

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

JULY

5

2017

BON VOYAGE!

Oakland University Choral performs at home before launching their European tour
PAGE 7



RAMADAN.

Students give advice on how to fast and study during the Muslim holiday

PAGE 4

ENGINEERING MASTERS.

Industrial and Systems Engineering department offers new degree

PAGE 11

GRIZZLY TO RED SOX.

OU baseball player drafted in eighth round by Boston

PAGE 16



ontheweb

"Wonder Woman" gave audiences a good dose of feminism and a fresh take on the superhero genre. PHOTO / IMDb
www.oaklandpostonline.com

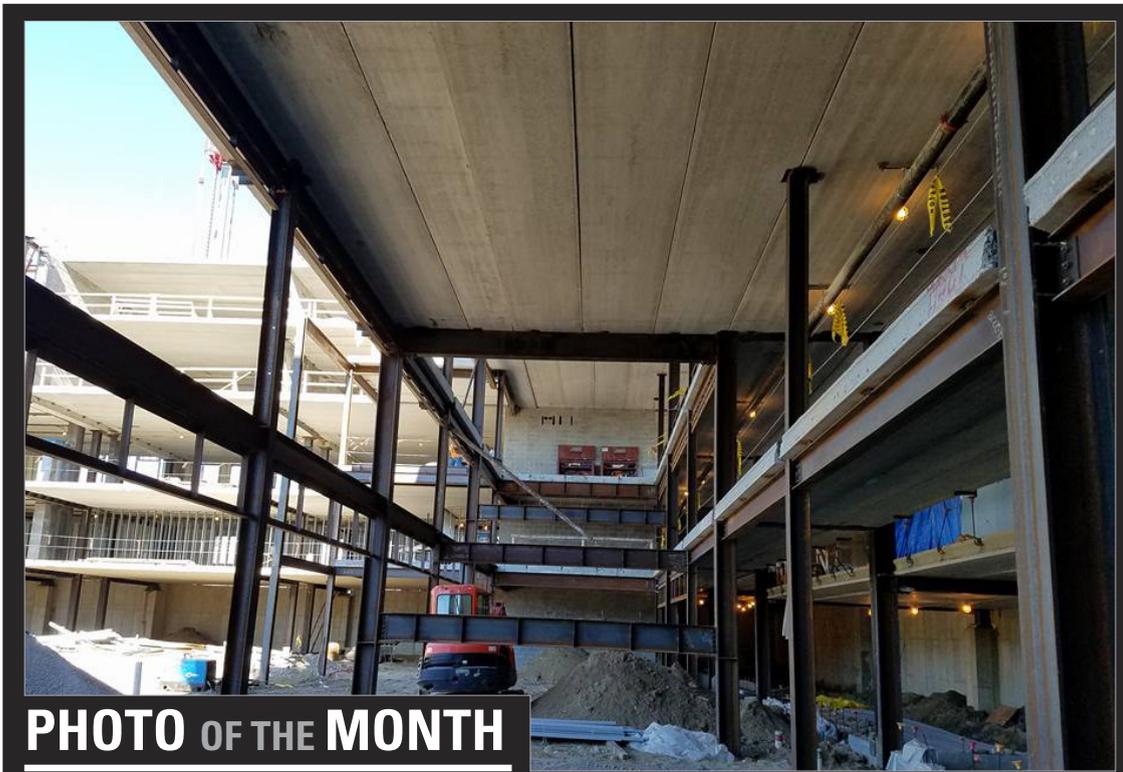


PHOTO OF THE MONTH

UPDATE FROM THE HOUSING DIRECTOR // We should assemble the seventh floor decking in the next two weeks. Two weeks ago we brought the Oak View RD, the RHA president and an RA from Small Halls out to Grand Rapids to select furniture for the new building. The student designed common room for the four bedroom suites is turning out to be more spacious and functional than I imagined. *JAMES ZENTMEYER // DIRECTOR OF HOUSING*

Submit a photo to editor@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE MONTH

Check in: How's summer going?

- A** I. Hate. My. Job.
- B** Sugar mama still not found
- C** So many summer classes
- D** Things look good from my boat

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

How would you describe your summer so far?

A) Netflix and naps

12 votes | 22%

B) Working for the man

32 votes | 59%

C) Eating, sleeping and crying

7 votes | 13%

D) Full of EXPENSIVE vacations

3 votes | 6%

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

July 13, 1967

The Oakland Observer ran an article about how Oakland University had no piece of mobile fire fighting equipment on hand except for handheld fire extinguishers. The two fire departments serving OU only had one full time fireman a piece.

July 26, 2008

The basement of the Oakland Center got a face lift. A large mural covered the walls throughout the basement. Currently, some of this mural remains.

July 8, 2015

The Board of Trustees increased tuition by 8.48%. In addition, the BOT announced it would continue to have informal meetings in private.



9

LIFE ON THE ROAD

Two college graduates decided to pack their bags and live out of a van for the majority of the year. They do not regret it.

PHOTO / Brianna Madia



15

LORDE'S SECOND ALBUM

The popstar followed up her initial success with songs like "Team" and "Royals" with an even better sophomore album.

PHOTO / iTunes



16

GOODBYE MINER

Longtime softball coach Connie Miner steps back from her role and Oakland starts search for her replacement.

PHOTO / Jose Juarez

BY THE NUMBERS

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

23%

Of students nationally live on campus

2700

Oakland University students live on campus

8

Spaces on campus are meant to house students

\$1,368

The cost of room and board per month in an upper classmen suite in Oak View Hall per student

Looking Back

THE OBSERVER

"The opinions expressed in these columns are the opinions of the authors. They probably do not represent the attitude of the administration, faculty, or other students."

On Being Oriented

The Oakland Post Archives

After a marijuana bust and rule crack-down, Oakland Observer managing editor Mike Honey had a few opinions.

Oakland Observer: Marijuana Protests

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor

Following "disturbances" at Michigan State University at the end of the semester, the MSU-Oakland Board of Trustees passed a resolution unanimously, declaring that "freedom requires order and discipline."

These "disturbances" were a series of student marches and sit-ins following a marijuana bust. Throughout the protests, 26 additional arrests were made, according to a 1968 issue of Michigan Daily.

However at the time, the Oakland University Board of Trustees was technically called the MSU-Oakland BOT. Meaning that the incidents at MSU directly impacted Oakland.

"The University holds that freedom requires order and discipline," read the resolution and ordinances from the June 15 meeting, "and to protect the one it must maintain the others. The right to this freedom and the responsibility of the Trustees and Officers to maintain this order and discipline are shared by faculty, students, and the members of the general public who come to this campus."

On the inside of the Oakland Observer, the student newspaper at that time, from June 28, 1968, Managing Editor Mike Honey ran an opinion piece about his emotions on the matter.

"The set-up of the university at present is basically an authoritarian one," Honey said. "For the faculty to agree with such a set-up in the name of 'democracy' is for them to engage in mis-education."

Honey went on, insisting that the BOT would always be operating as an authoritarian force, and it emphasized the non-democratic nature of the university.

The first question is why students protested the

arrests in the first place. According to the Michigan Daily, several students came forward and said they were told by "dormitory counselors" to spy on other residents.

Many assumed that this spying is what led to university police to aid state police in the arrests. Students also believed the busts were overstepping the "proper function of an arm of the university."

The Daily article ran partly as follows: "The campus police armed with guns and clubs regularly patrol the campus. Several students complained at the rallies that the police made a habit of harassing the students who were on the students late at night"

Police brought warrants for the arrests of several MSU students, and MSU police aided those state officers with locating and arresting them for alleged marijuana and LSD sales.

In the June 28 issue of the Observer, Donald E. Morse, assistant professor in the department of English said the Observer's opinion article regarding the need to disarm campus police "is a safe, sensible suggestion, one which I hope will be immediately implemented by the administration."

The main concern that student protestors seemed to have at the time were the violations of student privacy, since students were employed to spy on one another.

Another reason, according to the Michigan Daily, was that some students were opposed to the prohibition of marijuana.

The result of these protests at MSU led to the aforementioned resolution and ordinances at Oakland. The MSU-OU BOT enacted 8 new policies about "disorderly assemblages or conduct."

These ordinances said, in part, that no one should assemble together for the purpose of creating any noise or disturbance, riot, or "improper diversion."

Corrections Corner: The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact.

In the June 7 issue, we incorrectly identified the Gender and Sexuality Center as the Gay Straight Alliance.

If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com or call (248) 370-4268.

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A glimpse into the past of a history professor

Edward Zilincik
Staff Intern

Professor Daniel Clark gets much more out of his job than a paycheck. He teaches courses on U.S. Labor and Cold War America, Detroit's labor history and oral history methodology.

"I enjoy challenging students to be better thinkers and writers," said



Photo courtesy of the History Department
Daniel Clark currently has two books published.

Clark, who teaches history. "After taking my class, I hope they will be able to think through problems from a variety of perspectives, while also being able to evaluate sources critically."

He grew up in Midland in the shadow of the Dow Chemical Co. during the Vietnam War era. Clark recalled a day when he was in elementary school during the height of the protests.

