

Nov. 28, 2018



## FUNDING CUT

OU Speech Team becomes a victim of recent budget cuts

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Photo by Elyse Gregory / The Oakland Post

## BLACK CINEMA

The rise in popularity of films made by black actors and directors

PAGE 9

## WILDFIRES

Causes of the blazes in California and how to prevent them

PAGES 10 & 11

# thisweek

November 28, 2018 // Volume 44 Issue 12



## ontheweb

Editor-in-Chief AuJenee Hirsch sat down with bestselling author Malcom Gladwell for a question and answer session.  
PHOTO/ELYSE GREGORY

[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



### PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**Aspire. Advance. Achieve.** // The Department of Annual Giving put on the Aspire. Advance. Achieve. Student Celebration in the Oakland Center Tuesday, Nov. 27. Students nominated an organization for an award by attaching their votes to an award.  
ELYSE GREGORY// The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com) to be featured. View all submissions at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)



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#### SPYRO REMASTERED

The new "Spyro Reginited Trilogy" video game brings a fresh take on a classic.  
Photo/Polygon



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#### NEW POINT GUARD

Freshman Braden Norris shows promise for men's basketball team.  
Photo/Jose Juarez



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#### THREE FACTS ABOUT ORA

OU President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz has three hidden talents no one knows about.  
Illustration/Erin O'Neill

## BY THE NUMBERS HOLIDAY SHOPPING

**\$2.1 billion**

a record amount spent on cell phones on Friday, Nov. 23

**\$146**

average online shopping order on Black Friday

**\$10 billion**

total in sales the first two days of the Holiday shopping season

**\$6.2 billion**

amount spent online on Black Friday alone

Adweek

### POLL OF THE WEEK

How did you spend your Thanksgiving break?

- A There was a break?
- B Eating until comatose
- C Sleep, sleep, sleep
- D Prepping for exam week hell

[Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

### LAST WEEK'S POLL

How did you celebrate the first snowfall of the year?

- A) By crying profusely  
12 votes | 34%
- B) I stayed inside until it melted  
11 votes | 31%
- C) I turned up the Christmas music  
9 votes | 26%
- D) Drowning myself in hot cocoa  
3 votes | 9%

### THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

#### NOVEMBER 28, 2007

Oakland professor Barbara Oakley suggested a connection between genetics and evil in her new book.

#### DECEMBER 1, 2004

Former men's basketball player Rawle Marshall scored a career-high 31 points against Marquette University, but OU fell 95-87.

#### NOVEMBER 30 1987

Little Caesar's Pizza beat the on-campus pizza place in a taste-off, the winner received a half page ad in The Oakland Post.

# Looking Back

## Former OUSC president resigns after shoplifting

In 1982, then Student Congress President Zachary Shallow stole two textbooks in French and Political Science from the campus bookstore



*The Oakland Post Archives*

Zachary Shallow resigned from his position twice. The first time it was denied, but the second time it passed.

**Patrick Sullivan**  
Web Editor

**A**n Oakland University Student Congress president resigned from his position after being caught attempting to shoplift at the university bookstore in September 1982.

Zachary Shallow, the then Student Congress president, was apprehended trying to leave the book center with two textbooks - one for French and one for Political Science - that were not on a receipt for items that Shallow had already purchased.

"I had an IQ test and I was a genius, but this wasn't pretty much of a genius move," Shallow said.

Shallow used a University Congress account to purchase a notebook and a yellow pad in the back of the bookstore, with the items being placed into a bag that was stapled shut. When Shallow was caught, the bag was opened and the unpurchased textbooks were inside.

Shallow was arrested on Wednesday, Sept. 8 1982, and offered his resignation late on Friday the same week.

"I'm going to have to resign...if this comes out, my effectiveness will be hampered," Shallow said.

At the beginning of a Congress meeting the next week, Shallow offered his resignation, only for the Congress to reject it by an 11-11 vote, so Shallow would remain in his position. 18 members of congress would have to vote to accept Shallow's resignation in order for it to go through.

"I was unsure whether we were doing things right in reference to the (University Congress) constitution," said Kevin Davis, a congress member that voted in support of Shallow. "I'm

satisfied Congress was doing what it thought was right."

Other Congress members thought that Shallow should be allowed to resign and opposed the vote.

"I feel he abused his office," said Scott Martin, an engineering major and Congress member. "I can't see serving under anyone who uses his office to commit a felony."

Following the first resignation vote, Shallow resigned again the following Saturday, writing a letter to The Oakland Sail about his reasoning. The Oakland Sail is the previous name for The Oakland Post.

"I have come to the conclusion that the basic issue in the questions which have arisen is that I have committed an offense against the community which I represent an act of wrongdoing - and I cannot expect the university community to accept this action by one of its representatives," Shallow wrote in his letter to the student newspaper.

At a Congress meeting on Sept. 28, 1982, Shallow's resignation was accepted. With his resignation, Shallow also had to face being put on disciplinary probation after the shoplifting incident, and was also told to complete 30 hours of community service by the then Dean of Student Life Rosalind Andreas.

University Congress Executive Assistant Alexander Simpson was put in as acting president during Shallow's resignation, and was elected as President on Monday, Oct. 4, 1982.

Simpson would remain president through the fall, but said that he did not want to run for reelection in the November 1982 election.

"It's a nice position," Simpson said, but added, "I don't think I'll be here next fall."



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Samuel Summers / The Oakland Post

Students were given the chance to perform different dances in front of a live audience in the Habitat.

## SPB and ISA celebrate Diwali

Kaley Barnhill  
Staff Reporter

**D**iwali, the celebration of lights, was celebrated at Oakland University on Monday, Nov. 19 in The Habitat in the Oakland Center.

"I am super excited for this event, and for all the performances," Flavio Di Stefano, diversity director for the Student Program Board (SPB) said of the event via email. "I'm looking forward to having some good food and the famous 'mango lassi' that many people requested to bring back!"

According to Di Stefano, the goal of diversity events is to make students feel welcomed and represented by breaking down stereotypes.

"Large-scale diversity events help raise awareness within the university community by exposing the student body to different cultural traditions," Di Stefano said via email.

SPB partners with the Indian Students Association of OU to make the event as authentic and welcoming as possible. Abhayasinghamars Rathwa, president of the Indian Students Association of OU, said, for him, Diwali is a celebration where he gets a chance to spend time with his family and friends.

"It has more cultural value to me compared to the traditional religious values," Rathwa said via email. "It's always a happy festive vibe during the Diwali season when you find colorful decorations, festive cuisine and a lot of shopping and gifting is done by people all around India. The thing I like most about Diwali is that it is celebrated by everyone, no matter what their religion or social status is."

Rathwa is originally from a town called Vadadora in the Indian state of Gujarat. He came to the United States in 2013 to pursue his bachelor's degree

in music.

"To be honest, celebrating Diwali here at OU away from my hometown in India is a completely different scenario," Rathwa said via email. "I don't have any family here and the whole town is not celebrating like we do it in India. But, I am lucky to have some get togethers with some close friends and celebrate Diwali. Also, being the president of Indian Students Association at OU, I enjoy hosting and planning our Yearly Diwali event where all my fellow international students from India and the OU family come together and have a joyful Diwali celebration. It always makes me feel a little bit close to home."

Rathwa explained that, for him, Diwali has more cultural value compared to the traditional religious values.

"It's always a happy, festive vibe during the Diwali season when you find colorful decorations, festive cuisine and a lot of shopping and gifting is done by people all around India," Rathwa said via email. "The thing I like most about Diwali is that it is celebrated by everyone, no matter what their religion or social status is."

As his family still lives in India, Rathwa enjoys reflecting on his most profound Diwali memories from when he celebrated with them.

"I have a bunch of favorite Diwali memories, but if I had to pick one, then that would be when, every Diwali, my family and I do the Diwali Puja (prayer) and jokingly argue about the superstitious beliefs of the festival," Rathwa said via email. "The whole Puja ceremony becomes a leg pulling (respectfully) game amongst the family members."

