

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 18 | January 20, 2021



Men's basketball sweeps Youngstown State University

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IN-PERSON CLASSES

Over a third of classes will resume in-person this week

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MLK SCHOLARS

Eight students honored with 'Keeper of the Dream' scholarship

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DETROIT DANCE

Beaumont doctor combines health living and dance

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PHOTO BY: SOPHIE HUME

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



LOVE IS IN THE AIR Students across campus prepare for the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday by making cards.
PHOTO / SOPHIE HUME



THE NEW NORM
Casino Night moves virtual to accommodate state guidelines.
Photo/Oakland Post Archives



JOE KNOWS?
Breaking down president-elect Biden's cabinet picks.
Photo/ABC News



MOORE BUCKETS
Freshman Jalen Moore has proven to be a bucket in short time.
Photo/Sophie Hume

THE OAKLAND POST

EDITORIAL BOARD

Michael Pearce
Editor-in-Chief
mpearce@oakland.edu
248.370.4266

Emily Morris
Managing Editor
emorris@oakland.edu
248.370.2537

EDITORS

Ben Hume Web Editor
bhume@oakland.edu

Sophie Hume Photo Editor
sophiahume@oakland.edu

Lauren Reid Sports Editor
lrreid@oakland.edu

Cayla Smith Campus Editor
caylasmith@oakland.edu

Jeff Thomas Features Editor
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

COPY&VISUAL

Jodi Mitchell Design Editor
Meg Speaks Design Editor
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Maggie Willard Photographer

REPORTERS

Andrew Bernsdorf Staff Reporter
Bridget Janis Staff Reporter
Autumn Page Staff Reporter
Matthew Scheidel Staff Reporter
Dean Vaglia Staff Reporter
Rachel Yim Staff Reporter

DISTRIBUTION

Jaylon Johnson Distribution Director
jaylonjohnson@oakland.edu
Kimmy Guy Distribution Assistant
Erika Beechie Distributor

ADVERTISING

Lauren Karmo Marketing Director
laurenkarmo@oakland.edu

ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105
Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

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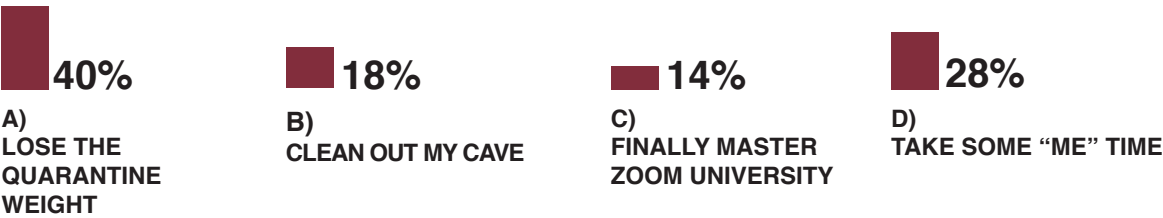
POLL OF THE WEEK

ARE YOU EXCITED FOR CLASSES RETURNING IN PERSON?

- A) YES!
- B) NO.
- C) I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE
- D) ALL OF MY CLASSES ARE ONLINE

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?



In-person classes and winter break ‘expected’ for semester

EMILY MORRIS
Managing Editor

Some previously remote classes will be in person starting on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

This shift may also impact the add-drop date (Wednesday, Jan. 20) and winter break (Saturday, Feb. 20 to Monday, March 1) for some students.

In-person classes resume

If the professor chooses, their class can resume in person or as a hybrid, according to Anne Hitt, associate provost for student success and quality assurance. Roughly 35% of classes will switch to include some in-person learning.

“If we keep going the way we are, I think we’re going to be able to at least maintain [these] in-person classes, and that’s going to be great,” Hitt said.

No add-drop after the switch

The add-drop date for classes is one day after in-person classes begin, but Hitt assures faculty will “find some resolution.”

While the add-drop date remains firm, no one will be forced to begin attending a class in person. Most classes will offer a live-streamed version of the class in addition to an in-person session.

If anyone needs live-streaming accommodation, Hitt recommends reaching out to the professor first, and if there are any complications, students should reach out to the department chair next.

“We don’t want there to be barriers to students being able to complete their courses ... because time’s not standing still,” Hitt said.

Winter break resumes

In-person classes also means more events can continue normally, including winter break.

Winter break will remain its usual length — Saturday, Feb. 20 to Monday, March 1. There will also be no quarantine period once students return.

“I think we’re going to be okay as long as when people go on [winter] break, they don’t bring anything back,” Hitt said.

Hitt also said COVID-19 testing will be available on campus after winter break.

The only variable to Oakland’s winter break plans is the Michigan Department of Health. According to Hitt, if the state recommends a quarantine period, OU will shift classes completely online for however long is suggested.

Although the Department of Health could change plans, Hitt does not “expect” it’ll be necessary because OU has been “staying safe.”

“I think everybody — all the students — are doing marvelously,” Hitt said. “They’re really doing well — social distancing, wearing masks and staying safe.”

Spring graduation format

The spring commencement ceremony format will be officially announced in late January or early February.

Recently commencement has been virtual in winter 2020, a drive in for spring 2020 and in person in winter 2019. All these options are on the table, depending on what format is deemed safest.

For anyone planning on graduating this spring, the last day to apply to graduate is Sunday, Jan. 31. Students can complete the process through their MySail.

“I hope everyone is staying safe and can progress toward graduation,” Hitt said.

Important Dates for the Winter

1/19 In-person classes resume

Roughly 35% of classes will be in person.

1/20 Add-drop date

Students may continue in-person classes virtually if they choose.

1/31 Register to graduate

Students planning to graduate in the spring need to register.

2/20 - 3/1 Winter break

There will be no quarantine following winter break.



Casino night goes virtual for the first time

DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

There is a first for everything, and this year Casino Night makes its first virtual appearance.

In a normal year, the Student Program Board's (SPB) annual Casino Night takes over the Oakland Center and turns it into a three-level gambling and games hotspot. But with COVID-19 restrictions, SPB had to take the student life mainstay online.

