

# The Pioneer



## BLEEDING BLACK AND GOLD

Jean Ann Miller, pictured with basketball standout Jalen Hayes and Student Body President Lena Mishack, talks Pioneers, Golden Grizzlies and her love for Oakland University.  
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## FASHION ON A BUDGET

Winter fashion doesn't have to be pricey, see some of our top picks.  
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## THE MEN OF ASSAULT

College-aged men speak out about their sexual assault experiences.  
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### Expedition Soaps

A teenager with a dream made a big impression on consumers with his own soap brand, called Expedition Soaps. Catch his inspirational story of success on pages 8-9.

Photo // Taylor Stinson



### The Man, The Myth

A young Greg Kampe turned Oakland's basketball program around. Today, he's coaching Team 51. Read about his life as the man in charge on pages 20-23.

Photo // Sergio Montanez



### Best Drinks In Town

From the streets of Rochester to the suburbs of Ferndale, John Bozick traversed around to find the best margarita. Find out about the best drinks in town on pages 32-35.

Photo // John Bozick

# On New Beginnings

*Change is scary, but it is so worth it*

**H**ey readers, I'm writing this as I sit in my office at *The Oakland Post*. My final semester of college is upon me and I've spent a lot of time thinking about these last four years, particularly at *The Post*.

I remember walking through our office door as a 17-year-old and staring at an editor, this guy we called Stretch, for what felt like five years before he asked if I needed something.

He introduced me to the girl who would become my boss, Kaylee, and she taught me most of what I know about journalism. Fast forward three years and here I am sitting in Kaylee's old office writing to you.

*The Post* has been synonymous with Oakland University for me the entire time I've been here. Sometimes I think I know this 48-year-old newspaper better than I know myself.

So when I got the opportunity to be the editor-in-chief for a

year, I knew I wanted to shake things up a little.

You're reading a magazine today because of something that happened to me back in October. I was at a conference in Dallas, Texas, and I met the student editors of *The Paisano* in San Antonio. They're about the same size as my staff and seem to have the family bond that we do over at *The Post*. Aside from their newspaper, the folks over at *The Paisano* also run a magazine.

The Editor was talking about it and I couldn't help but think The Posties could do the same thing. I met with my staff when I got home and they met my far-fetched idea with excitement. They have spent the last six months working extra time to make sure this magazine is the best it can be.

Let me be clear: This is not *The Post* on nicer paper. This is a magazine and it reads like one. Inside we have stories about fashion, food, the faces of campus and more.

There are no political

opinions. There are no police reports. This is all about telling the stories of campus.

We named this thing *The Pioneer* because we're trying something new. What you're holding in your hand is the first successfully printed magazine made by a group of OU students, and we're beyond proud of that. Not only that, but Oakland's first mascot was Pioneer Pete, and we wanted to include a wink to Oakland in our title.

This new thing has been scary, but it's exciting to be able to contribute something to Oakland's and *The Post's* history.

One of my favorite stories in this issue is "The Men of Sexual Assault" by Simon Albaugh. Simon dove into an issue our society rarely talks about and follows these men through their experience of coping and moving on from what happened to them.

Another, albeit more light-



hearted, favorite of mine is Sadie Layher's review of The Meeting House in downtown Rochester. She wanted to try reviewing some restaurants for this project and what she ended up writing was a spunky, sassy and detailed review. She recommends the homemade ice cream.

Yet another favorite of mine is Katie LaDuke's story on what professors think of having a chili pepper on Rate My Professors. Katie has been one of the best sports reporters I have ever worked with, so it was awesome to see her flex her feature writing muscle.

The Posties and I hope you enjoy reading these stories as much as we have enjoyed telling them.

Sincerely,

*Shelby Tankersley*

## The Pioneer

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**AuJenee Hirsch** is sophomore journalism and graphic design double major. She's always struggled to find her true passion in writing and graphic design but found she could have the best of both worlds at OU. She currently serves as the chief copy editor of The Oakland Post and absolutely loves her job and fellow Posties. She also works at Tropical Smoothie Cafe where she constantly reminds people that she doesn't make the rules, she just works there. In her free time she enjoys watching anime, listening to old Disney Channel songs and playing with her younger siblings. Check out her work on pages 20-23.



For as long as **Dakota Brecht** can remember he has wanted to become a sports broadcaster. It has been his dream since he was a little kid. He is a sports reporter at The Oakland Post, and he absolutely loves the work he does. He co-hosts three sports talk shows at 88.3 WXOU and is part of the broadcast team for the men's basketball games. He lives in Hamlin Hall, but back home he lives on a farm with two horses, three ducks and 27 chickens. He likes to golf, hunt, fish and canoe. Find his story on the Neal Ruhl on pages 12 & 13.



**Laurel Kraus** is a junior journalism major with a minor in communications, as well as the life editor at The Oakland Post. Hailing from Clinton Twp., when she isn't working or having a date with her bed, you can usually find her writing or watching Marvel. Her favorite things in life are God, hiking and creativity, while her greatest accomplishments meeting Chris Hemsworth and interviewing actor Anthony Mackie. Her dream is to one day publish a novel. Check out her story of a 16-year-old entrepreneur on pages 8 & 9.



**Alexa Caccamo** is a junior pursuing a degree in public relations & strategic communication with a minor in journalism. Her hobbies include shopping, blogging, going out to brunch with family and friends, watching Audrey Hepburn movies and doing cardio. When she first entered college she wasn't really sure which career path to follow. But, after having two internships and working at The Oakland Post, she would like to work in a communication/marketing department for a fashion brand. She also designed this spread!



**Megan Luttinen** is a senior English major. This gal loves her job more than she ever thought was possible. She has been working as a copy editor for The Oakland Post since May 2017 and wishes she had more time there. While the OP employees view Megan as a source of laughter in the office, Megan views them as some of the best friends she has ever had. After graduation, Megan plans to use her English degree working in editing and publishing. Check out some of her mad design skills on pages 28-31.



**Erin O'Neill** is a sophomore graphic design major from Flint, Mich. She's been working for The Oakland Post since October 2017 and considers it the highlight of every week. When she's not working at The Post or rolling burritos at Chipotle, Erin is drinking every cup of tea she can get her hands on. She loves spending time with people and has a passion for developing others' strengths. Erin hopes to aid small-business owners in designing their brand identities. She also drew our killer masthead by hand!



**Prakhya Chilukuri** has found her calling in graphic design. She is in her sophomore year. She has spent most of her life drawing and painting in her free time. Chilukuri is a graphic design assistant at The Oakland Post and secretly wishes to stay there forever. She also does freelance designing, which includes photo and video montages, advertisements, event posters and band posters. She also hopes to get into music production, CGI and album cover designing. Check out her graphics on pages 38 & 39.



**Taylor Stinson** is an OU alum who graduated in December 2017 with a double major in Cinema Studies and English. When she's not watching The Office, she's running her own photography business: Stintography. Photography is her favorite thing to do. She loves to take natural pictures that shows people's personalities and stories. Pictures tell stories, and being the author of them is the coolest way to create something out of nothing, in her opinion. She took photos for several of the stories, and is the mind behind the cover photo.



**Cheyenne Kramer** is a soon-to-be graduate who's worked with various news organizations throughout her career. She serves as the managing editor of The Oakland Post, as well as working with The Movie Sleuth, Fangirl The Magazine and Anime News Network. She is hoping to pursue a master's in gender studies or communication studies. When she's not writing, you can find her cosplaying or working on her own business, FBStudios. Check out her baby, Flashback, on page 19.



**Simon Albaugh** is usually the satire writer. He's beginning to find his feet at the more serious side of the journalistic spectrum. Simon always had an interest in telling the stories that are hardest to tell. But it was only after writing this story that Simon became more confident with the difficult information that is shared with him. The goal of his piece in The Pioneer Magazine is to provide tools that could help anyone experiencing similar circumstances to the sources used. Check out his story on pages 24-27.



**Jessica Leydet** is a senior journalism student. She's a St. Clair Shores native and a transfer student. She likes to dabble in most things creative and has recently discovered her love for media design. She's a self-diagnosed poetry addict and a total music junkie. One of her dreams is to be a music writer for a major publication like Rolling Stone or NME. She loves hanging out with her friends, watching movies and scavenging local record stores. Check out some of her design work on pages 6 & 7.



**John Bozick** is a senior journalism major, his role models in life are Bernie Sanders, Han Solo and Karl Marx. John's main interest in writing for The Post is the Political Focus column due to his background with political science, which also happens to be his minor. He has been a member of The Post since his sophomore year before being promoted to web editor. His dream job after he graduates would be to work as a White House correspondent. Check his drink review on pages 32-35.

# Rate My Professors' Chili Peppers Heat Up The Conversation



KATIE LADUKE // REPORTER

**M**ixed feelings about a website many students use every semester have been swirling around the different departments on campus. The website Rate My Professors has been up and running since May 1999 and is available for colleges and universities across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Over the years, the site has accumulated more than 19 million ratings on 1.7 million professors and has undergone several changes including rating the school as a whole.

Professors are yet to come to a consensus on if it is useful or a waste of time. Some think the site, when used with caution, can be helpful to select courses because of the student feedback. Others think the self-selected comments and biases of the website's nature result in a unfair debate about a professor. "Rate My Professors offers students a way to voice their opinions based on

personal experiences," Laura Klein from Oakland's Department of Writing and Rhetoric said. "Although Rate My Professors is not designed to measure learning outcomes or formally evaluate instructors, it may provide some insight as to how effectively the professor communicates, clarity of assignments and overall ability to engage students. A student's perception is his or her reality, so that is difficult to gauge. It simply provides an outlet for students to express what they liked or did not like about a professor or their course."

Matthew Tucker from Oakland's Department of Linguistics is neutral when it comes to Rate My Professors. He thinks the site acts as a resource for students to take ownership of their education, but the ratings can be skewed due to a number of influences.

"Certainly it's not difficult to imagine that there are times when a student will learn better with one professor than with another, even if the material is exactly the

same," Tucker said. "I like that there's a place where students can access that information. I'm a product of the social media generation."

There is one aspect of the site that has nothing to do with a professor's ability to teach, and it is the chili pepper.

This pepper rates a professor's physical appearance. On the website, it appears right under the professor's "level of difficulty" and is either fully filled or not filled in at all.

Just like initial thoughts on the website, professors have varying thoughts on this aspect. Tucker laughed when he found out he had a pepper on his page, but still hopes students take his classes because they find his lectures enjoyable. He went on to explain the halo effect and how people are more likely to be charitable to a person they consider physically attractive.

"I do think appearance matters a lot," Tucker said. "I would hope that students form their opinions based on the stuff about appearance that denotes

professionalism."

On the other end, some professors do not see the need for a rating on physical appearance. Many just want to share their passion for teaching without feeling self-conscious.

"I like to remind [students] that there is no chili pepper on my resume or CV," said Holly Walker-Cote from Oakland's Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. "I feel that this category has a way of undermining my education, skill and experience as an instructor. At this time in our culture, I think this is a very good example of how we treat women, in particular, in our society."

With the aspect of female professors being treated differently, Tucker can see his female colleagues' appearance getting brought up more. He's noticed that his female colleagues' reviews are sometimes at 50 to 60 percent physical appearance.

"As a man, it's bewildering to me how much commentary there is about the physical attractiveness of female

professors," Tucker said.

Keith Williams from Oakland's Department of Psychology also sees this occurrence. He is part of a committee that revises the course evaluation sheets given to students at the end of the semester. In this committee, members discuss how some women get rated lower and critiqued more harshly.

"I know that there is data out there that student ratings are biased against women," Williams said. "So women, generally speaking, get lower scores than men. I think there are a couple studies that indicate an early impression actually dictates what's going to be on those [student ratings]."

Williams also explained that there's a high correlation between positive ratings, likability and attractiveness.

"If you like the instructor and they're attractive in some way and they're male, it seems like that individual gets higher ratings," he said.

The power dynamic between professor

and student also comes into play. Professors serve as an authoritative figure with the job to educate. They hold much more responsibility than students.

"If a professor were ever to make comments anywhere about how students look, that person would lose his or her job and never be able to teach again," Walker-Cote said. "There are very clear boundaries in our culture regarding the student-teacher relationship. The anonymity of this web site has allowed people to ignore those boundaries."

Professors are not blind to sites like Rate My Professors and know that students use them for a variety of reasons. Whatever the reason may be, professors advise students to read at their own risk and to look for the substance in reviews.

"I would liken planning your classes around Rate My Professors to planning your day around a horoscope in the newspaper; you can do that if you choose, but that doesn't make it a good plan," Walker-Cote said.

## Pondering the Pepper

"Since this is not related to academic preparations and the ability to prepare students adequately for success, it is an irrelevant metric of academic quality."

- **Dr. Richard Olawoyin, Environmental Health and Safety Program**

"I find it to not be the best use of Rate My Professor's time. I get what they're doing. It's marketed for undergraduates."

