professor emeritus: Judith Venuti, Ph.D.

The title of emeritus is appointed for professors who have rendered honorable and remarkable service to the university, and because it is the OUWB's first time granting emeritus status to its professor, it is even more special for Venuti.

"I've done a lot of different things, but (OUWB) was one job where I felt like I was making a real difference, that I was actually contributing to what was happening at the school and my voice was heard," Venuti told OUWB news.

Venuti joined OUWB in 2011 with the very first incoming M1 class of students. During her time at OUWB, she held a variety of position titles. In 2012, she was appointed the chair position of the Department of Biomedical Sciences — previously known as the Department of Foundational Medical Studies.

She developed the Embryology curriculum for M1-M2 students, worked as Co-Director of the Reproductive Systems and Musculoskeletal System courses, and assisted in anatomy and histology laboratory courses throughout the program. She also served as members of various committees, including the Committee on Committees, the Faculty Awards Committee, the Promotion and Tenure Committee, as well as the M1-M2 Curriculum Subcommittee and the Curriculum Committee.

Her career, however, dates to far before joining OUWB. Venuti was previously an Assistant Professor

in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, as well as an Associate Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at Louisiana State University's Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

Her interest in community engagement led her to become the co-chair of the Developmental Biology Program for the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. She currently works at the Casa Colibri clinic in rural Guatemala as the secretary and a member of the board of directors.

Her passion in anatomy and embryology continues as she has served on the American Association for Anatomists (AAA) Executive Committee, AAA Educational Outreach Committee, and a number of other AAA committees and task groups. The AAA presented her with the A.J. Ladman Exemplary Service Award in 2019. She was also chosen to the Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neuroscience Chairs (AACBNC) Board of Directors, and both the AAA and the AACBNC have now accorded her Emeritus status.

In addition to the numerous achievements she has accomplished during her career, her teaching should also be recognized. Clinical anatomy, human prenatal anatomy (embryology), developmental biology, cell and molecular biology and allied health human anatomy and nursing anatomy are among the subjects she has taught.

She has earned multiple "Excellence in Teaching" honors over her more than 30 years of teaching in the Anatomical Sciences. Most recently, she was awarded the Golden Apple Teaching Award by the

OUWB class of 2023.

According to Venuti, her biomedical research was also an important component of her profession. Her research mostly focuses on early embryonic signaling networks and on mechanisms of skeletal muscle development in molecular levels.

After ten years working with OUWB, she retired in 2020, and plans on spending half of her time in retirement on Cape Cod in Massachusetts — her hometown.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
Judith Venuti, Ph.D. worked ten years with OUWB.

Looking Back: Diving into OU's past snow days

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

Snow days can truly make you feel like a kid again. Even in college, students will flush an ice cube down the toilet or wear their pajamas backwards. On Wednesday Feb. 2, 2021, Oakland University declared an emergency campus closure, cancelling classes and non-essential university activities. They also called for a snow emergency in effect between 10 p.m. on Wednesday, and 6 a.m. on Thursday.

Coincidentally, Wednesday was only the second day classes were slated to be held in-person after January's remote learning in light of the COVID-19 case surge.

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, Detroit Free Press reported metro Detroit may accumulate 12 to 16 inches of snow. When all was said and done, we saw around six inches, according to The Detroit News.

There have been many times where OU has canceled classes for the day —

sometimes the campus community was notified ahead of time, and other times, it was too late, calling for some chaos and disaster on campus.

In Feb. 2002, Oakland County was about to receive their biggest snowstorm of the year, but OU decided not to close. When 5 a.m. rolled around after the snowstorm hit the streets that night, OU assessed the situation and remained open.

Realizing the mistake they made after further consideration, the university decided to close at 7 a.m. and tried to warn students and faculty as soon as possible. However, it was already too late for commuters en route to their dreaded 8 a.m. classes.

One student at the time, Kim Wachowski, had an exam at 8 a.m. and left extra early — knowing the roads were going to be bad. After taking over an hour to get to campus and driving on the dangerous roads, Wachowski arrived at class only to find out classes had been canceled.

Also back in 2002, OU's school closure hotline's message wasn't updated for students to find out if class would be cancelled or not. As reported by some staff members, almost half their students showed

up, most having driven in the treacherous road conditions.

More recently on Feb. 11, 2015, a snowstorm that accumulated a colossal 13 inches led to an OU snow day. Staff Intern Shelby Tankersley reported the grounds team had to work extremely hard to get the snow cleared, but a then-new snow emergency policy — where housing students have to remove cars from overnight lots — helped a bunch.

"It made it easier to plow the lots because vehicles were moved into the parking structures," Constance Jones, manager of custodial and grounds, said at the time. "This was the first time we used the policy, and I thought it worked well."

On Feb. 16, 1982 — the same year hits like "Eye of the Tiger" and "Billie Jean" were released, and "Magnum P.I." was playing on television — a snowstorm that brought on eight inches led to a mid-afternoon cancellation of classes on Tuesday, Feb. 10 and a subsequent Feb. 11 snow day.

Back then, Acting Director of Campus Affairs George Catton stayed overnight in the Physical Plant to monitor the storm. Catton called then Interim President George Matthews at 11 p.m. Tuesday and suggested

closing the university on Wednesday. According to the 1981 article, the information was relayed to the State Police and local media outlets, but wasn't erased quickly enough, because on Thursday, WJR-790 AM radio reported OU was closed for the day.

"We heard the broadcast and called them up immediately," Matthews said at the time. "They cleared up the problem by correcting the broadcast after that."

It seems with the wide-eyed excitement a snow day often brings, chaos is sure to be in session somewhere.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Snowy days have surely had their fair share on OU's campus.

Get back to campus life with SPB's "Casino Night"

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

The Student Program Board (SPB) will be hosting its annual "Casino Night" on Feb. 19. The event will occur in the Oakland Center (OC) from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Students will have to fill out the OU health screening form and bring their OU ID to enter. Semi-formal attire is encouraged, and masks must be worn throughout the event. This night will feature games, food, prizes and a concert.

The OC will be turned into a casino with games such as poker, blackjack, Texas hold'em, let it ride, roulette, craps and more. Along with the various casino games available, there will also be make and take items such as customized dog tags, custom bumper stickers, and caricature picture drawings. Food will also be provided throughout the event.

Upon entering "Casino Night," students will be given chips to bet on games. The chips can be turned in for tickets to win prizes in a raffle. These prizes include a television, Apple Watch, mini-fridge, Nintendo Switch and more. The raffle will occur following the concert.

"Casino Night" is just one of SPB's

significant events. The annual events director of SPB and organizer of this event, Kaleigh Belz, said their goal is to bring students together and offer them enjoyment.

"It's something that I think students look forward to every year as one of the two big iconic events," Belz said. "You got the 'Carnival' in the fall, and you got the 'Casino Night' in the winter. It's really something that brings the student body together all in one place as a pull-in attraction. I think the SPB's goal is always to bring students together and give them something that they'll enjoy when it comes to student programming."

Along with bringing students together, a key takeaway from this event will be the memories students can gain from this event. Belz states with everything being virtual in the recent past, this event can bring students back to participating in programming.

"A lot of it is going to be memories," Belz said. "It's going to be one of the more iconic things they're going to be able to do on Oakland's campus. Especially coming back from a year and a half of virtual where a lot of students weren't able to be on campus or participate in programming. So part of our goal is to bring that back a little bit."

SPB President Joshua Robinson mentioned this event helps move away from the academic side of the school and makes the college experience more full. In addition, this event is meant to be fun, emphasizing getting back to campus life.

"The whole purpose of SPB is to provide fun and diverse events for the student body," Robinson said.

"So it's something to kind of get away from academia and make the college experience a little bit more full. Especially as we've jumped and been trying to leave this COVID-19 era and move back into campus life as we've known it, that's a key part of this event. It's a staple event for fun. This is a super fun event that has no purpose besides enjoyment."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES
Casino Night is scheduled for Feb. 9 this year.

CMI hosts African American Celebration Month events

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

In observance of African American Celebration Month (AACM), the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) has teamed up with other organizations at Oakland University to host events from Jan. 17 to Feb. 17.

The normal opening ceremony was cancelled, so the 30th Annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration — headlined by keynote speaker Anthony Anderson — served as the beginning of the month-long celebration. The event took place at the O'Rena due to a high number of attendees.

There are also two month-long events — the first is a food drive with drop off locations at the OU food pantry and the CMI office. The second event is the MLK Day of Service, which is hosted by the Office for Student Involvement (OSI).

"This year because of all things that's happened in our world, that was switched to a virtual event, so instead of just being January 19 as it was scheduled, it's month-long so it's actually still happening so students who want to participate still can," Denise Thompkins-Jones said — retention coordinator for CMI.

On Feb. 1 the School of Health Sciences hosted an event called "Black Physical Therapist Pioneers: Paving the Way!" The event featured a panel of Black physical therapists who explained their journeys to about 50 participants — a good turnout

for a winter event.

As for future events, on Feb. 4 CMI will be hosting a "Taste of Africa" event which will feature a chef from Chartwells who will demonstrate how to prepare four to five different dishes. Some featured menu items include catfish, grits and sweet potato pie.