"There was never truly a question about whether or not [Casino Night] was going to happen," Kristyn Franzel, SPB assistant annual events director and the chief planner for Casino Night. "We knew that this is an annual event, it is something that should happen every year. We just did not know how it was going to happen."

On Saturday, Jan. 23 at 6:00 p.m., prospective gamblers will be able to log into GrizzOrgs and join the roaring '20s themed event by following Zoom links to breakout rooms.

Each room will have links to rooms leading to individual tables, games, and other activities. Attendees will be able to go from table to table, with each table's host tracking players' winnings over the night and relaying them to SPB staff.

"It is going to be kind of the same as in person, where there is going to be multiple events," Franzel said. "We are



OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES / RYAN PINI
A roulette wheel from a past Casino Night.

going to have gambling, we are going to have caricature artists, tarot card readers and we are having game shows as well."

The game shows include a trivia game based on Kahoot's method of awarding points based on how fast players can guess the correct answer, as well as bingo and a

game inspired by Family Feud. Attendees will be able to press their luck with games such as blackjack, poker, roulette, craps and a "Wheel of Fortune" type wheel.

Each game will pay out tickets to be put toward one of the over \$5,000 of prizes available, and all bingo winners get a prize. Attendees will join an SPB staff room where they can determine which prizes they put tickets toward. Prizes on offer include a Nintendo Switch, AirPods Pro, an electric skateboard, a Roomba vacuum and a mini fridge, with more to be announced on SPB social media channels.

While there was not a question about whether or not Casino Night was going to be held, putting it together was not an easy process.

"For an organization whose specialty is large in-person gatherings, of course there have been a lot of changes and we have had to make a lot of adjustments," Owen Bennett, SPB president, said. "The hope that I have is that through the precautions we have taken and the way that we plan these things, that people can get just as much enjoyment from watching a performance through Zoom or coming through Casino Night online as they would in any other year."

SPB planners have found ways to fulfill the goal of making enjoyable online events, such as an upcoming Zoom-based escape room in February where players will follow a person streaming from an escape room and send them tips on how to get out.

The struggle for new student organizations

CAYLA SMITH
Campus Editor

Professors and faculty weren't the only ones scrambling to figure out a new way to navigate the virtual world. Student organizations also had to adjust to this new world, especially the student organizations which just kicked off.

Oakland University students have the opportunity to develop their own organizations, funding and training is provided courtesy of the Office for Student Involvement (OSI). Before COVID-19, an incentive to drive attendance to these events was free food or items. There isn't an incentive to get students to join an organization during a pandemic, so getting the foot traffic and attendance has been harder, especially on student organizations that didn't have a chance to get their footing.

GrizzFit is an organization that enhances the community around eating healthy, exercising, mental health and working toward your personal goals. President of GrizzFit Clark Brady and his friends wanted to get in better shape, so they frequented the gym together. In the summer of 2020, Brady and his friends took their collective enjoyment and turned it into a student organization and began hosting meetings in the fall of 2020.

"We enjoyed it so much that we wanted to expand on it with the community," Brady said.

After being discouraged with how the events of 2020 played out, they haven't been as active on social media as they would have hoped, but they do host weekly meetings on Google Meet on Sundays at 6 p.m. The turnout averages to about eight people, and their personal goals for the week are discussed.

But they've been struggling with getting word out about the organization, because their recruitment style was traditionally word of mouth at the gym, and with social distancing implemented at the recreation center it's been harder to do that.

"When you're trying to build a community around fitness, it's tough because a lot of that is the interaction and getting to know people who are doing the same things that you're struggling with," Brady said. "The people we want to recruit are people that want to go through this with other people and support them. It's tough to do that with the pandemic because it's hard to make those interactions."

Despite this, the organization did successfully host two virtual events their first semester. Hosting both virtual yoga and zumba classes attracting the attention of 12 students.



MICHAEL PEARCE

The Student Activities Funding Board (SAFB) office is in charge of funding with all smaller student organizations, like GrizzFit, which do not receive direct university funds.

Brady still mentions the challenges of coming up with and hosting these events and wishes that there were more resources available to assist in getting the word out about upcoming events. He hopes to work with the housing office to display advertisements on the TV screens and putting up posters.

The entire executive board are seniors so their torch will be passed by the end of winter semester, and they've begun think-

ing about the next steps for the org and hope that it survives another year.

"I want to come back one day and hear that it's still going, and that it made it out of COVID," Brady said. "Hopefully, when things open up, people will want to do things with the organizations."

To keep up with GrizzFit or support other student orgs visit oaklandu.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations.

OU students win at Kennedy Center Theater Festival

DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University School of Music, Theater and Dance fielded a team for the 2021 Kennedy Center Region Three American College Theater Festival (ACTF), with students winning and placing as finalists in multiple categories.

Two students, Colin Franz and Sophia Cannella won the competitions they competed in. Franz won the Allied Design and Technology Award for his draping project, while Cannella won the Student Dramaturgy Award for her work on the SMTD's February 2020 production of "Macbeth."

"It is really crazy," Franz said about winning. "I was really proud of the work I put into [the project] and what came out of it. I thought I would get something small; I did not expect to receive the award that I did. I am really proud of my work and thankful of the education that I received to help get me there."

Franz created a half-scale draping model of an 1870s American mourning gown. Draping is the practice of creating a costume by draping muslin fabric onto a mannequin-like model. Franz's project took about 60 hours of labor starting on Nov. 11 and finishing in the last week of December.

Held from Jan. 6-9, 2021, the ACTF is a festival that hosts several competitions for theater students from around the country. The Region Three festival covers universities from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and western Ohio. Festivals are usually held in person, like the 2019 festival which took place in Madison, Wisconsin, but



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLIN FRANZ
Franz posing with his half-scale draping model of an 1870s American mourning gown.

COVID-19 forced the 2021 festival to go online.

Between the online festival and social distancing requirements, Franz and the rest of the costume shop students had to work on their projects in difficult conditions.