"Midland is dependent on Dow Chemical, while Dow Chemical held large government contracts to produce war material like napalm and Agent Orange," Clark said. "My Dad drove me and my sister to elementary school one day, which happened to be the same day Dow Chemical was holding its stockholders' convention."

"When we got to the school, there were massive protests outside the front," he said. "When I asked my dad about the protesters, he told me that the protesters were no good and that

I shouldn't pay attention to them. My father worked for the Dow Chemical Co., so when he told me, it only stoked my curiosity about the issue."

Before teaching, Clark was a self-described, wide-eyed youth, who rooted for all the Detroit based teams when he was growing up.

"As a kid I used to listen to the Detroit Tigers during the 1968 season on a transistor radio when I was supposed to be asleep," he said. "When Ernie Harwell told me Gates Brown 'hit that ball a mile,' I literally believed him."

After graduating high school, Clark attended Albion College. He received a bachelor's degree in history.

During his time at Albion, Clark spent a year studying abroad at the University of Sussex in England. He traveled to the U.S.S.R during the early '80s to visit his brother who was studying Leningrad at the time.

Following undergrad, Clark continued his education at Duke University, where he received a master's degree and a doctorate degree in history.

Although he has a number of degrees in the field of history, he originally was not on track to become a

history professor.

"I started out as a math major, while I also enjoyed biology," Clark said. "But I can't imagine teaching any of those subjects now."

During his time as a graduate student, he got into teaching. It kept him busy as he finished his dissertation.

After his time teaching as a graduate student, Clark taught part-time at the University of Michigan, Grand Valley State University, Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University and eventually Oakland University.

Now, Clark gets to peak students' curiosity the way war protests got him thinking as a kid.

He does not have a specific favorite out of all of the classes he teaches, but says that as long as he has a solid core of students who want to think, he is fine whatever he is teaching.

"I think everyone wishes that everyone else would see the world as they do, but I like to challenge people to think hard about what they hold true, no matter where they stand," he said. "If you can defend your position with plausibility and engage contradictory evidence, you have my respect."

Getting the best of this year's Ramadan

Falin Hakeem
Staff Intern

This is the season for Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim year, during which fasting takes place from sunrise to sunset.

The sight of food can often be a difficult one for students who are fasting during the summer semester.

As Ramadan comes to an end, Muslim students provide tips on how to study, make the most out of Ramadan during school and properly breaking one's fast – especially when eyeing that freshly baked croissant from Au Bon Pain.

"Fasting is not meant to be easy for anyone, while it is easier to go all day without eating during this month than any other time of the year," said Jasmine Halim, a 2016 OU alumna. "It still takes motivation, dedication and endurance. Having to study for classes, graduate school entrance exams or even just working and going about your daily routine only adds to the struggle."

According to Deutsche Welle, "Ramadan is regarded as Islam's holiest month in the Muslim lunar calendar. The month generally lasts between 29 and 30 days, and represents a period of spiritual discipline and purification."

As far as keeping focused on your studies while fasting, sophomore Mohammed Awan said cramming all night can work better during Ramadan because many people will already be awake at that time and won't be as hungry.

"If you don't have early classes, studying at night after you break your fast can be beneficial to some people," said Namra Awan, a 2016 OU alumna. "Since sunrise is rather early in the summer months you can stay up through the night to get some work or studying done." If staying up at night is an issue for you then I would recommend studying earlier in the morning and afternoon. Then if you're feeling tired after, take a nap and sleep off those midday hunger pangs."

Maria Syed who is a type 1 diabetic said



Photo courtesy of Visitdubai.com
Ramadan is a Muslim holiday that is considered one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

for those unable to fast, the best advice she could give other students is to not feel guilty about not fasting.

"You should always learn to forgive yourself if you're unable to participate in something you physically cannot partake in," Syed said. "Young adults are heavily susceptible to feelings of guilt and self-hate. Practice a lot of self-love during this month."

Most students said they typically break their fast with something that is light.

"For me, the proper way is to follow the Sunnah of breaking my fast with a couple of dates and water," said senior Tamara Ma-

brouk.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, "Sunnah is the body of traditional social and legal custom and practice of the Islamic community."

Senior Irfan Shareef said the key to breaking one's fast is to make sure to eat in moderation.

"Break your fast with people you love, break your fast with people you've never talked to, break your fast with people you've burned bridges with," he said. "Learning to connect with people, and being able to forgive them, I believe is a proper way to break your fast."

Technology to take place of pepper spray on college campuses

OUPD purchased 50 eAlarms in the fall of 2017 as alternative form of protection to help students to feel safer on campus

Laurel Kraus
Life Editor

Although college campuses are often thought of as one of the most common areas assaults take place, most do not allow students to carry pepper spray.

This was just one of the many factors that came into play when BASU, an innovative products company, created the eAlarm and began selling it in July of 2015.

"We were kind of looking at putting together safety and technology," said Jill Turner, public relations director at BASU. "So where Fitbit is fitness and technology, BASU is the integration of safety and technology."

The eAlarm, which claims to have surpassed the market standard, is a 120-dB alarm about the size of a flash drive that weighs less than an ounce. If the user feels threatened, they simply pull a tab on the end and the alarm is activated.

The Oakland University Police Department purchased 50 eAlarms in fall of 2017 and have been handing them out to students at OUPD events on a trial basis.

"Obviously you can't prevent a rape or sexual assault [with the eAlarm], but having the tools that can maybe assist with protecting yourself are good to have," OUPD Lt. Nicole Thompson said. "This

is just another tool in your toolbox that you can use in those types of circumstances."

The eAlarm's uses range from crime deterrent to intrusion alert, and play off the scenario where those wishing to do harm will be too intimidated to proceed due to the threat of others around hearing.

According to a study done by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, approximately 82 percent of burglars will first seek out if a home has an alarm system, and around 60 percent will move on to an easier target if it does.

The eAlarm+ was first developed for those who are more interested in outdoor



Photo courtesy of BASU

Users can pull a tab to activate the eAlarm when they feel threatened.

activities, and therefore has a more durable casing with a 130-dB alarm that can be used as tripwire or to scare off wild animals such as wolves and bears. But its public safety use has made it popular to many people.

BASU's most current product is the eAlarm911 which is set to be released in September. This will have all the features of the eAlarm but will also incorporate a signal that will alert authorities to one's emergency and location using

GPS tracking.

"Our approach for violent crime was to provide deterrent first and foremost, and then the natural progression from there is to get emergency assistance to your location to help you," Turner said.

"People put alarms on their homes and their cars, but not themselves or their children. Why not? Life is much more valuable, I think," said BASU CEO Sam Mansen.

For more information on the eAlarm, visit basu.com.

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Magazines in a digital world

Print media advertising decreases as the online magazine industry grows.

Edward Zilincik
Staff Intern

Advertising does not make money for print media the way it used to. Why pay for news when it is online for free?

Daily magazine readership dropped 23 percent between 2010 and 2015, according to Fortune Magazine. Concurrently, magazine advertising revenues went down five percent, when comparing the third quarter of 2014 with the third quarter of 2015, according to journalism.org. There was an overall drop by 10 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2015, as well.

Despite the decline in readership and advertising in the magazine industry, digital magazine readership increased from 3.4 million in 2011 to 12.7 million in 2015. Also during this time period, subscriptions to digital magazines increased from 13,174 to 35,974.

The decline in advertising is a sign of a trend that has been continuing since the end of last decade.

From 2006 until the end of 2009, magazine advertising decreased by over 25 percent, according to stateofthemediamedia.org.

Advertisements for the 213 magazines tracked by the Publishers Information Bureau fell 3.1 percent between 2010 and 2011, according to the aforementioned "state of the media" article. The total number of advertisements fell from 169,552 in 2010 to 164,225 in 2011.

During that same time frame, 136 out of the 213 magazines tracked by the Publishers Information Bureau reported declines in the number of ad pages sold. One magazine (Bassmaster) reported a 45 percent decrease in ad pages sold during this time frame.

Judith Sawyer is a seasoned veteran of the advertising industry. Sawyer graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in psychology. She teaches advertising at Oakland University.

Sawyer parlayed her degree into a long and productive career in the advertising industry, which saw her thrive for over 30 years. She previously worked at such companies that included A.C. Nielsen Co., D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles, Ross Roy, J. Walter Thompson and Campbell Ewald.