- **Dr. Matthew Tucker, Department of Linguistics**

"My chili pepper must be an artifact from when I was younger."

- **Dr. Keith Williams, Department of Psychology**

"I think a good attitude and a happy disposition makes a person more attractive though and that can be reflected in the chili pepper."

- **Dr. Jessica Koppen, Department of Chemistry**

"I cannot speak for how men feel about this on Rate My Professors, but I have to say that it seems like just one more way in which my intellectual abilities can be minimized and cast aside in favor of how I look or do not."

- **Holly Walker-Cote, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**

"I think it's my colleagues pranking me."

- **Thomas Discenna, Department of Communication and Journalism**

"Well, I appreciate the compliment. However, I prefer to think of it as reflective of my confidence and enthusiasm when presenting material in the classroom. It is important to remember that attractiveness is typically more than physical appearance."

- **Dr. Laura Klein, Department of Writing and Rhetoric**

"I'm flattered."

- **Dr. David Dulio, Department of Political Science**

Infographic by Jessica Leydet

# Just Add A Little Soap

OUCARES alum creates staggeringly successful company

LAUREL KRAUS // ASSISTANT EDITOR

Spencer Kelly has been thrown a few curveballs in life, there's no doubt about that.

But both despite and because of these obstacles, the 16-year-old OUCARES alum has proven that life is exactly what you make it.

On Aug. 12, 2001, Spencer was born with asperger's syndrome, and a chain of events began that would lead to the theft of his candy-red bike 16 years later.

It was a bleak day when the \$300 Trek disappeared from outside of the McDonalds on Squirrel Rd., but it turned into so much more when in an attempt to further instill responsibility in his son, Steve Kelly agreed to purchase a new bike. But only if his son would pay him back.

And thus, The Expedition Soap Company was born.

"About a week later, when I was just sort of figuring out ideas on how to pay him back, it just clicked for me, luxury handmade soap," Spencer said. "I started working on the idea immediately and on Sept. 1, [2016], I launched the company."

In the beginning, the company offered around 12 scents but it has now grown to more than 65 within a variety of products including handmade soaps, lotions, body butters and bath bombs.

The growing success is perhaps in part due to the complete lack of harsh chemicals.

Each bar of soap contains a very select grouping of



Photo by Taylor Stinson // The Oakland Post

The Expedition Soap Company launched after Spencer's bicycle got stolen and had to pay back his father \$300.

ingredients: five natural oils, organic grade A shea butter, the scent and the coloring. The only exceptions exist in a few bars which additionally hold activated black charcoal or clay for detox.

"My mother has always been, to put it bluntly, a bit of a health nut and it's always stuck with me, just the importance of natural ingredients," Spencer said.

While it is up to local artisans to mix the soap together, the young entrepreneur handles every other aspect of the business from marketing, packaging and sales to dreaming up the ingredients and naming the products.

"It's sort of throwing darts at a wall and seeing which ones stick really, just sort of think like 'I want a floral scent, maybe something a bit more sweet, I got it, I'll make this soap, I'll call it Rose Gold, and it'll be a mixture of honeysuckle and

rose," Spencer said. "I don't use it personally, for obvious reasons, but hey, it's a good bar."

When he made \$457.40 on the first day of sales, which was more than enough to pay his father back, Spencer soon moved on to bigger and better ways of applying his newfound income.

Beginning last April, he decided to donate a percentage of the company's proceedings every Autism Awareness Month to the US Autism & Asperger Association (USAAA).

"I donate to [the USAAA] because it's not just for young kids, they also help older teens going into college," Spencer said. "Not a lot of people really focus on that, but a lot of people really need help at that age because, as everyone knows, you're being thrust into the world kicking and screaming, and unfortunately, some of us just need a bit more help while we're kicking and screaming."

During that time, the Kelly family had written to the USAAA to inform them of the donation and send along a few soaps as well. The response they received was rather unexpected.

Not only did the president of the USAAA offer to send out a promotional email for The Expedition Soap Company to 30,000 members, but he also mentioned his personal enjoyment in utilizing the soap for shaving.

And then, just a short time later, Spencer received an invitation to be a panelist at the World Autism Conference, to which he will be returning this year, and sit next to Temple Grandin, an internationally-known autism spokesperson.

"It was a self-advocacy panel for essentially those who could advocate for themselves and for the autism community at large, as it is quite well known many of them cannot speak the same way you and I can," Spencer said. "It's an issue I had growing up. We don't get conversational rules all that well. You have to understand, I got lucky."

And the chain reaction did not end there.

Just this year, Spencer took the company to around 50 vendor shows where he personally aids the customers, which has been crucial in helping him overcome social anxiety.

"It's one of the most amaz-



Photo by Taylor Stinson // The Oakland Post

Spencer donates a percentage of his profits to the U.S. Autism & Asperger Association where they help young kids and students.

ing yet one of the most odd feelings when someone walks up to me and says 'your story is so inspiring' because I say 'what story? It's my life.'" he said.

Looking toward the future, the creator of The Expedition Soap Company, although already dual-enrolled at Oakland University, is interested in going to college for business operations.

"He's always loved business," said Tracie Kelly, Spencer's mom. "He's our avid reader so he's been reading books, like serious books that you and I would read, at three. When he started read-

ing business books, he was so motivated, inspired and excited."

To date, The Expedition Soap Company has served over 2,000 people, and Spencer has goals of taking the business international through Canada and Britain.

"I never thought I would have a company at such a young age," he said. "It's the center of my life now. I never thought that so much would happen because of something I did, I guess no one does."

The Expedition Soap Company products can be found at ExpeditionSoaps.com.



Photos by Taylor Stinson // The Oakland Post

Spencer's company continues to gain profit and strive while inspiring others with cognitive handicaps such as Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

# Transgender inclusion

CHEYANNE KRAMER // MANAGING EDITOR

It's day one. Like many freshman students, the one sitting next to you is nervous. The professor calls out everyone's names, saying they want to put names to faces.

The student next to you sinks down. Your professor calls a name, a feminine one and the student sighs.

"Actually, sir, that isn't my name. I prefer to go by something else."

The professor writes down the student's name and class resumes. For the rest of the semester, that student next to you is "other." They'll always have a preferred name, you don't understand why.

Until 2016, this was the case for many transgender students at Oakland University. Students would be forced to tell a group of strangers they were transgender, or they could lie, use their birth names and reject their identities.

In 2016, Oakland announced it would adopt a preferred name policy. Issued in two phases, students are now able to change their name on MySail, ADMNET and Moodle.

In addition, OU has numerous gender neutral bathrooms, with plans now

in place to include a gender-neutral bathroom in every new construction project that includes a bathroom. This includes the Oakland Center expansion, where there will be a gender-neutral bathroom located near the Gender and Sexuality Center.

In partial thanks to the policies offered by OU, Oakland has been ranked the best university for LGBTQIA+ students in the state.

Ranked with four-and-a-half stars out of a possible five, Oakland dominates the Campus Pride Index in fields such as LGBT policy inclusion, academic life and housing life.

Currently, University Housing allows students to live in gender-inclusive rooms, and to mark on their applications that they're willing to live with those who have a gender or sex different than their own.

Some universities, however, have LGBT floors or designated housing. Hansen Karyakose, Vice President of Administration for the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), believes this could prevent LGBT students from integrating with other students in housing.

"I don't know if an LGBT floor would be a great idea because you want to integrate LGBT persons throughout housing, so secluding them to one floor, even if they were ok with it, and it should be up to them if they want to room with an LGBT person," he said. "A floor wouldn't be great, because you aren't exposing other cisgender people and heterosexual people to the community."

Grace Wojcik, the director of the GSC, offered another reason why OU is an accepting campus: The SAFE training that takes place.

SAFE training, or Students, Administrators and Faculty for Equality, is a training session put on by the GSC where participants go over terminology and the process behind making recommendations to councilors on campus.

"We give them action steps of how to best support LGBT peoples," Wojcik said. "We talk about the student organizations, the employee resource group, things like that."

There is also a LGBT Employee Resource Group, though there are not regular meetings for its members. There are three different LGBT-centric student organizations on campus, though only one is currently active. The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) has been at Oakland in varying forms and under different names for decades and is the one active student organization.

The other two, the LGBT Media Club and Transcend, are both inactive, though Wojcik said that if students are interested in reviving them to contact her, as they could be revived for the fall 2018 semester. Oakland's website says student names can be changed on Google. This is partly true, as students can change what shows up when they send emails, but unlike any other Google account, students cannot actually change their name on Google.

While Karyakose's name

appears as Hansen on emails, when looking at his "name" on Google, it still shows his birth name.

Despite the university claiming it is possible to change one's name on Google, Karyakose said he was given an excuse, rather than a solution.

"They said they send names to Google, apparently, and I guess they can only send my legal name," he

said. "Without a legal name change, I can't change my name on my Google account. On Forms, Sheets, anything I share with anyone else, my legal name comes up."

In addition, the preferred name policy does not cover changing one's name on their OU ID card, which presents other struggles for students.

Karyakose said it's something he uses often,

whether it be for buying food or going through Night Watch, and it can out a student's identity transgender when they don't wish to be forced out.

*The Oakland Post* erroneously reported in 2016 that ID cards would be included in the preferred name policy. Anders Engnell, one of the then-students behind the preferred name policy, said "the Student IDs were connected to the Name Service on campus, which on the implementation plan would be launched sometime next year."

At the time, Wojcik was under the impression that ID cards would be included come January 2017.

For whatever reason, this never happened. To this day, unless a student has a legal name change, their ID cannot be changed to match with their identity.

Karyakose said he didn't know of any plans in the near future for IDs to be matched with a student's preferred name.

**"They said they send names to Google, apparently, and I guess they can only send my legal name"**



Photo by Brendan Triola // *The Oakland Post*  
Hansen Karyakose is the vice president of administration for NRHH, and began his transition under one year ago.



Oakland journalism alumnus Neal Ruhl stayed close to his roots and found a home in Oakland Athletics broadcasting for the men's basketball team.

# Neal Ruhl

## The **Voice** of the Golden Grizzlies

DAKOTA BRECHT // REPORTER

“Daniels passes it up top to Nunn, he puts up a three! Of course see Kendrick Nunn for three!!” “Oh Isaiah Brock sent that one back like an undercooked steak!!”

We have heard these classic lines by Neal Ruhl over and over again, and it remains to be music to our ears. Ruhl has been the official voice of the Golden Grizzlies since 2012 but has been at Oakland calling games dating back to his college days. Before he even knew this was the career path he wanted to follow, Ruhl used to call make-believe basketball, football and even bowling games in his backyard as a child.

After graduating from Fraser High School, Ruhl attended Saginaw Valley State University for his freshman year before transferring over to Macomb Community College and then ultimately Oakland University. He began working for WXOU and did the play-by-play broadcasts for the men's basketball games. He also started writing for the *Detroit Free Press* and various other media outlets across the country.

“*Honolulu Advertiser* to *The Washington Post*, anybody that had a check, I would write them a story of anything that was going on,” Ruhl said.

After graduating from Oakland University, Ruhl started color commentating Oakland's basketball games with Detroit Tigers play-by-play broadcaster Mario Impemba.

“2009 was my first season. I did all the road games with Mario, who is my good friend and my mentor,” he said. “When I was calling the games with Mario, we had so much fun, and that's why our relationship is so good.”

Ruhl knows that there's no stop when it comes to this business. He knows that the only way to get where you need to go is to keep grinding. Even having a comfortable job at his alma mater, Ruhl continues to put in the hard work every day.

“This is going to sound corny and cliché, but every day that I do this and every day I wake up tired, I do it for a reason,” he said. “I call a hundred games a year, I don't do another job, this is my living. I feel like I'm in the middle, I'm not big baller brand or anything like that, but I'm doing well for myself. I always share it with

the younger guys, when you get out in this game you're getting behind me and you ain't getting in front of me.”  
Over the years Ruhl has made countless memories. “One of the biggest moments I'll ever remember is the NCAA tournament game I did,” he said. “I'll never forget that bus ride, police escort, they closed the roads for ya, you're in the NCAA tournament, March Madness is as big as it gets at this level.”