"Some of those dishes are commonly found in African American folks' kitchens on a Sunday

afternoon," Thompkins-Jones said. "I could walk into my grandmother's house and probably see her cooking some catfish."

The "Taste of Africa" event historically brings in about 500 to 600 people — but is online this year — and it is the most well-received event put on for AACM. The event tries to bring in vendors or students who have connections to OU.

The food pantry is providing bags with some of the ingredients for students who request them from the AACM section of the CMI website until Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. for free. The first 20 or so bags include a \$25 visa gift card.

On Feb. 8 there will be a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Oakland Center (OC) hosted by the OSI. It is an appointment only event — registration is on the CMI website.

Career Services is hosting an event called "Exploring Inclusion in the Workplace: Diversity Workshop and Mixer" on Feb. 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the OC. The learning and networking event features representatives from different companies about company culture and more.

The last event is the "Black Women Rock Awards" which is doubling as the closing ceremony for AACM. The event will be held in the OC from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will celebrate the achievements of Black women who represent OU.

"We're celebrating both the Black folks in our culture and our culture, but that's the goal, we want to celebrate not appropriate," Thompkins-Jones said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CMI
The 30th Annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration with keynote speaker Anthony Anderson kicked off African American Celebration Month.

Behind the scenes of OU with Lisa Peterson

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

As a university, there are a lot of people behind the scenes the community just doesn't get to hear a lot about. At Oakland University, Lisa Peterson helps keep the Dean of the School of Business on their toes and keeps things organized that many people wouldn't think about.

Peterson has been working at OU for 22 years, and is currently the Assistant to the Dean of the School of Business, while also attending Oakland University for her Human Resource (HR) Development degree and a minor in marketing. She makes all the Dean's calendar appointments, coordinates events and coordinates faculty and staff. She fills the role of being an HR assistant to the office, doing a little bit of everything.

"I'm responsible for all of the research proposals that come in," Peterson said. "For the review of those, for faculty reviews, for merit, I work on all this stuff. So I'm really the HR person in my office, on top of working for the Dean"

Prior to working for the Dean, Peterson worked on fundraising in

the development office.

She still has about two years left before she graduates. Since she works at OU and also attends OU, she understands the struggles from both perspectives — especially during the pandemic and the transition between in-person and online.

"It's a learning curve for faculty, just like students," Peterson said. "I actually would say, given the technology is more now than probably when our faculty were students, it can be a challenge for them. So for them to be able to teach classes remotely and teach synchronously and asynchronously — I think I can speak for the school business faculty [when I say] they've done a wonderful job."

Peterson has yet to fully start her minor, so she has not yet experienced having a professor in the School of Business, but she is certain the professors, as well as herself, will remain professional throughout the classes.

"I love being a student and I don't think you're ever too old to learn — I'm learning amongst the best," Peterson said. "I think I'm at an advantage because I work at a place where people teach."

Peterson lived in Port Huron and started her higher education journey

at St. Clair Community College, then transferred to Macomb. When she finally transferred to OU she had 64 credits toward her degree.

While also working on her degree, Peterson is preparing for a new Dean that will be joining the university in the summer. This will be the seventh Dean that Peterson has personally worked with. She will be working on catching them up to speed about everything happening at the university such as unions, policies and faculty contracts.

"Every personality was different. Every learning curve was different. And everybody has their own style of management," Peterson said.

There is a lot that needs to be done behind the scenes. Peterson runs many events that help the university run smoothly. She has put together golf outings, faculty receptions, alumni breakfasts and board meetings. She also has organized many out of state alumni events that have been super successful.

All meetings, such as executive committee meetings and assembly meetings that have to happen bi-weekly with all the staff, have been organized by Peterson.

Everything that is done needs to be planned — and Peterson is the person to do it. She's stuck by OU's

side since 2000, and has been the backbone of the Dean's office.

"I always say my boss is the pretty face, and I'm behind the scenes, he gets a kick out of that," Peterson said. "But my job is really behind the scenes and it's making sure everything upfront works well for him. It's important that his image is professional and we're putting our best foot forward."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA PETERSON
OU's Assistant to the Dean of the School of Business, Lisa Peterson, is responsible for lots of behind the scenes planning.

Upcoming February events at Meadow Brook Hall

D’JUANNA LESTER
Senior Reporter

February is going to be quite the month in terms of events at Meadow Brook Hall. With a romantic couples’ dinner for Valentine’s Day, weekend-long events for history lovers and new themed tours, Meadow Brook Hall is looking forward to an exciting month for guests.

“From our new Flashlight Tours, which illuminate the hidden details and exquisite craftsmanship of the historic mansion to the return of two Downton Abbey-inspired events and a candlelight Valentine’s Dinner, there is something for everyone,” says Marketing and Communications Manager Katie Higgins.

Valentine’s Day Dinner

Kicking off the month of February, Meadow Brook Hall is hosting a romantic evening including a reception, a stroll around the Great Estate and a three-course dinner. Want to treat your sweetheart to a magical evening like something out of a movie? This is the perfect event for couples who want a special night out with their significant other. On Monday, Feb. 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the estate will host couples.

The experience will consist of strolling musicians throughout the mansion while guests explore the estate at their own pace, followed by dinner. The dinner will begin with a Salad Matilda.

The main course will be braised beef short rib and pan-roasted chicken, and to finish off the dinner, dessert — a chocolate flourless torte with raspberries, whipped cream and caramel sauce. Tickets are \$125 per person.

Downton Abbey Servant’s Life Tour

This event is perfect for fans of Downton Abbey. This Downton Abbey-inspired event will take guests back in history to explore the secret lives of the downstairs staff. Guests will get the chance

to witness what life was like for those who were “downstairs” when head housekeepers invited them to join their staff. The experience of the afternoon will conclude with jam, tea, milk and scones in the Servant’s Dining Room.

This event will be hosted every weekend during the month of February from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$45 per person, and this year, guests will also receive a loose leaf tea sampler and strainer as a commemorative gift.

Flashlight Tours

Also offered at Meadow Brook Hall during February is the Flashlight Tour — a new event coming to the Great Estate this year. Three tours will run on select Thursdays — Feb. 10, 17 and 24 — with tour times scheduled at 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and the last tour will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Great Estate will be illuminated like never before, with all of the hidden details of the estate in full view for guests to be mesmerized by. There are only ten guests for each tour, and they will get to see behind the ropes, under the tables and most importantly, will get to witness secret spaces of the mansion that aren’t visible during the day. Tickets are \$30 per person.

All events will require tickets to be purchased in advance — available at meadowbrookhall.org — as well as face masks to be worn while inside the Great Estate.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
A slew of fun events are scheduled for February at Meadow Brook Hall.

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POSTIES PREDICT THE SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

Design by: Carolina Landeros
Story by: The Oakland Post Staff

Somehow it’s already Super Bowl time, with the big game taking place this Sunday, Feb. 13. Here’s who the Posties are banking on to take home the title of 2022 Super Bowl Champions.

Matthew Scheidel, Sports Editor — Rams

I want the Bengals to win. They’re such a likeable team. But I don’t think their offensive line will be able to hold up. They gave up nine sacks to the Tennessee Titans in the Divisional Round, and now they face a vaunted Rams front four led by Aaron Donald. They’ve been proving everyone wrong all season, but I think the clock is about to strike midnight on this Cinderella story.

Brock Heilig, Sports Reporter — Bengals

For me, this one is nearly impossible to predict. On paper, the Rams are a better team. However, I find it very hard to bet against Joe Burrow. No quarterback has ever won the Heisman Trophy, a national championship and the Super Bowl. And here Burrow is, just one game away from winning all three in just over two calendar years. If the Rams win, it will be the perfect ending to one of the best stories in recent NFL history. But sometimes winners like Joe Burrow get in the way of destiny.

Leticia Santos, Ads Assistant — ?

I am here to represent those that, like me, do not have enough football knowledge to actually make a prediction (I know you are out there). But hey — we’re still here! One thing we can predict, the Super Bowl always gives us a lot to talk about! Whether it’s about the game, the cool public relations effort brands put together, or the halftime show... the Super Bowl always brings a lot. I’m very excited about all of it!

Jeff Thomas, Editor-in-Chief — Rams

A hugely significant game for both franchises and two quarterbacks looking to cement their place in NFL history. The Bengals are desperate to finally bring a championship home to Cincinnati after decades of irrelevance, and the Rams have mortgaged their future to build this roster and win now for L.A.. This is Matt Stafford’s chance at redemption and Joe Burrows’ chance to standout in a crowded field of incredibly talented young NFL QBs. Honestly, I can’t pick against Stafford. The man is perhaps the most naturally gifted quarterback of his generation and he spent the prime years of his career in NFL prison playing for the Lions. Playing in the Super Bowl, he has the opportunity that Lions’ greats like Barry Sanders and Calvin Johnson never had to solidify his legacy and prove that he’s a champion. The Bengals are tough, no doubt. Joe Burrow is a beast. If it were anybody but Stafford playing QB for L.A., I’d be inclined to go with Cincinnati’s hot hand in this game. At the end of the day, I know in my heart that I gotta ride with Stafford. This is probably the closest I’m ever going to get to being able to root for the Lions in a Super Bowl. Call it naive, call it overly sentimental, but that little kid in me who supported all of those god-awful Detroit Lions teams over the years needs this win. I’m riding with the Rams and hoping like hell that the greatest QB in Lions history shines on the biggest stage in American sports this Sunday.