"We were working all the way up until ... when we got shut down," Christa Koerner, SMTD costume shop supervisor said. "We socially distanced in the shop for most of the semester. We figured out I could have three students in the shop plus myself, that way they could each have a cutting table to themselves."

When in-person classes were suspended in November,

shop students worked on their projects at home and updated Koerner through video calls and photos.

Acting students also had to work through Zoom, though it was an easier switch than the shop had.

"The coaching of our students mimics a lot of what we have been doing in our classroom work," David Gram, associate professor of directing and acting said.

Students did a mix of sending in recorded performances and live performances through Zoom, which Gram used to coach their acting.

For winning the Allied Design and Technology Award, Franz will be spending a week at the Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico as an intern. Cannella has been selected to direct a 10-minute original play written by a student playwright from Region Three.

"Jeremy Barnett, one of the professors, says that the Santa Fe Opera House is one of the most coveted summer internships and that grad students fight to even get an internship," Franz said. "The fact that I get the opportunity to work with them is immensely amazing and I know will help with my career as a theater designer for sure."

For students looking to get ahead in their fields, Franz offers some words of advice.

"Make sure to put yourself out there," he said. "Even if you feel like it might not be worth it or you might not be good enough, because no matter what you will be good enough for something or someone. You will be surprised with what you have and what you bring to the table."

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Frontline Workers Scholarship promotes accessible education

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

The Frontline Workers Scholarship is a new initiative aimed to increase the amount of frontline workers with bachelor's degrees.

"Those people who work selflessly providing essential services are an inspiration, and in many cases, profiles in courage," President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said in the official press release. "Their vital assistance in the fields of healthcare and public safety, among other essential industries, have been integral to sustaining our economy and communities."

The \$2,500 scholarship spread over two years is for any frontline workers who earned associate's degrees at any of the "28 Michigan community colleges and transfer to Oakland University between summer 2021 and fall 2024," according to the official press release.

"In these difficult days of the pandemic, we want to extend funding support and appreciation to the extraordinary efforts of frontline workers," Pescovitz said in the press release. "We hope these scholarships provide vital financial support as they pursue their educational ambition."

No grade point average (GPA) requirement is required to earn the scholarship, just having the associate's degree with at least 62 credits and being accepted to Oakland University with at least 12 credits per semester.

The scholarship does require a minimum 2.0 GPA for renewal once the student attends OU.

"We at Oakland are very committed to college access, and we know how it's so important to support frontline workers and encourage them to continue their education," said Dawn Aubry, vice president for Enrollment Management.

This scholarship is an extension of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Futures for Frontliners" initiative. After Whitmer launched the initiative, university leadership discussed ways they could support frontline workers.

This initiative aligns with Whitmer's goal of increasing the degree attainment percentage to 60% by 2030.

The university enrollment team worked with the university scholarship and financial aid committee, Office of Institutional Research and Assessments and the finance and administration team to determine an appropriate amount for the scholarship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLANDPRESS.COM

Dawn Aubry, vice president for Enrollment Management, believes the new scholarship will bring students back for graduate studies at OU.

The \$2,500 amount was determined after looking at the amount of money from donors and the projected amount of students who would apply for the scholarship at OU.

"We have something called a future heroes campaign made specifically to help support transfer students," Aubry said. "It really aligns perfectly with that fund we were already working on, and we've already successfully had donors contribute to this fund."

According to Aubry, approximately 17% of transfer students actually follow through with obtaining a master's degree. Aubry hopes the Frontline Workers Scholarship will increase that 17% number, leading to a higher return rate.

"We're hoping the fact that these students will be receiving more funding, will allow them to have those funds available to help fund their master's degree," Aubry said. "So, we're hoping to see a higher return rate than the typical 17%."

Aubry felt after the ten months of COVID-19 restrictions, it was important to recognize the frontline workers who haven't had days off since the virus shut down the U.S.

"I think it's extremely important that we support these students and their families," Aubry said. "Creating this award allows us to support frontline workers in completing their bachelor's degree and achieving their dreams."

GRIZZLIES PROTECT GRIZZLIES

Cumulative on-campus positive cases since January 2nd:

37

Faculty or staff:

4

Students not living in OU Housing:

17

Students living in OU Housing:

16

On-campus isolation rooms occupied

0/112

All information is from OU COVID Public Dashboard

CAMPUS

Virtual day of service continues to celebrate Dr. King

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

According to Bernice King, the youngest daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., 2020 was “a year of extremes” that emphasized the urgent need of creating the “beloved community.”

In celebration and remembrance of MLK Jr.’s life, the Leadership and Volunteer Center and the Office for Student Involvement (OSI) co-hosted a virtual MLK day of service. The MLK service week was kicked off with a week-long virtual service project at 10 a.m. on Jan. 18.

As MLK Jr. said, “Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame, but greatness. Because greatness is determined by service.”

As part of student involvement opportunities, the MLK day of service event has been around campus for years to celebrate MLK Jr.’s legacy and his vision

for a better, more inclusive world.

“Our hope [is] that this event provides students, staff and community members an opportunity to not only give back to the local community, but also better connect with MLK Jr.’s dream by completing projects that promote inclusion, love and helping others in need,” Jeremy Heinlein, coordinator of Leadership and Service Programs, said.

In hopes of providing students access to safe volunteer opportunities during the pandemic, this year’s event is held virtually and is live all throughout the week of Jan. 18. Its feature projects include recording diversity and inclusion audio books for local elementary schools, writing Valentine’s Day cards for children in local foster homes and various projects supporting Gleaners Food Bank.

According to Emily Bernas, graduate assistant in the Leadership and Service Center, preparing for the virtual event was more challenging as the process required

careful research to find service projects that OU hasn’t proposed in the past and will guarantee safety to all participants.

Despite the difficulties she and her team faced in the process of preparation for the event, the Leadership and Volunteer Center and the OSI made sure that they also highlight local volunteer opportunities available for any students who are interested. These opportunities are hosted by non-profit organizations that provide safe environments for interested parties to volunteer.

The highlight of this event was “the sole collective focus on helping others, and working together to make the world a better place,” as Heinlein said. He hopes students were able to gain the understanding that anyone can make a difference, and if individuals worked together to create change anything is possible.