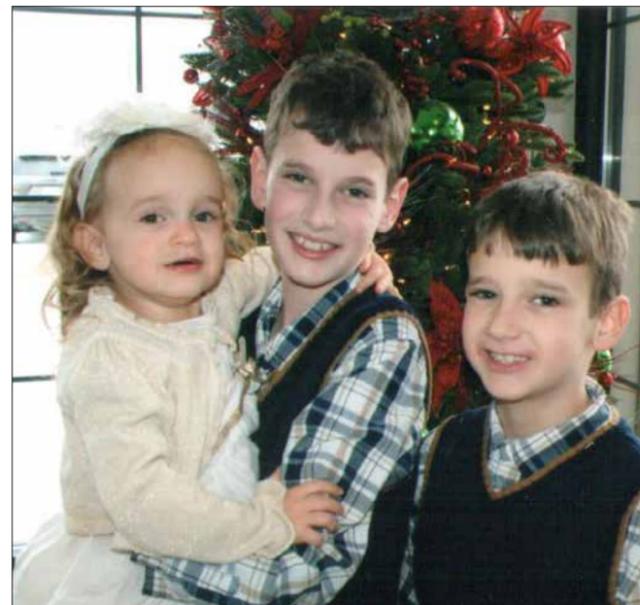
“This is going to sound corny and cliché, but every day that I do this and every day I wake up tired, I do it for a reason. I call a hundred games a year, I don't do another job, this is my living.”

Ruhl attributes much of his success to his time here at Oakland and he loves the work that he does as the voice of the Golden Grizzlies.

“I love Oakland, and I love being here,” he said. “I'm in a good spot because the worst thing that can happen to me is I'm at Oakland for the rest of my life, and that's pretty cool.”

No matter where Ruhl ends up, Oakland will always be home for him.

“Even if the Pistons call me tomorrow, I'm always going to watch Oakland games, and I'll come to games when I'm in town,” he said. “It's my wife's alma mater, it's my alma mater. My kids are ten, eight and two, and they tell me all the time they want to go to Oakland.”



The young Ruhls hope to follow in their dad's footsteps and attend Oakland.

## A Golden Grizzly love story



The Ruhls met in high school and have three kids together.

From the moment young Neal Ruhl met his wife, he knew there was something special with her.

“I knew right away, I wasn't gonna do anything better than that,” Neal said. “I couldn't believe that she was gonna go out with somebody like me, even at that level.”

His wife, Silvia Ruhl, is proud of the man Neal has become today and loves every second they get to spend together. She says a mutual friend introduced them in high school and from there, it was nothing but destiny. Their first date was the homecoming dance freshman year of high school and they've been together ever since.

“Neal is a loving husband and father,” Silvia said. “We all appreciate the time we spend together and the kids truly admire him. Neal is friends with everyone. He is outgoing, laid back and has a great personality.”

“One day I realized that she was the best thing that could of ever happened to me,” Neal added.

Photos courtesy of Neal Ruhl.

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# George's Coney Island is Eggcellent

*After that joke, I'm gonna be **toast**...*

SADIE LAYHER // REPORTER

**S**ituated in the North Hill Plaza Shopping Center on the corner of Rochester and Tienken Road is a little “ma and pa” restaurant called George’s Coney Island.

This coney island stands out significantly more than the Leo’s chain restaurant because the atmosphere is that of a family-owned establishment.

The restaurant itself is smaller than a traditional coney island, but the staff was personable and helpful. It is somewhere I could easily go every Saturday with friends and feel at home.

As a vegetarian, coney islands are one of my greatest allies as there is always something I can eat there that contains a good amount of protein.

So, I ordered a spinach and feta omelette. The serving size caught me off guard. The omelette stretched end to end of the elliptically shaped plate.

It was amazing, to put it simply. The chunks of feta cheese were strong, which I enjoyed. The taste of the eggs themselves are great, but you should also be able to taste the kind of omelette



Photo by Sadie Layher // The Oakland Post

George’s Coney Island has the family feel with an assortment of palate pleasers perfect for a college student on a budget.

you are eating.

For \$9.50 I received an omelette the size of my head, a huge side of hash browns and two slices of buttered toast. For being a college kid on a budget, the meal was filling, tasty and semi-healthy.

However, there must be balance. When there is great, there is also terrible.

My friend ordered the chili, and it was strange. The chili came out as a bowl of brown, slightly burgundy mush which instantly made me question the contents of said “chili.”

The chili I have always eaten and made was chunky but never a nearly homogenous mixture of beans and meat. My friend claimed the mushy baby food was good, but for me, food has to at least look edible and

not like liquid concrete.

Up next on the list of undesirables were the unfortunate hash browns.

For the record, I live for hash browns or any greasy potato item. Hash browns are the backbone and best supporting actors to any breakfast, but this side truly broke my heart.

They looked fabulous and just like my mother’s homemade ones, but the excitement was short-lived.

Alas, it was not meant to be. The correct texture was there for sure, but there was no taste. Tasteless textured hashbrowns. I was cut deep. To quote President Donald Trump, “SAD” was exactly how I felt.

Now, service was impeccable. I was seated immediately, waited on immediately and had a cup

of coffee delivered to me so quick my eye had not even hit the menu yet. The waitress was friendly along with the other staff, which gave the feel of a family-owned business.

I would not wish for anyone to make a mistake when ordering, therefore I am being frank. You want to enjoy the meals you eat and be satisfied especially if you are on a budget.

If you are a poor college student such as myself, the omelette is a perfect entree because of its filling protein properties that make it large enough to take home and save for later.

The omelettes can also be varied in combinations to a person’s taste, aka not vegetarian. Stick to the coffee, eggs, and toast; avoid the chili and hash browns!



# The Meeting House in Rochester

SADIE LAYHER // REPORTER

The Meeting House is a cute, trendy bistro of sorts located in downtown Rochester. The beautiful sparkling lights paired with the smartly dressed waitstaff made me wonder if I was not supposed to be dressed in leggings and a hoodie I found at the bottom of my wardrobe, but nice pants and a blouse. Thankfully, the staff could care less.

The staff itself was incredibly friendly and accommodating since both me and my family are first timers. So my mom, a natural 'YELPER', tried almost everything that was recommended via Yelp or waitstaff. We had the tempura cauliflower, steamed dumplings, deviled eggs,

smoked salmon cakes, spinach ricotta gnocchi, house smoked ribs, the homemade ice cream and last but not least, the peanut butter cookie skillet.

I am going to warn ahead of time that this place is pricier. That being said, it was worth every penny. I am a vegetarian but have only been one since this past August so I do in fact know what meat tastes like and if it is good or not. The Meeting House blasted my expectations out of the water. I got the feeling it was going to be a stuffy, mediocre, hipster bistro with little skill and overpriced entrees. I was dead wrong.

First up: the appetizers. First of all, kudos to anyone who can create a vegetarian appetizer that actually contains flavor and the correct texture. It was a tad spicy but the asian

flavor was there and it was definitely a great way to get me to eat my vegetables. The tempura sauce was thai chili honey glaze that included pineapple and cashews.

Next, I ordered the steamed dumplings. This appetizer comes with about three

to four dumplings which contain caramelized onion, gruyere and consomme. The dumplings were all right, but not fabulous. The dumpling itself, at least to me, was not stuffed enough as I could barely taste the gruyere. I'm not sure if I would personally



French toast and berries.

Photo by Sadie Layher // The Oakland Post

order it again

My parents ordered the deviled eggs, which I don't have much to say about because I could not eat them because of the roasted tomato and bacon jam and because I straight-up hate deviled eggs. However, my parents would tell you that they were very good. My dad ordered the smoked salmon cakes with remoulade, housemade bread and butter pickle. Obviously I did not eat them, but they were GORGEOUS.

Next up, the entrees. As stated before, the waitstaff was sweet and impeccable. My order was originally the side for the rabbit bolognese but the chef was willing to make it a whole entree for me. I ordered the spinach ricotta gnocchi which was amazing and even my extremely carnivorous dad fell in love with it and told our waitress it needs to become a

main entree. It was delicately topped off with shredded parmesan. It is particularly heavy, and I did not finish it after eating my appetizers, but it was fabulous, and I would definitely order again.

My parents split the house-smoked ribs with mac and cheese that came in its own personal skillet. The mac and cheese was pretty good and my dad was completely over the moon for the ribs. The plate display of each menu item was on point. I was originally worried it was to mislead you from mediocre taste, but the display was impeccable just like nearly all of the food.

We finally got to dessert. I recommend you save room for dessert AT ALL COSTS. They make their own ice cream and serve them in cute mason jar cups. We enjoyed raspberry chocolate, sugar cookie and oatmeal cookie and it is so



Photo by Sadie Layher // The Oakland Post

The grilled cheese with tomato soup. much better than tubs of ice cream. Next is the peanut butter cookie skillet. It was covered in their homemade vanilla ice cream and chocolate drizzle. It was the perfect combination of crispy outside and soft, warm, gooey outside. I usually am a bit picky with my skillet cookies and peanut butter cookies but I was genuinely impressed. Chili's, step aside and make way for The Meeting House cookie

skillet. As an FYI, the desserts rotate daily so it may be different ice cream choices or different cookie choices as they make everything from scratch.

Everything considered, The Meeting House is pricier, but if you want a good Friday or Saturday date night, I highly recommend it.

Rating: 5/5  
Price: \$\$



Homemade sugar cookie, raspberry chocolate and oatmeal cookie ice cream.

Photo by Sadie Layher // The Oakland Post

# GRIZZ CARD IS THE NAME CHEAP FOOD IS THE GAME

FALIN HAKEEM // REPORTER

Okay, so let me let you in on a little secret I just discovered. After attending Oakland University for four years, I realized that our GrizzCard holds more power than I thought it did. I've only ever used it if I needed while taking an exam or at a wepa printing station. Never did I associate it with many perks – until now.

**1 The HUB Stadium**  
Grab your friends and head over to the HUB, a large venue that features a bowling/football game called bomb-bowling, axe-throwing and table games such as Jenga. The stadium offers a variety of American and Mexican foods as well as Artesian pizzas. OU students get 15 percent off food and drinks with their GrizzCard ID present.

**2 Pei Wei**  
Pei Wei is an Asian-American diner chain that offers cuisines such as chicken pad Thai and noodle bowls. OU students get 10 percent off their order with a GrizzCard ID present.

**3 Buffalo Wild Wings**  
Also known as BDubs, Buffalo Wild Wings is famous for its traditional wings. The sports bar and casual dining restaurant offers OU students 10 percent off their entire order with a GrizzCard ID present.

**4 Buddy's Pizza**  
Who doesn't love pizza? Let me repeat that. Who doesn't love 15 percent off their entire order? Make sure you have that GrizzCard with you when going to get that Detroit-style pizza.

**5 Cold Stone Creamery**  
If you have enough room for dessert by the time you've finished reading this list, I have good news for you – Cold Stone offers OU students 10 percent off their ice cream order with a GrizzCard ID in hand.

**6 burgrz**  
burgrz is a gourmet style, yet fast, casual restaurant that offers fresh 100 percent Angus beef burgers, hot dogs and sides. OU students get 10 percent off their order with a GrizzCard ID present.

**7 Potbelly's Sandwich shop**  
Got the Monday blues? Stop by Potbelly's for a Turkey Club or even a PB and J. Every Monday is OU student day, so students get a free fountain drink or iced tea with the purchase of a sandwich or salad with a GrizzCard ID present.

**8 B Spot**  
The chef Michael Symon-owned restaurant offers an array of gourmet style burgers to choose from, as well as the option to build-your-own burger. Thursdays are student day, where OU students get a 10 percent discount off their order with a GrizzCard ID present.

**9 TGI Fridays**  
Good ol' TGI Fridays. We all know this one or have at least heard of it. But if you haven't (which worries me a little) Friday's is a casual restaurant chain that offers a variety of classic American foods. OU students get 20 percent off their order with their GrizzCard ID present. Nothing casual about that!

**10 BD's Mongolian Grill**  
BD's is a casual chain restaurant that offers an all you can eat buffet, a create-your-own stir fry bowls and a salad bar. On student nights, which are Mondays and Tuesdays, OU students get a bowl of stir fry as well as their choice of soup or salad for \$10.99 with a GrizzCard ID present.

# Before the Golden Grizzlies

CHEYANNE KRAMER // MANAGING EDITOR

Oakland University has a rich history, though being a younger university in comparison to many others in the state.

One of the first things to come with the university's dedication was the motto and seal. The motto comes from *Dante's Inferno* and it translates to "Consider your birth. You were not made to live like brutes, but to follow courage and knowledge." The seal, featuring the iconic "sail" design, was chosen after a failed attempt at a student-run contest.

Both the deal and the motto were officially adopted on Jan. 7, 1963, just a few months before the first graduating class of Oakland.

The Grizz may be synonymous with Oakland Athletics today, but the bear hasn't always been the university's mascot. Officially, The Grizz was the first mascot Oakland had. However, as early as the 1950s until he retired in 1999, Pioneer Pete was the one cheering on student athletes.

*Pioneer Pete* began as an aerospace pioneer, echoing to the era's desire for space travel and Oakland's focus on its engineering programs according to OU's website. However, at some point before the 1970s, students began drawing Pioneer Pete as a man in a buckskin hat.

There are conflicting reports of whether the original Pioneer Pete was an "aerospace" pioneer or not. *The Oakland University Magazine Fall 2007* issue featured a caption that read "in 1964, a small group of swimmers and cross country runners got together with then Athletics Director Hollie Lепley and came up with the name 'Pioneers.'"