Now that they live apart, Rathwa says that he and his family exchange greetings over a video call, as well as send gifts to each other.

## POLICE FILES

### Vending vandal

An Oakland University Police Department officer was dispatched to Dodge Hall where a vending machine was vandalized on Monday, Oct. 15. The officer arrived at the vending area near room 200 and observed the only candy and snack vending machine in the area had a broken front window.

Glass fragments were visible on the floor. The officer observed an impact mark roughly near the center of the window and all the glass was gone from the triangular area between the impact and the two upper corners.

In that area, the officer observed three whole rows of candy snacks were emptied, rows D4, E7 and E9. Strangely enough, only row D4 was reachable through the broken window. Both E rows were unreachable without breaking more glass.

The officer notified the vendor company and advised the company of the damage. A maintenance tech was dispatched to repair the machine.

In the meantime, the officer taped two garbage bags over the machine to dissuade anyone from reaching in and possibly injuring themselves. At the time of the reporting, the value of the damaged property was not yet estimated.

### Oh my gourd

After an Oktoberfest celebration for Oakland University Housing, a pumpkin rolled down the hill behind Oakview Hall on Saturday, Oct. 27, and the pumpkin rolled into oncoming eastbound traffic on Walton Boulevard.

The pumpkin struck a red Dodge Charger and damaged the undercarriage of the vehicle. An officer arrived on scene to assess the damage and saw the driver was unharmed. The officer informed the driver that they could contact OUPD if they had any additional questions, and the driver left the scene without further complications.

Compiled by Ben Hume,  
Staff Reporter

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- Work with The Post templates in InDesign
- Create headlines, subheads and captions for all stories
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### MUST WORK BOTH PRODUCTION DAYS (Mondays and Tuesdays)

Interested applicants should send a resume, cover letter and Adobe InDesign samples to [ayhirsch@oakland.edu](mailto:ayhirsch@oakland.edu).

# Speed bumps drop out after midterms

**Dean Vaglia**  
Staff Reporter

After a pounding of a first semester, the speed bumps have dropped out of Oakland University.

The speed bumps left as quickly as they came, slipping away from their Ravine Drive and two Pioneer Drive locations in a single night. But with their departure comes the questions - why were the speed bumps installed, and why were they removed?

The answer to both questions lay with Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) Chief of Police Mark Gordon.

According to Gordon, the Ravine and Pioneer speed bumps were installed after the traffic pattern change.

"When we took [the bumps] out there were still a lot of people using the crosswalk coming from the P11 [parking lot] and we noticed that traffic pulling around that corner was kind of moving a bit too fast for our comfort," Gordon said.

Wanting to make sure pedestrians would be safe crossing the crosswalk, OUPD set up the speed bumps at both sides of the corner.

According to Gordon, the stop signs at the intersection were removed at the recommendation of the Transportation Improvement Association (TIA). After a



*Samuel Summers / The Oakland Post*

The speed bumps' mysterious disappearance is attributed to the use of snow plows in the winter.

study in August 2018, the TIA figured by removing the stop signs at the corner, traffic would move more fluidly at OU.

Pedestrian safety was also a key factor in the reinstallation of speed bumps around Hillcrest.

The bumps were installed to slow down student traffic around heavy construction equipment and were removed after Hillcrest was complete. But after the bumps were gone, the OUPD noticed cars were moving much faster than they were before.

With students crossing Pioneer Drive to get to the P35 parking lot, OUPD saw

something had to be done to prevent an accident.

"So we thought since speeds are increasing we know that the speed bumps slowed traffic down during construction, we felt it was necessary to put them in again to slow traffic down near the crosswalks for Hillcrest," Gordon said.

Despite the public safety benefits of the bumps, they have been removed not even a semester after installation. Why remove the bumps so soon, if at all?

"The snowplows will grab [the bumps] as they're removing snow," Gordon said. "If you want adequate snowplowing

you have to remove them for the winter months. [The bumps] damage the equipment if you hit them."

According to Gordon, the data from the temporary speed bumps is being evaluated, though there have not been any discussions about installing permanent speed bumps. Reducing the speed limit on Pioneer Drive to 15 mph is also not a viable option due to the distances between locations.

Hillcrest resident Gordon McLeod supports the speed bumps as a traffic management tool, though is indifferent about their removal for the winter.

"I liked having speed bumps there for turning out - they were kind of a nuisance while driving around campus," McLeod said. "I can see why they would take them out for the winter."

Commuter Reshall Yatooma was happy about the speed bumps being removed due to not seeing the practicality of the bumps. Upon learning about the purpose the bumps served, her opinion was not swayed heavily.

"I still think that people are going to speed no matter what," Yatooma said. "You would have to create such a big deterrent from people actually speeding - like the presence of more cops. It's just hard to control people's behavior when it comes to that."

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# TEDx Oakland University will return to campus

The conference is hoped to provide “a new outlook on life” for students

**Katarina Kovac**  
Campus Editor

Many people are familiar with TED Talks, yet not many Oakland University students are aware that there is a TEDx at OU organization on campus.

TED stands for “Technology, Entertainment, Design” and is a conference series that began in 1984. Speakers are invited to these TED events with the mission to inspire, challenge and evoke thought provoking concepts and ideas.

As for OU’s TEDx origin story, President Luke Bambrick knew it was worth having on campus.

“It took off pretty quickly that in 2014 there was our first major TEDx conference in the O’rena,” Bambrick said. “There were a lot of people that came and it turned out to be way bigger than everyone thought it would be. Everyone was fired up about it and

everything was amazing, but eventually after the event, people graduated and things began to fallout.”

When describing this fallout within the student organization, Bambrick attributed it to the amount of seniors who were enthusiastic about the organization who had graduated.

“When I arrived on campus and found out about the organization, I was ecstatic because these talks inspired me in so many different ways,” Bambrick said. “I wanted to get involved within my own school and participate. I remember going to my first event, and there were only a handful of people there. It was really sad, because I remember thinking, ‘What happened?’”

This is when he made the decision to join the board within the organization and eventually become president. They had other people join on and started weekly board meetings.

“From that point, we started to get our social media back up and running and now we have our board positions filled and several volunteers,” Bambrick said. “We’re in the midst of planning another conference for the winter 2019 semester.”

In terms of TED’s relevancy in our modern age, Bambrick says that it is ultimately about providing a new outlook on life.

“TED is more than fancy conferences or entertaining YouTube videos,” Bambrick said. “It is about encouraging the relentless desire to grow, learn and deepen the richness of life.”

Laura Dinsmoor, special lecturer within the School of Engineering and Computer Science at OU, serves as an advisor for OU’s TEDx organization.

“We brought the TEDx conference to campus in the first place for many reasons,” Dinsmoor said. “The idea behind TED and TEDx is to allow people to un-

derstand new ideas and think in new ways while opening up their minds. We also wanted to give the students an opportunity to organize and attempt a conference. We thought, ‘Wouldn’t that be something great for students to have on their resume?’”

Videos from OU’s first TEDx events have been watched over 3 million times. Professor’s Terri Orbuch and Barbara Oakley’s talks have largely contributed to this number.

The upcoming TEDx conference at OU will be held toward the end of the Winter 2019 semester, and will include speakers like Mark Ostach, Barbara Rausch, Justin Odisho, and Mikhaella Norwood. More speakers are to be announced.

On Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. in Hillcrest Hall, the next TEDx & Chill event will be held. If interested, join the organization on GrizzOrgs or follow the club on Instagram @TEDxOaklandUniversity.

# Speech Team experiences budget cut

**Jordan Jewell**  
Staff Reporter

Falling victim to recent budget cuts, the Oakland University Speech Team is now dealing with the cancellation of tournaments and losing a coach.

“Forensic studies have deep roots at Oakland University, dating back to the ‘70s,” said Jared Lane, president of the OU Speech Team.

Lane has been a part of the team for four years and president for two and is now concerned about the team’s future.

The College of Arts and Sciences recently cut the team’s budget, which covers travel expenses and payment of their coach.