Gabrielle Abdelmessih, Campus Editor — ?

What football game? I’m just here for the commercials with puppies.



Brandon Sams, Distributor — Rams

Although I think the Bengals do have the potential of winning this game, the Rams have absolutely everything going for them. They have an impactful offense led by former Lions QB Matthew Stafford, an aggressive defense led by Aaron Donald and Von Miller and home field advantage. The Bengals are a great team but have weaknesses within their team, specifically the o-line. If the Bengals want to win, they have to improve the o-line. However, I don't see a drastic improvement happening by Super Bowl Sunday so I think Matthew Stafford will win with the Rams, and every Lions fan will feel proud to see Stafford win.

Tori Coker, Marketing Director — Rams

This year's game is already shaping up to be incredible for two reasons — it doesn't have any of the usual names in the lineup, and it's truly anybody's game. On the one hand, it would only make sense for the season the Rams have had to end with this win — and plus, seeing Stafford with a ring after all those years stuck on the team-that-shall-not-be-named would just be wonderful. That said, I feel like the Bengals have such an endearing underdog quality to their team going into this — they've defied so many expectations of them, they beat what was the best team in the AFC, and not only have they never won a Super Bowl, but they haven't even been to play since the 80s. My gut is telling me the Rams are gonna secure themselves a homecoming victory — but above all, I'm just enthusiastic about the overall novelty surrounding this whole matchup.

Joe Popis, Senior Reporter — Rams

I want the Rams to win, and I believe they will. I have always been a big Matthew Stafford fan and loved him in Detroit. It's his time to win one, and he's been playing very well the whole playoffs. On the other hand, I do like Joe Burrow and the Bengals. What they have done this season has been amazing. They were one of the worst teams in the NFL not too long ago, and now they are in the Super Bowl. However, I think Stafford is the superior quarterback, and the Rams have a better defense. I don't see the Bengals offensive line handling Von Miller, Leonard Floyd, or Aaron Donald. I also believe Sean McVay is a better coach than Zac Taylor. I'm with the Rams all the way here.

Lauren Reid, Content Editor — Rams

Being a fan of Matthew Stafford and all he's done throughout his career — on and off the field here in Detroit during his 12 years with the Lions — I'd love to see the Rams win this one. Considering how much they gave up to get Stafford in the first place, this would be the ideal ending to a storybook season for the Rams. With star receivers like Cooper Kupp and Odell Beckham Jr., and a defense led by Aaron Donald, the Rams are equipped with all the tools they need. And it can't hurt playing the big game in your home stadium.

Joe Zerilli, Senior Reporter — Rams

If you would've told me 10 years ago Matt Stafford would be a Super Bowl contending quarterback, I would absolutely believe you. He was and still is a top of the line QB who never had a shot with us because, let's be honest, the Lions were never going to do much with him because they didn't trust him. After playing under three different head coaches with the Lions, Stafford, a year after he was traded, won the AFC Championship and will now lead the Rams to a Super Bowl victory. On paper, the Rams have the better team with their defense led by arguably the best player in football, Aaron Donald, and the offense has been unstoppable with triple-crown winner Cooper Kupp — plus Cam Akers' return was nothing short of jaw-dropping. Don't get me wrong, Joe Burrow and the Bengals have been spectacular and any other year I'd wish they would win, but I can't bet against Stafford — he's too close.



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Poli-Sci department on Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement

GRACE LOVINS
Senior Reporter

On Jan. 27, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer officially announced his retirement from the court after serving a term of nearly 28 years. Justice Breyer, 83, was nominated by former President Bill Clinton in 1994 and plans to serve until the court rises for summer recess, assuming that the next justice has been appointed and confirmed to fill his vacancy.

Breyer, considered to be a liberal-leaning Justice, was known for his pragmatism, advocacy for judicial independence, and interpretation of the Constitution as a "living" document. He was also an accomplished writer, authoring several books on federal regulation and his judicial philosophies.

His retirement will allow President Biden to nominate a successor who could potentially serve for decades which provides benefits to the Democratic party in the long term.

George Zora, a political science major and president of OU's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, notes that Breyer's decision may have stemmed from Democratic pressure over fear of flipping the U.S. Senate after the midterm elections later this year.

"Right now, the Democrats have control of the Senate so he doesn't

want to pass away at a bad time, retire when it's too late or when there would be Republicans controlling the Senate or a Republican president which would further shift the balance of the court to the conservative side," Zora said.

Currently, the Supreme Court consists of 6 conservative-leaning Justices and three liberal-leaning Justices. The appointment of another liberal-leaning Justice would not change the weight of the court but would prevent the possibility of Republicans appointing a justice in the future either after midterm elections or the next presidential election.

Because the weight of the court would not be altered, the buzz around Breyer's retirement seems to stem from Biden's campaign promise to nominate the first Black woman in the history of the Supreme Court and reactions from the Republican party.

According to Zora, the appointment of a Black woman to the Supreme Court would not only be a historic first in the country, but would shift the demographic of the Supreme Court and potentially create a lasting change in Breyer's seat which has been historically filled by Jewish Justices.

Diane Hartmus, J.D. and associate professor in the Department of Political Science, notes that, although Biden's candidate has not been announced,

Republican representatives have already begun to denounce the competency of the candidate as the process has become evidently polarized.

"Unfortunately the process has become so political that, we're seeing examples right now, we have Republicans who have come out and already spoken negatively about whoever it is that Biden chooses. Biden has not announced a name yet, sure there's a shortlist, but we have Republicans who are already saying this will be a lesser quality candidate, this will be a left-wing candidate," Hartmus said.

"It does not matter at this point whom Biden nominates, they will be against that person because this, unfortunately, has become that partisan which is really distressing to those of us who've loved and watched and studied the court for a long time."

Assistant professor in the department of political science and advisor for Pi Sigma Alpha, Cody Eldredge, Ph.D., stated that the premature consensus of Biden's candidate being unqualified for the Supreme Court raises a lot of issues.

"We don't know who the candidate is or what her qualifications are so to assume that she's only there because of her skin is pretty egregious. We can expect to see a lot of ugliness, a lot of divisiveness, a lot of fights," Eldredge said.

"In the last couple days, strangely enough, the minority leader Mitch McConnell has spoken out and said he's willing to work with Democrats provided that the candidate is not regarded by Republican parties as being extreme. Usually, Mitch McConnell can be a bit crafty with these things so I'm not sure if that pledge is sincere but hopefully we won't see a repeat of past nomination fights."

In terms of timing, we should expect to see President Biden persist in the confirmation of his appointee before the midterm elections given the fear of Democrats losing control of the Senate. Both Eldredge and Hartmus stated there is potential for Republicans to attempt to block the nominee's confirmation but is unlikely given the party is currently the minority in the Senate.

President Biden states he plans to announce his nomination by the end of February and speculations about who the next Justice could be has been widely circulating. As previously mentioned, this will not have a significant impact on the current weight of the court but presents the Democratic party with an opportunity for both a historic nomination and the chance to appoint a liberal-leaning Justice who could serve on the court for decades to come.

Parody social medias are making OU a better place

BRIDGET JANIS
Managing Editor

Social media nowadays is huge — everyone is on it. At this point, there are so many accounts, other than just personal accounts. At Oakland University, there are a couple parody accounts that have begun to run the campus community's social media presence.

Let's start with a fan favorite. @OUSwifties on Instagram has caught the attention of all the Taylor Swift fans at OU, and has them in a chokehold. Their content is consistent — mostly photoshopping Swift in multiple places at OU as if she is a normal student here.

The Swifties are just loving this account, and many are posting the photos to their story because (obviously) Taylor Swift is at OU by the Elliott Tower and sleeping in her classes. This account keeps me going and makes me smile everytime they post. I really believe Swift would love it at OU.

I give this account a 5 out of 5 stars. I myself am a huge Swiftie and love

the creativity of these posts.

Now that the celebrity accounts have made their way to Instagram you just know someone had to start a Harry Styles version, @OUharries. Now — this account is not nearly as good as the Taylor Swift one, but I get the point.

With the absolute love people have for Styles, I see where it's coming from. Most people would hate me for saying this... but I am just not a Styles fan. I see how people can like this account taking somewhat the same approach as @OUSwifties, but for some reason, it's really lacking with less relevant posts.

I would rate this account a 3 out of 5 since it was a copycat idea, and just doesn't have the same quality as the Swift version it is directly compared to.

Another parody account on Instagram is @ou_affirmations, which uses a fun style of photoshop to present students with these encouraging messages to help everyone get through the semester.

My personal favorite is President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz telling me to spend my "Ora bucks" wisely — on

Subway that is. The captions on this account are on point, along with the use of emojis.

I rate this Instagram a 4 out of 5 — only because I wish they posted more! It is such a fun and interactive way to get students motivated and have a little joke about it as well.