*The Oakland Post* reasoned this may have been because OU was considered to be a pioneering school of sorts. It was newer than many others.

This rumor may in fact be true, as OU only existed one year in the 1950s, so it seems unlikely Pioneer Pete was designed well before the seal and motto.

The buckskin image is what ultimately influenced then-OU student Charles "Chuck" Conklin to don a leather jacket, moccasins and a fur hat, becoming OU's first costumed mascot.

In a March 1996 issue of *The Oakland Post*, student reporters noted that Greg Kampe had the first thought to change the mascot.

Part of the reason was that Oakland University began to make the switch to NCAA Division I. The mascot would inadvertently be linked to the team, and the new mascot had to be able to be used for marketing purposes.

A committee was formed, and they decided the new mascot had to follow a set of rules. It had to be animal based, unique,



Sketch courtesy of Oakland University Archives

have some regional tie, be "collegiate" and have potential to be used as a graphic.

Focus groups, held across campus reinforced some of the boards ideas to have a race and gender-neutral mascot.

Unfortunately, Pioneer Pete didn't fall in line with many of these rules. That didn't stop the "Pioneers" making it to the final consideration of the school's mascot.

The three finalists were the Saber Cats, the Pioneers, and the Golden Grizzlies. The test groups who looked at these mascots decided that the Golden Grizzlies was a fan favorite.

The Pioneer name didn't die with the switch to the Golden Grizzlies. In 2014, a group of alumni formed The Pioneer Club. This organization is formed of retired OU alumni, helping alumni reconnect with one another, carrying on the Pioneer tradition.



# OAKLAND'S

Photos by Sergio Montanez, Brendan Triola and the Oakland University Archives

# LIVING LEGEND

*A look at Greg Kampe's time as a Pioneer and Golden Grizzly*

AUJENEE HIRSCH  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

It was a snowy Friday morning and Oakland's men's basketball team was hard at work in the O'rena. While the players were running up and down the court scrimmaging against each other, Head Coach Greg Kampe was sitting, watching the players meticulously. As he sat on the sidelines wearing one of his signature tracksuits, Kampe's eyes followed the players and analyzed every move and play made on the court.

Once the scrimmage was over, Kampe got up from his chair and called everyone to the center of the Blacktop. As he gave Team 51 feedback each player listened closely to what Kampe was saying out of respect for their coach.

"The longer you've been around him and the longer you've let him coach you, you get to understand," forward Jalen Hayes said. "Kampe knows everything. He's such a smart basketball coach. He trusts us and keeps it honest with us. There's no other way it should be other than for us to trust him back."

### The beginning

Fresh out of college with a bachelor's degree in business and journalism,

Kampe started his coaching career in 1978 as a graduate assistant for the men's basketball team at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio. In '79, he accepted a full-time assistant coaching position with Toledo where he remained for the next five years.

"I actually wanted to be a broadcaster, I majored in that," Kampe said. "I wanted to be a sports anchor, but people kept telling me they thought I should coach and the opportunity as a graduate assistant became available. I said, 'OK I'll try this.' Forty years later I'm still doing this."

Kampe first heard about the head coaching position for Oakland from the baseball coach at Toledo who encouraged him to apply. But at the time former Defiance, Ohio resident had never heard of Oakland University in Michigan stating, "I'm not going to California."

After taking the time to look into OU, he decided to visit the campus and talk to some people to see what the campus was like. He decided to apply for the position shortly after his visit, and in '84 Kampe was chosen as the head coach for the men's basketball team.

"I was excited," he said. "I was 28



Greg Kampe became the head coach of Oakland's men's basketball team in 1984. He was 28 years old at the time.



After every practice, Kampe talks to the basketball team in the middle of the Blacktop on top of the Grizzly head. It was his idea to change the mascot to the Golden Grizzlies.

years old. I was the youngest head coach in the country at a scholarship-giving school at age 28. So I felt fortunate, my whole life changed at that point.”

Kampe was charged with making OU’s men’s basketball program one of the finest in Michigan, a feat that seemed impossible at the time. The then-Pioneers had never won a game, which lead many to believe that Oakland did not have a basketball team.

“It was very difficult. They had never won. Nobody cared about basketball, the students didn’t care about basketball, they didn’t even know they had a team here,” Kampe said. “The facilities were bad, the office was very small, very few coaches. It was a hard job. You had to roll your sleeves up and go to work. The good of it was that it gave me a chance to build from the ground up.”

### The legacy

For the next 14 years, Kampe worked on developing OU’s basketball program. He made sure the men’s basketball team had a strong defense and an offense that frees players for good percentage shots with a mixture of screens and precise passing, a strategy that Kampe still uses today.

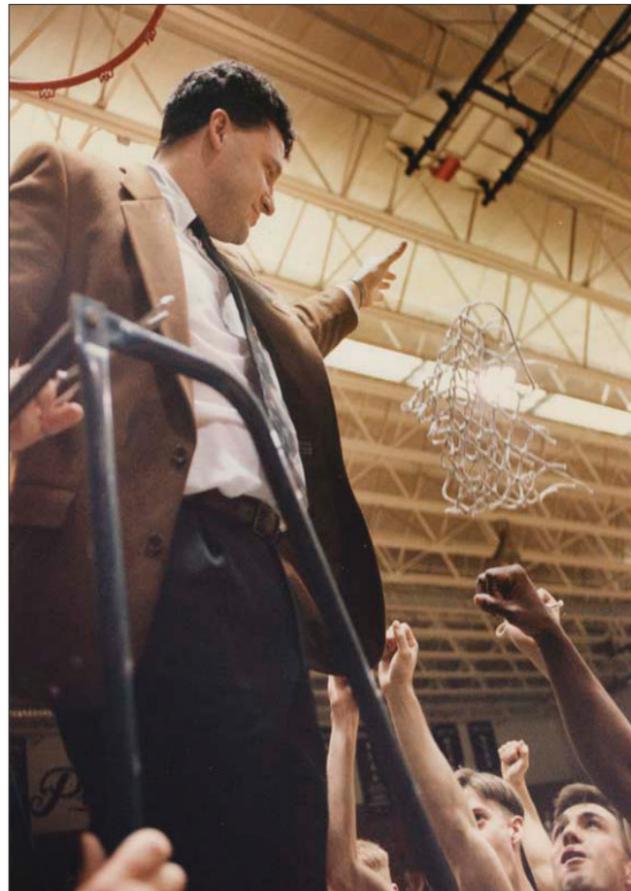
The Pioneers competed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC). During that time, Oakland became a perennial powerhouse in multiple national championships and the men’s basketball team made it to the Division II postseason four times in their final four seasons as a Division II school.

In ’98 Oakland’s president at the time, Gary Russi, wanted to make the

transition from Division II to Division I. He believed Oakland’s basketball program could put Oakland’s name out there on a national level. OU changed its school mascot from the Pioneers to the Golden Grizzlies. This transition sparked a drastic change in the university’s culture.

“I lived an hour away from the school and had never heard of it,” Kampe said. “Now you have name recognition nationally and you’re an institution that people want to go to now. I think our basketball program has had a big say in that. We’ve been part of that growth and that change.”

Throughout his past 34 years at Oakland, Kampe has accumulated numerous awards for his success as a coach. On Sept. 15, 2017, Kampe was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall



**LEFT** Kampe talks with a player on the sidelines during a game. This game took place before the Golden Grizzlies came to be in 1998. **TOP** Kampe throws the basketball net to students in the crowd.

of Fame, joining Jalen Rose, Dennis Rodman and Jim Leyland to name a few.

Kampe led Oakland to six championships in 14 seasons inside The Summit League, including three NCAA tournaments (’05, ’10, ’11). He became the fifth active Division I coach to win 500 games at one school, finished third all-time in The Summit League with 147 league victories, and earned a league-best five Coach of the Year accolades.

During his 33rd season as the head coach of the Golden Grizzlies, he became the third-longest tenured coach in Division I. Kampe led Oakland to its first-ever Horizon League regular season championship in 2016-2017, earning the No. 1 seed in the Horizon League Championship. The Black and Gold won 25 games, the second most in program history, and made an appearance in the National Invitation Tournament, beating in Clemson in the opening round.

### The impact

During Kampe’s time at Oakland, he has left a lasting impression on the university, the players he’s worked with, his coworkers and the community.

Kampe spends a lot of his free time working with charities and non-profit organizations throughout the community.

He has worked the most with the American Cancer Society and created his Beat Cancer event, a fundraiser where members of the community get the chance to golf with some of the top basketball coaches in the country. With his Beat Cancer event, Kampe has raised

**“Nobody cared about basketball, the students didn’t care about basketball, they didn’t even know they had a team here...it gave me a chance to build from the ground up.”**

over \$400,000 for the ACS.

“We had a bunch of cancer-related deaths and heartbreak within our program over two or three years and I made a comment publicly about it,” Kampe said. “A day after it was in the

paper the American Cancer Society showed up at my office and asked if I would do something about it and help them.”

Former Oakland athletic trainer Tom Ford worked with Kampe for more than 30 years before he was diagnosed with

ALS in ’17. When the two first met, it was a little rocky, but Ford and Kampe soon became fast friends.

“We go way back,” Ford said. “There were many times he was mad at me for making a decision and then he would realize it was the best decision. Of course when I first met him he thought he was the athletic trainer, but after a while he realized I was a pretty good athletic trainer.”

As the head coach of the men’s basketball team, Kampe has worked with over 100 players, and has impacted each of them in a different way. For Hayes, Kampe as always been there when he needed it.

“Since I’ve been in college that’s who I went to for everything,” he said. “He’s been able to help me

through some bad times, he’s been able to lift my spirits and he’s been able to encourage me through the good times. He’s been able to keep me consistent throughout the course of the season. He’s been very impactful for me.”

# The Men of Sexual Assault

SIMON ALBAUGH  
REPORTER

Graphics by Erin O'Neill and Prakhya Chilukuri



Near the heart of the South Carolina Appalachian Mountains, a small European family moved from their nation's-capital home to give one of their two sons a fresh start.

He had been angry, depressed and socially withdrawn. Frequently getting into fights and struggling to understand what had happened to him, his family wanted him to be far away from the traumatic memories that would shape most of his adolescence.

Before moving to the United States, Jason Traverson's family (whose first and surname have been changed in order to protect his identity) led busy lives. Both of Traverson's parents had only one or two

hours to spend with their sons at night, leaving them alone with baby sitters and older family members.

He was around 10 years old when a family member took Traverson and his brother to school four, sometimes five days a week. But between coming home from school and his parents returning from their demanding careers, the older family member would sexually abuse Traverson.

For the years of abuse, Traverson talked about one thing that made any efforts to end it seem impossibly complicated.

"I could've defended myself and I could've said something to someone," he said. "And I could've resisted and fought him. But at the same time, I had my little brother there who was two years younger.

And he is the most innocent, caring, loving person that I have ever met in my whole fucking life."

At least one in six men are reported to have experienced sexual abuse before the age of 18, according to 1in6.org, a male-focused sexual assault support and awareness organization. However, because of a general consensus among researchers that statistics on this issue are skewed, the number is expected to be higher because of underreporting.

Compare this to the frequency of false rape accusations toward men, with the highest estimates at 10 percent of all accused men are accused falsely and few falsely being found guilty. Since 1989, there have been 52 proven cases of

false accusations who resulted in prison sentences across the country.

While the exposure to rape is equally traumatizing for anyone that experiences it, there are cultural expectations that can make coping or recovering uniquely complex for men.

Jonah Oleksiak, a student at Oakland University who has been working on a documentary of interviews with sexually assaulted men, talked about the most prevalent factors that limit them from talking about the trauma.

“Basically, the idea that men have to be tough, that men have to be more stoic with their emotions or that men aren’t supposed to be emotional... that can make it more difficult for a person to come forward,” he said.

But there are also other factors that can make reporting the perpetrator a difficult ordeal.

Lucas Garlene (whose first and surname has been changed) is a musical theatre major at a conservatory in Chicago, Ill. He couldn’t talk about what happened to him and still chooses not to talk openly without anonymity because of the scarcity of theatre programs around the area of Michigan where he grew up.

“I knew that if I quit my senior year [of high school,] I wouldn’t get into schools and I wouldn’t have gotten into a college program,” Garlene said. “So I thought it was more worth it to deal with the harassment than to not be able to pursue what I want to do in the long run.”

That harassment involved nearly obsessive

amounts of text messages, repeatedly insisting on being in the room whenever the boys of the program were changing into different costumes and frequent, sly attempts at molestation.

“I was a little sore after class,” Garlene said. “And he said ‘I’ll massage it for you.’ But then he was just kind of inching closer and closer to my genitals, and then he touched it and I was like ‘Alright, I get the point, I’m done, I can do it at home.’”