“This event always brings me great joy to see people come together to make positive change,” he said.

As MLK Jr.’s legacy holds such huge importance – especially today where we continue to experience injustice and racism – the effort of various organizations to raise awareness and recognition of his legacy are increasing.

“He carries a legacy of inclusion, actively opposing racism,” Heinlein said. “He supported communities, and the importance of supporting our fellow humans. He believed in the importance of challenging and transforming societal structures that inhibit equity in our society.”

Participating students are expected to complete the virtual formatted service projects by 1 p.m. on Friday Jan. 22, and drop off completed service projects to the window in the OSI from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about the event, visit campus lab or contact Jeremy Heinlein at jheinlein@oakland.edu.

CELEBRATING MLK JR. DAY



“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice”

MY 4

CHILDREN WILL

ONE DAY

LIVE IN A NATION WHERE

THEY WILL NOT

BE JUDGED BY THE

COLOR OF THERE SKIN

BUT BY THE CONTENT OF

THEIR CHARACTER

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HANDS WITH

WHITE BOYS

WHITE GIRLS

SISTERS

AND

OTHERS.



15

TEAM THAT

Virtual 'Keeper of the Dream' highlights students breaking down cultural barriers

LAUREN KARMO

Marketing Director

This year's Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Award Celebration was watched on screens across the campus community on Monday, Jan. 18 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The 29th iteration of the award was given to Adriana Colin-Diaz, Maryam Nissan, Lacaya Smith, Teyler Thompkins, Mariama Toure, Alaya Freeman, Rachel Jackson, Ja'Laaiyah Gordon and Niajah Hood.

Each of these students were selected based on their demonstration of leadership qualities and efforts combating racial and cultural barriers — students who embody Dr. King's dream.

"We've seen the next generation of organizers and leaders who've helped provide critical resources during the pandemic and who have also led protests," said Omar Brown-El, senior director of the Center of Multicultural Initiatives (CMI). "Today, we honor students who are keeping the dream of freedom and liberation for all alive."

Each student received a \$5,000 scholarship. Despite not being able to celebrate in person, each recipient was honored for their work in the Oakland University community virtually.

"By their dedication and engagement, they are breaking down racial and cultural stereotypes, promoting unity and playing a vital role in fostering a campus environment that is rich in diversity and multiculturalism," President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said.

While the Keeper of the Dream ceremony usually features a keynote speaker, the pandemic limited the traditional celebration. Despite that, this year's event allowed the honorees to share their own stories and what the Keeper of the Dream meant to them personally.

"Dr. King's vision of equality is especially

important now with the current situation we are living in, the Black Lives Matter movement attests to this," Nissan said. "Although Dr. King's set the motion for change, there is still so much work that needs to be done."

Between each presentation of the scholars, powerful images of diversity movements — past and present — were shown. Clips from the Civil Rights movement and the Black Lives Matter movement took the forefront. The honorees drew parallels from their own experiences of working to overcome inequity and connected it back to Dr. King's message.

Smith, who is involved in local nonprofit work with her family and is going into early education, uses her role in the community to bring equality.

"Being an African-American female student in a predominantly white institution, I have encountered these situations [of inequalities] personally," Smith said. "Having an opportunity to work in the Center for Multicultural Initiatives office has equipped me with the strategies to be able to adjust inequalities on and off campus. Because of this, I am now prepared to go into my field of study and be an advocate for myself and others."

Recipients of the Keeper of the Dream Award each spoke about how their personal racial and cultural experiences have shaped their worldview, what that meant to them as an OU student and how they hope to continue working toward Dr. King's vision in the future.

Thompkins, the general manager at WXOU, shared how she was able to use her platform as a space for conversations about social and political issues to take place on campus.

"It is important to me to promote and work towards racial understanding of my environment because regardless of where

you come from, I believe individuals can come together and find common ground," Thompkins said.

Each recipient is deeply involved in the OU community and hope to continue enacting change for the better.

"Growing up in Guinea, my parents taught me that understanding race was my responsibility, and I will be held accountable for my actions," Toure said. "As I've grown up, they have continued to inspire me to break down cultural barriers. These barriers have changed over time, but the prevalence is what makes them relevant today."

This year's scholarship and visual sponsors included Meritor, Willis Towers Watson, Autoliv, Comerica Bank, Magna International, Oakland University Credit Union, Alice Shotwell Gustafson Keeper of the Dream Endowment, Lynne and Lia McIntosh Scholarship, Oakland University Alumni Association, Marshall Family Scholar Foundation, KeyBank and Rocket Mortgage.

STILL HAVE A DREAM...

School of Medicine connects health and dance

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

Everyone loves a little cha-cha-cha, and the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine has been doing Dance Medicine, M.D. (metro Detroit) to connect the fun of dance with the health benefits of being active.

Asha Shajahan, a family physician and OUWB assistant professor, decided to start teaching dance classes to neighborhoods for free to encourage people to exercise more often.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB DAILY
Asha Shajahan poses in front of the Beaumont Medicine Center before a community event in 2014. She is currently a physician and dance instructor.

"I was talking to a lot of patients that had problems with high blood pressure, diabetes and then also weight gain," Shajahan said. "A lot of these patients really

couldn't afford gym memberships and a lot of the programs that were available to them."

Shajahan used to dance a lot when she was younger and has been able to relight that spark by starting the program.

The program starts off with some meditation and relaxation stretches, then they continue onto dancing for about 40 minutes.

Participating in Dance Medicine, M.D. is free and the program is completely run by volunteers. In addition to improving the health and wellbeing of participants, there is also an exploration of different cultures through dance.

"The main purpose of it is to really connect health with the creative process," Shajahan said. "We know that creative expression through things like dance or song and embracing other cultures can really help people heal their anxiety and depression in addition to having the benefits of physical activity."

As the program grew, Shajahan partnered with some community centers. A lot of the patients agreed that this program felt like a great community.

This past summer there were some outdoor classes that were held.

Currently, with the winter weather and COVID-19 pandemic going on, all classes are virtual. They hope to be able to return to in-person sessions as soon as possible.