The OU Speech Team, also known as the Forensics Speaking Team, is centered around speaking and speech writing skills.

Students are able to compete in different categories including public address, dramatic interpretation and persuasion.

The team provides students with an opportunity to improve on their public speaking skills as well as their research and critical thinking skills.

“One of my deciding factors for choosing OU was because they had a forensics team,” Lane said. “In fact, my first exposure to the campus was my sophomore year of high school, when Oakland hosted states for high school forensics and did so again my senior year.”

The funding cut resulted in a pay cut for the coach of the club. In addition, the team will no longer be able to host competitions at high school or collegiate levels. This includes the Michigan High School Fo-

rensic State Tournament, which would open OU up to dozens of possible future Golden Grizzlies.

“The team’s funding deserves to be reinstated due to the many voices that will go unheard unless the issues are addressed.”

Francheska Brikho  
Secretary of Speech Team

“As a result, our coach — rightfully — isn’t going to do this job for free, so our team has to go forward without an active coach for the remainder of the sea-

son,” Lane said.

Lane predicts that without the restoration of the team’s funding, the group will cease to exist by as early as fall 2019.

The National Forensic Speaking competition was originally set to be held at OU but has since been moved. The team still plans to attend the national competition as well as seven to 10 other competitions this year with help from their assistant coach.

The funding cut is a result of an overall lack of funds in the College of Arts and Sciences. An article published in May by the Detroit Free Press points out that budget cuts are a problem faced by several Michigan universities. The article cites a drop in student credit hours as the root cause of lower funding.

Lane and other members

of the team are working to get the funding restored as soon as possible.

“The team and I plan on doing everything we can to make sure the team continues to thrive at OU,” Lane said.

Francheska Brikho, the team’s secretary, also believes that the team is an important part of OU. After joining, Brikho was able to expand her knowledge of current events, public speaking skills and communication.

“The team’s funding deserves to be reinstated due to the many voices that will go unheard unless the issues are addressed,” Brikho said. “The team offers an opportunity for members voices to be heard, allowing us to address issues currently happening in our society showcasing what public speaking truly is about.”

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# A study break snack, minus the calories

*Enlightened Ice Cream provides a healthy alternative to the traditional dessert*

**Jordan Jewell**  
Staff Reporter

**O**vereating is a confirmed sign of longterm stress, according to studies done at the Harvard Medical School. Exams are right around the corner. If you're going to binge, why not reach for something that is just as healthy as it is tasty?

Enlightened Ice Cream's new campaign "#FeelinglightwithEnlightened" features 30 flavors of healthy ice cream pints and 11 flavors of ice cream bars. These snacks provide college students with an accessible and nutritious study-break treat.

Flavors range from cold brew coffee and french toast to cookie dough and sea-salt caramel.

Dairy free and vegan students can also try #FeelinglightwithEnlightened with their eight dairy free flavors. All Enlightened pints range from \$5-6 and bars range from \$3-4.

Other companies like Halo Top have attempted similar campaigns, selling guilt-free ice cream flavors. They claim to be low calorie, low sugar ice cream alternatives.

Enlightened is different because it provides the great taste of ice cream with healthy, natural ingredients.

The ingredients include monk fruit extract, cane sugar, skim milk, natural flavors and milk protein. Enlightened combines the health benefits of Halo Top with the taste of Ben & Jerry's.

"I looked at the labels of a lot of the products, and they were low in fat, but high in sugar, or sugar free, but loaded with sugar alcohols that have the same effect as sugar," Enlightened Ice Cream CEO Michael Shoretz said in a November press release. "Or they were more like frozen yogurt, and just not satisfying."

Shoretz has a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University in health policy and is a certified strength and

conditioning specialist. He launched Enlightened in 2013.

Enlightened Ice Cream is marketed as a low calorie ice cream that college students can snack on during exams without risking the freshman 15.

For example, Enlightened's Butter Pecan flavor has 90 calories, 5 grams of fat, 3 grams of sugar, 6 grams of protein and 5 grams of fiber. In contrast, Bryers Delight Butter Pecan has 160 calories, 6 grams of fat 12 grams of sugar, 2 grams of protein and 0 grams of fiber.

In comparison to brands like Cold Stone Creamery, Enlightened has half the calories and twice the protein.

According to the aforementioned study from Harvard, longterm stress produces a hormone called cortisol, which increases the appetite and the motivation to eat.

Oakland University students begin final exams on Dec. 10. Studies have shown an increase in the purchase of

junk food during the time in which students study for exams.

Deema Ujayli, an OU student and certified nutritionist, understands that stress eating can be hard to avoid. She recommends snacking on things like greek yogurt, fresh fruit and vegetables, and peanut butter and apples, but also thinks Enlightened is a great way for students to treat themselves.

"Enlightened uses sugar alcohols instead of added sugar, which makes the calorie count lower while maintaining a great taste," Ujayli said.

Enlightened Ice Cream can be purchased at the Whole Foods location on Walton Boulevard, Target on Rochester Road, Papa Joe's on Rochester Road and Kroger on Livernois Road.

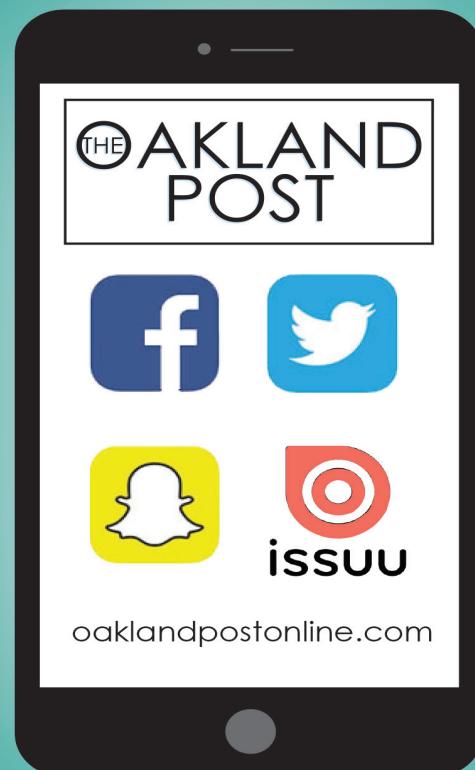
Just in time for the holidays, Enlightened Ice Cream features flavors like white chocolate peppermint mocha, frozen hot chocolate and toasted almond.

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### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Write one web/social media exclusive story a week
- Must attend weekly budget meetings
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- Browse social media to see what's trending for potential story ideas
- Help manage social media accounts
- Assists engagement editor in carrying out weekly engagement plans

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# Examining the rise in popular African-American cinema

**Ben Hume**  
Staff Reporter

The recent death of Stan Lee brought much attention to the legacy of Marvel, especially with Lee's extensive involvement in the immense Marvel cinematic universe.

One of Marvel's surprising successes was "Black Panther," where the company was willing to take a risk on a predominantly African-American cast and crew to make a movie for the film's iconic titular character.

The history of black cinema is not nearly as successful as a blockbuster like "Black Panther." Marvel was not the first to feature an all-black main cast in a film, nor the first to have a black director. Movies written and directed by African Americans go all the way back to the 1910s, but with Jim Crow laws and segregation in full effect, their works were not taken seriously.

This systemic racism is a benchmark for black cinema, according to Brendan Kredell, professor of cinema studies at

Oakland University.

"Cinema is capital intensive," Kredell said. "It costs a lot of money and a lot of resources to produce a film. This means that there are gatekeepers in place. So, when we talk about structural racism, this is one of the things that we're talking about."

Kredell said this is why movies catering to a black audience, or even movies with large amounts of African American involvement were not included in Hollywood for so long. Only by the 1970s did black cinema become profitable in the eyes of Hollywood, according to Kredell.

"[This] is the wave of what we call blaxploitation, and there's a real question about how positive those images are that are being made," Kredell said. "And in a lot of cases they're called blaxploitation because they're actually white filmmakers casting black actors... it's a thorny set of films."