Since other boys in Garlene’s acting program reported similar encounters to each other, they all set up a system of rules. One rule was that no one would change in front of the director of their program. And if anyone broke the rules, the backlash was harsh.

There was one eight-year-old boy who joined the program amid the harassment.

fucking stupid shit happened to me, I’m still alive,” he said. “And maybe I shouldn’t be, but I am. So why would I just fucking throw it away?.. I just had to get to that realization on my own.”

Now, Traverson is a junior in college. He lives in Detroit, going back to South Carolina during breaks to see his parents and his younger brother. Studying as an artist, he’s even been accepted to a design internship at a European company.

But despite the progress both Traverson and Garlene have made in coming to terms with what happened to them in their past, there will always be some reminder that evil or perversion touched them.

Although Traverson has made progress beyond many people’s hardest efforts, there is still that aspect of what happened that he will never understand.

“When I think about it and lay awake at night, thinking about how fucked up it is that someone could do that, I rarely even think about how painful it was or how uncomfortable it was,” he said. “I just think about the fact that someone is able to do that and enjoys doing that. That’s what scares me the most.”

Garlene, who has been openly gay since high school, talked about the culture of some older men that had given him attention throughout his teens in the hook up app Grindr.

“One guy, I asked ‘are you married?’ and he said yes,” Garlene said. “And then I asked ‘do you have children?’ and he said yes. So I told him ‘I’m not going to do that to your family.’”

Garlene explained this “repression of sexuality” in older men can lead them to

solicit younger men.

But even though the people who have experienced an extreme hardship may never be the same again, that doesn’t mean they can never be happy or satisfied with themselves ever again.

“I think there’s always something that could help a person,” Oleksiak said. “That it could be very hard and sometimes it can feel impossible. But there can always be something there that can make someone feel better. Not perfect, not even necessarily great, but better.”

And sometimes it doesn’t end at just feeling better.

“It’s always going to be with me and that anger, the anxiety, the trauma is always going to be with me,” Traverson said. “But at the same time, why should I let it hold me back from doing something amazing with my life?”

“It’s always going to be with me and that anger, the anxiety, the trauma is always going to be with me. But at the same time, why should I let it hold me back from doing something amazing with my life?”

Because his age prevented him from fully grasping the purpose of the rules, he didn’t care to follow them. And the other boys responded immediately.

“He just had no idea what was going on,” Garlene said. “So we all decided to bully him so he wouldn’t change in front of him.”

During the abuse, the stress can distract men from bettering themselves, like in Garlene’s experience. But if the abuse is severe and prolonged enough, like in Traverson’s, the world can come crashing down until the survivor faces the trauma head-on.

After Traverson moved to the U.S., he found a shift around his sophomore year. Rather than being depressed, his efforts to cope with the trauma turned into anger.

Frequently finding solace in hard drugs

such as cocaine, prescription pills and, on few occasions, methamphetamine, Traverson became a part of the wrong crowd. Robbing people, beating them up; his time in high school exposed him to even more violent crime all over again.

“If you already have all that built-up anger and all that stress and all that trauma, it just amplifies everything that you’re doing in terms of anger and stuff like that,” he said.

For Traverson, the drugs and violence continued until he decided to end it. Planning on taking his own life, Traverson tried to consume a lethal amount of drugs to induce an overdose.

He later found himself in the hospital. While recovering from the ordeal, his parents told him he was going to a psychiatric hospital, where he stayed for the next two

months. Continuing the anger, violent outbursts and drug use, Traverson moved to worsening wards before landing at rock bottom in D-Ward: The most isolating and intensive-care ward.

“A lot of people make it to that lowest point and then they don’t come back,” he said. “But if you have people that care about you... if they would still save you if you were bleeding out in a bathtub... you can always come back.”

It may have been the isolation, or the shock of reaching the bottom. But in the time he spent alone inside his locked room, Traverson internalized some of the things that the people who cared about him had been trying to make him understand for a long time.

“I just realized that even though all this

1 in 6

men have experienced sexual abuse before the age 18

14%

of rape reports involve male victims

Information from [www.1in6.org](http://www.1in6.org)



**Before she was the Director of the Center for Student Activities, Jean Ann Miller was a Golden Grizzly and a Pioneer. She is pictured with two of her favorite students, OUSC President Lena Mishack and men's basketball player Jalen Hayes.**

# The Woman Who Bleeds Black & Gold

**SHELBY TANKERSLEY  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Photos by Taylor Stinson and courtesy of Oakland University Archives

We've all seen the small blond woman trotting around campus all day and not leaving until the late hours of the night. In the words of CSA Graduate Assistant Hannah Clark, "she's the woman who bleeds black and gold."

Let's step back. It's December 1973 and Jean Ann Miller is ending her first semester as a college student. She's pursuing a degree in mathematics at Oakland University, the home of the Pioneers, and has been commuting to campus for the last four months. She's overwhelmed, hasn't made many friends and dislikes that commuting doesn't make it easy for her to get involved.

But that's going to change.

Miller walked back onto campus in January 1974 and moved into Two North of Hamlin Hall. She would later live in every residence hall on campus. She was mostly sick of driving in the unpredictable Michigan weather every morning, but she was happy to make friends so quickly and feel like she had some ownership of her university. She got a job, changed her major to psychology, got involved in student government, became the Student Program Board chair and attended plenty of beer bashes.

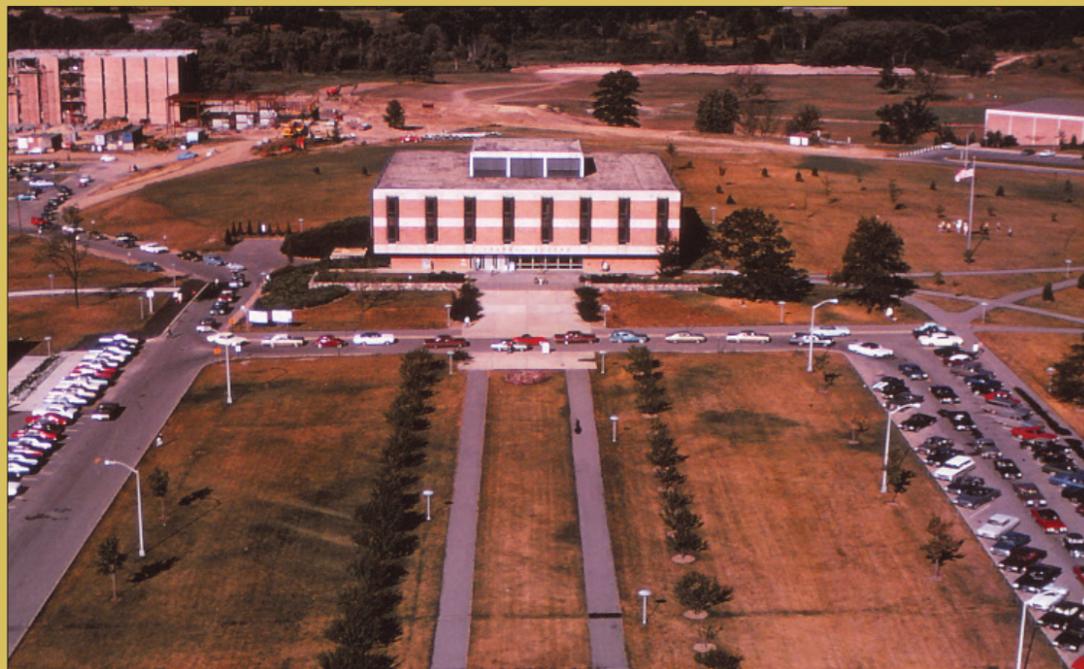
"My friends had these parties at the old golf course clubhouse," Miller said. "Students used to be able to rent that out for parties. I lived in Pryale Hall, and we were all really close knit. I was also here at the time when the drinking age was switching around and I was always our designated driver person."

She remembers that even though campus wasn't strict on alcohol like it is now, Oakland never had a reputation as a party school. Students had fun, but it never got too out of hand.

Like most people who go to college, Miller doesn't remember her classes more than the friends she made and things she experienced. Some of the friends she made are still her closest friends today. Her coworkers in the Center for Student Activities today say she likes to talk about her time here and how far the school has come. One of her favorite events as a student, the Meadow Brook Ball, almost ceased to exist before she took it over as a Housing employee. She's proud of the students today who did what her peers couldn't.

"I have special affinity for the ball," Miller said. "It's our longest standing tradition, it's that bucket list activity that everyone needs to go to at least once. The students who run it still continue to step up their game so it's the best it can be every single year."

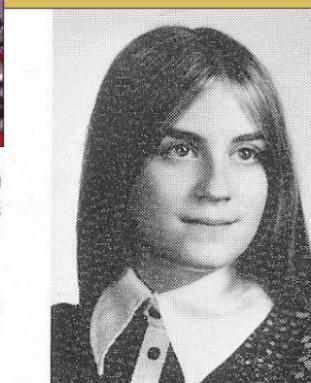
With degree in hand, she left campus in 1977. Then she left for graduate school at the University of Michigan for a Master's in social work. But she always knew she would end up back at Oakland.



**A BLAST FROM THE PAST**

*RIGHT: An aerial view of Kresge Library and its surrounding parking lot in the 1970s.*

**BOTTOM:**  
*Miller's freshman year-book photo.*



**JEAN ANN MILLER**

Livonia, Michigan  
Film, Math, Publications, Baseball, Craftmaking

**JOLENE KAY MILLER**

Jo Somerset, Pennsylvania  
Drama, Music, Piano, Camping, Water Skiing

38138 Jamison  
Mathematics

Music Education

“I was applying for a position with Oakland’s CIPO office, which became the Center for Student Activities at some point in time,” Miller said. “I didn’t get the job, but they looked at me for a position in Housing. And I did get that job.”

So she started working as a Hall Director. A few years later, she snagged the job of Assistant Director of Housing, just under then-Housing Director Eleanor Reynolds. They had been friends after working in close proximity to each other in Detroit, so both were thrilled to be working together again.

“She loved doing activities, loved working with students and she always had such a positive attitude,” Reynolds said. “So when

the opportunity came for me to hire an assistant director, there was just no question.”

They went on to lead all kinds of programs for Housing students. A favorite of both was the “mock weddings” that would take place just before finals. Several brides and several grooms would get fake-married in the Vandenberg Dining Hall until a fake catastrophe stopped the wedding. It was like a massive SNL skit that took place so students could have a laugh before stress set in. The mock weddings were known for their craziness and outlandishness. Miller remembers one year when a fire broke out in the building and she had to evacuate students.

The only problem was that nobody believed her because of the disaster mock weddings were known for.

One of her other favorite events was a Renaissance-themed dinner held in the small halls.

“We put on this medieval dinner in the lounge,” Miller said. “We had the floor covered in sheets, tarp and stuff like that because people would dress in medieval clothes and they were only allowed to eat with their hands. It would always end in a food fight, it was so much fun.”

She says that when she visits buildings like Pryale and Annibal Hall that have since become office buildings, she is hit with the memories of programs and parties past.

from her experience here.”

Throughout her tenure in the CSA, Miller has touched the lives of scores of students leaders. She’s at the point in her career now where she’s meeting the children of former students, and it makes her beyond happy to see parents send their kids to her. Being able to help students achieve is her #1 priority and she works hard to continue being someone who can meet this new generation where they’re at. She never wants to become the administrator who has forgotten what it’s like to be a college student.

“I have routine where I go to a few different sites and read up on pop

Miller eventually left Housing and stepped into her position as Director of the CSA. Since then, Oakland changed its mascot from Pioneer Pete to The Grizz and has erected numerous new facilities, but Miller’s love for her university persists.

“She’s just such a wealth of knowledge for students because she’s been here for so many years,” said Stephanie Jurva, the CSA’s assistant director of student organization programs. “She loves Oakland University and wants people to enjoy it as much as she did when she was a student. She just wants to give back because she got so much



**THE FIRST OF MANY**

*ABOVE: Miller's first employee photo as a hall director at OU.*

**“I want to contribute to students enjoying Oakland and being proud to go here. We’re not in the shadows anymore.”**



**MOVING UP IN THE WORLD**

*The Queen of the CSA.*

culture news,” Miller said. “I try to be innovative and creative. There are things that I did here as a student that can’t exist now or that would be boring to students now. I’ve gotta be with it. I can’t rely on what I was into as a student.”

She wants to be a key player in Oakland’s formation of great memories and traditions. Looks like she’ll be on the scene for a while.

“Oakland didn’t have the reputation that it does now when I was a student,” she said. “I want to contribute to students enjoying Oakland and being proud to go here. We’re not in the shadows anymore.”