Two OUWB second-year medical students, Hayley Walton and Dana Rector joined the program as instructors. Walton and Rector found out about the program during a lecture by Shajahan this past fall in their public health class.

Every two weeks there is a new dance posted by either Hayley or Dana on the Dance Medicine, M.D. youtube channel.

Walton started dancing when she was six years old and has lots of background experience in dance fitness classes. She teaches more latin jazz routines. Her youtube

channel videos are about 20-25 minutes long with a warm up, a couple of latin jazz fitness based dances and a cool down ending.

"Even before COVID this was a great way for people to incorporate exercise in their lives," Walton said. "I know for a lot of folks exercise kinda feels like a chore and it's an easy thing to drop off when you are short on time."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHA SHAJAH
Asha Shajahan leads an outdoor dance session in 2019. She holds a pink scarf with other members around her.

Rector started dancing when she went to University of Michigan for her undergrad and joined the ballroom dance team. She typically contributes by teaching salsa and latin.

"The getting up and moving around is a big benefit," Rector said. "But especially once we are able to be together outside, I think that's one of my favorite parts of dancing with other people and being in that community."

WINTER 2021 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2020.

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.

If you have questions or are experiencing circumstances that may prevent you from paying your account balance, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550. We are ready to support you and help with your financial aid and billing options.

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Due



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OPINION

Accountability is the only path to national unity

We must hold those responsible for the Capitol riots accountable

JEFF THOMAS
Features Editor

The road to national unity must be paved with the steaming asphalt of accountability.

The worst course of action following the events of Jan. 6, when white nationalist insurrectionists stormed Washington, D.C. in an apparent coup attempt, is to start letting people involved off the hook.

The severity of this failed coup attempt cannot be overstated. American lives have been lost, and God knows what would have happened had any of these armed psychopaths gotten their hands on members of our congress.

American citizens need to understand that it doesn't take millions of people to overthrow an elected government. By radicalizing police departments and pockets of the military, a concentrated group of American fascists are well on their way.

The bottom line is if this group is not met with firm opposition, I shudder to think of the consequences.

The fact that the Capitol was evidently compromised by internal agents on Jan. 6, and that fact that the FBI is having to actively vet members of the National Guard in lead up to the inauguration because of fears of attempted assassinations, should alarm all of us.

In any functioning democracy, Donald Trump would be expelled from his office, barred from ever holding office again and his sycophantic accomplices in the White House would be permanently black-balled from U.S. politics. Unfortunately, the U.S. at present isn't a functioning democracy.

To anyone paying attention, it's obvious that our political hierarchy has become a meat grinder designed to weed out and destroy decent human beings. Our federal government is a cesspool of some of the most corrupt, dishonest, inept, cowardly, self-serving and treacherous individuals that this country has to offer. As a nation we are now reaping seeds that for decades have been sown.

This entire election cycle has been marred by conspiracy theories and acts of aggression. With not a shred of credible evidence to support claims of election fraud, dangerous bad-faith discourse has

persisted around the nature of Joe Biden's landslide electoral victory.

Spearheaded by Trump's vanity, Republican senators and congressmen have been all too willing to fan the flames that are driving these alt-right maniacs to violence.

The role that major party players like Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley had in this attempted coup should not be downplayed. These men are as low as confederates.

In their traitorous self-interested ways, they have actively worked to undermine our democracy and by doing so have disqualified themselves from holding public office. Them and their ilk need to be cast out of government.

It is as disgraceful as it is predictable that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is choosing to run out the clock on Trump's term rather than following up on the House's articles of impeachment by holding a trial in the Senate. In all likelihood, the American people will be dealing with the ramifications of McConnell's decade of terror atop the Senate for years to come.

Frankly, it was beyond idiotic that Democratic party leadership spent any time entertaining the idea that powerful Republican officials like McConnell or Vice President Mike Pence would step up and remove Trump.

The fact that Democrats hesitated in the slightest following the events of Jan. 6, demonstrates their reactionary nature and lack of leadership. They cannot afford to put these issues to bed once Biden takes office.

With the incoming administration, if our elected officials cannot overcome the tremendously dysfunctional nature of present-day party politics and hold these extremists accountable, then another dire blow will have been dealt to our democracy.

The notion that there can be reconciliation through accepting white nationalist insurrectionists into the broader decency of our society must be wholly rejected. The politicians making a career out of fanning their flames at the expense of our democracy have no place representing the people of the U.S.

Lady Liberty now stumbles like a punch drunk boxer, it's going to take bold action and political courage to get her off the ropes. I hope like hell the new Democrat-led government is up to the task.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

House resolution blocked, but only at first

AUTUMN PAGE
Staff Reporter

Last week the capital was proven to be one of the least secured government buildings in the world.

The whole "civil war" that Trump supporters thought would be a good idea and flooded the capital — yeah, great time.

That caused many people to, once again, question why he's still in a position of power.

This led to more calls of impeachment and a call for Vice President Mike Pence to use his 25 amendment right.

Nancy Pelosi, the House of Representatives speaker, called for Pence to use this right.

House Republicans on Monday blocked a resolution calling on Vice President Mike Pence and cabinet members to invoke the 25th Amendment and remove President Trump from office.

Trump's past came to bite him, as the word "impeachment" was thrown out onto the floor.

The next day, Pelosi brought up impeaching Trump - again - and Pence had 24 hours to make a decision.

Like the phrase you've always heard, expect the unexpected, happened a couple days later.

On January 13, the House of Representatives voted to impeach Trump - and won.

According to BBC News, the House of Representatives voted 232 to 197 to impeach Trump.

Their reasons were allegedly for inciting rioters who stormed the Capitol.

Trump had given a speech where he urged the protesters to "peacefully and patriotically" make their voices heard, but to also "fight like hell" against an election.

To be honest, I think this is too much of a reason.

Looking at all the stuff he initiated in his four years should be enough reason - while acknowledging the fact that he's been impeached before.

For example, economic inequalities, a fractured health care system, riots and destroyed cities, unnecessary deaths and important social movements.