Films from this era popularized African Americans in the world of Hollywood, but their portrayals were limited to stereotypes of the

time. According to Kredell, the first films considered to positively portray black actors were not made until the mid-1990s.

"The trend [of 'Black Panther'] begins, in my mind, with 'Waiting to Exhale' which [came] out in 1995," he said. "It's one of the first black cast films that [made] lots of money, and it [made] lots of money in a way that [surprised] Hollywood."

Even after the successes of the mid-to-late 1990s, Kredell said these positive black representations were not common.

"It's not as if overnight, a light switch was switched and all of a sudden there was a clear and level playing field," he said.

But the foundations for successful contemporary black movies were put in place, even if Hollywood is still structured against minorities in cinema, which contributed to the surprising success of "Black Panther." Jewel Fisher, president for the Association for Black Students at OU, emphasized how important it was to see such positive images of black heroes on

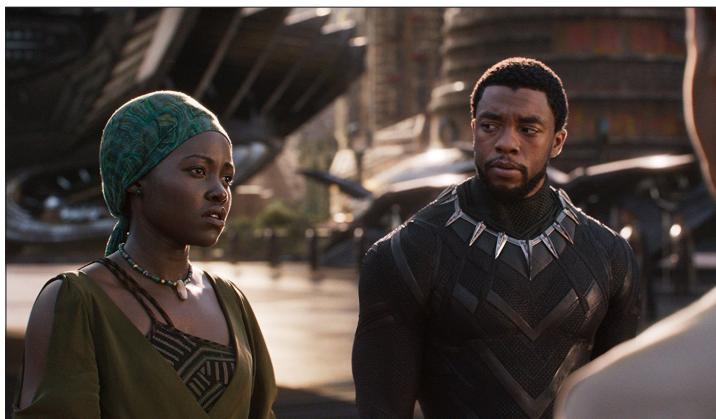


Photo courtesy of IMDB

After years of being excluded from the Hollywood scene due to Jim Crow Laws, black cinema continues to rise with the release of Black Panther.

the big screen.

"As a black student and as a woman, I appreciated 'Black Panther' for just seeing how strong the power that these women show," Fisher said in reference to the film's female leads. "I feel like it's important with any culture, with any race, just to have those role models to look up to...having our people displayed in a better light... is leading to conversations, just

that we can go places, slowly decreasing those stereotypes."

Kredell agreed that these films are "critically important" and noted that, with events such as the recent passing of Lee, there is much reflection on how black films got to where they are today.

"That level of identification is something that Hollywood...has denied people for a long time," Kredell said.

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# Wildfires blaze through California

The community reacts to the toll left behind from the most destructive wildfire season on record

story by Taylor Crumley | design by Katie LaDuke | graphics by Erin O'Neill

Wildfires continue to ferociously scorch and wreak havoc across the state of California, leaving thousands without homes and millions on edge.

According to CNN, California's Woolsey Fire has been the most devastating in state history, leaving behind a death toll of 77 and nearly 1,000 people still missing. Over 10,000 homes have been destroyed by the fire, which has left an area the size of Chicago completely barren. The mountainous terrain of the affected areas makes it even harder and more costly to put the fires out.

According to the California Chaparral Institute, many of the fires that have been spreading across California are in areas of "chaparral," or dry, tangled shrubs and bushes. Chaparral is California's largest native plant community and dominates the mountainous land.

"Humans are the most likely cause of wildfires," said Gerry Pink, the lead arborist of the City of Rochester Hills. "There are large areas of plants with low moisture content from the lack of rainfall. A fire started in an area with large amounts of dry plant material surrounded by an air mass of extremely low humidity, being blown by a hot gale like the Santa Anna winds — I couldn't imagine trying to contain something like that."

All it takes to start a wildfire is a spark and a gust of wind. These minuscule acts can do unfathomable damage. Aside from the physical damage to human culture that has been done to areas like Malibu and Thousand Oaks, there are environmental effects as well that can be felt across the country.

The wildfires not only affect people's homes and suburban areas, but also ecosystems and animal habitats.

Carbon is released in these wildfires and proves to be detrimental to our global health as a whole.

"The problem with carbon is that, in the form of methane and carbon dioxide, it is a greenhouse gas," said Megan Jamison, vice president of the Oakland University Ecology Club. "[This] means that it traps infrared radiation — heat — from the sun and prevents it from escaping our atmosphere, which makes the Earth warmer."

California and western states in particular are very apt to having wildfires. It is not only caused from periods of drought. The San Francisco Chronicle attests the severity of California wildfires to its cluttered forests. Dead trees and piles of logs fill the forest floor as a lack of upkeep by California government.

Even President Donald Trump, according to BBC News, said that

the California wildfires are caused by "mismanagement." On Twitter, he tweeted threatening to withhold federal payments to California if they do not get their forest management under control.

Firefighters have spent over \$600,000 just fighting the fire itself, nearly doubling the annual fire budget, according to CNN. That does not even include the tens of billions in damage and the lives lost.

Considering these fires started on federal land, if California were to use its budgeted federal money to manage its forests they would not have to deal with these continuous costly tragedies according to The Guardian.

Forest fires are deadly natural disasters that can sweep across miles of land extremely quickly. Overall, prevention is the key to ensure clean air, healthy forests and safety of the people in these areas that are at risk.



Photo courtesy of Business Insider

Throughout 2018, there have been 7,579 fires in California tearing through 1,667,855 acres of land causing more than \$2.975 billion in damages. The newest batch of fires include the Woolsey Fire.

Klamath Theater Complex

Rush Fire

Mendocino Complex Fire

Rim Fire

Marble Cone

Zaca Fire

Matilija Fire

Thomas Fire

- California's Camp Fire is the deadliest fire in U.S. history with the previous one in 1993 at 29 fatalities.
- The death toll is at 84 for the Camp Fire, but hundreds are still missing, so the number is likely to rise.
- Camp Fire has had more fatalities than the last three deadliest fires combined.
- Camp Fire has destroyed over 18,000 structures, nearly three times the amount of the previous record holder.
- Camp Fire has been burning for over two weeks, according to CBS News.
- The fire burned approximately one football field per second in it's most destructive day.
- Humans start 90 percent of wildfires, according to the U.S. Department of Interior.

# California's 10 largest fires

# Professor uses life experiences for teaching career

**Kaley Barnhill**  
Staff Reporter

**R**eporter, poet, professor: Dunya Mikhail has had many different titles over the span of her career. However, through all of her different jobs, she had always had her writing at the forefront.

As Oakland University Special Lecturer of Arabic in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Mikhail received the 2018 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in the poetry category.

Mikhail also co-founded the Mesopotamian Forum for Art and Culture.

"I felt so happy and honored to receive the Guggenheim," Mikhail said via email. "Two groups of people always need encouragement: children and writers. It's a type of celebration of what's essential for us made possible by the light of others who responded with the kind of love that is made abundant when shared."

Originally from Iraq, Mikhail was a reporter in Baghdad.

"Working as a journalist in Baghdad was both exciting and dangerous," Mikhail said via email. "Baghdad [at] that time was boiling with hot discussions and wars and tea. But we used to think that the walls had ears and we had to be careful what we say. We couldn't always speak our minds. But we used metaphors and jokes to express ourselves. The situation in general was a tragic comedy. But journalism helped my poetry writing. I learned from it how to make a story interesting."

Mikhail had to leave Iraq and eventually settled in Detroit in 1996. She furthered her academic studies and attended Wayne State University. She explained that she originally found Detroit "cold and industrial" but gradually was able to discover, "the warm corners in the bookstores' cafes where I could read and drink coffee."

At OU, Mikhail finds great

pride in being a special lecturer of Arabic.

"As a creative practitioner, I am flexible enough to try new material, and I get easily bored of myself," she said via email. "I think that I listen well to my students as I expect them to listen to me. They teach me their games and new stuff."

Her most recent work is a journalistic biography titled "The Beekeeper: Rescuing the Stolen Women of Iraq." It is about a man named Abdullah's attempt to rescue Yazidi women and children kidnapped and enslaved by ISIS.