**JUST ANOTHER STUDENT**

*ABOVE: Miller during her time as a Housing employee at Oakland University cheering on the basketball team.*

Graphic by AuJenee Hirsch



# The Quest For Metro Detroit's Best Margarita

JOHN BOZICK // ASSISTANT EDITOR

**M**argaritas are the staple of Mexican cuisine, the sweet taste of lime mixed with the tangy orange liqueur combined with the ever-regrettable taste of tequila. The drink is also the poster child for long nights with friends, be them at trendy bars or your local Applebee's, yet not all margs are the same.

Some are great and others...others can be horrific and should be avoided. Oakland University is surrounded by many places in which you can find this drink, yet to save you the trouble of dealing with a terrible drink, a list of the greatest margs in all the land follows.

## Applebee's



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post

Oh, Applebee's. Located right across from campus, this semi-decent establishment is known for its drink deals and "OK" food. However; the margaritas from Applebee's should be avoided at all costs. The drink was colossal, which would have been amazing had the drink not tasted like a wine glass filled with



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post

tequila. Tasting like feet, this drink lacked the iconic salted rim, and the delicious taste that usually accompanies a margarita. To be safe, I would recommend this drink is avoided at all cost. The only time it should ever be consumed is when it's offered as one of the restaurant's \$1 drink deals.

Rating: 1/5

## Imperial Mexican Grill



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post

Located somewhat of a drive from campus in downtown Ferndale, this bar is a must for anyone who enjoys phenomenal food and amazing drinks. With a limited food menu comprised of hotdogs and small tacos, it's the drinks that help this restaurant stand out, most particularly its margaritas. While slightly hefty in terms of price, both the house margarita

and the imperial margarita are worth it. The house margarita is incredible to say the least, salted rim and all. With a wonderful blend of triple sec, tequila and lime juice, this drink is sweet with the right kick of alcohol in every sip. If you can take the time to make the drive down to Ferndale, I would highly recommend trying this margarita.

Rating: 5/5

# BD's Mongolian Barbeque

A mongolian barbeque doesn't normally sound like your typical place to find a great margarita, but I would highly recommend this eatery. Located across the street from Oakland's main campus, the margarita is both cheap and delicious. With a sweet and tangy taste, this massive drink is sure to satisfy. And for the meager price of \$6, this drink is more worth the money than a similarly priced beer.

Rating: 4/5



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post

# Mex Mexican Cuisine

Mex is a trendy New Mexican restaurant that puts a very American spin on its food, and the same goes for its drinks. The margarita I tried from Mex was hard to come by given the dozen or so other margaritas made with various ingredients. But all that aside, the drink was all right. Made with a little too much lime and not the slightest hint of tequila, this \$8 margarita is not worth the price. If you can afford to eat at Mex and want to spend the money, I would recommend a different drink than this.

Rating: 3.5/5

# Red Ox Tavern

Anyone who lives on campus and is of age knows about Red Ox and its weekend drink deals it offers students. If you're looking for a margarita and you're not feeling Applebee's, this is the next best place you can go that's within walking distance. The margarita was pretty typical, like most restaurants it was sweet and tasted of sweet lime, yet the absence of the strong alcoholic taste made this drink seem more like a soda than an alcoholic beverage. The price was what you would expect for a tavern like Red Ox, and in such I would say the drink didn't live up to the price. In the end I would recommend the food but not the drink. If you find yourself at Red Ox save your money and buy a beer.

Rating: 2/5



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post

# On the Border Mexican Grill

Located just outside of Great Lakes Crossing, On the Border is both a family restaurant and a bar. Like most bars, it offers decent drinks. The margarita acquired from this eatery was good, but I would leave it at that. Coming in a beer glass instead of your normal margarita glass, there was nothing special about this drink besides its different glassware. It tasted like a bottled margarita mixture. (You know, the regular store-bought Jose Cuervo mix you can pick up at your local grocery store). This drink wasn't bad, but it wasn't really good, it was just meh and that's the best way to put it. A restaurant with good food and an OK margarita, I would recommend the drink only if you're really feeling a normal boring margarita.

Rating: 3/5



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post

# Miguel's Cantina

Located on Rochester Road, the lesser-known eatery has great food and a damn good margarita. This drink was not wallet breaking, and was made with an exceptionally good mixture of all the essential ingredients that make a great margarita. With its salted rim and complementary lime wedge, this margarita paired exceptionally well with the terrific food available from this one-of-a-kind cantina.

Rating: 4/5



Photo by John Bozick // The Oakland Post

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# BOOKS *you will get lost in...*

ARIELTHEMM // REPORTER Photos courtesy of Barnes & Noble

**A**lthough classes will no doubt have all students rushing back and forth to meet deadlines and complete homework, there are some free moments in the chaos. The best way to kick back and relax is to get lost in a good book. Below are a few recommendations to help with the search for the right book to enjoy.

## "Eating Animals"

By Jonathan Safran Foer

Foer gives readers an insight into his personal transformation from eating meats to becoming a vegetarian. He also shares research behind animal farms from popular companies like Kentucky Fried Chicken as a part of his investigation of treatment of animals and meat processing. Foer raises awareness on the morality of eating animals while exploring the steps that our food undertakes at bigger farms and smaller, family owned farms.

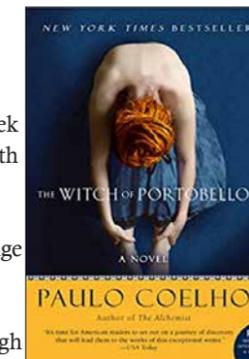


This is a fact filled book that will ask the reader to address the subject of animal rights and push for readers to be knowledgeable of what is happening and going into their food. Through multiple interviews, personal stories and harrowing plans to free animals, Foer creates a nonfiction novel that addresses animal cruelty but also explores the struggle to eat or not eat meat.

## "The Witch of Portobello"

By Paulo Coelho

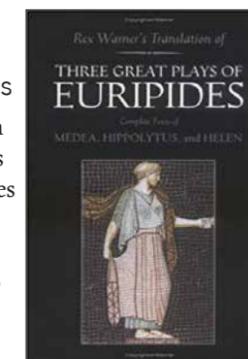
Coelho fabricates a tale of a creative woman called Athena after the Greek Goddess of Wisdom. Athena is filled with a restless energy that leads her to travel from her adoptive parents in order to learn from multiple teachers that challenge her faith and beliefs. The author uses a series of interviews of people who interacted with Athena to tell her story through their varied perspectives. Activities such as dancing and calligraphy are used to concentrate Athena's energy into a state of serenity that serves as inspiration for others. This novel explores belief systems such as Catholicism and the gypsy faith in the womanly attributes of the Divine. Coelho constructs characters in such a way that it is hard to believe they are not real. Through attention to detail and traits of alluring, mystical ideals, this novel seeks not to appeal to one's happiness but to the peace of mind. Readers are swept along with the journey that this brings.



## "Medea"

Originally written by: Euripides

This play is a total of 47 pages with about 10 central characters of this Ancient Greek Myth. The play revolves around the witch named Medea, who is abandoned by her heroic husband, the famous Jason. Medea and her two children will be banished by Jason's new bride and her father, the king of Corinth. Medea is placed in a tragic situation which only incites the natural evil tendencies within her. Medea is plagued with an internal battle between revenge and depression.



Euripides leads his audience on a dramatic scrutiny of a wronged woman and the lines she's willing to cross in order to exact her revenge. Filled with murder, satire, and magic, this Greek play will enthrall the audience with it's harrowing story. It is not hard to find blame in each character for their indiscretions but what is right and wrong becomes muddled with trickery and inhumane actions against one another.

## "Everything, Everything"

By Nicola Yoon

Yoon takes readers on a transformative journey through the life of Madeline Whittier, a 17-year-old girl who suffers from a fatal illness that keeps her trapped inside her home. Madeline's life is shaken from it's regular routine when a new family moves in next door. She becomes infatuated with the witty, math-driven Olly that pushes her to question the limited life she lives and what qualifies as truly living. Yoon takes her characters into the complicated world of who knows what is best for you. The novel contains positive, strong female relationships that can be understood by the reader. Negative images of family are also present but the book maintains a consistent encouraging theme as Madeline is faced with relatable problems of relationships, both romantic and familial. Multiple discoveries lead to plot twists that will have a reader hooked within the first chapter.



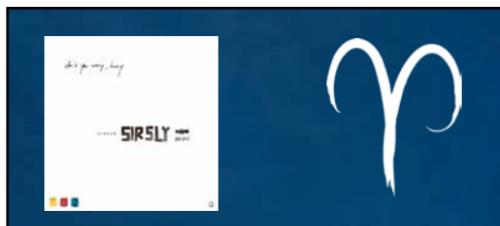
# TUNES FOR THE ZODIACS

MARY SIRING // REPORTER

The past year has been generous with new music releases, whether of old styles experimenting with new styles, resurrecting classic songs or new artists paving their way, music has character and personality. While it's not influenced by planetary alignment, the traits of the zodiacs can be applied to the personalities of music. From the dark and mysterious Scorpio to the cheerful Leo, here are the zodiacs as new 2017-album releases.

## Aries: Sir Sly's "Don't You Worry, Honey"

Aries are risk takers, and "Don't You Worry, Honey" was a big risk for Sir Sly. The band has released one previous album with a very different production style and lyric choice. Sir Sly relied on the loyalty of fans to enjoy their newest release. The presence of Aries always marks the beginning of something, and Sir Sly embodies that well. They create a movement within their music, not relying on current music trends to create hits.



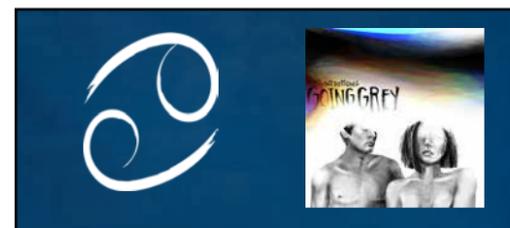
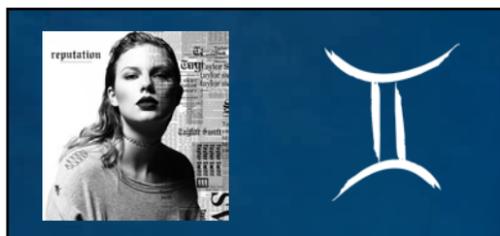
## Taurus: Paramore's "After Laughter"

Practical and well-grounded, "After Laughter" was the obvious choice for Taurus. Paramore is truly timeless, despite the new styles seen in "After Laughter." Taurus is known for their ability to stick to projects, and Paramore's ever growing fan base and number of albums shows that loyalty and dedication. Paramore is a longtime friend for alternative fans, and "After Laughter" is another, of many, coffee dates with that friend.



## Gemini: Taylor Swift's "Reputation"

Gemini represents two different personalities in one. They are sociable, communicative and ready for fun, with a tendency to suddenly get serious. If Swift's first albums were her fun side, "Reputation" is her thoughtful and serious one. She dabbles in deeper themes and topics, truly embracing another side of herself.



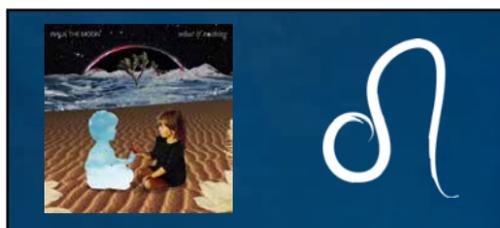
## Cancer: The Front Bottoms' "Going Grey"

Cancers are very emotional and deeply intuitive and sentimental and The Front Bottoms' "Going Grey" is no different. The lyrics in each track are packed with genuine emotion, which makes it so relatable. Cancers are loyal and able to empathize with other people's pain and suffering, and there is a very therapeutic element to "Going Grey" that truly embodies those elements.



## Leo: WALK THE MOON's "What If Nothing"

Leos are known for their cheerful and warm-hearted nature, and that is just what "What If Nothing" is. While not revolutionary for the band, the release gave fans a new set of tracks to simply enjoy and sing along to. Leos are capable of uniting different groups of people, and WALK THE MOON's newest installment, with their upbeat production and catchy lyrics, has the ability to do just that.

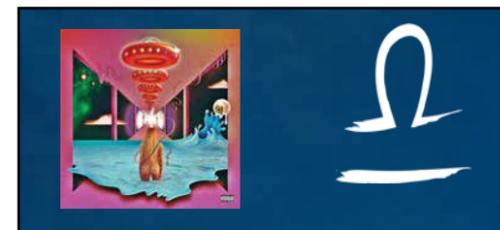


## Virgo: Brand New's "Science Fiction"

Virgos are known for being analytical and attentive to detail. There is no argument that Virgos and Brand New have this in common, and "Science Fiction" is no exception. Virgos embrace a methodical approach, which is the vibe Brand New has created not just with "Science Fiction," but with all of their tracks. There is a deep connection to emotion that is very calculated and eerily relatable in each line.