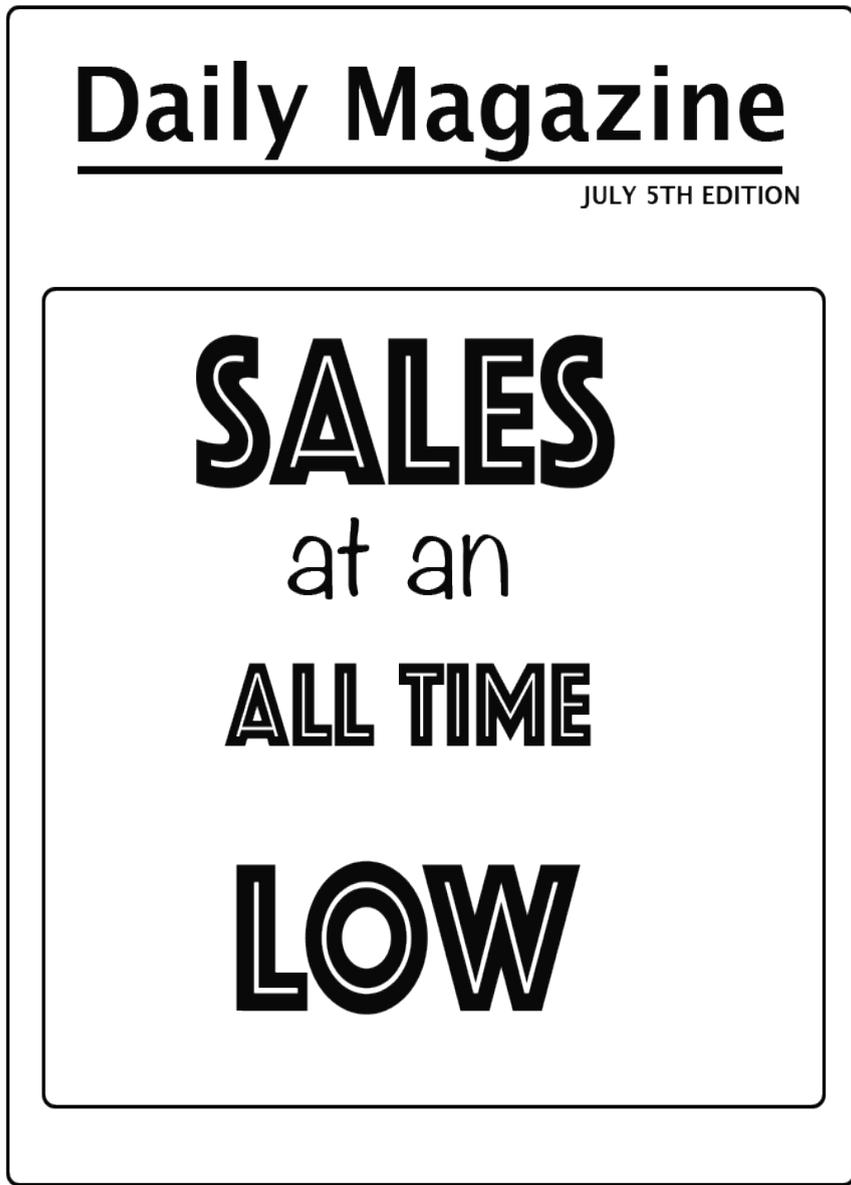


Photo Illustration by Marcella Banner and Prakhya Chilukuri / The Oakland Post

She sees a lack of currency and timeliness as a reason to why the magazine industry and the magazine advertising industry have both declined in recent years. Sawyer says primary reasons include the industry's coupling with the advent of social media, the online news industry and the 24 hour cable news network cycle.

"Magazines that depended on being current have already been affected," she said. "U.S. News and World Report have been gone for some time, while Time

and Newsweek have remained, but offer digital versions in addition to print that allow them to update info in real time and gain a revenue stream from their digital side."

Despite the decline of print magazines, Sawyer still feels print has a future in the magazine industry.

"I believe that strong magazines in niche categories are more likely to survive because they reach a narrow audience less likely to meet all of their needs online, on social media, or in digital

magazines," she said. "There are those who still enjoy the feel of a beautiful, well published magazine, but print magazines have to find a way to offer an experience not available online."

While Sawyer still sees a future in print, both as a viable circulation and for advertising, she feels that digital is the future of the magazine industry.

"Magazines will have to have an online presence and a business model that allows them to publish both digitally and in print to still make a profit," said Sawyer. "Serving the reader is far more profitable in digital media where production, paper and postage costs are not an issue."

Sawyer's premonition may be correct. The Digital magazine industry continues to grow at astronomical rates, while the magazine print industry and the magazine print advertising industry continue to stagnate or decline.

In a study of online news magazine websites, the average number of monthly unique visitors between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the fourth quarter of 2015 increased to an average of about 13 million monthly visitors per site, according to journalism.org. This article studied 12 magazines during that time period.

The article also found that, out of the 12 magazines studied, seven of them experienced traffic increases of 10 percent year over year. Mobile traffic also increased for ten of the 12 websites that were studied.

Sawyer has seen this story before and feels the magazine industry will evolve and change with the times.

"When cable networks were introduced, they said it would be the end of broadcast networks," she said. "Now we're told that social media will be the end of traditional media, but I've seen much of this before and none of the things they predicted happening ended up dying as they said."

"These forms of media evolve, they change, some of them do die, but the medium itself survives after it figures out how to modify its business model to fit the new challenges. I expect magazines to be no different."

If the magazine industry hopes to reinvent its business model, putting their eggs in the online and digital basket going forward seems wise.

Summer concert series taking place at Elliott Clock Tower throughout July

Oakland Carillonneur and instructor Dennis Curry plays every Friday evening at noon

Connor McNeely
Campus Editor

At the mention of the Elliott Clock Tower, a few things come to mind: tallest building on campus, relatively new and a gift from Nancy Elliott. What many students may not know about the giant noise-maker is its rarity and functions as an ancient instrument.

There are snug, spiral staircases inside the tower that lead up to an equally snug and intimate room with the best view of campus. An oversized organ-like instrument that takes up most of the room has several long, wooden foot pedals and two rows of dowel rod looking keys at waist height. Connected to the keys are wires, which reach the bells atop the inside of the tower.

This instrument is called a carillon, and every Friday at 6 p.m. through the end of July, Carilloners, or players of the carillon, are coming from all over the world to perform concerts

for the public. The Summer Carillon Concert Series runs from June 23 - July 28 and after the performance, guests are welcome to tour the inside of the tower.

"Most people don't know what this is and they think its an automated thing or electronic but a real person is up there playing this," said Dennis Curry, University Carillonneur and applied instructor. "The instrument itself is over 500 years old and it started in the low countries of Europe... and the instrument's pretty much the same today. A person plays with their fists and their feet."

Curry has been playing the bell tower instrument for nearly 30 years and plays regularly at Kirk in the Woods in Bloomfield Township as well.

"I call it Medieval aerobics," he said. "You get to climb stairs and then to play some of these instruments gets very heavy. You're not swinging the bells, the wires are actually connected to the clapper, which gets pushed into the bells. It's just a

wonderful experience."

According to Curry, there are only 180 carillons in North America and Elliott Tower is the 14th in Michigan. There are typically 23 or more bells, which come from different countries including France and England, though few are made in Michigan. Elliott Tower's are Dutch.

During the concert series, the fountains are playing, the bells are blaring and people of all ages are walking up with family, folding chairs and picnic baskets.

Junior music student Harrison Lavins was in attendance at the first concert of the season, listening to Amy Johansen, who came from Sydney, Australia to play.

"I'm a piano performance major," he said. "I got an email about the event and we thought it would be a great opportunity to come and hear some really interesting music that a lot of people don't get to hear. I've been playing for about nine years but I've never been able to see an instrument like the carillon."



Samantha Boggs / The Oakland Post

Amy Johansen came to Oakland from Sydney, Australia to play the carillon.

For students who want to learn and practice the carillon there is a practice instrument in O'Dowd Hall. Aside from the summer concert series in July, Curry can be heard from the top of the tower on campus every

Friday at noon.

"It's a rare honor for me to be able to design a new instrument from the ground-floor up and this is such a unique setting with the fountain and the nice green space around here," Curry said.

POLICE FILES

Arrest On Campus

On June 8, a man came into the Oakland University Police Department station and turned himself in. He had applied for a concealed pistol license, during which he became aware of his arrest warrant. The warrant had been out since May 19 and OUPD verified that it was valid. The man was wanted for domestic violence and malicious destruction of property. He was finger printed and arraigned later that day. He was then released on bond and taken back to Oakland by an officer.

Larceny In the O'rena

On the night of June 10, a man flagged down an OUPD officer out on patrol. He asked if someone could look over surveillance tapes to see if someone had stolen from his cleaning crew. A vacuum was missing from where it had been placed in a storage room under the bleachers in the O'rena. The vacuum was later found in Elliott Hall. It was taken to the OUPD and placed with other stolen property, it will be returned when the case is resolved.

*Compiled by Shelby Tankersley,
Editor-in-Chief*

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Choral heads on European Tour

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief

For the first time in its history, the Oakland University Choral is headed on a European tour. To say goodbye, it held a “Bon Voyage” concert in the Sweetest Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Detroit on June 27.

Sweetest Heart, founded in 1889, is known as one of the Motor City’s historic churches. Like many other old churches, the inside is intricate and beautiful. When the members of the Choral first walked into the venue, they stopped dead in their tracks in awe that they would soon be performing there.

“We chose Sweetest Heart of Mary because it’s similar to many of the places we’ll be performing in Europe,” said Michael Mitchell, professor and conductor of the Choral. “It’s a large, ornate, old church with very live acoustics. It’s a beautiful, historical space that isn’t used a lot for concerts, but the acoustics and its beauty make it a perfect place for a Choral concert.”