"I spoke with a journalist who is my friend and he connected me with some of the survivors," Mikhail said via email. "But it was only by chance that I spoke with the person who became the hero in my book. It happened because he translated between me and a captive he rescued (Kurdish Arabic translation) and then I found his own story fascinating."

Mikhail, who has been writing "for half a century," said via email.



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

When Mikhail was not teaching in the classroom, she wrote and published a biography titled "The Beekeeper: Rescuing the Stolen Women of Iraq."

"I think I am a poet first. I believe that poetry is love and prose is marriage."

For Mikhail, her inspirations came mostly from life experiences. Not only her own experiences, but others as well.

When thinking of what she

wants readers to take away from her work, Mikhail said via email that she wasn't sure, but mentioned, "There's so much war and so much love in this life. In Arabic language, by the way, there's one letter difference between love (h-b) and war (h-r-b)."

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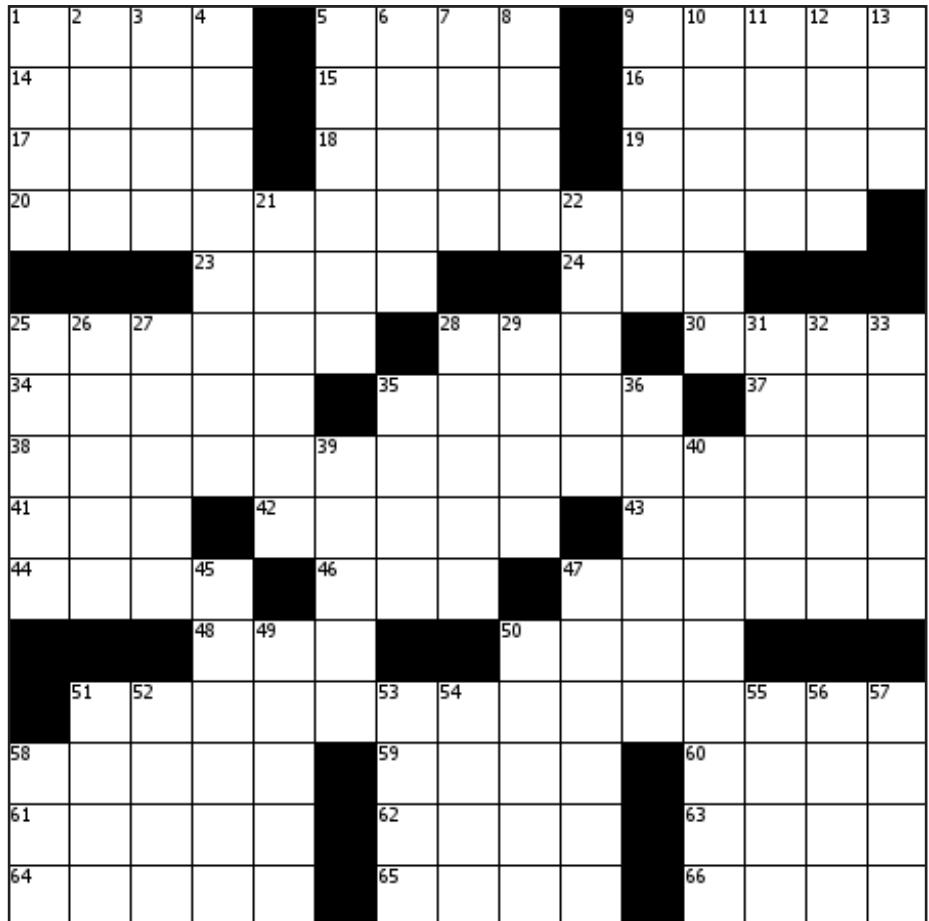
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# Puzzles



## Across

1. Lock locale, maybe
5. Work keys
9. Tender
14. Wooden campus
15. Junky car
16. One of those Judds
17. Certain slammer
18. Hindu royal
19. Work strings
20. Cheapskate's request, perhaps
21. Top Untouchable
22. In-flight announcement
23. Starve
24. Moon vehicle, briefly
25. Cures leather
26. Sans company
27. Letter embellishment
28. Appomattox signatory
29. To grossly err, e.g.
30. Popular article
31. Side in many criminal cases
32. Like a jaybird, perhaps
33. Reason for detention, maybe
34. Smart or Bond, e.g.
35. Lover of company
36. Nav. rank
37. Nonnegotiable item
38. Nav. rank
39. Starve
40. Moon vehicle, briefly
41. Cures leather
42. Sans company
43. Letter embellishment
44. Appomattox signatory
45. To grossly err, e.g.
46. Popular article
47. Side in many criminal cases
48. Like a jaybird, perhaps
49. Reason for detention, maybe
50. Smart or Bond, e.g.
51. Lover of company
52. Nav. rank
53. Starve
54. Moon vehicle, briefly
55. Cures leather
56. Sans company
57. Letter embellishment
58. Appomattox signatory
59. To grossly err, e.g.
60. Popular article
61. Side in many criminal cases
62. Like a jaybird, perhaps
63. Reason for detention, maybe
64. Smart or Bond, e.g.
65. Lover of company
66. Nav. rank

## Down

1. Centers of activity
2. Cornfield measure
3. Bit of a goof
4. Violinist Niccolò
5. Flog
6. 1923 Nobel laureate for literature
7. Glazier's sheet
8. DeMille specialty
9. Get-go
10. High roller
11. Silver piece
12. Birds from Down Under
13. Just miss a cup
21. They're pushed in alleys
22. Corner
25. Lenten observances
26. Greek leader
27. Hill dwellers
28. Sandy Koufax, for one
29. B&O rival
31. Analogous to two peas
32. "When pigs fly!"
33. Like a fleabag
35. Become unhinged
36. Coating
39. Consoling phrase
40. Sensational thing?
45. Trailer parts
47. Summon up
49. Cut's partner
50. Brain gang
51. Private home?
52. Shine's partner
53. Black cat, to some
54. Blue or White waterway
55. Fleece-seeking ship
56. Wad of cash
57. Nincompoop
58. Contemptible newspaper

## NOVICE

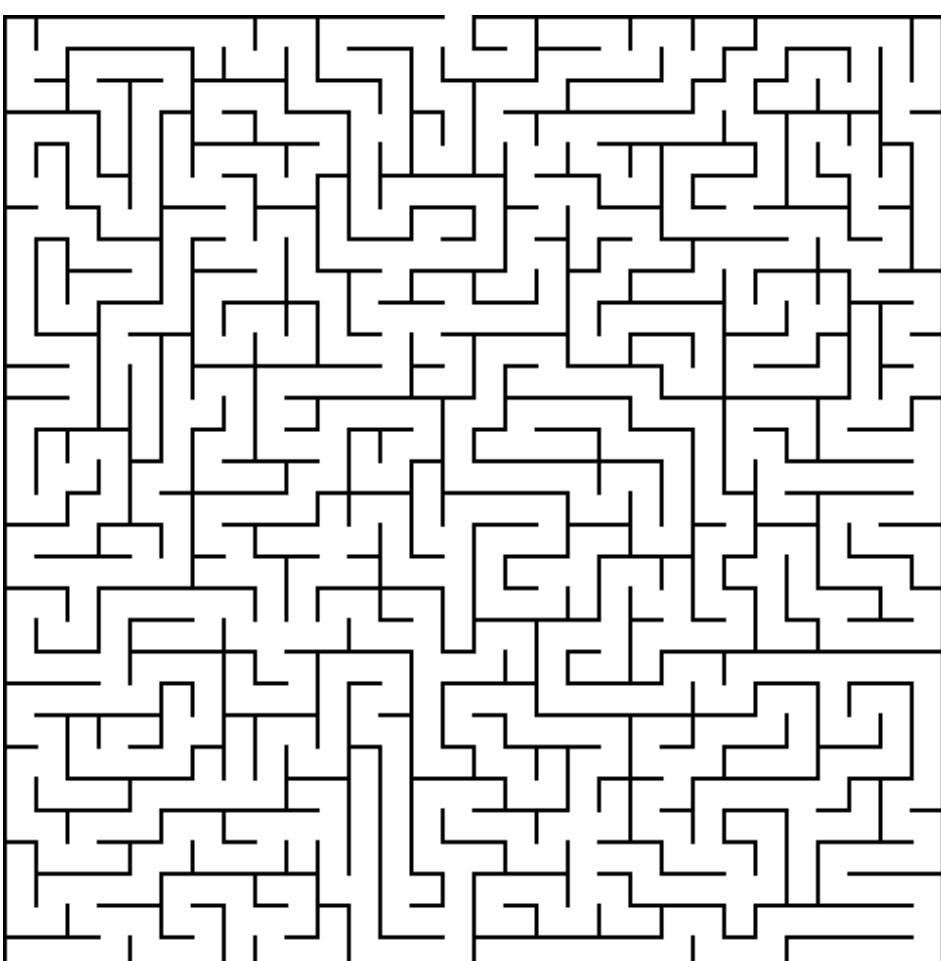
	8	6	7	9		5
3	7			4		
	5	2			8	7
1			8	5	4	
4				1		
8	6	1				3
3	5		1	7		
	2			6	5	
8		9	5	7	2	