Now, onto the absolute classic of

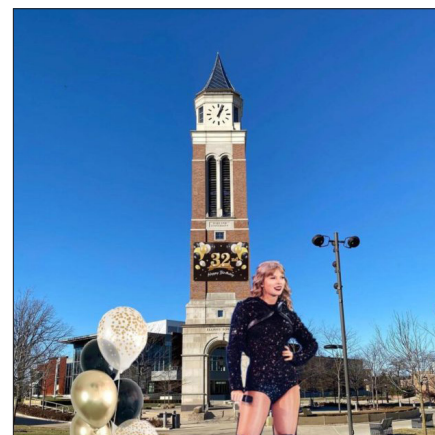


PHOTO COURTESY OF @OUSWIFTIES
ON INSTAGRAM
Taylor Swift strikes a pose outside of Elliott

OU parody accounts, the legendary Twitter account of @cursedvandy which highlights the disgusting and questionable food being served at the Vandenberg (Vandy) Dining Hall.

This Twitter was made during my Freshman year of college in 2019 and it was a true hit back then, showing the potato chip cookies, macaroni and cheese soup or hot dog frito pie.

There are some weird pictures shown on this account, and even weird online descriptions of the food on the dining hall website. Whoever decides on the Vandy dining hall menu should be fired.

Since this is such an original account in my eyes, and dates back years — unlike the accounts mentioned above that have been created more recently — I rate this account a 5 out of 5. They warn us about the food.

These fun social media accounts make OU a better place and they all hold a special spot in my heart, so thank you anonymous account runners for doing your part in making the OU community just that much better.

‘The Sex Lives of College Girls’ is funny and impactful

SARAH GUDENAU
Features Editor

Mindy Kaling and Justin Noble’s “The Sex Lives of College Girls” (TSLOCG) is a light-hearted and funny, yet emotional and real look into what it’s like to be a woman in college. As a big fan of a good comedy-drama, and maybe one with the niche of reviewing shows with “sex” in the title, I’ve got to say, TSLOCG is worth the hype.

The HBO original, with a 97% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, follows the lives of four college freshmen — Leighton Murray, Whitney Chase, Kimberly Finkle and Bela Malhotra. The four couldn’t be more different in personality, but when they’re united in one suite at the prestigious Essex College in Vermont, they soon become friends.

After the first episode, I was admittedly hesitant. It was one of those starts where the characters will give their life story in a line when they’re introduced — you know, to really make you understand the first 18 years of their lives you didn’t see — but after the second episode, I was hooked.

Since it’s on HBO Max (and sex is in the title), you do see a lot, but at least without the cognitive dissonance of remembering the adult actors are playing high school students — looking at you “Euphoria” and “Riverdale” — and not excessively so — “Euphoria,” that’s you again. (Cal Jacobs, put that thing away right now).

One of my favorite things about TSLOCG is the positive relationships between the female characters. Sure, there are conflicts, i.e. Leighton and

her old friends have a falling out in the first episode, but we don’t really see said ex-friends much after that, or “The Catullan” writer Evangeline and Bela have beef for a time, but only temporarily.

Everyone generally gets along well, and most importantly, the women support each other when they deal with relationship messes, predatory authorities, misogyny in male-dominated spaces and sexual harassment, knowing all too well what it’s like to be a woman in a man’s world.

We’ve seen the mean girls trope play out far too often, and it shouldn’t be refreshing to see a group of women just get along in any media, but the truth is, it still is.

That’s what really made me emotional, the very real and relatable representations that go even beyond, well, the characters’ sex lives, while that is a significant part of it. The show tackles more than just gendered issues — we see racial microaggressions, class imbalances, the fears of coming out and struggles with identity in general all play out.

Every character has depth, and they’re all loveable — especially Bela with her extroversion and quick wit. What can I say, I love a good writer. Even Kimberly, with her cringeworthy assumptions, has some endearing moments.

Generally, my rating system depends on 1. Did the media make me cry? and 2. Can I see it as part of my comfort rotation? The answer to both is yes.

It’s been announced that the series has been renewed for a second season, and I’ll be rewatching the first ten episodes until it’s out.

Rating: 5/5 stars

‘And Just Like That...’ was a Manolo Blahnik pump that doesn’t quite fit

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

[SPOILERS AHEAD]

“And Just Like That,” the chaotic, confusing and sometimes charming Peloton ride of a television show, has finally come to an end.

Like many fans of the original groundbreaking nineties hit television show, “Sex and the City,” I was ecstatic to hear that a HBO Max reboot was in the works. As a twenty-something self-proclaimed Carrie/Charlotte hybrid with a growing vintage shoe collection with her own newspaper column, how could I not be?

The fan base it created never left after the last episode aired in 2004 and only continues to grow. People demanded to see more, so much so that the leading ladies reprised their roles in two successful films.

You can’t scroll through Instagram without seeing episode clips or pictures of the eclectic fashion. There’s even an account, run by Lauren Garroni and Chelsea Fairless, that strives to document every outfit worn in the series (@everyoutfitonsatc).

It’s like a trip down 90’s fashion memory lane and more, with hilarious commentary and niche references. Cast members like it too, with actors like Sarah Jessica Parker (Carrie Bradshaw) and Kristen Davis (Charlotte York) adding the occasional comment and like. The account was so successful, Chelsea and Lauren decided to expand their platform and make a podcast in which they analyze the series, among other topics related to fashion and pop culture. It is one of my favorite social media accounts and I adore the podcast. Their takes on the reboot are worth the listen. It’s like chatting over cosmopolitans with friends.

It is no question that, especially after the last two years, people were ready to see their favorite characters again after more than a decade — well, most of them.

Kim Cattrall, who played the fabulous PR executive and Samantha Jones, decided not to reprise her role, leaving fans wondering how her exit would be addressed. Other plotlines — especially after paparazzi shots taken during filming — were widely speculated upon, too. Twitter had a lot to say!

In Dec. 2021, the first episode aired and viewers finally got a glimpse into the current lives of Carrie, Charlotte, and Miranda — and were met with an almost immediate and answer the question on everyone’s mind, which

happened to be asked by a fantastic OG series side-character, Bitsy Von Muffling: Where’s Samantha?

The answer? Disappointing and not something the loyal Samantha we all know and love would do. I’m sorry, but I do not believe Samantha would move across the pond over Carrie firing her as her publicist. Is she working with Annabelle Bronstein in London? While she does communicate with Carrie via text throughout the series, often with some of the most well-executed and witty “lines,” her presence was sorely missed.

Oh yeah, and Mr. Big dies from a heart attack in the first episode following a Peloton ride. His death was heartbreaking but could have been prevented. Call 9-1-1, Carrie! Call 9-1-1.

After the tragic loss of Mr. Big, the rest of the series focuses on Carrie grappling with her grief. Miranda has A LOT going on, including dating Che Diaz, the first nonbinary character in the Sex and the City universe, and Charlotte’s plotlines only seem to revolve around her family.

We’re also introduced to new additions to the friend group: LTW, Nya, and Seema. I loved all of them, and wish they had their own series. I’m manifesting Seema’s boss energy for myself in my fifties.

This was not escapism I think a lot of people were hoping for. It was often melodramatic and muddled qualities of characters in ways that didn’t always make sense, that should have been better executed in the writing. There were moments of this series that were great, but they were only moments.

The OG series had plenty of transgressions against people of color and queer people that “And Just Like That” seemed to want to correct, but didn’t get quite right. Was it the mess that was “Sex and the City 2?” No, but but as someone of North African descent, I can tell you that’s a pretty low bar.

One thing I absolutely loved about “And Just Like That” was getting to see some of the iconic wardrobe pieces from the original series. The episode where Carrie re-organizes her closet was my favorite. I don’t know about you, but eating Jiffy Pop in vintage Versace sounds like a dream.

I couldn’t help but wonder, will “And Just Like That” take us out for a second season? We better not be told no via a Post-it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

“The Sex Lives of College Girls” on HBO Max has been renewed for a second season.

Arc'teryx on me: Gorpcore techwear trend explained

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI
Senior Reporter

If you have come across any fashion TikToks, you might have seen the term “Gorpcore” thrown around before, but what does it mean? Gorpcore is a subgenre of the techwear movement comprised of items usually worn by hikers and skiing enthusiasts to help protect them from the elements. The name comes from the abbreviation of the staple hiking snack trail mix, or “Good Ol’ Rasins and Peanuts.”

Many pieces of Gorp fashion are made with the material Gore-Tex. Gore-Tex is a water repellent fabric that also allows water vapor to travel through itself. Its lightweight nature makes it a perfect fabric for hikers and those who engage in other outdoor physical activities. The fabric is used by many big-name brands such as, Addidas, Converse, The North face, Patagonia and most notably Arc'teryx.

Arc'teryx's meteoric popularity is due to two factors, the first of which being celebrity endorsement. Famous musicians Lil Yachty, Frank Ocean and Travis Scott have all integrated the brand into their own personal styles by either going full Gorp or by using branded items as an accessory. There also has been an influx of Techwear inspired footwear like Ye's NSTLD which have brought sneaker culture and gorpcore together.

The other factor that has made Arc'teryx a household name amongst fashion-minded

TikTokers is the Arc'teryx on me trend. People who own Arc'teryx jackets stand under their running showerhead to show off the aforementioned GoreTex properties. The videos are often accompanied by the fitting YT song “Arc'teryx ” and the phrase “look how it beads off,” with it of course being the water from their showerhead.