However, it is nothing like the places they will be performing in during the tour.

In Europe, the Choral will sing in venues as old as the set list. With songs dating back to the 1600’s, they are sung in the original languages like Italian and Latin. With the first stop being in Venice, Italy; the group

is excited to experience the music in the places it was written for.

“We’re classical singers, so a lot of our music is written in Italian, Latin, French, Russian and German,” said Tim Brown, senior Choral member. “So the coolest part of this is that we’re going to get to sing this music where it was meant to be sung.”

One of those places is St. Mark’s Cathedral in Venice, at which the group will perform during a Sunday night Mass.

“So many famous composers wrote songs [in St. Mark’s],” senior Choral member Claire Toupin said. “We are going to sing some of those songs in the actual buildings they were written in.”

In the words of Brown, “you just can’t get that in the United States.” But the Sweetest Heart concert was about as close as one can get.

A very physical conductor, the audience could see that Mitchell wanted his group to feel like they were singing in Europe. Ranging from aggressive to somber, his leading allowed the audience to physically see the music they were hearing. With the soprano voices soaring over the bass, although much of the crowd could not understand it, the music was still beautiful.

For the Choral, knowing the meaning of the words is what helps them make it enjoyable for the audience. “Especially during the Latin songs, I’ll actually find

myself crying during performances,” Toupin said. “I’ll write the translations down, so by the time we perform I’m able to just be engulfed in the music.”

With this warm-up gig under their belts, Oakland’s resident singers feel ready to show the other side of the Atlantic their talent.

“There’s a lot of us that are looking to be professional singers down the road and some of us educators,” Brown said. “The experience we’re going to have is going to apply to a lot of different things, it’s going to be great.”



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Oakland University Choral sings inside Sweetest Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church before heading off to Europe.

Spending summer living on campus

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor

Living on campus is one of the joys of college for many. Oakland University’s dorms and apartments may be home to over 2,000 residents during the academic year, but only a fraction of those residents remain during the summer.

Jeff Waters is a resident assistant in the student apartments over the summer who appreciates the change in pace.

“Campus is much more relaxed,” he said. “I don’t have to worry about parking.”

During the fall and winter semesters, all residents, including housing employees, must take classes. This isn’t the case over the summer.

“Since I am not taking classes over the summer, I usually don’t have much to do besides relaxing, catching up on sleep, or catching up with video games,” Waters said. “I also work at PetSmart, which can take up quite a few hours.”

The relationship between resident assistants and residents is also different in the summer as opposed to the fall and winter semesters. Waters said the RAs do not have to do some of the work traditionally associated with the job.

“We don’t have to check up on them and do the normal RA thing,” he said. “We do our rounds and make sure eve-

ryone in the apartments are following housing policy.”

However, there are more than just RAs living on campus. Brianna Jaczynski is a student maintenance worker working over the summer, and lives in on-campus housing.

“There are tours and orientations which happen almost every day, so it’s not uncommon to see every seat in the food court filled,” she said.

Currently, Vandenberg Dining Hall is closed for residents due to construction. Both Chik-Fil-A and Moe’s are closed, meaning residents only have the options of Panda Express, Subway, Au Bon Pain, or Create. All of these locations have different hours during the summer as opposed to during the school year, and none are open on the weekends.

Summer living changes for James Zentmeyer, director of University Housing, as well.

“The biggest difference is that during the regular year I am heavily and directly involved with students and lightly involved with administration,” he said. “During the summer the reverse is true. Needless to say I much prefer the student interaction.”

On-campus activities are different during the summer as well. Waters explained that Conference Assistants, CAs, host programs in the residence halls for summer residents. This would normally be his job.

“As a Resident Assistant in the apartments, there’s not too much over the summer, but there’s always the rest of Rochester,” Waters said.

Another struggle for residents over the summer is the new construction across the university. Waters didn’t think that the construction would pose that much of a hassle at first, but he finds it frustrating like many others.

“Now my favorite part of campus is no longer available to the public,” Waters said. “There are also limited ways to get into the Oakland Center, which makes things a bit more difficult.”

Vandenberg construction will be finished before the start of the fall semester. However, the construction around the Oakland Center will not be finished until 2018. When students return in the fall, campus is expected to have a more crowded feel.



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Residents are relaxed and content in university halls.

Opening the doors to larger than life landscapes: what it's like to live in a van

Shane Grodzicki
Contributor

Brianna and Keith Madia are not typical college graduates. For two-thirds of the year, these east coast natives find themselves in their Ford E350 cargo van inhabiting some small portion of the 22.9 million acres of public land in Utah.

Traditionally, western culture coerces college alumni to find a successful career and begin chipping away at the tremendous iceberg of student loan debt, all while funding rent in a seedy downtown apartment.

Following their graduation, the couple was looking at putting a mortgage down on a house. According to Brianna, "we were doing that because we felt like we were supposed to, not because we wanted to."

Just one week after hearing the daunting jargon of a mortgage broker and having their entire lives laid out before them in a series of paid installments, the Madias found their ticket in the opposite direction; a flame red van they named "Bertha."

The van was anything but new, nearing 200-thousand on the odometer. It was certainly no luxury RV with running water, a full-sized kitchen or one that slept eight of their closest friends. But in some way, withdrawing every last penny of their savings to purchase the ride came as a reprieve from the rigidity of a mortgage.

The Madias say they often receive harsh comments from older generations asserting that millennials are lazy. When it comes to living out of a van, critics either don't understand much of what it takes to live as

a minimalist or are too scared to come to terms with it.

Aside from assuming they're full-blown vagabonds, running their van on vegetable oil and love, the Madias still both have full-time jobs. Keith is an adventure programming specialist and Brianna is a technical writer for a software firm.

Most often, the only company the Madias share when they are not working is one with the natural rock formations and of their loyal canines, Bucket and Dagwood.

In general, the van-dwelling community is growing, and with the emphasis of social media more young people are committing to a lifestyle of cutting back.

Tim Grant, a veteran tiny home owner native to Metro Detroit similarly encourages the reductionist lifestyle.

"Young people these days



Photo courtesy of Brianna Madia

The Madias are recent college graduates who defy social standards.

have plenty to deal with," Grant said. "If they can cut back by any means and feel that it makes them more free, it sure beats living with stress."

The Madias have already logged an impressive record of their adventures, and they have no plans of slowing down.

After living on a sailboat for six months during college and taking an extended stay in Southeast Asia, they now have their

sights set on exploring more of the western states. Fortunately for the Madias, their lifted 4x4 cargo van doubles their lodging and their locomotion.

"I dreamed of living in a baby blue VW bus since I was little after watching absurd amounts of Woodstock docs and footage," Brianna said.

Her statement is no doubt reminiscent of a bygone era restored to life.

Breast cancer walks throughout the country raising significant awareness for life-threatening disease

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk helps unite individuals, organizations and communities in an effort to raise money for ACS, Oakland County walk set to take place in the fall

Christian Miller
Staff Reporter

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there are about 220,000 cases of breast cancer reported in women and about 2,000 in men annually. Of these cases, the CDC reports that 40,000 women and 400 men will lose their lives to the disease.

While breast cancer remains a menace in the medical community, many individuals, organizations and communities are taking action to combat it.

The American Cancer Society offers treatment options and support in an effort to console those with the disease. One event ACS sponsors is Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk—the largest breast cancer awareness event in the nation. The event unites nearly 300 communities in their fight

against breast cancer.

The event itself is a 3-5 mile walk and run that people can register for either individually or in teams. From there, the participants reach out to acquaintances for donations

"This year we have a goal of reaching over \$127,000 in donations and registering 96 teams."

Julie Featherston
Community Development
Manager
Making Strides Against Breast
Cancer

upon completion of the event.

Julie Featherston, a community development manager for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in Oakland County,

discussed the seventh annual upcoming walk that will take place on Oct. 7.

"Last year, we had about 1,300 people, 90 cancer survivors, and 80 teams raise around \$121,000 for the walk," she said. "This year we have a goal of reaching over \$127,000 in donations and registering 96 teams."

Featherston also noted the efforts of flagship donors, which are companies that donate at least \$10,000 and have at least 100 people do the walk.

"One of our greatest flagship donors is Burn Fitness," Featherston said. "The people they bring to the event go on to recruit even more individuals to participate in the walk."

The path for the walk will be the same as last year and has already been approved by the Oakland County Sheriff.

"We have a route planned out right along the river, through parks and even neighborhoods," Featherston said. "Local police and volunteers will also provide security and aid to those who need it."

Making Strides of Oakland County has a walk on Oct. 7. The walk is at the Rochester Municipal Park, and registra-

tion begins at 9 a.m. Those interested in participating can create a team or become a pacesetter by visiting acsevents.org.

For those outside of the Rochester area, more walks take place throughout the year and can be found on the organizations website.

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ENGINEER

A TOP PRODUCER FOR AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE WORKERS



Photo courtesy of Oakland University

Automotive companies consult with OU engineering faculty to help keep the curriculum up to date.

Mary Siring
Staff Intern

The San Francisco Business Times reports that Oakland University is among the top five schools placing graduates in the autonomous vehicle field.