He's the only president in history to be impeached twice.

Trump has to face a Senate trial, but a date has yet to be set.

Anyway, it's better that the house went with impeachment because the 25th Amendment can only be invoked by the vice president and a majority of Cabinet members.

Congress controls the impeachment process, and if a vice president and Cabinet were to remove a president under the 25th Amendment, that president could still run for future office.

I have a bone to pick with this, so we'll use Trump as an example.

This man has proven repeatedly that he cannot handle a position of power - nonetheless the highest position of power you can get - yet he'd still be allowed to run for an influential position of power?

When Americans have repeatedly tried to get him out of office, and over two million Americans died because COVID-19 and his decisions as president.

No matter what anyone says, if Trump had taken COVID-19 more seriously, millions of families wouldn't be missing someone or multiple people.

Yet Trump can still run even after being impeached twice.

The only way he wouldn't be able to run again is if lawmakers voted to bar a president from ever serving again.

I have little faith in this whatsoever.

Also, am I the only one terrified of what's going to happen next? I have learned to never doubt what his supporters will do to protect Mr. Trumpie, and that scares me.

‘Promising Young Women’ delivers strong messages

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

Some topics are tough to talk about and sometimes a movie can do a great job of getting the conversation going.

Since the beginning of the Me Too movement, consent and the definition of sexual assault has been one of those difficult topics to discuss. “Promising Young Women” provides some nuance to the conversation by focusing on the “nice guys.”

“Promising Young Women” is about Cassie Thomas (Carey Mulligan) as she tries to get revenge and closure on events that happened in her past. She goes to bars on the weekends, pretends to be drunk and alone, and every weekend some guy comes up to her and takes her home.

Nothing ever happens to her. She just wants to embarrass the men and teach them a lesson. It’s an important lesson that everyone should be learning about consent and drunk consent.

In the film, Cassie is motivated by the fact that her childhood best friend Nina was raped at a party by Al Monroe (Chris Lowell), while they both were in med school.

As is often the case with sexual assault, the victim was ignored. No one believed in Nina, except Cassie, and once Nina dropped out so did Cassie to take care of her. Tragically, Nina ended up committing suicide because she couldn’t deal with the trauma of being raped.

While all this is going on, Cassie ends up trying to form a relationship with an old friend and regular at her coffee shop job, Ryan (Bo Burnham).

She ends up shocked, as video

proves that his path crossed Nina’s during the rape.

She is determined to avenge Nina’s death by teaching Monroe a lesson during his bachelor party. As viewers will learn, her plan is risky and the stakes are high.

This film takes on a feminist approach with its message about “nice guys” at the bars, the friendly ones that always ask you if you’re okay. This film shows you not everyone is who they seem. A ride home isn’t always just a ride, and sometimes all a guy wants is to get into your pants. The film demonstrates that rape culture is not something to be taken lightly, no matter how “nice” someone is.

The plot and the ending felt like it had some gaps like she perfectly planned for that specific scenario to happen? This seems unlikely. I was on the edge of my seat while everything was falling into place the way Cassie planned, I just feel there could have been an option that better helped the audience suspend disbelief.

This film did its job raising awareness about some difficult things. It was originally scheduled to come out at the beginning of 2020, but had to be delayed because of COVID-19.

Mulligan did an amazing job portraying this role, and I felt her pain expressed through the screen.

If you do plan on seeing this movie, be aware of trigger warnings though. The material covered here is sensitive to say the least.

This film succeeds in making you care about a profoundly difficult situation from beginning to end. It is well worth the watch, and I would even watch it again.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

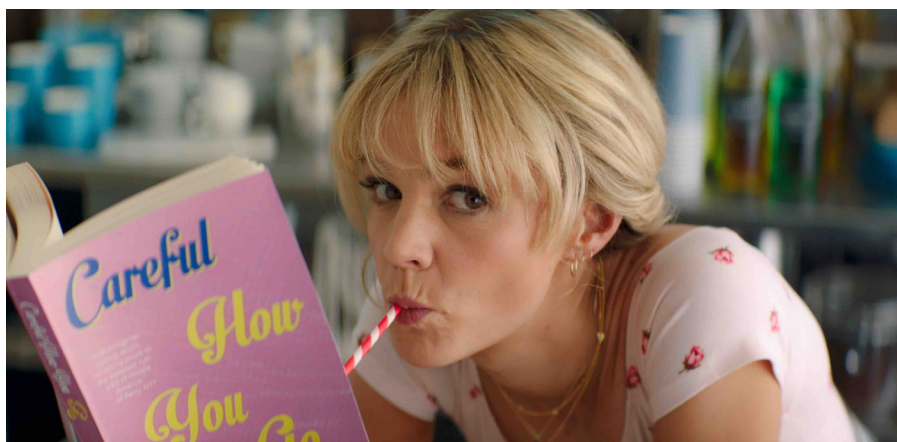


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB
Promising Young Women will be available in theaters Jan. 25th.

Breaking down Biden’s cabinet



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLBOARD
Biden promised to make a cabinet “that looks like America.”

MEG SPEAKS

Design Editor

President-elect Biden began choosing people for his administration, and most names aren’t very recognizable, but a few making history.

The cabinet has not been confirmed by the Senate, but the hearings should be completed by Jan. 20. The following positions will be based on Biden’s picks, before the confirmation hearings take place.

Biden made a promise to make a cabinet “that looks like America,” and while it is lacking to completely fulfill this promise, it will be the most diverse cabinet the United States has ever seen.

By adding 12 women to his administration, including the first female vice president, Kamala Harris, and secretary of the treasury, Janet Yellen, Biden has made the most gender-balanced cabinet.

Another promise was met when Biden tapped Miguel Cardona for Secretary of Education. Both Biden and his wife Dr. Jill Biden had publicly promised to fill this position with a teacher. Cardona was previously a teacher and principal, before serving as the Connecticut commissioner of education in 2019.

Some other firsts for the cabinet include Deb Haaland for secretary of the interior. If Haaland is confirmed, she would be the first Native American woman to be in the cabinet. The secretary of the interior is in charge of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which could be extremely beneficial for Native Americans.