## TOUGH

9	2	3	7			8
		5	9	2	3	1
5	7		4		9	
3	6				4	
	1				2	
5				7	6	
8		7		9	4	
9	1	8	4	3		
7			6	1	2	8

## INTERMEDIATE

6		9	4			
		8		9	6	
8	9		6	3	7	
	1	4		8	9	3
7	3	5	9		6	4
9	4	2	8	5		
	5	2	9		3	8
3	6		8			
	6	5			2	



## Why fear a young, modern woman of color in politics?



**Ben Hume**  
Staff Reporter

**A**s a disclaimer: Twitter should absolutely not be the sole source of your political news. The atmosphere of the app is horrible at creating an atmosphere for discourse. That being said, it is a great place to find patterns to explore deeper. This month has found my feed filled with the name Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the female representative-elect from New York.

She is the youngest woman to ever be elected to the house, and defeated the incumbent Democrat, Joe Crowley, with a campaign fund of \$128,000, a number dwarfed by Crowley's \$2.78 million. Ocasio-Cortez ran on the Democratic ticket, but she is specifically a member of the Democratic Socialists of America. There were many reasons for her breakout success, among them her refusal to take PAC donations like her Democratic counterparts. She was also more interested in building her own platform than attacking existing administrations, a fact she talked about on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" talk show.

"We have to stick to the message: 'What are we proposing to the American people?' Not, 'What are we fighting against?' We understand that we're under an antagonistic administration, but what is the vision that is going to earn and deserve the support of working-class Americans?"

And she did all of this while running as a young woman of color, three factors that are extremely uncommon in the United States government — the statistics are still hysterically skewed against her.

With all of this in mind, it was upsetting to me that the only thing that filled replies to her tweets were savage

criticisms of her intelligence. Her most popular mistake is when she incorrectly stated the three branches of government on one of her frequent live-streams. Trump supporters were not the only hecklers, but the number of red hats in the replies was large.

It is just fascinating to me that she receives so much criticism for her status in government. She made headlines for her young age, certainly, but this level of scrutiny is rarely leveled against House members. And that is not meant to be a stab at her capabilities. My question is why these droves of tweets can be so condescending to an otherwise intelligent woman, while these same accounts are willing to overlook a president who believes raking the forest will prevent California forest fires.

*"We have to stick to the message: What are we proposing to the American people? Not, 'What are we fighting against?' We understand that we're under an antagonistic administration, but what is the vision that is going to earn and deserve support of working-class Americans?"*

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Newly elected member of Congress

The level of hypocrisy is ludicrous. To Ocasio-Cortez's credit, she addresses these critics in a levelheaded way and retains her composure throughout. But the volume of challenges to her intelligence are unwarranted for the number of minor mistakes she has made.

There are any number of reasons for this unfair treatment, which almost certainly are some combination of her race, gender and age, which is very unsettling. Even if her policies are not to your liking, there is no reason to level such a double standard onto a member of Congress that does not deserve it.

So today's lesson is twofold. Treat everyone with the respect they deserve, no matter who they are and what they look like. Judge based on character, not looks.

And don't get all your political news from Twitter.

## Jamal Khashoggi and the Freedom of the Press



**Tim Kandow**  
Contributor

**A** journalist for the Washington Post and critic of the Saudi government, Jamal Khashoggi, walked into the country's consulate in Istanbul and was murdered on Tuesday, Oct. 2. The murder was suspiciously linked to some of the highest officials in the Saudi government. This drew the attention of surrounding nations as well as the United States. These tensions merit careful consideration not only because of the close economic partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, but also because of the symbolic nature of this attempt to squelch freedom of the press.

Khashoggi was once a close adviser and friend to the members of the royal family. However, due to a disagreement, he fell from the favor of the government and fled to the U.S. in exile. During his time in America he wrote for the Washington Post, criticizing the Saudi government and its policies. To marry his Turkish fiancée, Khashoggi went to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to file for a divorce with his current wife. He never exited the building. The remains of his body have yet to be found.

The President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, came forward and told his administration to conduct an investigation. They were able to uncover some of this mystery. The Turkish government says that a team of 15 Saudi nationals arrived at the consulate prior to the murder and removed

most surveillance systems. These nationals were supposedly sent by some of the highest officials - even the prince himself - in the Saudi government. Recordings were obtained of the murder and sent to Saudi Arabia, the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Germany and France. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is the only one to have admitted to hearing the recordings.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) also conducted an investigation into the murder of Khashoggi and concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered his assassination in Istanbul last month. Other U.S. officials have said that such an operation would have needed the authority and approval of the prince. The CIA examined a number of sources and reports. The Saudi government and the prince deny all of these accusations.

These conclusions, along with those of the Turkish government supporting this claim, put President Donald Trump in a tough spot. Because of our oil trade, a common enemy in the radical state of Iran, as well our joint vision for peace in the Middle Eastern region - the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are in some ways close allies. In a recent White House statement from Trump, he denied the fact that the CIA found the link of the murder to the Saudi prince saying that "maybe he did and maybe he didn't!" and that "we may never know all of the facts surrounding the murder of Mr. Jamal Khashoggi."

It's important to understand that the death of Khashoggi was tragic and speaks to a greater issue: the freedom of the press. The press is a powerful weapon against the powerful because it informs the public. Though many "news" stories are false in our day—whether due to malevolent intent or careless work — the press is an essential aspect of a free society. They must keep public officials accountable and inform the public of their actions be they good or bad. Trump and other world leaders should take this into consideration when moving forward with this critical issue. Their decisions will shape how the world understands the freedom of the press.



Photo courtesy of CelebMix

Take That's latest album is a refreshing culmination of the band's musical journey over the years.

# "Odyssey" is a three decade long love letter

**Laurel Kraus**  
Managing Editor

It's likely that you've never heard of Take That. Aside from being featured in James Corden's ever-popular Carpool Karaoke, the British pop band has never made it in America despite being rated the second-highest earning boy band of the century by Forbes in 2016.

Currently made up of members Gary Barlow, Howard Donald and Mark Owen, the band began their monumental run for six years in the '90s before splitting up and reuniting in 2005.

After eight wildly successful albums over the past three decades, Take That released "Odyssey" on Friday, Nov. 23 in celebration of their 30th anniversary next year. The artistic masterpiece, true to its name, is the ultimate culmination of the band's journey throughout the years and throughout our lives.

The tracks fit onto two CDs but have been geniously created to flow together so that the listener can almost not tell where one song ends and the next begins, creating a truly immersive experience.

"Odyssey" features 22 of Take That's greatest hits, some almost entirely reimagined, three brand new songs and multiple built-in surprises for fans such as audio from old interviews and special messages from the band.