As the automotive industry works to put self-driving vehicles on the road, the market for those qualified to work in the field is growing. The San Francisco Times reports that many of those with the right skills and knowledge for the positions are coming from Oakland.

The report states that about 1.75 percent of all engineering jobs in this field are being filled with OU graduates. While this may not seem like a large number, it puts OU among the top five schools doing this.

Self-driving vehicles may seem like a concept from a sci-fi film, but a future with autonomous vehicles is not so farfetched.

"Basically, this is the future of the automotive industry in this country and around the world," said Louay M. Chamra, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. "The technology is out there, we just need the infrastructure and the communication in order to make it happen."

Experts predict that by 2035, companies such as Uber

and Lyft will be taking full advantage of an autonomous vehicle market, allowing the average person to summon a self-driving car via their cell phone.

"I think even in the near future, Uber and similar companies would go completely autonomous once the option was available," said Christopher Lane, an engineer at General Motors.

Self-driving vehicles are also expected to decrease driving fatalities.

"I think autonomous vehicles are a lot safer," Lane said. "Especially with the evolution of technology like the cell phone, distraction-wise."

The autonomous vehicle industry creates a network of transportation that will eliminate distracted driving, impaired driving and creates communication between vehicles to combat traffic accidents.

But until then, there is still much that needs to be accomplished.

"The technology already exists," Chamra said. "We need to standardize that technology."

Particularly, this includes communication development not merely between cars from one manufacturer, but between manufacturers' cars, as well.

As for advancing Oakland's program, curriculum development to keep up with the changing industry is the big-

gest focus for the future.

"We already teach multiple courses on autonomous vehicles and different technologies," Chamra said. "Now we want to focus our school on applied research and applied engineering."

Oakland's engineering curriculum is already based on consultations with an advisory board where companies have direct input about curriculum improvements and updates. Faculty has the ability to take these suggestions and then incorporate them into their classes.

This collaborative relationship is truly what brought Oakland to the top of the industry in the first place.

"What makes our students different is that they do a lot of internships with companies developing autonomous vehicles," Chamra said. "We are surrounded by good companies that are involved with them."

Whether this includes the Big Three manufacturers or suppliers such as Continental or Mobis, Oakland students are given local opportunities for interning in the field and, according to the SECS annual report, 96 percent of the employment from Oakland remains in Michigan.

"People always ask me what makes Oakland different," Chamra said. "Oakland provides opportunities for people to be successful and transform their lives. I think that's the difference."

ING @ OU

Falin Hakeem
Staff Intern

The industrial and systems engineering (ISE) department at Oakland University is now offering a Master's in Systems Engineering program.

According to Boston University, systems engineering enables building, analyzing and managing a system - be it electrical, mechanical, chemical, biological or one involving business processes and logistics.

"The demand for systems engineering has always been there, it's only that experience has been substituting for theoretical knowledge in systems engineering," said Vijit Pandey, an assistant professor in the ISE department. "Graduates with a fundamental understanding of systems engineering will have a definite advantage in their careers, many local companies have shown interest in hiring systems engineers and we are routinely contacted by students interested in joining the program."

Robert Van Til, chair and professor in the ISE department, said anybody who connects to the internet needs to start worrying about system level design as it will be

important moving forward.

"The program focuses on people who design products, what we call component level design," Van Til added. "This degree is aimed more at design tools that focus on the system level integration of the various components."

According to The Business Journals, OU was ranked No. 5 on a list of top ten universities that self-driving vehicle job workers attended.

"We want to keep the connective car industry in Michigan, all of our resources are here," Van Til said. "This is important to help the automakers transition and keep the expertise here in southeast Michigan."

The new systems engineering program is open to engineers with any degree in engineering, including mechanical, electrical and computer engineering.

The course requirements are broken down into five areas; Foundations of Systems Engineering I, Foundations of Systems Engineering II, Engineering Project Management, Product Lifecycle Management and Engineering Decision Analysis.

"This opens up our program to a whole new audience of engineers," Van Til said. "We always had a very

strong systems focus in our program, our undergraduate program is credited in both industrial and systems engineering. We're one of five programs in the U.S. that have that dual accreditation."

Students may enter the program at any time of the year and begin their classes in September, January or May due to the flexibility in course requirements.

"Modern engineering systems are extremely complex and their realization entails a confluence of many disciplines," Pandey said. "A systems engineering program will enable our students to become the engineers of tomorrow. They will understand how to incorporate end-user requirements into the design of these complex systems with considerations of optimality and reliability."

Pandey said his favorite part about teaching systems engineering is showing students deep connections between different fields that do not seem obvious at the onset.

"It's fun showing them how concepts from fields such as decision analysis, mathematics and demand modeling underpin most engineering endeavors," he said.

For more information about the program, visit the Master's in engineering page on Oakland's website.



Photo courtesy of Oakland University

The new systems engineering program will have flexible courses scheduled for September, January and May.

MASTERS IN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING DEGREE COMING SOON

Photo illustration by AuJenee Hirsch and Cheyanne Kramer / The Oakland Post

Trump's travel ban heads to the Supreme Court

A new limited version of the law has been introduced temporarily until further change takes place



John Bozick
Web Editor

The Supreme Court has recently decided to allow a limited version of President Trump's controversial travel ban to take effect. The court has also decided on a fall hearing date to listen to the president's case for the ban after it had been halted in its tracks by multiple smaller courts since it was first announced in January.

The ban, which denies people from six Muslim majority countries entry into the United States, has gone through a rough patch and many revisions that, despite the president's own words, have repeatedly tried to make travel ban look less extreme.

Yet, while Trump has called the ruling "a clear victory for our national security" the Supreme Court did say that some aspects of the ban would have to change. So, come fall, we may see a completely different type travel ban than the one originally announced by Trump.

At the moment, the partial travel ban only stops those who have absolutely no ties to the United States from entering the country. Anyone who has a job offer, school acceptance letter or family in the United States would be able to enter the country while the ban is enforced with no issues.

The majority of people that will be affected by the ban will be those who are seeking visas to enter the United States, and even then, many would

still be capable of obtaining a visa with the correct amount of time.

While Trump has called this a victory for our national security, it's still worth it to point out that homegrown terrorism remains a far greater threat to national security than foreign terrorist threats. A fact that the president has failed to touch on despite recent homegrown attacks in both D.C. and Portland in the past month alone.

Perhaps now that Trump has finally (somewhat sort of) succeeded in at least one of his campaign promises, the president can put down Twitter and get to work on the real issues plaguing our country.

All issues aside, it will be interesting to see how the Supreme Court rules on the controversial executive order, as many have speculated that the president's frequent Twitter tantrums have jeopardized the orders fate before the supreme court.

The countries currently effected by Travel Ban 2.0 are Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, and Yemen. Iraq, which was previously included within the parameters of the original ban, was not included in the new travel ban.

The partial travel ban went into effect Thursday, June 29, while the Supreme Court is set to hear the official case for it this upcoming October after they return from their summer recess.

Comey gives testimony before United States Senate

FBI director verifies that Trump's claim of never being personally under investigation is accurate

Isaac Martin
Political Contributor

The day after our last publication, former FBI director James Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee. His testimony came on the heels of his abrupt firing in May and covered everything from the Russian probe to the resignation of Michael Flynn. Not since the days of the founding director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, has a G-man garnered so much limelight.

The Man

In 2013, President Obama nominated Comey to succeed Robert Mueller as the seventh director of the FBI. This was done despite the outcry of "prosecutorial excesses" by sources as different as the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post. However, Comey did not rise to national prominence until a year ago. On July 5, 2016, he outlined the progress of the investigation into the Secretary Hillary Clinton email scandal.

To the consternation of many on the right, Comey didn't recommend prosecution of Clinton even though he admitted she had lied under oath to Congress. But 10 days before the 2016 election, Comey dropped a bombshell and reopened the investigation

into Clinton. Needless to say, Comey has made enemies of both the red and blue sort.

108 days after President Donald Trump was inaugurated, he fired Comey. Allegations of "obstruction of justice" and cries for impeachment flooded the national media. Which brings us to Comey's testimony last month.

The Hearing

In Comey's nearly three-hour testimony, four salient facts emerged. First, the former director confessed that after he was fired he released government documents to the New York Times. He did this in the hope of getting a special prosecutor to investigate Trump. Second, Comey provided clarification regarding some words exchanged between him and Trump in a private dinner. During this dinner, Comey recalls Trump asking him for loyalty. Comey responded to the president that he'd be loyally honest.

The third newsworthy item is a rumor confirmed by Comey's testimony. In another private conversation between him and Trump, the president expressed his opinion on former national security advisor Michael Flynn. He told Comey, "I hope you can let this go," referring to Flynn's investigation. This is confirmation of the memorandum that was leaked to New York Times mentioned earlier.

The final key development was completely unexpected. Before the hearing, Trump had gone on record alleging the FBI director told him on three separate occasions that Trump was not under personal investigation. This notion ran quite contrary to the prevailing opinion that the president was under scrutiny for co-operating with the Russians. Comey shocked many when he verified Trump's claim as accurate.