## Libra: Kesha's "Rainbow"

Kesha pulls strong inspiration from the struggles of her sexual abuse by her producer with "Rainbow." It is her form of finding justice in the crimes committed against her, which embraces the strongest qualities of Libras. On the constant search for justice and equality, "Rainbow" was the obvious choice for Libra. They are known for finding the importance in the inner core of their personality, a strong component of "Rainbow."

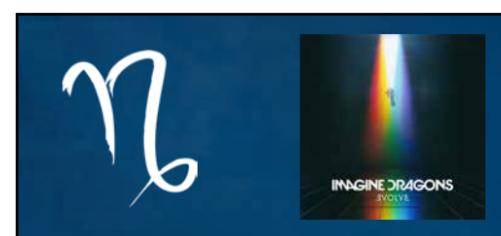
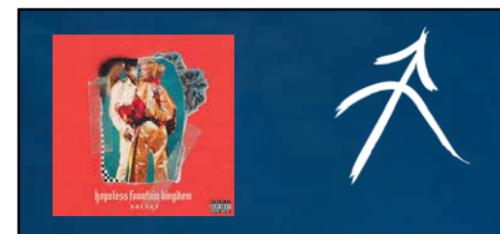


## Scorpio: G-Eazy's "The Beautiful & Damned"

Passionate and dark, G-Eazy's newest album is certainly the embodiment of Scorpio. Scorpios are known for their mysterious and deep emotional nature. G-Eazy takes on a much darker narrator role, focusing heavily on social commentary. Aware of the situation and relentless researchers, this is certainly a Scorpio quality. G-Eazy knows the state of his audience and comments on that, creating a very impactful and resourced album.

## Sagittarius: Halsey's "hopeless fountain kingdom"

"hopeless fountain kingdom" is a slice of Halsey's journey back to find herself. Sagittarius is known as the biggest traveler among the zodiacs, and "hopeless fountain kingdom" is one stop for Halsey. She places so much emotion into each line and beat. It truly is a window into her as a human, not just an artist. There is no question that Halsey is searching for herself in her music, and "hopeless fountain kingdom" has become a quick resting place for her.



## Capricorn: Imagine Dragons' "Evolve"

Capricorns are traditional and possess an inner state of independence. Imagine Dragons has stuck to their own style with "Evolve," embracing both the traditional and independent pieces of Capricorn. Responsible, with a focus on quality craftsmanship, Imagine Dragons creates a strong character with "Evolve," the big brother of this list. It is true to its traditional style while still creating a force to be reckoned with.

## Aquarius: NF's "Perception"

Deep thinkers and highly intellectual, "Perception" certainly embodies Aquarius. The young Michigan artist creates a dark energy that is highly adaptable to any listener, not just rap fans. The Aquarius ruling planet, Uranus, captures NF's "Perception;" aggressive in nature but with a strong visionary quality.



## Pisces: Lana Del Rey's "Lust For Life"

Pisces are known for their empathy, emotion and intuitive understanding. Lana Del Rey carries that reputation well with her lyrics swimming in romance and emotional themes. Artistic and wise, Pisces are the most tolerant of the signs, and the all-inclusive love and popularity of "Lust For Life" demonstrates that tolerance.

# Rollin' Toward a Better *Bear Bus*

PATRICK SULLIVAN // REPORTER

If students can't drive to the store or need a ride somewhere on campus, the Bear Bus system can transport students from place to place at no charge. However, students have begun to take issue with the consistency, or lack thereof, Bear Bus has shown recently.

At its meeting on Monday, March 5, Oakland University Student Congress created the Bear Bus Coordination Committee to respond to the complaints students have regarding the university's transportation system.

The chair of the committee, Asiana Gunn, has been a legislator for OUSC for a little over a year and is passionate about improving Bear Bus.

"When I joined Student Congress, one of the first things I wanted to work on was the Bear Bus," Gunn said. "This is important to us and we want to be able to help work with Bear Bus to improve it."

Gunn said the idea for the committee took hold when OUSC visited a conference in Grand Valley State University.

"I think I have 6 pages of notes of ideas from the conference," Gunn said.

At the meeting when the committee was formed, legislators discussed the bus system that Grand Valley State University provided for its students.

By presenting a student ID, students can ride the city busses in Grand Rapids and the surrounding areas. GVSU compensates the city for this program with \$3 million a year.

"We definitely will not be spending \$3 million anytime soon," Gunn said. "If there was a five to 10 year plan for the committee, that would be it. I don't want to spend tuition dollars, but when I do I want it to be on something long-lasting and beneficial to students."

The committee, which is comprised of Asiana Gunn, Tyler Fox, Ryan Fox and Mena Ibrahim, has far reaching ideas on how they want to reform Bear Bus. The main issues they want to fix are accessibility and communication.

The committee would like to have a more reliable app for the routes, the routes consistently running when they should be and to have all buses and vans be handicap accessible.

Other ideas the committee had were having professional drivers join students

on the bus routes and move Bear Bus into its own committee on campus as opposed to being with University Housing.

Matt Belanger, the graduate coordinator of Bear Bus, shares some sentiments with the committee.

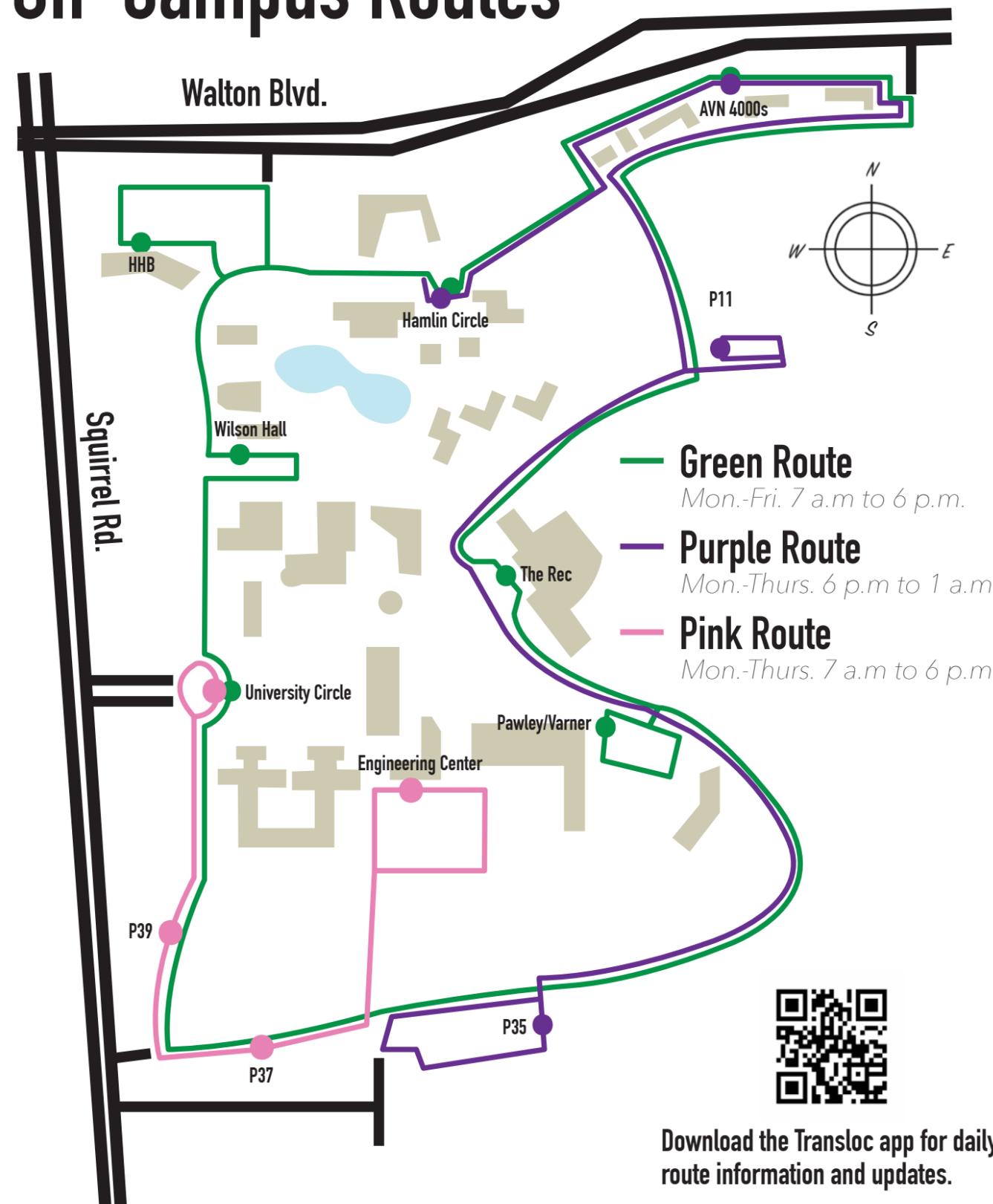
"I would actually like it to change quite a bit," Belanger said. "I would like to see Bear Bus move into its own office, integrating in professional drivers with students and people driving the same routes everyday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m."

Belanger remains open to the idea of the committee and shares the desire to see Bear Bus improve.

"I think everyone in Bear Bus is always looking for ideas from other people on how to improve," he said. "Improvements have to go through the proper channels so it's not always the easiest process, but I think we can try to change what we can while we're here. I'd like to hear from them."

Whether any changes to Bear Bus will take place is yet to be seen, but both parties have expressed an interest in improving the system that is currently in place. This communication could lead to a better experience for Oakland students.

## On-Campus Routes



Download the Transloc app for daily route information and updates.

# Does Tinder really spark a

# FIRE?

JESSICA LEYDET  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Online relationships are becoming a more prevalent thing in today's digitized world. More people are pursuing romantic relationships on sites like eHarmony, Match and apps like Tinder.

Overall, a Pew research study revealed in February 2016 that 9 percent of American adults have used a dating app on their cell phone. The share of Americans who use dating apps has increased threefold since early 2013, when at that point only 3 percent of Americans had used these apps.

However these days, dating apps are leading the online dating leap. With apps like Tinder and Bumble, there seems to be a shift in the demographic from adult singles in their 30s seeking marriage, to young adult singles seeking short term hookups.

According to Nasdaq, young adults are now leading the surge in online dating, with usage among 18- to 24-year-olds almost tripling since Pew's 2013 online dating study. They call it "the Tinder factor," which means 22 percent of young adults have used a mobile dating app, compared to just 5 percent two years earlier.

A lot of these young adults are college students. LendEDU, an online marketplace for student loan refinancing, asked 9,761 millennial college students about why they use Tinder. While 72 percent of respondents said they have used it at some point, 44 percent say they use it for "confidence-boosting procrastination," 22.22 percent of Tinder users surveyed answered that they are "looking for a hookup." However, 4.16 percent said they are "looking for a relationship," and 29.16 percent answered that they use the app for other reasons. Over 70 percent of

college students say they haven't actually met up with anyone from the app.

Holly Scott, senior and sociology major at Oakland University, said she used Tinder for both "confidence-boosting procrastination" and "looking for a relationship."

"It's harmless fun when someone you like matches with you, that's why it's a good confidence booster," she said.

Scott actually matched with her current boyfriend on Tinder in February 2017. It wasn't until seven months later that they, by coincidence, met in person due to living across the hall from each other in Oakland's Ann V. Nicholson apartments. After getting to know each other, they discovered they matched on Tinder.

"Most of the time your matches never really amount to anything," Scott said. "I personally didn't use it for hooking up but I know today a lot of people, college students in particular, use it for that purpose to find other students at their university that they may not see regularly because [of] the size of the campus, or if they commute versus staying on campus."

Sam Srauy, assistant professor of communication at Oakland, shared how he met his wife Amanda through an internet dating site.

"I realized after I graduated undergrad that my dating pool had significantly shrank," he said. "I mean, I did date aside of the online dating world so it was one strategy along with more conventional dating strategies, but after I got my graduate degree, I started teaching students that were around my age and you don't date students because that's so problematic."

Srauy said online dating just seemed logical for his situation. He used eHarmony and Match,

because he thought he should default to them because they were the ones advertised on TV during the time he was seeking a relationship.

"I met lots of people, and I dated off and on for a while, but when I got to Temple University, where I eventually completed my Ph.D, I didn't know anyone, so I decided I'd start trying out online dating again," Srauy said. "I already had a profile, so I tried eHarmony again. I eventually met Amanda, and the rest is history."

His wife Amanda also shared her experience using online dating sites. She said she had several friends try online dating around the same time, and they all had good experiences with it. In fact, several of her friends from the same friend group ended up getting married the same year, each of them to someone they met through online dating.

"I only used eHarmony because at the time, there weren't that many well-known sites to choose from, so I went with one that seemed reputable," she said. "eHarmony also had the reputation of drawing in people who were more serious about dating and not just there for casual dating."

Since there are now more online dating sites and most of them are reputable and are easier to access via mobile app, more people, especially millennial college students, are susceptible to try it. Heidi Lyons, associate professor of sociology at Oakland, said online and app-based dating is more common among emerging and young adults compared to older Americans.