The first song on the album is 2008's "Greatest Day," but confuses first-time listeners in the best way when it begins with the first verses of the timeless fan-favorite "Never Forget" from 1995 before seamlessly transitioning.

The album's three new songs, "Out of Our Heads," "Spin" and "Everlasting," each feature a different one of the band's three remaining members on lead vocals and are largely love songs. Donald's "Spin" stands

apart from the others as a motivational jam.

By far the best reimagining of a song on "Odyssey" is of the 1993 bop "Pray." The original and "Odyssey" versions are equally as amazing as they are different. Go with the original if you're looking to get up and dance, but if you're in a more soulful mood, "Odyssey" offers a complete 180°.

While "Said It All" starts off very similar to its original version with the exception of added harmonizing, it finishes out with a powerful kick. As the lyrics fade, the voices of the band are overlaid on the music, which ultimately proves to be a recording from 1996 when Barlow announced their break up.

"Thanks for everybody's support in the last five years, you've been absolutely fantastic to us, but unfortunately the rumors are true," listeners can hear him say. "'How Deep is Your Love' is gonna be our last single together, and 'Greatest Hits' is gonna be our last album. And from today, Take That is no more."

Barlow's voice saying "no more" is then echoed and immediately followed with the start of "How Deep is Your Love."

The album ends with a calmer and more reflective version of Take That's 2006 hit "Rule the World." However, in true "Odyssey" fashion, as the song comes to an end, Owen's voice can suddenly be heard singing a few verses of what can only be considered a love note to fans.

"When we say we gotta go, I know, we'll meet, with you, again/ Another's coming but, I know, that I, will be, with you, again/ And when the light begins to fade, I know, I'll see, you all, again/ Cause even when the music ends, we know, that we, will dance, again."

## Rating: 5/5 stars

# Mumford and Sons break away from old reputation

**Jessica Leydet**  
Social Media Editor

British folk rock band Mumford and Sons released a new album, "Delta," on Friday, Nov. 16. After taking the leap into the modern age with their previous album, "Wilder Mind," they decided to take this one and go even further.

"Delta" is nowhere near comparable to the band's 2009 break out album "Sigh No More." In fact, I am not afraid to argue that this album is a desperate attempt to reclaim their reputation. This album may appeal to what's trending right now, but I think most of us are still attached to their former coffee shop charm and identifiable stripped-down banjo tunes.

After the release of the band's second album, "Babel," their banjo player said in interviews how much he actually hates to play the banjo. The entire band followed suit and took no time to confess that when they were playing folk instruments, they didn't actually know what they were doing — man, did they have us fooled.

The track "Woman" is definitely not one I'd hear on the radio and figure out just by the opening instrumentation that it is Mumford and Sons — and that is probably what they wanted. The love song is carried by a wiry pop loop rather than a raw plucky folk instrument accompaniment.

"If I Say" seems to follow the same cookie-cutter, love-professing lyrical approach. The repetition of the chorus "If I say I love you, then I love you," was a bit disappointing. They paired it with

a heavily orchestrated build up, and it leaves you wanting more.

The track "Forever" also features a string orchestra — could this be their new staple? I'd take a banjo solo over this any day. Although in this song, I found it to be a better match with lead singer Marcus Mumford's soft raspy vocals. The lyrics, again, just aren't very engaging.

"Rose of Sharon" was better at telling a story than most of the other songs on the album. I felt engaged with both the music and lyrics. "Come crashing in like a wildfire, I'm left in awe of you/ Every time I close the door, I'm left wanting more of you" is just pure magic and I want more of this.

They really saved the best for last, with the title track. This one hit home with the lyrics, "And I'll meet you at the delta/ What's behind, I can clearly see/ But that beyond, that's beyond me." I interpreted this as the band's new anthem: they are now moving on from the past, and they are more concerned with what lies ahead.

It pains me to listen to a Mumford and Sons album and not be able to take away any sort of genuine feeling whether it be profound joy or sadness. I miss the old Mumford and Sons because they could tell a story. In the title track they said, "Tell your stories/ Tell of your pain/ That's what I came here for" and that's exactly what we need more of from them.

## Rating: 3.5/5 stars



Photo courtesy of The Independent  
The band admitted that they didn't know how to play the folk instruments in their past albums.



Photo courtesy of IMDb

This family-oriented film focuses on the experiences and difficulties involved with foster care.

# "Instant Family" will hit you right in the feels

Trevor Tyle  
Life Editor

You've probably heard the expression "don't judge a book by its cover." Sure, it's a nice sentiment, but we're all only human. We've all done it. Let's face it — some things are just not appealing.

One of those things is the new film "Instant Family." Watch the trailer, and you'll think the same thing I did — "I know exactly how this movie's going to go." But thankfully, I was wrong this time. Yes, it's predictable. Yes, it's a tad cheesy. But "Instant Family" is also surprisingly well done.

Knowing "Instant Family" would be another collaboration between director Sean Anders and actor Mark Wahlberg, who previously worked on "Daddy's Home," I was mildly concerned, to say the least. Comical as the film and its sequel are, both films lack much substance, a trend I feared would be repeated on "Instant Family."

But instead of partnering with the foolish Will Ferrell, Wahlberg opts for a slightly more serious partner-in-crime in Rose Byrne. The duo play Pete and Ellie Wagner, a couple that realizes something is missing in their lives. In spite of their own reservations, they begin researching children in foster care.

With the help of social workers Karen and Sharon (the impeccable Octavia Spencer and Tig Notaro, respectively), Pete and Ellie meet Lizzy (Isabela Moner), a troubled Hispanic-American teen in the foster care system. When Pete and Ellie express interest in fostering her, they learn it's a package deal — Lizzy has two younger siblings, the apprehensive Juan (Gustavo Quiroz) and the seemingly sweet Lita (Julianna Gamiz).

Naturally, they take in all three children, and of course, chaos ensues. Juan is accident-prone to the max, Lita is loud and

sassy, and Lizzy is a teenager — enough said. "Instant Family" follows Pete and Ellie's trials and tribulations as they struggle to adapt to parenting while contemplating adoption. Matters are further complicated with the arrival of the children's biological mother (Joselin Reyes), who has recently been released from prison and is looking to regain child custody.

More than anything else, "Instant Family" succeeds at painting a semi-vivid picture of foster care at its surface. While it may have glazed over the nitty-gritty details, it's also a family-oriented film and, therefore, can only accomplish so much. It does its best to focus on the struggles of the whole family, but ends up largely focusing on the characters of Pete and Ellie, loosely based on Anders and his own wife's fostering experience.

For the most part, Pete and Ellie are likable enough. But occasionally, they become unbearable, thanks to the screenplay's desperate attempts to humanize them — which actually only dehumanizes them even more. One particular moment finds them feeling so distraught over their poorly behaved foster children that they consider abandoning the "assholes" right then and there — their words, not mine.

While the film is flawed, it largely succeeds where many expected it to fail, which is an accomplishment in and of itself. There's a shockingly large amount of heart scattered throughout the film, perfectly blended with a magnificent combination of laughter-inducing and tear-jerking moments.

"Instant Family" isn't groundbreaking. It's a little oversaturated. And it's far from phenomenal. But it's generally well intentioned, and most definitely worth buying a ticket for.

**Rating: 4/5 stars**

# "Spyro Reignited Trilogy" stokes nostalgia in fans

Patrick Sullivan  
Web Editor

The first "Spyro the Dragon" game released for the PlayStation in 1998, and 20 years later the original trilogy has been remastered for the current console generation.

The update to the series has remastered "Spyro the Dragon," "Spyro 2: Ripto's Rage" and "Spyro: Year of the Dragon." This remaster was done by the developer Toys for Bob, who has previously put Spyro into the popular "Skylanders" video game series.

"Spyro Reignited Trilogy" has splashed a new coat of paint onto the old games, updating the graphics, voice acting, menus and more. The graphical changes to the trilogy are really the main draw, with every model and character looking beautiful while maintaining the charm that the original trilogy presented.