Trump was not under investigation. In fact, he never was. When the president found out about this, he asked Comey to tell the public, but Comey refused.

The Aftermath

In the end, no one came out clean from Comey's hearing.

Not Comey - he refused to tell the public that Trump was not under investigation even though he informed us that charges were not going to be recommended against Clinton. Not Democrats - many had speculated Trump might be impeached after the hearing, which certainly will not be the case.

Last, our president's name was yet again sullied. One-on-one conversations are a generally frowned upon in our transparency-conscious world. If he wants to gain the respect of Americans, he needs to demonstrate a level of professionalism that has been oddly lacking from the businessman's resume.

Letter to the editor: Wilfred Williams' journey makes an example to follow

A student connects with Williams' story while sharing her experience at The Borgen Project

Lauren Jurczynsyn
Contributor

Dear Shelby,
I am writing to you today in response to an article published in the last issue of The Oakland Post.

I was extremely moved by soccer player Wilfred Williams and the story of his time in Liberia. What drew me in the most, besides his amazing work, is the difference in the quality of education. It's easy to acknowledge that we are privileged to have the level of education that we do in America, but quite different to hear that in countries such as Liberia, there are sessions of school so that children can raise funds for their tuition or household. With the vast advantages that we have in the U.S., we often lose sight of the plight of others.

The past month, I have been working as an intern with The Borgen Project, a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to working on legislation that could help the world's most extreme poor. When reading the article about Williams, I found myself thinking back to the acts that volunteers and interns are working on every week as members of The Borgen Project. One act in particular was voted on this week in the Senate- the READ Act. This act would make it easier for impoverished nations to gain access to higher quality education, creating a better standard for the next generation.

As a Borgen Project supporter, I have been fortunate to learn how important it is to use my privileges to magnify the struggles of others. An easy way to do this is to call congressional leaders and ask them to support the International Affairs Budget. As a country, we only spend one

percent on foreign aid. What we fail to realize is foreign aid is good business. By increasing the support given to hurting nations, the U.S. has the opportunity to boost their own economy and the well-being of those living on less than \$1 a day. The U.S. is an agenda setter for the rest of the world- if it is shown that the country supports foreign aid spending, it is possible that global poverty could be eradicated by 2030 with more spending in resources annually.

I think stories, such as Williams' journey, are important to share. If we are to be the leaders of tomorrow, a global perspective is important. Our actions at home have the ability to change the lives of those living thousands of miles away.

Thank you,

Lauren Jurczynsyn is a senior studying psychology.

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Too young to understand

It's 2017 and we still don't understand consent. Why is that?

AuJenee Hirsch
Chief Copy Editor

This article describes sexual assault. Reader discretion is advised.

Netflix released a show called "13 Reasons Why" on Saturday, April 1. The show follows the story of Hannah Baker as she explains the 13 reasons why she committed suicide. Hannah recorded 13 tapes before she died in which she detailed her experiences as a victim of bullying, sexual harassment and rape in the months leading up to her death. The show reminded me of a girl I know who had a similar experience.

It all started when the girl was four years old. She had an older cousin from out of town who was staying with her family. At the time her cousin was around 16 or 17 years old. The girl absolutely adored her older cousin because he was always so sweet and nice to her. She felt like he was an older brother. That is, until he betrayed her trust.

During his stay the older cousin had been sleeping in the girl's room, but one night the boy did something unforgivable. The girl woke up to something in her hand and her older cousin whispering in her ear.

"Grab it," he said.

When the girl looked down she saw that it was something bad, something that did not seem right to her. Upon realizing this the girl started to cry and call for her mom. The boy panicked and tried to comfort her before taking her to her mom's bedroom.

The girl's mom asked what was wrong, but the girl did not know how to explain it because she did not know what the object in her hand was or what had happened. The only thing she knew was that it scared her. That night, the girl did not sleep. For the rest of her cousin's stay, she slept in her mom's room.

Ever since that day she has tried to suppress the memory of what happened, but inside she slowly

started to hate her older cousin more and more. She did not understand why she hated him, she just knew that it was related to what happened that night.

It was not until nine years later when she realized what had truly happened: She had been molested.

According to the National Sex Offender Public Website, about 1.8 million adolescents are victims of sexual assault, which is defined by the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, as "sexual content or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim. Some forms of sexual assault include: Attempted rape, fondling or unwanted sexual touching, forcing a victim to perform sexual acts, such as oral sex or penetrating the perpetrator's body or penetration of the victim's body, also known as rape."

It is 2017, and people still have a problem grasping the concept of consent when it comes to sexual contact or intercourse. Many people believe that if a person does not clearly say no then it is acceptable to continue making sexual advances on that person.

Well guess what, not saying "no" does not always mean giving consent. Unfortunately, my generation has

struggled with this concept.

"13 Reasons Why" captures the millennial generation's inability to come to terms with consent and sexual assault, but it is sad to say that the show did capture it. Is it that bad to where everyone in America knows of this

problem? What is being done to fix it? Do people even care? The fact that I am even asking these questions absolutely terrifies me.

Why is sex such a taboo topic? If anything, it should be something that is embraced since that is how humans procreate.

It is my belief that to stop or at least reduce the number of sexual assault cases, there should be better sex education in schools and at home. We need to teach children and learn for ourselves the importance of consent and what it looks like. Do not avoid the topic because that is when people can get a distorted view of sex at a young age.

The violence has to stop. Victims feel disgusting, ashamed and oftentimes will not tell people because they will be blamed for the assault. When people are sexually assaulted they will carry those feelings and memories with them for the rest of their life.

Trust me on this, I am the girl from the story.



Infographic by Marcella Banner /The Oakland Post

*Information provided by RAINN.org

Lorde finds perfection in sophomore album

Singer introduces “Melodrama” to receptive audience

Trevor Tyle
Staff Intern

It's hard to believe it has been four years since Lorde ruled the Billboard Hot 100 with her smash hit “Royals.”

At the time, she was only 16 years old. The New Zealand native conquered the music world, earning herself two Grammy Awards, another top ten single and a debut album that was certified platinum three times—all while most of us were still failing high school algebra.

Now, Lorde—whose real name is Ella Yelich-O'Connor—is 20 years old and is in a completely different place. The songstress initially achieved success for her hauntingly powerful and mature lyricism, and her fearless defiance of social norms, something she has managed to replicate in a completely different light on her sophomore album “Melodrama.”



Photo Courtesy of iTunes

Lorde provides hits “Green Light” and “Liability” on new album.

The alternative and electronic sounds that dominated her debut album “Pure Heroine” have taken a backseat on “Melodrama,” which dives headfirst into pop perfection. The album opener, lead single “Green Light,” is an anthem ode to breakups and fresh starts. It is the perfect bridge between her two albums while signifying her evolution into a fully fledged pop superstar.

Lorde's friendship with Taylor Swift is evident on this album, which Lorde co-wrote and produced alongside Swift's “1989” hitmaker Jack Antonoff. However, Lorde's lyrics reach a depth that not even a masterful writer such as Swift has yet reached.

The album's second track, “Sober,” further delves into Lorde's newfound pop-centered terrain, infusing an infectious simple beat with a flare of Beyoncé-esque horns in the chorus. The hauntingly catchy “Homemade Dynamite” screams hit potential, while the nostalgic guitar riff of “The Louvre” quickly explodes into a midtempo pop anthem that mysteriously fades off into the distance.

“Melodrama” is a far more personal album, according to Lorde, and it shows. The record explores themes of solitude and hopeless romanticism behind a narrative of a metaphorical house party. Though blunt in describing the strenuous transition from adolescence into adulthood, she makes it sound divine.

She remains painstakingly vulnerable throughout the whole record. Lorde's refreshingly brutal honesty reaches its peak towards the middle of the album with “Liability,” in which she displays vulnerability at its finest. Though her sorrowful lyrics are often masked by the album's euphoric production, Lorde opens up like never before on this powerful piano/vocal ballad.

The breathtaking emotion of “Liability” is echoed on the lyrical masterpiece of “Writer in the Dark,” one of the album's strongest offerings. The melancholy track is appropriately followed by the fast-paced “Supercut,” a wistful ode to a relationship where Lorde regretfully finds herself saying, “In my head, I'd do everything right.”

On album closer “Perfect Places,” a track slightly reminiscent of her 2013 hit “Team,” Lorde encapsulates the theme of the album perfectly, highlighting the darker reality behind what society portrays as the carefree nature of youth. Its shouty chorus yearns for more than just the escape described in the song—it is begging to be her next big hit.

Though Lorde entered the music scene drawing comparisons to the likes of Lana Del Rey and Grimes, she has entered into a league of her own, and one that remains untouchable by most of her peers. In the midst of the superficial world of modern pop music, Lorde is one of a select few artists capable of creating a cohesive body of work that can truly be called “art.”

“Melodrama” is like a colorful and exquisite Tumblr blog—unconventionally poetic, engaging, and full of life.

Rating: 5/5 stars



Photo Courtesy of IMDb

The main brawl between Optimus Prime and Bumblebee lasted less than two minutes.