Pete Buttigieg is the most prominent name in the outer cabinet after running for president against Biden-- he has been

tapped for the secretary of transportation position. This would make Buttigieg the first openly gay man to be in a presidential administration.

The first person of color to be Secretary of Defense will be Lloyd Austin, who was in Obama’s administration as the head of U.S. Central Command. According to ForeignPolicy.com, Austin is known as the “silent general” and shares the same views with Biden about Middle Eastern Affairs.

While there are great firsts for women and people of color, there is still a dominant presence of old white men.

There is a clear lack of progressive voices in the cabinet. Biden has chosen almost exclusively moderate viewed people, and while there are still some positions that have not been filled, it is not looking promising to the progressive democrats.

The biggest win for progressives is Katherine Tai, who was chosen for the West Wing position of U.S. Trade Representation. Marcia Fudge, who was tapped for secretary of housing and urban development is another strong progressive, but many progressives were hoping she would be chosen for the higher position of secretary of agriculture instead.

Notably, Biden has chosen 19 people from Obama’s administration. Knowing that Biden has worked with these people previously as he was vice president it is not surprising to see. Many of those people will be filling in different positions from their last turn.

As of Jan. 18, Biden has yet to tap people for 10 positions, this leaves room for women, people of color and progressives to have a stronger presence in the White House.

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SPORTS

Volleyball team prepares for an unusual winter season

LAUREN REID

Sports Editor

In a delayed season start due to COVID-19 concerns, Oakland volleyball is set to begin competing Monday, Jan. 25. The team's last game was Nov. 22, 2019 against Green Bay.

"[We're going to have] eight matches out of the 10 possible opponents in the Horizon League," Head Coach Rob Beam said. "With 11 total teams, we have 8 matchups we get to play this year — we're looking forward to all of them."

Beam felt every contest will be tough.

"It'll be fun to continue the rivalries we have," Beam said. "In the Horizon League, the league is so good in volleyball that every [game] is going to be a tough contest. There will be clear variabilities, changes, restrictions [and/or] limitations with COVID-19 — an entire team could go into contact tracing. Anything is open and on the table [so] it's going to be an exciting time — there's going to be challenges, but those are all opportunities."

The team is young this season with four freshmen, five sophomores, six juniors and two seniors: Jamie Walling and Lindsay Wightman. Walling and Wightman are

both multi-year starters who will finish their careers at or near the top of certain stat categories, as mentioned by Beam.

"I think [Walling and Wightman] are going to be headliners in the Horizon League all season long," Beam said. "Wightman is a great passer, she's competitive, an outstanding defender. Walling is a spectacular attacker — she's one of the best players in that skill category. She's feisty and competitive, a really great supportive teammate and a good leader in her own right."

All in all, Beam believes the team has a balanced lineup.

"I believe we've got some players in reserved roles that are going to be really surprising," Beam said. "Kerra Cornist is a spectacular athlete, she's going to be a great athletic addition to the program."

Returning starters include junior Jessica Riedl and redshirt sophomore Brittany Welch. Additionally, some defensive players that have made "key contributions over the years" according to Beam, include sophomore Haley Brown and junior Sydney Mann.

"We've got a very young team," Beam said. "The most exciting part of this is that we're going to learn in real time about our



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Head Coach Rob Beam expressed how proud he was of his team for weathering the storm that was COVID-19.

capabilities. The competition is going to help form and mold the team for a number of years to come."

Amid COVID-19 concerns, Beam is very proud of the student athletes and grateful for the sacrifices they're willing to make.

"This year, the players are going to have to be more diligent than they've ever had to be as college students," Beam said. "They've already given up social lives, in-

person classes [and] other opportunities. We're trying our very best to be supportive and encouraging — the coaches have to do it too and we have to lead the way."

Overall, Beam wants to focus on being "present, intentional and grateful for the opportunity to compete."

For more information on the upcoming season — including the roster, game schedule and current news — visit the women's volleyball homepage.

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Men's basketball survives against Youngstown State, sweeping weekend series



SOPHIE HUME

The men's basketball team improved to 5-5 in the Horizon League on Saturday, Jan. 16.

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies defeated the Youngstown State Penguins 81-74 Saturday, Jan. 16 at the O'rena. The win marked a weekend sweep for the Grizzlies over the Penguins.

It was a slow start for the Penguins offensively, as they didn't score for the first three minutes. After the first media timeout they heated up — especially Myles Hunter, who hit a few quick threes to give Youngstown State the lead. Then, the Golden Grizzlies went cold, with a 1-9 shooting stretch at one point.

The first half was headlined by a lot of missed opportunities for the Grizzlies — Jalen Moore got a few unlucky rolls on some layups and they shot just 23% from beyond the arc. Still, the game was well within reach, as they were down 41-39 at the half.

The Golden Grizzlies also got out-rebounded in the first half, 26-18. Head Coach Greg Kampe raved about the Penguins' rebounding ability.

"They're one of the best rebounding teams [in the league]," Kampe said. "That was their way to win the game and I think they emphasize that and they went in there."

In the second half, the Grizzlies started fighting harder to get to the glass — returning the favor with a 21-13 advantage on the boards. The result was a back-and-forth game to start the half. YSU's Garrett Covington, who led the Penguins with 16 points at the time, picked up his fourth personal foul with 11:03 remaining.

Kampe was pleased with the rebounding effort down the stretch.

"We did a great job on the boards in the last five minutes with the game on the line," Kampe said. "I thought Trey Townsend, Micah [Parrish] and Dan [Oladapo] and everybody went in there and rebounded really well. So, I think we got the win because we really executed well down the stretch."

Later in the second half, both teams went cold, with each team having scoring droughts of almost four minutes. Then, Moore started taking over — he had seven points in a two-minute stretch, followed by a huge stepback three. Moore finished with a double-double: 31 points and 12 assists. The 31 points are the second-most he's scored in a game this season.

Kampe was impressed with Moore's play, but says he still has a lot of work to do.