The trend has drawn the ire of some TikTok users as GoreTex and Arc'teryx items usually have high



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAILED
Gorpcore is a subgenre of the techwear movement comprised of items usually worn by hikers and skiing enthusiasts.

price tags. Gucci also recently collaborated with Gorpcore staple brand The North Face to create a line of items, including a \$1,500 pair of boots. Ironically, they recommend keeping the boots out of contact with rain, going as far as to advise that they should be immediately towel-dried if they come into contact with water, making them completely impractical.

In addition to the high cost of entry, there is also the issue of environmental impact. Brands like Arc'teryx and their imitators use harmful PFAS chemicals in their garments that both serve as a danger to your health and also to the environment. Many TikTokers have comedically satirized the trend by replicating it with non GoreTex items, soaking themselves in the process.

So do I think the trend is going to last? Yes and no. I think that Techwear is here to stay as influencers and fashion icons continue to wear and create new Gorpcore items.

However, the Gorpcore movement will see a massive drop in popularity in the coming months when summer rolls around, and it becomes too hot to wear most of the items. But fear not, I'm sure that next year when winter rolls around, everyone will pull their \$600 Arc'teryx GoreTex shell jackets back out of the closet..

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The very best sad girl Valentine's Day songs

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

TORI COKER

Marketing Director

It's that time of year again! Single Person Shaming Da— or sorry, Valentine's Day xoxo! If you're planning on crying this Valentine's Day (same), we've got the music to match your tears. <3

"Punisher" — Phoebe Bridgers (Lauren)

Honestly — listening to Phoebe Bridgers is a one-way ticket to sob station, but it's the kind of cry you need once in awhile. Or if you're me, once a day (help). "What if I told you, I feel like I know you, but we never met," actually makes me keel over emotionally every single time. And while you're at it, just hop in bed, stare at the ceiling and listen to the entire album. "Graceland Too" and "Moon Song" will also impact you during your quarter life crisis, trust me — I'm speaking from intense personal experience.

"Silver Springs" — Fleetwood Mac (Tori)

No one pens a sad love song with an undertone of anger quite like Mother Witch Stevie Nicks. While it's unlikely many of us share in quite the amount of tumultuous relations that went down in this one band circa the 1970's (but hey, I don't know your business) this gem of a break up song is vastly underrated, often swallowed up by other songs which chronicle its same story ("Dreams," "Go Your Own Way.") If you're looking to drown your lonely-heart-sorrows

in a sea of raspy vocals and lyrics like, "I'll follow you down 'til the sound of my voice will haunt you, you'll never get away from the sound of the woman that loves you," this is your tune.

"Give Me a Minute" — Lizzy McAlpine (Lauren)

This one successfully harnesses sadness and loss, but also hope, which makes it a great lonely Valentine's Day listen. When you accidentally hop on Instagram and are romantically SLAPPED by your happily in-love mutuals, throw your headphones on and listen to this gem instead.

"Paul" — Big Thief (Tori)

Who doesn't love commitment issues?! Self-loathing is fun! For anyone feeling a little down and out about themselves and the part their fear of vulnerability played in their own solitude this V-Day (apologies for the callout), this track will speak to your every wound.

"Epilogue" — Justin Hurwitz from "La La Land" (Lauren)

Sure, there are no lyrics to be found in this seven minute, 39 second masterpiece — but the energy exuded is absolutely irreplaceable. Nothing brings me more joy than imagining myself heel-clicking around street lamps with Ryan Gosling in the crisp California air — nothing. If you see me wearing Emma Stone's iconic yellow dress on Valentine's Day trying to harness the vibes, truly mind your business.

"Communication" — The Cardigans (Tori)

This one requires a little imagination on my single brain's part — inserting myself into a relationship in the first place before expressing discontent with it —

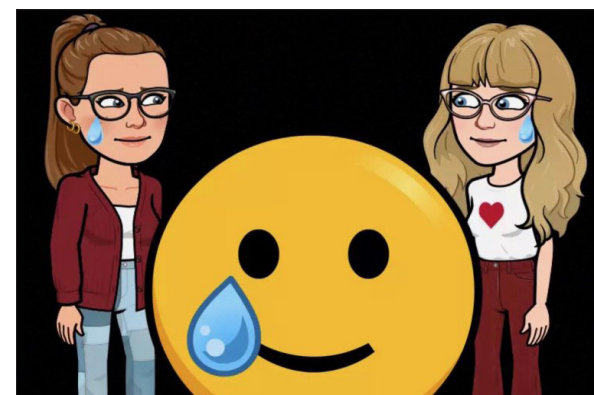


PHOTO COURTESY OF BITMOJI

Are your only plans this Valentine's Day to cry into your self-purchased assorted chocolate? Cool, cause Tori and Lauren have got your soundtrack covered.

but stick with me, fellow loners. Tucked between this song's intoxicatingly fragile vocals and aching guitar is a tale of someone who long couldn't let anyone get too close themselves trying to connect meaningfully with their partner, who makes it anything but easy. This song is so good it almost makes me want that kind of heartbreak just to relate... at the very least I'd like to claim it as the sad girl Communication major anthem. Okay? Okay.

So this year, while you cry into your self-purchased assortment of CVS chocolates, think of us and add these to your Spotify queue.

Must see movies to watch this Valentine's Day

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

Valentine's Day is coming up, and it doesn't have to be absolutely terrible for everyone. Watching a movie on Valentine's Day is a great idea — whether you're in a relationship, single or going through a break up, Netflix has the movie for you.

Now if you're in a relationship, a more romantic movie or romantic comedy sounds like just the movie for you.

"Set It Up" is a cute movie about two interns trying to get their bosses to date so their lives become easier. This is one of my favorite movies on Netflix because of how cute and funny it is. The two interns are dealing with some tough bosses that truly just need to relax, and what better way to do that than to fall in love. It's a great movie for Valentine's Day or any time of the year.

There are a couple Nicholas Sparks movies on Netflix — **"The Lucky One"** and **"Safe Haven"** — which are more on the romantic side. They will for sure make you cry because these movies are both so heartwarming and sweet. These movies really make you want to cry, because the love in them feels so real and so pure.

If you're single and Valentine's Day isn't exactly for you, there is still something you can watch to make the day still feel light-hearted and fun.

"How To Be Single" is a fun and uplifting movie about starting something new and finding yourself.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Wherever you find yourself this Valentine's Day, Bridget has the movie recommendation for you. "Safe Haven" starring Josh Duhamel and Julianne Hough is always a good choice.

To be single all you need is a new city, some close coworkers and a ton of fun. This movie really highlights that being single is not a bad thing, it's a time to learn new things about yourself and take on new adventures.

There is also a new movie on Netflix, **"The Tinder Swindler"** which is about women that have been conned out of millions of dollars online. If you're single, this would be a great movie to watch, especially if you're thinking about online dating

soon. It touches on how dangerous online dating can be and what to watch out for.

If you're going through a break up right now, Valentine's Day is literally the last thing you want to happen, but don't worry, there's still movies that completely understand what you're going through.

"Someone Great" is one of the best movies on Netflix, and touches on the idea of break ups in such a fun way. The girl that had gotten broken up with after dating her boyfriend for nine years does not sit around and be sad about it. She gets up and takes on the day — going on a crazy adventure with her friends. She realizes that things happen for a reason, and this break up, while it was hard, was for the best. This is surely a good movie for those recently single people that just need to realize it will be okay.

Another good option is **"Marriage Story."** This movie truly highlights that if there's no connection, no matter how hard you try, it won't work. With the couple in the movie going through a divorce while having a kid with them, it shows not every relationship is going to work out or be perfect. If you're mourning the loss of a relationship, this movie might just open your eyes that maybe it just truly wasn't meant to be.

While Valentine's Day isn't for everyone, that doesn't give you an excuse to not have a nice night. So grab some popcorn or ice cream depending on your situation, turn on Netflix and have a movie night. Cry if you need to.

ACLU — or ACLU for just a few?

ARIANNA HEYMAN
Senior Reporter

Founded in 1920, the original mission of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was “to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States.”

The ACLU formed in order to provide legal aid for conscientious objectors of World War I, as well as those who were being prosecuted for sedition and espionage. For over 100 years, the ACLU stood as America’s temple to free speech and defended First Amendment rights with unwavering dedication.

Their staunch devotion to protecting the freedom of expression has caused the organization controversy in the past. One instance was their 1977 defense of a neo-Nazi march in Skokie, Illinois. The ACLU successfully argued to the Supreme Court that the march was protected by the First Amendment.

Today, the organization is facing controversy once again, but for a different reason. The ACLU continues to assert that their mission is to protect First Amendment rights, but now it appears to be conditional on the speech aligning with the organization’s political beliefs.

Per the New York Times, at a recent ACLU event “a law professor argued that the free-speech rights of the far right were not worthy of defense by the ACLU. ... [And] an ACLU official said it was perfectly legitimate for his lawyers to decline to defend hate speech.”

Another instance of the ACLU’s newfound partisanship was their \$25 million investment in ballot initiatives and promotion of progressive issues

during the 2018 election.

These actions are the exact opposite of what the ACLU has championed for the last century. As a supposed neutral defense organization, why have they now decided to take sides?