“Transformers: The Last Knight” proves the franchise is still bad

Trevor Tyle
Staff Intern

When it comes to Michael Bay's inexplicably never-ending “Transformers” franchise, there is no beating around the bush—it's really bad. If you don't think two-and-a-half hours' worth of annoying robot cars, explosions and an eternally impending apocalypse is a waste of time, you will after seeing any of these films. However, the fifth film in the franchise, “The Last Knight,” is different—just when it didn't seem humanly possible to make these films any worse, the latest installment did exactly that.

Despite its expected success at the box office, “The Last Knight” will probably prompt a unanimous desire among audiences for those two-and-a-half hours of their lives back. The (thankfully brief) scene shown just after the credits start rolling was enough to make audiences cringe, roll their eyes and sigh with aggravation. Not only did it waste yet another minute of the audience's time, but it also realized everyone's worst fear—there will almost definitely be another film, and it will probably be just as bad, if not worse.

The first of the film's many issues is that, apparently, the Autobots and Decepticons are somehow connected to King Arthur, because transforming robotic cars definitely existed in medieval times. The attempt to combine the franchise's science fiction roots with mythology is weak and poorly executed. To make matters worse, it gives audiences a drunken portrayal of Merlin from Stanley Tucci that nobody wants to see.

Tucci's appearance is not the only wasted opportunity in the casting department here. In fact, most of the cast is overqualified for this film. Mark Wahlberg leads the cast, returning as failed inventor-turned-hero Cade Yeager. Though his

wit and humor are refreshing in such an unnecessarily heavy franchise, it still isn't enough to save the film. Anthony Hopkins is, unfortunately, thrown into the mess of “The Last Knight” as well, though his character is one of the series' stronger offerings. (His robot sidekick Cogman, however, isn't as warmly welcomed and comes across as a blatant—and annoying—C-3PO ripoff.)

Although the series' new female lead, played by Laura Haddock, shows promise, she is yet another character that becomes difficult to enjoy because of everything else that has plagued the film. Many of the other characters—both old and new—have absolutely no purpose whatsoever.

Early on, the film introduces Isabela Moner's character, a young girl orphaned as a result of the events in “Dark of the Moon.” Though her presence in the first half of the film makes her seem important, the second half diminishes her significance almost completely, adding absolutely nothing to what little plot there is.

Oh, and do not worry—in typical “Transformers” fashion, Bay made sure to include another finale that never ends in this film, lasting about 45 minutes too long and avoiding closure for any of the characters' stories. It also wasted one of the only exciting moments in the whole movie—a brawl between protagonists Optimus Prime and Bumblebee that probably lasted less than two minutes. Though it resolves the main conflict—whatever that may have been—it essentially ends with viewers feeling both confused at what just happened and relieved that it's over.

Although the special effects are decent and the action sequences are entertaining enough, “The Last Knight” as a whole is too awful for anything to redeem it.

Rating: 1.5/5 stars

From a Golden Grizzly to Boston Red Sox

Skylar Tolfree
Sports Editor

On Tuesday, June 13, Oakland University baseball player Zach Sterry was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the eighth round (251st overall pick) of the Major League Baseball draft. This marks the second highest draft pick in Oakland history. The Red Sox drafted Sterry as a first basemen, and they also inquired about his past as a catcher, according to an article published by the Mansfield News Journal.

The Mansfield, Ohio native spent four years playing at Oakland before being drafted by the Sox.

"It just happened that I got a call early on that they were probably going to take me in the eighth round and they did," Sterry told the Detroit Free Press.

"The Red Sox were the one team I wanted because he [the scout] was talking about how I would go to Lowell, Massachusetts, to start and I have family in that area," Sterry said in an interview with the Mansfield News Journal.

"Zach came to OU a star teammate and a

model student," co-head coach Jacke Healey said. "This was 100 percent earned. In two, three or four years, he'll be playing in Fenway."

“It just happened that I got a call early on that they were probably going to take me in the eighth round and they did.”

Greg Kampe
Head Coach

Along with the draft pick, Sterry also earned American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings honors.

In an interview with the Detroit Free Press, Sterry was quoted saying he, "Got a new confidence and was feeling good."

Even though Sterry ended his career at OU with a broken hand after being hit by a pitch in a game against Northern Kentucky, he still had an honorable final season, appearing in and starting in a total of 48 games at first base.

During his final season at Oakland, Sterry had a batting average of .346. He also had 14 doubles, one triple, 13 home runs and 44 RBIs (Runs Batted In).

Sterry also led the Horizon League in slugging percentage with a .643. This had him ranked 34th nationally. He also reached base safely for 38 consecutive games from Feb. 24 through May 7.

"[He] was in the four hole as a freshman, hit in the three hole this year," Healey said.

During his 2016 season, Sterry led the Golden Grizzlies in doubles with a total of 15. He was also named the Horizon League Batter of the Week on March 28 after going 6-for-12 with a .571 on-base percentage and a .917 slugging percentage in a three-game sweep at Northern Kentucky.

"Offensively, there's not a guy close to him," Healey said.

While his time with the Golden Grizzlies has come to an end, Sterry's baseball career is far from over.

The Red Sox are currently sitting at second in the American League East, .001 percent behind the New York Yankees. All of the players stats can be found on their website, as well as game highlights and clips.



Photo courtesy of Golden Grizzly Athletics

Drafted as first baseman, Zach Sterry is second highest draft pick to the Boston Red Sox.

Head softball coach resigns after five years

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

Senior Associate Athletic Director Marshall Foley announced on June 5 that Connie Miner resigned as head coach of Oakland University softball.

Miner stated this will let her pursue other coaching opportunities as well as focus on her "Connie Miner Softball School of Excellence." The Kansas native also explained this decision will let her be closer to family and friends.

Miner joined the softball program in 2012 and has since acquired a record of 83-127-1 over her five years. This record comes in second for most wins in program history.

In 2015, Miner led Oakland softball to its first Horizon League title and to the team's third NCAA appearance after a 27 win season, ranking third in program history. That same year, Miner earned Horizon League Coach of the Year accolades.

Just a week and a half prior to the announcement, two incoming freshmen were added to complete the 2017-2018 recruiting class. Since these players were added by Miner, the roster will remain the same with a new head coach coming in.

"For this coming year, we have been in contact with the recruits that had signed letters of intent to let them know that we are still committed to them coming to Oakland," Foley said. "We will honor their commitment, and thus far, they have all indicated they are committed to coming to Oakland. This year's re-

cruiting class was intact under Coach Miner and the coaching staff, and it will stay that way for the fall."

Though the official recruiting period is closed for the year, there is a possibility to add extra talent.

"Once a new head coach is hired, she or he may look at the roster, may look at the needs of the team, and say 'I would like to go out and try to bring in another player' Foley said. "If there is an opportunity to do that, then we would certainly entertain that."

The main focus of program right now is finding a head coach. There has been interest from both internal and external candidates, and soon an evaluation process done by Athletics administration will take place. The position could be filled anywhere from mid July to late August.

Coming off the 2016-17 season, Karen Baird and Sarah Hartley currently sit as assistant coaches with Sara Cupp as the volunteer assistant coach.

"The decisions on what is going to happen with the assistant coach, the volunteer coach and the graduate assistant position will wait on the decision of who our new head coach is," Foley said. "Once you hire a head coach then the rest of the staff will fall into place pretty quickly."

Miner often remarked that Oakland softball had a young team since underclassmen filled twelve of the roster spots. This past year, the Golden Grizzlies lost seven student-athletes to graduation, so all eyes will be on these underclassmen.

"We always have high hopes," Foley said. "There is a lot of talent on this team. A lot of our pitching talent

graduated this past year, so we are going to need some of our younger pitchers to step up."

In the 2017 season, Oakland came out with the best start in program history, going 3-1. The Golden Grizzlies ended the season with an overall record just below .500 at 20-26, and the program finished sixth in the Horizon League just behind Detroit Mercy. Approaching the upcoming season, confidence in winning another league championship is at an all time high.

"With the program we have at Oakland, we are in a position where we can compete for the Horizon League championship on an annual basis," Foley said.



Photo Courtesy of Jose Juarez

Miner coaches one of her final games after five years.

Valparaiso departs from Horizon League

Oakland rival joins Missouri Valley Conference after playing together for a decade



The Oakland Post Archives

Oakland University men's basketball player, Kay Felder, turned professional athlete for the Cleveland Cavaliers faces off against Valparaiso University guard Keith Carter in 2015.

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

On May 25, the Horizon League announced Valparaiso University will be leaving the league to join the Missouri Valley Conference. This transition for the Indiana-based school will be effective July 1.

Immediately following the announcement, Horizon League commissioner Jon LeCrone released the following statement:

"The news was certainly not unexpected. The Horizon League is guided by a strategic plan, approved by our Board of Directors in 2014, and it includes specific and international strategies for membership retention and expansion. Our league bylaws govern how we will proceed in the next few weeks, relative to our transitioning member."

The same day, LeCrone hosted a live press teleconference on Facebook where viewers could submit their questions and concerns. The majority of these concerns focused on adding po-

tential schools to the Horizon League, expanding the geographic region, issues facing men's basketball as a brand and looking forward for the future.