"Jalen's got a long way to go," Kampe said. "His main problem is that he's preconceived. He [goes] 'okay we're running this play. And I believe that this is going to happen so I'm going to get it to him.' No — and that's where we're butting heads."

Kampe said Moore's play in the last five minutes was as good as he's ever seen at Oakland.

"He made a huge one-and-one with 40 seconds to go," Kampe said. "Things had gone bad, we should have had the game wrapped up. We didn't. He gets fouled, we're up three with 40 seconds to go. [If] he misses, [it could have been a whole different game]."

The Golden Grizzlies improved to 5-5 in Horizon League play and 5-12 overall. Their next game will take place Friday, Jan. 22 against the Detroit Mercy Titans at 7 p.m. at the O'rena.

Jalen Moore looks to be OU's next point guard

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Staff Reporter

In grade school, Oakland University point guard Jalen Moore watched former OU men's basketball star, Kay Felder, tear it up on the court. Now, he's gotten the opportunity to follow in his footsteps.

"[Watching Felder] was really eye-opening for me — I actually watched Felder growing up at OU," Moore said. "He was good, and to see him get drafted at my height gave me a lot of motivation."

Moore, who has yet to decide on a major, said he chose to transfer from Olney Central College to OU because it felt like the best fit for him.

"I think a lot of athletes mess up nowadays," Moore said. "[They're] just trying to go to a big name school, or somewhere they think is the best place, rather than a great situation for them. So based on the past history and past success of the point guard position, especially with Kay Felder, that was a big play in me choosing Oakland."

Head Coach Greg Kampe sees some similarities between Moore and Felder, noting that they were both "5-foot-10 left-handed point guards."

"Kay was one of the all-time greats at Oakland University," Kampe said. "If Kay had stayed for his senior year at Oakland, he would have ended up being the all-time leader in the history of college basketball in assists — that's what we sold to Jalen is that we're gonna put the ball in [his] hands. Felder led the nation in assists and was third in scoring in the same year."

Kampe went on to say that Moore has a very high ceiling.

"When he gets there, I expect him to be at the level of the other point guards that we've had," Kampe said. "And I expect our team to be at the [high level] there is in our league."

While this year's circumstances aren't ideal, Moore said there are positives he can take away from it.

"It's an advantage for me because I get an extra year (of eligibility) for free," Moore said. "There's a positive of this COVID[-19] year right there."

Moore said in order to help the Golden Grizzlies get back on track, he could be more of a leader, among other things.

"Things go rough, things go bad," Moore said. "I gotta be the guy to step in and give everybody confidence, talk everybody through it and make sure I'm staying positive."

Kampe admired Moore's ability to get to the free throw line, and that's what has led to Moore's high point production. Moore



SOPHIE HUME

As a freshman, Jalen Moore is leading the men's basketball team in points per game, and has taken over the starting point guard role.

leads the team in scoring, averaging 18.6 points per game as of Jan. 18.

"Whenever you get to the free throw line, in time, you're going to score points if you can make them," Kampe said.

After losing several point guards to the transfer portal over the last year, Kampe said it was assistant coach Jeff Smith's mission to find "the level of point guard that we have come to expect of [here at OU]." Kampe thinks he found one in Moore.

"I have a weird relationship with my point guards," Kampe said. "I'm very hard on them, but they get the keys to the car. It's a bumpy road when you're first in that position and [Moore is] navigating that bumpy road pretty well. There's still a lot to learn — a lot for him to get better at — and I really firmly believe he will."

Terrorism vs. diarrhea: What is the bigger threat to the secret service?



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE.COM

LAUREN KARMO
Marketing Director

With the country saying peace out to the worst president we've had arguably ever, lots of incredible secrets about the administration are coming to the surface. You might be wondering, is this about an inside whistleblower? Or even a tell all exclusive with someone close to the family? Buckle up, readers, because it's even better.

Last week it was revealed that Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner's personal secret service detail have not been allowed to take a sit down in any of the 6.5 bathrooms in the Kushner house. Yes, you read that right — Donny J.'s daughter banned the men who have sworn an oath to protect her with their lives from all seven toilets in her house.

This brings up so many questions, I know. Just take a second to process. Miss Ivanka really looked her private security detail in their eyes and said, "Listen, I know you would literally take a bullet for me, but I would rather you shit your pants than let you step foot in my mansion."

The top guards in the country suddenly went from worrying about potential terrorist threats to potential diarrhea threats all to avoid overwhelming the weekend housekeeper.

Of course, the obvious answer to this problem would be to tell her to get over it, but the second obvious answer would be to get porta-potties, right? Wrong. See, the Kush couldn't be seen with Johns outside his house — what is this, the ghetto? The other billionaire neighbors would light a fire under him at the next HOA meeting.

Quirky problems call for quirky solutions, I guess, because that's how

the secret service ended up taking hourly field trips down the street to one Former President Barack Obama's house for a pee break.

Just picture it — it's 2017, your boss is getting impeached (for the first time), and you're stuck on babysitting duty. The only light at the end of the tunnel is when you get to visit your former boss to take a leak in his garage-turned-toilet. The good old days.

That was until the supervisor of the detail blew up Obama's bathroom. I'm talking absolutely wrecked — multiple plungers needed. Mr. 44 had to put his foot down and banned the secret service from his bathrooms.

Imagine being that supervisor and coming back to your team to tell them you straight destroyed Barack Obama's bathroom. I would simply have to quit.

VP Michael Pence offered his bathroom to the secret service men, but that was a drive away and sometimes when you gotta go, you gotta go. This means the secret service was literally knocking on doors begging people to let them in. It's so embarrassing.

After getting put on the no shit list at Mike's and Barack's houses, the secret service rented a \$3,000 per month apartment to hit when nature calls. If my math is right, \$3,000 a month for nearly three years is almost \$100,000 spent of taxpayer dollars because Miss Ivanka did not want to let a couple dudes pee in one of her bathrooms.

As absurd as it all is, this is the best story in the news cycle of last week. I cannot wait to celebrate the Trumps' last day in office, and I hope the secret service will piss on Ivanka's roses as a cute little goodbye present.

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