The shift in tone from the ACLU can be traced to the rise of Donald Trump. Starting in 2016, the organization primarily focused on opposing “[Trump’s] policies on immigration, abortion rights and other issues.”

The swift transformation has been concerning for free speech defenders as well as former employees. Former ACLU Director Ira Glasser spoke of his fears about the future of the organization to the New York Times.

“There’s only one ACLU that is a content-neutral defender of free speech,” Glasser says. “I fear we’re in danger of losing that.”

Glasser continued by stating that the organization is at risk of surrendering its original mission in pursuit of “progressive glory.”

The ACLU is one of America’s most important organizations. If they continue down their current path, Americans could be at risk of losing an indispensable First Amendment advocate.

Defending freedom of speech should not be contingent on whether the speech aligns with political or even moral beliefs. If the ACLU pledges to be an organization dedicated to the protection of our constitutional rights, they should live up to that promise. Regardless of the intent by the speaker, the ACLU has a responsibility to safeguard the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Freedom of speech is our most valuable right in the United States. If the ACLU no longer wants to fight for First Amendment freedoms, who will?

‘Maus’: Holocaust story banned by Tennessee school district

TANNER TRAFELET
Contributor

As reported by the Associated Press, the McMinn County Schoolboard voted 10-0 to remove the graphic novel “Maus” by Art Spiegelman from its curriculum on Jan. 10. “Maus” centers around Vladek Spiegelman — a Jewish survivor of the Nazi occupation of Europe and ensuing Holocaust — and his son, who through the novel’s progression comes to know the extent of his father’s story as a victim of the Holocaust.

A main story-telling mechanism in the novel is the depiction of characters as animals. In the novel, the Germans and Nazis are presented as cats, the Jews as mice, Americans as dogs, Poles as pigs, French as frogs, Swedes deer and English as fish. The novel features depiction of murder, suicide, violence, a small drawing of a nude woman depicted as a mouse and what the McMinn County Schoolboard labeled as “rough language.”

“It shows people hanging, it shows them killing kids,” said Tony Allman, McMinn County School Board Member. “Why does the educational system promote this kind of stuff? It is not wise or healthy.”

The answer to Allman’s question is that the Nazis and their collaborators hung, gassed, shot and otherwise systematically murdered approximately six millions Jews — children and other groups included— from Germany and their occupied territories. Such violence was perpetrated against victims of the Holocaust by the Nazis and their supporters — who largely both knew about the Holocaust and did nothing to stop it — because the Nazis believed non-members of the “Aryan” race were biologically inferior and sub-human, warranting extermination.

On Jan. 10, the McMinn County Schoolboard engaged in censorship when they banned “Maus” — an approved part of the state educational program — and revoked the ability of students to experience and interpret the content of “Maus” in the official capacity of public education.

As I have argued previously, removing access to historical information, whether it be a statue or a book — however otherwise available for purchase in one’s capacity as a private citizen — has no limiting principle. The issue for me is whether the McMinn County Schoolboard is acting acceptably given it’s part of a public institution.

How sustainable a social and political precedent is restricting access to a book or information within a community’s public education system?

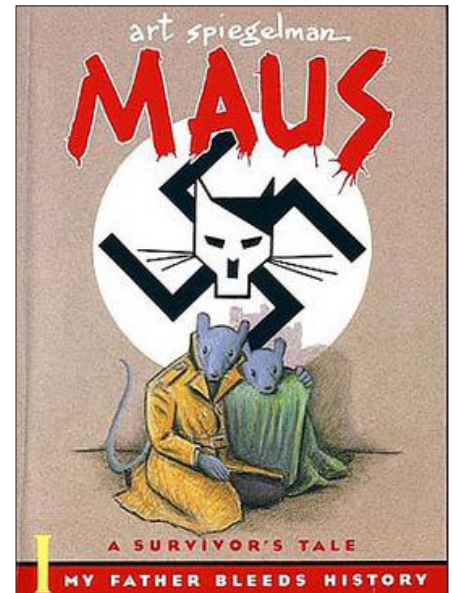


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA
The cover of “Maus,” which was recently banned by the McMinn County Schoolboard.

I concede to the opposing argument that if government is to be administered based on specific cultural or social beliefs, that local government is the best way to do so. Thus a community’s beliefs may be most readily and plurally represented, although there are exceptions to this in population centers with a high amount of cultural or political diversity. The seemingly unanswerable question is whether freedom of information and speech should override a local government’s decisions of governance.

I don’t believe books should be “banned” in the realm of public education. Exclusion based on the formative selection process of a state-level educational curriculum is understandable. The McMinn County Schoolboard banning “Maus” based on a subjective measure of “inappropriate language,” a small illustration of a nude mouse-woman, and depictions of the Holocaust that are too realistic is markedly different.

The violence of the Nazi occupation of Europe and the genocide of the Holocaust should not be softened or sugar coated. Information regarding this — and all historical events, information gathering permitting — must be readily accessible in both the public and private spheres.

Public education is already lacking in areas of substance and competent administration, to no fault of the classroom instructors who do their jobs and teach. Let us not deprive them of such a valuable instructional tool as “Maus.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TING SHEN
The American Civil Liberties Union formed in 1920 to provide legal aid for conscientious objectors of World War I.

Swim/Dive compete for ninth consecutive Horizon League Title

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men and women's swim team's 2021-2022 season is officially in the books, and all eyes are on the Horizon League Championships on Feb. 16-19, hosted by IUPUI in Indianapolis. The Golden Grizzlies look to win their ninth straight Horizon League Championship, and 44th conference title overall.

In regular-season meets, Oakland went undefeated in conference play, with notable wins against opponents such as the UIC Flames and the rival Cleveland State Vikings, both women's and men's teams were highly competitive against opponents in the Big 10 and even the Ivy League.

Oakland featured one of the deepest teams in the conference, led by redshirt junior Christian Bart and junior Marko Khotynetskyi, both of whom have received two Horizon League Swimmer of the Week Awards for the men's team, three-time Swimmer of the Week Senior Susan LaGrand and one time-Swimmer of the Week Freshman Jordyn Shipp, Men's Diver of the Week Freshman Scott Scrivano, and two time Women's Diver of the Week Sophomore Ellie Chalifoux.

Though Oakland's wins and accolades showcase their dominance within Swimming and Diving,

their Horizon League rivals this year are more than capable of challenging. Among the Horizon League finalists are the hosting IUPUI, Cleveland State, Green Bay, Milwaukee, UIC, and Youngstown State. Each team brings a level of talent and experience that can challenge Oakland on an event by event basis.

Though Oakland has the advantage in depth, events such as 3-meter Diving and the 1000-yard

relay have been a point of concern as they look to repeat. A few close finishes and untimely losses can prove to be the difference between a ninth title and a new Horizon League champion. Teams like Cleveland State who is having one of the most successful seasons in the division could look to upset the defending champions.

Though the competition is tough, the Golden Grizzlies have two key advantages they can utilize: depth and experience. Oakland has numerous battle tested upperclassmen and women as well as highly talented underclassmen and women who look to be the next generation of Horizon League champions. With a blend of talent, experience, and youth, Oakland has the ability to keep calm and rely on training and talent to stay focused on each individual event to win.

This may be Oakland's toughest battle yet, but in a battle of attrition, never count out the Golden Grizzlies. Oakland has consistently outperformed opponents on a week by week basis, has numerous player of the week honors, and has a combination of blowouts and gritty victories that will prepare them for the rigors of the Horizon League championship matches. The Oakland Golden Grizzlies swim teams don't need luck this year, they just need to persevere like they have all season to earn their ninth straight. Seguir virtute e canoscenza.

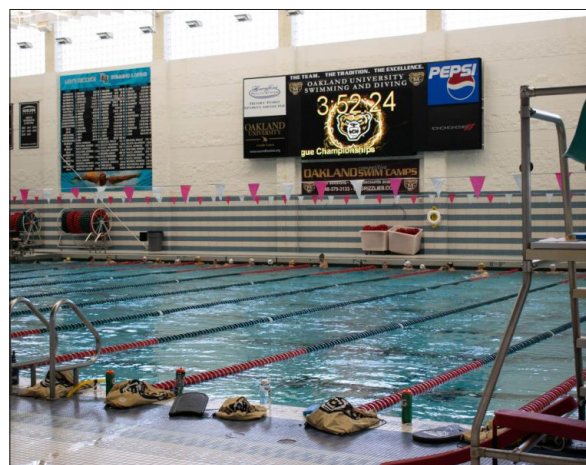


PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The swimming and diving team practices ahead of the Black and Gold Intrasquad match.

Jim Harbaugh will remain at Michigan after NFL interview

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The proverbial broken record continued to play again this January, as "Jim Harbaugh to the NFL" rumors ran rampant on social media.

Seemingly every football offseason, Jim Harbaugh is rumored to be a leading candidate for a vacant head coaching position in the NFL, and this year was no different.

After a dreadful 2020 campaign which saw the Wolverines struggle to a 2-4 record, change was needed in Ann Arbor. University of Michigan Athletic Director Warde Manuel opted to keep Harbaugh around, but it came with a restructured contract.

Harbaugh's salary was cut from \$8 million to an incentive-based \$4 million. Despite the salary cut, Harbaugh was ready to bring his team back to where it belonged.