"Emerging adulthood is viewed as a time to explore many different aspects of life such as career, worldview and romantic partners before settling down into adulthood roles," she

said.

Lyons said that compared to previous generations, emerging adults are entering higher education more than ever. This often means they move around a lot and may find themselves in new social networks.

"It used to be a lot more common to find a dating partner within the neighborhood one grew up in because people were less likely to move, but it is different now," she said.

Lyons said emerging adults are more likely to move nowadays for their careers or for school, opposed to their parent's generations, which poses a challenge in finding a partner because they won't know anyone. She also said online dating can help emerging adults meet new people if they find themselves in a new area or a geographic location.

Virgil Zeigler-Hill, social-personality psychologist and professor and director of graduate training at Oakland, conducts research on interpersonal relationships. He said a lot has changed in the past couple of decades in the dating world.

"Nowadays, people can have a closer relationship than, if we say, go back 30 years, your long distance phone calls were really expensive and people were communicating via letter and you had kind of a stilted communication if you were to attempt a long distance relationship," Zeigler-Hill said.

He thinks that the future of dating is going to be significantly based online in terms of communicating, but that people shouldn't rely on it solely.

"I think the technology has made everything better in terms of the communicating part of a relationship, but it certainly doesn't compensate for lack of face to face communication," he said.

## DATING APPS TO TRY IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS:

SICK OF SWIPING LEFT? TRY THESE.



### COFFEE MEETS BAGEL

Every day at noon, you'll receive potential matches (they call them "Bagels") preselected for you so you don't have to swipe all day.

### BUMBLE

Bumble is a location-based social and dating application that facilitates communication between interested users. In heterosexual matches, the app permits only women to start a chat with their male matches, while in same-sex matches either party can message first, though all free users must reply to messages within 24 hours.



### TASTEBUDS

Tastebuds is a dating app that highlights music tastes to ascertain compatibility. You can link it to your Facebook account or not, depending on your preference. You can also make your profile as detailed or sparse as you like — character limits for each question, which are mostly centered on music, are pretty high.



### HAPPN

You can like people secretly, and they won't find out unless they like you, too. If you're comfortable being bolder, then you can tap the Charm button to let them know you're interested. However, Charms cost coins which you'll have to buy with real cash via in-app purchases. When you get a match — which Happn calls a Crush — you can start chatting with each other.



Infographic by Jessica Leydet

# STREAMING: Is it dominating or destroying the music industry?

TREVOR TYLE // ASSISTANT EDITOR

One are the days of the iPod, CD player and vinyl. There's a new format controlling how we listen to music—streaming.

## The numbers don't lie

In recent years, streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music, Tidal and YouTube have allowed music listeners easier access to the songs they love. Thanks to the rise of the smartphone, there is little need for CDs or digital downloads.

According to NME, streaming accounted for 51

percent of the music industry's revenue in 2016, a 60.4 percent increase from 2015. Sales in digital downloads and physical CDs, on the other hand, were down 22 and 16 percent, respectively.

These aren't the only declining numbers. With the rapid decline in purchased music, the worth of the industry itself could plummet from \$3.9 billion (as of 2012) to \$600 million by 2019, a \$3.3 billion loss, according to The Guardian.

Despite this, most artists have embraced streaming as



Photo courtesy of ThePalyVoice

Adele's "25" album sold millions of copies through streaming services during its' first week.

a way of ensuring continued commercial success and revenue. Jay-Z and Beyoncé have depended on the exclusivity of services like Tidal, which they both co-own with 14 other artists, for their most recent releases.

Of course, these artists' reliance on streaming for exclusive releases forces consumers to either give in to it or wait for the physical and digital download versions.

## Resisting the norm

That's not to say CDs and digital downloads have

completely died out. A few artists have challenged streaming, making up for some of the revenue lost by the popularity of services like Spotify. Adele famously withheld her last album, "25," from streaming services for seven months while selling 3.38 million copies in its first week, the highest first week sales record in music history.

Taylor Swift similarly, and rather controversially, removed all of her music from streaming services in 2014, noting that "valuable things should be paid for." She stood

by this until last June, when she mysteriously added all of her music back to streaming services—though probably not by choice.

"For the artists, there really isn't a financial incentive," Oakland University music professor Ben Fuhrman said.

Why, then, are artists subjecting themselves to the potential economic losses that are so closely tied with streaming? It's simple relevance.

"I think withholding [music from streaming services] is just going to make you irrelevant," OU communication professor Rebekah Farrugia said.

"Unless you're Taylor Swift, but even she did it."

Fuhrman agreed, citing it as "a necessity in order to build a fan base" and arguing that there are other sources of income for artists.

"It helps build buzz and promote concerts, which, when combined with merch sales, is where more and more independent artists are making the majority of their money," he said.

However they feel, though, artists need to get used to it. Streaming is now even being taken into account for music charts. Billboard increased the role of paid subscription streams in a song's chart placement earlier this year. While sensible given the drastic shift to streaming music, the decision also isolates the small percentage of consumers that have yet to adapt to the change.

## Looking forward

So, what does this mean for the future of the industry?

Streaming isn't going anywhere, so the only thing artists and consumers can do is adapt. It's an inevitable comparison, but the music

industry is following in the path of journalism—an excess of free content has led to a lack of revenue. Perhaps more streaming services should enforce paid subscriptions. Among Spotify, Apple Music, Tidal, Amazon Music and Google Play Music, subscriptions are usually no more than \$10 a month, and for avid music consumers, it's a small fee. Rather than paying for individual music every time a new song or album drops, consumers can pay \$10 and have unlimited music access. For artists, this won't change much, as album sales make up a small percentage of their profits anyway.

"People like Chuck D from Public Enemy were going on tour across college campuses 15 years ago talking about how little money artists got from album sales, too—like, you get \$1 per album," Farrugia said. "You're just indebted to the industry forever."

This doesn't mean digital downloads and CDs have to go away either. As Adele and Swift have proven, some artists can still be successful without streaming however, with its rise, the longer they distance themselves from it, the more fans they risk losing.

No one has found a foolproof method to resolve the rapidly declining sales of the music industry yet. Its future remains unclear—streaming could ultimately lead to the demise of CDs and digital downloads, or it could join their ranks when the next form of music consumption inevitably arrives.

Until then, the industry will continue to change how we listen to music, and we will continue to adapt—though who can say if it's for better or for worse?

# CHANGING THE GAME



Streaming may be dominating music right now, but some artists are going above and beyond to make sure their voices are heard.



## TAYLOR SWIFT

Swift may be ruling the charts right now, but she hasn't exactly embraced streaming to get there. After the release of her "1989" album in 2014, Swift removed her entire catalogue from streaming services, noting that "valuable things should be paid for." Last June, her albums returned to streaming, though she withheld her latest album, "reputation," from these services for its first three weeks of release.

## ADELE

Adele's "21" was the best-selling album of the decade, so needless to say, she doesn't need her albums on streaming services to succeed. The album's successor, 2015's "25," was initially withheld from streaming services—sans its single releases—after Adele told TIME magazine that streaming was "disposable." Seven months later, the album was finally made available on streaming services—but only after breaking the all-time first-week music sales record and receiving a diamond certification.

## BEYONCÉ & JAY-Z



Beyoncé and Jay-Z, on the other hand, have both embraced streaming. "Formation," the lead single from Beyoncé's last album, "Lemonade," was exclusively available through Tidal, a streaming service owned by her, Jay-Z and 14 other artists.

Both Beyoncé and Jay-Z's last albums, "Lemonade" and "4:44" (respectively), were released as Tidal exclusives before being made available in other formats—though neither is currently on Spotify.

## DRAKE & RIHANNA

Drake and Rihanna have also both contributed to the rise of streaming. Rihanna was named the most streamed artist of 2017, and it's easy to see why. Her last studio album, "Anti," was a Tidal exclusive for its first week of release, while Rihanna is the most followed artist on Spotify, with 15.2 million followers.

Drake's last two efforts, 2016's "Views" and 2017's "More Life," were both streaming giants due to their extensive track listing. The latter, which contained 22 tracks, was the most streamed album in a single day on both Spotify and Apple Music.



# THE END OF AN ERA?

Consumers may not be ready to let go of CDs, but some retailers are already moving into the future.

Best Buy—AKA the largest physical electronics retailer in the country—will reportedly begin pulling CDs from its shelves on July 1, according to a report published by Billboard. The news came shortly after it was revealed that the retailer's entertainment sales last year were down 13.8 percent from 2016. Target, meanwhile, has denied reports that it will pull CDs from its shelves.

The retailer is known for partnering with artists to release "Target editions" of new releases that often

includes bonus content as a means of increasing store traffic.

"We are committed to working closely with our partners to bring the latest movies and music titles, along with exclusive content, to our guests," the company said in a statement. "The changes we're evaluating to our operating model, which shows a continued investment in our entertainment business, reflect a broader shift in the industry and consumer behavior."

If physical music sales continue to decline—last year, they went down 7.6 percent—we may be saying "Bye, Bye" to CDs and "Hello" to streaming.



Photo by Trevor Tyle // The Oakland Post

# Winter Fashion on a Budget

KATARINA KOVAC // REPORTER

**D**ropping temperatures send all of us into a style rut. When it's dark, freezing cold and wet outside, all we really want to do is wear the duvet from our bed all day. But someone has to get to class and pay the bills (if you're a working student), which means

heading out while doing your best not to look like a polar bear that got lost.

So, how on earth do you stay on trend while keeping warm in low temps? With some inspiration and style guidance, winter weather will prove to be no barrier to good fashion sense.

## STATEMENT COATS

Set the tone the minute you step into the office or on campus with a statement coat that screams style and individuality. Choose a bold color or an interesting print. This is the time to invest. If you're considering the cost per wear ratio, your winter coat will be the hardest working piece in your wardrobe. Let's face it, we live in Michigan. The best part about these jackets is that they will pair well with various tailored tops and jeans as well.

The best part about statement coats, whether it be a trench, faux fur, patent leather or puffer coat, is that it can do all the talking for your outfit.

There aren't many redeeming factors about living through really cold weather fashion wise, but it is the only time during the year you can wear fur (or faux fur, of course). So just have fun with it! You can wear these coats with just about anything to give your outfit an instant upgrade.



## BOOTS

Great winter style really boils down to a great pair of boots. Got a great pair of over-the-knee boots? Show them off by pairing them with a midi dress if you're going to an event. Are you lazy and heading to class? Pair them with some leggings and head out the door.

Do you have killer

ankle boots you want to make sure the world gets to see? Pair them with cuffed jeans or a dress. If it's a polar vortex outside and you are forced to wear less than fashionable snow boots, use them as a starting point to put together an inventive outfit, rather than just throwing them on with just anything.



## SWEATERS

Sweaters are the most practical and classic purchases that are worth every penny. It's a good idea to shop for knitwear that is well made and cozy, but won't cost you an arm and a leg.

Thankfully, this season's stores are flooding with affordable options, whether it's a traditional J.Crew turtleneck sweater or

Aritzia knit. There are plenty of sweaters with stripes and color blocking, as well as ribbed and chunky versions and oversize fits that enhance any outfit, no matter what it's paired with on the bottom.

Most importantly, these stylish sweaters won't max out your bank account during the winter months.

*Just because it's cold doesn't mean you can't have style*

## WIDE-LEG TROUSERS

Who doesn't love a wide-leg trouser? Teamed with a loafer or booties and an oversized sweater, it offers the ability to skim over curvy hips and lengthen legs. This winter, these wider '70s-inspired silhouettes are really starting to take over.

Thankfully, the new season's offerings are filled with options. Keep your top half laid back and let your trousers do the talking.



## MIXED SEPARATES

While summer might be about simple lightweight fabrics, winter offers the opportunity to combine styles and textures. It's a chance to dress down your eveningwear and dress up your cosiest pieces for a look that sets just the right tone for relaxed daywear.

The combination of a silk skirt or dress worn with a chunky knit is classic, even more so when the colors are kept tonal. You can skip straight from the office to class without changing in between. It's undoubtedly a 24-hour look.



Photos from Nordstrom.com

# About The Crew This Issue

We had an idea last fall to create a features magazine that would tell the stories of college and our campus. So, we ran with it. Though there have been attempts before to launch a student-run magazine, there has never been a successful attempt at doing so. Before you is *The Pioneer*, created with the resources and mind power behind *The Oakland Post*. *The Post* is Oakland University's independent student newspaper, and *The Pioneer* is Oakland's independent student magazine. We have spent extra time throughout the last six months to plan out, write, brand and produce the stories and content you're holding in your hand. While not everyone who is a part of this magazine is what we call "A Postie," we at *The Post* are grateful for the hard work from our creative and outgoing staff. We hope you enjoy these stories just as much as we have enjoyed writing them.

Sincerely,

*The Posties.*