There are currently nine schools in the league after Valpo withdrew. It has not been decided if the Horizon League will keep nine schools for the 2017-18 school year or add an additional one. However, LeCrone did mention in the teleconference that there may be up to twelve schools in total in the 2019-20 school year.

"This is basically going to come down to the will of the membership," Jeff Konya, Oakland University Director of Athletics, said. "You always want to add value and strength to your league when you have the opportunity. So, if that is one member, two members or ten members, you need to evaluate each of those very closely."

With the possibility of expanding the conference upwards of ten schools, the league hopes to produce multiple bids to the NCAA tournament. On average, only one Horizon League school is sent to the first rounds of the NCAA tour-

namment for a team's respective sport. This past year, Oakland men's basketball earned a trip to the NCAA National bracket tournament after placing first in their league.

"[Multiple NCAA bids] depends on who you add to the league," Konya said. "If you have programs that are really strong in basketball, theoretically, it could put your brand into a better frame of reference for the committee to make selections in that league."

Joining the Horizon League in 2007, Valpo has picked up a total of 20 league championships with six being in men's basketball. This past school year, Valpo came in second to Oakland in men's basketball for the conference standings. For five of the past six years, Valpo proved it was a contender by coming in the top two for the Horizon League standings in men's basketball.

"Next year all systems are pointed in the right direction," Konya said. "[Oakland] has a veteran [men's basketball] team coming back. We added some exciting talent. We have seen some of the polling already heading into next

year, and we are thought of very well. I think all of Oakland's fans should be excited for this upcoming season, and it could be one of those storybook seasons hopefully."

With every team in the Horizon League vying for the end of the season championships, much of the league's focus has shifted to men's basketball. The Horizon League has made it their mission to improve the men's basketball program, including promoting the importance of the brand as a whole.

"I think these improvements are internal in terms of scheduling, investments, attendance, and recruiting," Konya said. "[Basketball] is very important to the Horizon League so much so that it is identified in the strategic plan as a point of excellence. Men's basketball and basketball in general has to be of exceptional quality."

The Horizon League remains confident in the talent pool each school is producing, and schools are still looking forward to the future of the league as they wait for news with more plans for the upcoming school year.

Men's basketball welcomes new assistant coach

Detroit native Tony Jones of Windsor express hopes to help Golden Grizzlies reach NCAA

Connor McNeely
Campus Editor

Last year, the Oakland University men's basketball gave the Horizon League Conference its best performance since the 2010-11 season. The Golden Grizzlies advanced to the National Invitation Tournament, though ultimately suffered a disappointing loss to Richmond in the second round; a match that looked favorable for Oakland.

According to Head Coach Greg Kampe, the team has high expectations for this season and "NCAA" is in its vocabulary.

"It's been a few years now since we've been [to the NCAA]" he said. "We've been upset in the conference tournament three years in a row and I think we're angry about that and I think that we'll have something to say at the end about it."

Joining Kampe on the coaching staff this season is Assistant Coach Tony Jones. Jones is a Detroit native, who was an All-City player for Southwestern High School and went on to coach the school's team after attending college. At Southwest, Jones coached then-to-be NBA greats such as Jalen Rose, Howard Easley and Voshon Lenard before he advanced to the collegiate level.

Jones has contributed to the success of several college programs including a Sweet 16 appearance with Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and an Elite 8 with University of Tennessee. In 2015 he became interim head coach for the National Basketball League of Canada's Windsor Express. After a year of working with professional players Jones learned his coaching specialties were better suited for college ball.

“

"It's been a few years now since we've been [to the NCAA]. We've been upset in the conference tournament three years in a row and I think we're angry about that and I think that we'll have something to say at the end about it."

Greg Kampe
Head Coach

"I had a good experience when I was the head coach of the Windsor express," Jones said. "I really enjoyed my time there but after reevaluating the year, as we do at the end of each year, I came to the conclusion that I'm a col-

lege basketball coach. I'm better at developing 17, 18 to 23 year olds instead of working with professionals that are set in their ways and really experienced."

Although team workouts are just beginning and Jones is still getting to know his new crew, his expectations are nothing short of Kampe's.

"I think if it's not broken, don't try and fix it. The team won 9 straight games in the season," Jones said. "Unfortunately, a disappointing loss in the first round of the Horizon League tournament to Youngstown State. Then they got the invite to the NIT and they beat a power 5 school in Clemson and then play Richmond down to the wire, so with everybody coming back except one guy, we're adding Kendrick Nunn - a transfer from the University of Illinois, I think the future is bright.

"We've got an experienced team, we've got an experienced coaching staff and we really expect to compete for the Horizon League regular season championship and be right in the mix in the conference tournament to hopefully garner an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament."

According to Jones, he feels good about being back in the state he grew up in. While he gets acquainted with the new faces on the court, he is looking forward to seeing old friends and family he has not in quite some time. To make the transition even easier, he and Kampe are long-time friends.

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How to AirBnb for your next road trip

A small guide that will help your summer escape plans

Simon Albaugh
Social Media Editor

Two words: road trip. It's a make or break experience for college summers. When there's a combination of adult-like freedom and a sudden realization that your parents are insufferable, the important thing to know is just how to do it right.

Technology has fostered a new way for people to connect in exciting ways. One app, AirBnb, has created that connection more than almost any other thing out there.

For those who don't know, AirBnb is a platform that connects people with the desire to host with people that need a place to stay. It's a more endearing arrangement than the tradition hotel, so it has become extremely popular.

But there's a lot of dangers that go along with this. For some of you, the axe-murderer scenario immediately played in your heads. But there's a lot of good ways to make sure that your stay is safe,

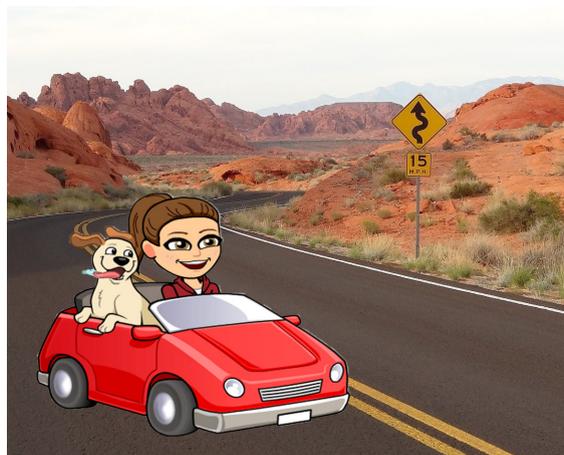


Photo Illustration by Marcella Banner / The Oakland Post

Grab what you love and get on the road.

and even enjoyable.

1) Plan as far ahead as possible

This gives you the opportunity to know exactly when and where you're staying and even allows you to get to know the person a lot better.

The app ensures that both host and visitor communicate before the stay, so use the extra time to understand what they think of the area.

2) Gauge the connection with your host

Both you and the host have a preset notion of how your stay will be. If the host wants to engage, then by all means, take that exciting opportunity.

They'll probably have a lot of insight into what's awesome around the area, and may even take you to some really cool spots.

I did exactly that when I had to babysit my AirBnb host's eight-year-old daughter. I waited for my host to get back, and then kindly thought of myself as someone who in no way should take care of an eight-year-old, and left to go sleep at a truck stop.

3) The more time and money you put into it, the better

My last AirBnb was a 17 dollar-a-night stay in the less-than-quality part of Columbus, Ohio. I also arrived an hour after I actually asked for the stay.

I bought cigarettes around the corner from a woman who was comforting her daughter after she was just mugged in the parking lot of the gas station. Although I was happy to stay, I slept on a carpet where my only comfort was a Scooby-Doo bed sheet. I can't complain too much though, because she gave me snacks.

I loved every second of it, but I can imagine most of you wouldn't. Just don't try to beat me at having the worst stay.

AirBnb is meant to be one of the most endearing experiences that social media has to offer. Instead of remaining in a bubble, it automatically sets you outside into a world inhabited by complete strangers. Embrace every second of your trip, and know that sometimes you have someone's best attempt at a comfortable home to enjoy every night.

NEW PAYMENT DUE DATES

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Beginning with fall 2017, Oakland University is implementing new payment and cancellation dates. The due dates have been changed to help reduce outstanding debt, limit late payment penalties, and free up available housing and classroom space.

Please enroll in a payment plan and pay your installments by their due dates, or pay your account balance in full using financial aid and/or external sources or your own funds by the due date. If you do not pay in full by August 15, 2017 or enroll in a payment plan and make the scheduled installments, you will be canceled from all classes and housing (if applicable).

IMPORTANT FALL SEMESTER DATES

- **July 16, 2017** — fall tuition and housing charges posted
- **July 16, 2017** — fall payment plan opens
- **August 15, 2017** — fall payment due date

If you register for classes after August 15, your charges are due immediately.

Payment
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VIEW all payment and cancellation dates and **LEARN** how to avoid cancellation at oakland.edu/financialservices, then Payments & Refunds, then Payments & Cancellation.

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\$12.99

XL 2-Topping Pizza



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