And he did just that in 2021. After what was arguably the program's worst season ever, Harbaugh led his team to a 12-2 overall record. He also brought the school its first win over Ohio State since 2011, its first Big Ten championship since 2004, and its first ever College

Football Playoff appearance.

Following the Wolverines' 34-11 defeat at the hands of the eventual national champion Georgia Bulldogs, Jim Harbaugh had some things to think about.

Initially, Harbaugh's name was being thrown around for the head coaching position for teams such as the Las Vegas Raiders and the Chicago Bears. However, nothing materialized of the rumors.

After weeks of rumors and speculation, it was finally reported that the Minnesota Vikings were going to fly Harbaugh into town for an interview.

After what was reported to be a 9-hour-long interview, ESPN's Adam Schefter reported that Harbaugh would remain at Michigan.

"Jim Harbaugh called Michigan to inform the school that, despite interviewing with the Vikings today, he will be returning to school for the 2022 season, sources tell ESPN," Schefter reported. "Michigan was, in the words of one source, 'elated' to get Harbaugh's decision."

No one may ever know what transpired during the interview, but it truly was a turn of events for the ages. Prior to Schefter's report, some news

outlets began reporting that Harbaugh would accept the Vikings position. However, that did not happen.

Regardless of what happened during the interview, Harbaugh is in Ann Arbor to stay.

"From here on out, I'm working at the pleasure of the University of Michigan," Harbaugh said. "Because that's, in my heart, where I want to be."

After seeing up close and personal what a national championship-caliber

team looks like, Michigan will know what it needs to do to get back to the college football promised land.

"Sure, the Super Bowl is the greatest prize in our sport," said Harbaugh. "But winning a national championship, that's pretty darn great. Let's do that."

Michigan has a favorable schedule in 2022. The Wolverines will play their first four games of the season at home. The team will also host Big Ten foes Penn State and Michigan State. Its Big Ten West opponents include Iowa, who it handled easily in last year's Big Ten Championship Game, as well as Nebraska and Illinois, neither of which finished with a winning record last season.

The Wolverines' toughest test will once again come in the last week of November when the team will travel to Columbus, Ohio to take on the Ohio State Buckeyes in what could very well be another winner-take-all matchup.

When all is said and done, Harbaugh's success will more or less be measured by whether or not he can bring a national championship to Ann Arbor.

"We really believe we can win a national championship," Harbaugh said. "I'm excited about today, about tomorrow, about the next day . . ."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DFP
U-M's football coach, Jim Harbaugh.

Track and Field showcase talents in Meyo Invitational

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's and women's track teams ended up with No Team Scores in the Meyo Invitational on Feb. 4 and 5 in South Bend, Indiana, as they put up new Horizon League marks.

The Golden Grizzlies faced off against a mix of opponents in their first meet up of the month, including the likes of Ohio State University, Indiana State University, Loyola Chicago, and Purdue as they represented the Horizon League in this high profile matchup. Though Oakland ended the meet with no scores, they were able to reach new heights by competing against a collection of the top schools in Division I.

For the women's team, Oakland's appearance in the inter-conference matchup was highlighted by top performances by sophomore Rose Philogene, who placed in the top 3 in the 60-meter hurdles event, as well as numerous placing in other 60-meter hurdles throughout the two-day event. Along with her valiant effort, freshman Ellie Voetberg posted a Horizon League best time in the 5,000 meter, with 17:42.34, which was good for 15th among the women in the Invitational.

The Golden Grizzlies men's team proved just

as impactful, posting career marks in several different events over the weekend. Senior Connor Goetz led the Golden Grizzlies as he posted an Oakland University record time in the 5,000 meter at 14:18.44, which was fourth at the meet and best among Horizon League competitors. Oakland also posted high marks in the 500-meter and the high jump, with Junior Justin Kudera and Senior Chase



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
The Oakland University track and field team competed in the Meyo Invitational this past weekend.

VanSickle posting a third best for each with 48.53 and 6'8.25" respectively.

Over the course of the weekend, Oakland consistently placed in the top 20 as they look to gain traction on the season. Facing off against teams like Iowa State will allow the Golden Grizzlies to measure themselves against some of the top talents nationwide. Though they didn't put points up in the Meyo Invitational, Oakland showed flashes of their capabilities as they chased records and remained focused against Big 10 Track and Field.

Though Oakland didn't leave the weekend with a win, Oakland will take new top marks in the Horizon League. The Golden Grizzlies men and women left the meet with more confidence as they build what is still a relatively new sport for Oakland University. Having been officially established in 2011, the program is still relatively new, but seeing more records with the Oakland University name will certainly establish the winning culture that it is known for.

Oakland will be back in action on Feb. 11-12 to compete in the Grand Valley State University Grand Meet in Allendale, Michigan. This match will be one of their closing matchups before the Horizon League Championships on Feb. 26-27. As Oakland prepares for the final stretch, the men and women in track and field look ready to defend the den.

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Women's basketball bounces back against UIC with double-digit victory

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies, after walking away with a loss to the IUPUI Jaguars days before, bounced back in a big way against the UIC Flames last Sunday.

Their third quarter woes and slumps, a problem that plagued them during the Jaguars game, seemed nonexistent during this matchup as they went head-to-head with the Flames and came out on top.

The game opened up with a score for the Grizzlies after a turnover was created on the other side of the ball, and the race was on to see who could figure out the opposing defense first. The score remained deadlocked at 2-0 in the Grizzlies favor for minutes before the Flames scored their first basket.

The quarter continued on this way, with both teams trading shots until around the midpoint of the quarter. Something just clicked and fall into place for the Grizzlies, going on a 10-5 run to close out the quarter with the lead.

The quarter break would not stop the red hot offense, as the Grizzlies continued to find and exploit holes in the Flames' defensive scheme. Consistently getting to the cup and the foul line, raining jumpshots down from everywhere on the court, there wasn't much the Flames could do to stop the Grizzlies as they ended the quarter on fire and entered halftime with a 31-18 lead.

The third quarter saw the Flames kick everything into high gear to try and keep up with the Grizzlies, leaving it all out on the floor to claw their way

back into the fight. The Grizzlies, however, had no intention of letting up as they also shifted into another gear while trying to put the Flames away.

The quarter saw the Grizzlies put up 19 points to the Flames' 18 points, pushing the total score to 50-36 and keeping the Grizzlies firmly in the driver seat for this game. Going into the final quarter with all the momentum and power, the Golden Grizzlies would easily close out the Flames in what was an amazing comeback performance from last Friday's loss.

With a score of 59-47 at the final buzzer, the Grizzlies grabbed a hold of the lead and simply never looked back as they rocketed towards the finish line while the Flames fizzled out. The shooting splits for this game were not the best, but they still marginally outplayed their opponent.

The Grizzlies shot 21-57 from the field and 5-24 from the 3-point line [good enough for 37% and 21% splits, respectively], while the Flames notched a score of 15-44 from the field and 2-11 from the three-point line [good enough for 34% and 18% splits, respectively].

The Grizzlies won this game

on the boards, dominating the rebounding battle with a score of 38 to 26 [with 17 of those rebounds being offensive boards]. Overall, the team needed a victory like this to bounce back and re-focus their attention on the final stretch of the season.

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the court on Thursday, Feb. 10 to face off against the Green Bay Phoenix at 7 p.m. in the O'rena.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

Breanne Beatty scored eight points in 32 minutes of action on Sunday.

Women's basketball hangs tough against IUPUI, but ultimately falls

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

In a game where the stats do not show the full story, the Oakland Golden Grizzlies women's basketball team suffered a devastating loss to the IUPUI Jaguars last Friday despite putting in an arguably better showing than the victors.



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK

Brianna Breedy dribbles the ball up the court against IUPUI on Dec. 4, 2021.

The Golden Grizzlies, fresh off of their win over the Youngstown State Penguins [who are the second seed in the Horizon League], came into this game with a solid amount of momentum and confidence.

The first quarter started off hot and end in a hailstorm of buckets from both teams, with threes and layups coming through the basket with seeming ease. The end of the quarter would see the players sit with a Jaguars' lead, the scoreboard reading 19-18.

Neither team cooled down in the second quarter, with a similar barrage of scoring coming in from the players. The halftime buzzer would sound with the lead remaining unchanged, as the Jaguars lead 32-28.

The third quarter saw a change in pace for the game, as the Grizzlies' offensive production would drop off while the Jaguars continued their scoring ways. The Jaguars separated themselves and their lead here, extending their former four point lead into a 13 point lead by the end of the quarter, with a score of 48-35.

The Grizzlies started off the final quarter trying to cut into the lead, eventually getting the deficit down to 5 points. Despite this, the Jaguars' hold on the lead tightened and they would ride

their production all the way out to the final buzzer, winning the game with a score of 64-56.

The reason why this loss is so tough to swallow is because the Grizzlies played well for most of the game. The Grizzlies were doomed by a third quarter slump in which they dug a hole so deep that their fourth quarter heroics could not help them recover from it, as opposed to the Jaguars who [albeit inefficiently] stayed relatively consistent with their production throughout all four quarters.

Now, while the Grizzlies did shoot better from the field and three-point line, the difference was indeed marginal in comparison. The Grizzlies would go 22 of 55 from the field [good enough for a 42% rate] and five of 15 from the three-point area [which would register them for a 33% rate].

The Jaguars, for comparison sake, shot below 40% from the field [more specifically, they shot 38%] with a 21 of 55 showing and 31% from the three point line with a 5 of 16 shooting rate. They would have relatively similar shooting performances, but the Grizzlies were better, which again contributes to the head-scratching nature of the loss.

Only four players [Macee Williams, Rachel Kent, Breanne Beatty and Kahlaijah Dean] from both teams combined notched double digit scoring numbers, which is just another example of how hard it was to remove the lid from the basket for both teams.

The Golden Grizzlies will return to the court on Feb. 10 to face off against the Green Bay Phoenix at 7 p.m. at the O'rena.

Men's basketball drops overtime thriller to Northern Kentucky

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Sports Editor

The Oakland University men's basketball team lost to the Northern Kentucky Norse 87-78 in overtime Friday night.

Coming into this game, the Norse were winners of five in a row. They had been rising up the standings and many thought they would give the Golden Grizzlies a challenge.



PHOTO BY SKIP TOWNSEND

Jalen Moore scored 24 points in a losing effort against Northern Kentucky. Photo courtesy of Oakland University Athletics.

It was an action-packed first four minutes, with both teams forcing turnovers and finding success from behind the arc. The game had lived up to the

hype early on as things were all knotted up at 8.

After the first media timeout, the hot 3-point shooting from the Golden Grizzlies continued. Jalen Moore hit a couple, including one from about 30 feet. Osei Price and Micah Parrish each made one as well as Oakland led 19-12 at the second media timeout.

There was no shortage of effort from either of these teams in the first half. Bodies were flying with every loose ball.

Oakland led 38-26 at the half. The Golden Grizzlies were led by the usual suspects, Moore and Jamal Cain who each had 10 apiece.

The key difference in the first half was simply Northern Kentucky's poor shooting. They shot just 33% from the field, including a paltry 14.3% from 3-point land.

The Norse forced eight first half turnovers, but only scored six points off those turnovers because they couldn't hit shots.

Northern Kentucky started the second half on a 7-0 run. The Golden Grizzlies didn't hit a field goal until the 16:13 mark, when Osei Price hit a three as the crowd was just starting to get back into it.

The Norse started to crank it up on defense following the under-16 timeout. They forced three straight Oakland turnovers that all led to points, trimming the lead all the way down to one to force Oakland Head Coach Greg Kampe to take a timeout.

From here, Micah Parrish would score four straight points to push the lead back to 46-41, but NKU would respond with a 6-0 to take the lead.

Sam Vinson was a force for the Norse, with 14 points in the second half and 20 for the game. The game was deadlocked at 51 at the under-8 timeout.

The script had completely flipped. NKU was getting shots to fall and Oakland either couldn't or turned the ball over. The Norse had a seven-point lead with 3:06 left when Moore hit a huge three to keep the game within reach.

The Norse had several chances to put the game away, but kept missing the front ends of one-and-ones.

With 5.1 seconds left and Oakland down three, Moore went coast to coast and hit a buzzer beater 3-pointer to send the game to overtime.

The Norse started OT the same way they ended regulation: with efficient shooting and tough defense. Moore put Oakland on his back, with 24 points in total.

Unfortunately for the Grizzlies, Cain and Parrish both fouled out, which spread them pretty thin. In a last ditch effort, Moore tried racing down to court to draw a foul, but instead was called for traveling with 6.8 seconds to go.

This set Kampe off. He drew a double-technical foul, ejecting him from the game. His players had to restrain him.

The game was virtually over after NKU hit all the free throws. They won their sixth in a row, 87-78.

What ultimately did the Golden Grizzlies in was their inability to hold on to the ball. They had 17 turnovers, their highest since Dec. 4 at UIC.

Oakland will now travel to Youngstown State to take on the Penguins on Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Men's basketball drops second straight to Wright State

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The Oakland men's basketball team tallied its seventh loss of the season on Saturday night, as it struggled to execute down the stretch in a 75-64 defeat.

Playing its second game in as many nights, the Grizzlies failed to rebound after a second half collapse led to a loss against Northern Kentucky on Friday night.

Oakland [16-7, 9-3 Horizon League] jumped out to a quick lead, led by Micah Parrish [7 points] and Jalen Moore [4 points].

Despite a poor shooting performance in the opening minutes, the Golden Grizzlies were able to stave off the Raiders throughout the majority of the first half.

The Raiders mounted a comeback late in the first half. The Grizzlies led by as many as 10 early, but Wright State continued to claw its way back, and tied the game at 31 with 2:47 to play in the first half.

Led by a valiant 15-point first half effort from Trey Calvin of the Raiders, Wright State found itself down just one point at halftime.

Jamal Cain, Oakland's leading scorer, was essentially a non-factor in the opening

half. The senior standout recorded two fouls in the first four minutes, and went scoreless in the first half.

Blake Lampman caught fire for the Grizzlies. The sophomore guard connected on 4-6 3-point shots in the first half, and he led the team in points with 14.

Micah Parrish had an efficient first half, notching seven points on 3-5 shooting in 19 minutes. Moore, Trey Townsend, Brody Parker and Chris Conway were also in the scoring department for the Grizzlies.

Oakland squandered its lead to start the second half, but quickly turned things around to take a 45-41 lead at the under-16-minute media timeout.

Jamal Cain came to life in the second half, giving the Grizzlies a much-needed boost. His seven points gave Oakland a 51-43 lead with 13:36 remaining, but Wright State trimmed the lead to five at the under-12-minute media timeout.

The teams continued to battle down the stretch, but neither team was able to pull away. With just 7:56 to play in the game, Oakland clung on to a slight 59-57 lead.

Wright State took a 63-61 lead with 4:34 remaining, which forced Oakland Head Coach Greg Kampe to call a timeout.

The Raiders never looked back, and finished off the Grizzlies in easy



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

Blake Lampman led the Golden Grizzlies in scoring Saturday night with 16 points.

fashion down the stretch.

Trey Calvin and Tanner Holden led the way in scoring for Wright State, with 23 and 19 points respectively. Grant Basile added 16 points of his own to help the Raiders to the victory.

On the other end of the floor, Oakland struggled to garner any momentum. Lampman was the team's leading scorer with 16. Cain finished

with 13 and Townsend added 11 in the losing effort.

The Grizzlies have now dropped two straight games, and will look ahead to Youngstown State and Robert Morris next week. The Grizzlies will take on the Penguins at Beeghly Center on Wednesday, Feb. 9, and the Colonials at the UPMC Events Center on Friday, Feb. 11.

Your guide to a perfect Galentine's Day

D'JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

Are you single? Just got broken up with? Or do you just hate the mere existence of Valentine's Day in general? I also don't understand the point of the capitalist holiday masked as a lovefest. It might be my singleness talking, but I know I can't be the only anti-Valentine's Day person out there. Here's a guide on how to have a fun day with your gals for the perfect Galentine's Day celebration for Feb. 14!

Throw a party!

What could beat a classic party! Get your friends together, throw on your best (not red, white or pink) coordinated outfits and have a blast! Pull out the blacks and blues. Go full edgy! Have someone agree to host a party, and then get all you need for a fun time. Bake. Do karaoke. Unleash your inner Tom Holland and have a lip sync battle (minus the rain machine, unless you have the means for it, of course!) You could even give it a theme and dress up and decorate as needed.

Escape Room

Looking for an escape from all of the love themed activities around you? Have a roommate who has plans for the evening? A really fun way to get out of the house is getting a group together and going to an escape room — a way to challenge your brain and have fun with your crew. With limited time, you will have to solve

a series of puzzles with the help of detailed clues in order to get out of the room. Following a particular storyline, it feels like you're in a movie (and luckily, it's not a romcom, which goes perfect with the anti-Valentine's Day idea).

Shopping

Another classic idea for the girls who just want to have fun. Name a better way to cope with the emotions that come with Valentine's Day. Retail therapy is the best kind of therapy — well, besides books. Or actual therapy. For those who want to avoid their problems and just have a good time with the girls, putting together a shopping trip and getting down to it is an ideal way to spend Galentine's Day.

Game Night

For all the competitive gamers who want to unleash their rage in a healthy way, I suggest getting a group of your fellow competitive friends and have a game night. Whether it's board games, card games, video games or a mix of the three, getting in a game full of snacks, stacks and fun is an awesome way for your group to let their competitive nature run wild. Can't get all of your friends together in the same place? Start an Xbox party and describe the morbid ways you all play the Sims (we all do it)!

Book Club

For all my book nerds out there, you knew this was coming. If you've always wanted to start a book club and cry over that book you can't stop talking about, now's the time. Get a group

of your friends together and have a book club. You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll want to rip your hair out — so basically all the feelings of a regular relationship in a quarter of the time!



PHOTO BY D'JUANNA LESTER
Lester's anti-Valentine's Day bitmoji enjoys an ice cream.

WINTER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021.

Students who do not pay their balances in full or sign-up for a payment plan (and make the required installment(s)) may be dropped from classes and University housing (if applicable), and may be subject to late payment penalties and registration holds.

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