There isn't much in each game as far as a story goes, but the plot has never been the main draw of the Spyro games. Each game's story essentially boils down to Spyro having to collect enough knick-knacks in order to defeat the antagonist. The minimal story is acceptable because getting through the collect-a-thon of each game is a great time.

Every level in each game aside from the flying levels plays out as a scavenger hunt from point A to point B, where the player is working to the end of each stage while collecting dragons, orbs or eggs in each game, respectively. The draw of the Spyro games is the tiny dopamine rushes that are littered throughout each level when the level is finally perfected or when a player finally gets a difficult skill point.

The remastered trilogy does a great job of maintaining those moments,

adding some improvements that help the player hit those moments faster. One such improvement is giving the player the ability to locate hidden treasure in a level just from the press of a button, a feature that previously was only in "Year of the Dragon".

The majority of the remaster has a pretty easy level of difficulty, however there are some spikes in the difficulty that make the game more frustrating than fun at times.

These spikes tend to happen about once per game, so they are spaced out far enough from one another to not ruin any of the overall experience. The increased difficulty also usually focuses around either getting a skill point or getting 100 percent in the game, so the spikes make sense where they are.

However, burning through 20 lives trying to get that last dragon statue in Tree Tops in the first game or learning quantum physics in order to get the skill point in the Gulp fight in "Ripto's Rage" doesn't feel fun, it feels like a chore.

The flying course levels feel extremely satisfying to complete, but the first few run-throughs might take a minute to get a handle on where everything is. On top of figuring out each course, players will have to get used to inverted flight controls as there is no way to switch them off during the flight portions of the game.

Aside from those small gripes, the remasters do an excellent job of preserving the spirit of the originals. Whether you played the originals and want a nostalgia filled romp, or if you never played a Spyro game in your life, "Spyro Reignited Trilogy" is a great time.

**Rating: 4.5/5 stars**



Photo courtesy of Polygon

Fans of the video game series will experience new-found joy in the remastered "Spyro" trilogy.

# A new way to move on campus

Taylor Crumley  
Staff Reporter

Another kid on a skateboard zooms past you on the sidewalk on your way to class, and you flinch and nearly drop your phone, but pretend it didn't faze you at all. You look around to make sure no one saw your brief moment of weakness. But wait — that isn't a skateboard. Is that... a scooter?

The California-created BIRD scooters have been rapidly expanding their territory across America to over 100 cities and are now beginning to look at universities as opportunities for expansion of the new travel trend.

The company has seen great growth since launching a little over a year ago. The University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University all have access to BIRD scooters on their campuses. Could Oakland University be up next?

The scooters have many benefits to students on college campuses. For example, the scooter can go up to 15 miles per hour, which can help students be on time to class.

The scooters are also fairly inexpensive.

They cost \$1 to start and 15 cents to drive per minute, which is paid through the free iOS or Android app on a smartphone.

Students who live on campus could benefit from these scooters considering the long distances from residence halls to class buildings. Athletes on campus may also find these scooters to be of great use — for many of them getting to ride home instead of walking after tiresome workouts would be great.

BIRD scooters can improve the lives of commuter students as well. With congested and outlying parking at OU, once you get a spot, you want to keep it. BIRD scooters can help students from giving up their parking spot when they want to go across the street to grab something to eat.

There is always that day you get to school late, can't find any close parking and end up having to park a 15-minute walk away from your class when you only have about five minutes to get there. These situations are where BIRD scooters would come in handy, reducing student stress and getting them to class on time.

In addition to using them for getting to and from in a jiffy, these scooters have the potential to bring a new fun activity to stu-



Photo courtesy of The Detroit Free Press

Scooters may not sound like the ideal mode of transportation, but they come with benefits. Students on campus. OU, being a commuter school, struggles to get more students to have fun on campus. BIRD scooters could be a game-changer in getting students engaged with the university, staying on campus longer and going to more events on campus.

John Stoll, an OU alumni and current professor, described bringing BIRD scooters to campus as a "no-brainer."

These scooters are quick and easy to pay,

ride and drop off for the next person to use. However, OU would have to take action in making new safety rules for the scooters on campus and OUPD would have to monitor these scooters and their riders.

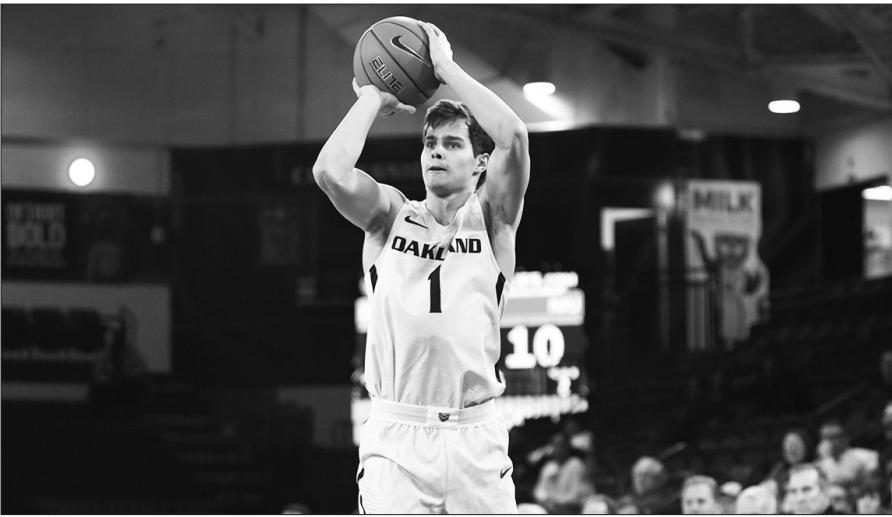
Overall, BIRD scooters could prove to be functional as transportation as well as being a fun, social activity for students. Giving these a shot on OU's campus could change student life for the better, something OU has been working toward for a long time.

# THE OAKLAND POST

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*Photo courtesy of Jose Juarez*

Although Braden Norris is undecided with his major, he dreams of being drafted into the NBA.

## Braden Norris: Oakland's new starting point guard

**Jonathan Savich**  
*Staff Reporter*

**B**raden Norris, the new starting point guard for the Grizzlies, shows nothing but determination and dedication to basketball and his team.

He is from the small town of Hilliard, Ohio where he learned he had a love for the game of basketball. His father Brett was a lifelong basketball coach which drove Norris toward his passion and love for basketball. He found himself gravitating toward Oakland because of the culture that Head Coach Greg Kampe has created around winning.

He grew up watching LeBron James crush his spirits when he left for Miami in 2010 and bring joy in 2016 when he brought a championship to Cleveland for the first time in 52 years. Norris is also a self-proclaimed Browns and Baker Mayfield fan, so he can relate to all football fans in Detroit having a hapless football team, but never giving up.

Giving up isn't in Norris' vocabulary. He spends most of his time in the gym, whether there's an actual practice or he's in there working on his individual shot with his free time. He's a fierce competitor, yet he is very humble. That's why he finds himself the starting point guard after Brailen Neely left the team after due to problems with his knee. In their most recent game, Norris had a double-double where he recorded 18 points and 10 assists, he seems to be stepping up in his newly found position as a starting freshman

point guard.

"I was really nervous," Norris said, reflecting on his first game as a college athlete. "It was a lot of fun to play in front of a full crowd against that kind of team."

The team's goal is to win the Horizon League tournament and make the NCAA tournament. With such a young team the bar is set high but there is hope. Norris said, "The sky is the limit."

As for what Norris wants to do career wise, he is undecided with his major and career path. However, his ultimate dream is to make it to the NBA, and if that doesn't work out he wants to stay within the world of sports as a coach. Steph Curry is a NBA player he looks up to and that is apparent in his performance on-court. Norris is leading the NCAA with an above average 83 percent three-point field goal percentage.

"I look up to Steph Curry," Norris said. "He doesn't really look like a normal NBA player and I don't really look like a normal Division I player which is really inspirational to me."

If Norris keeps this pace of play this season, Oakland can find themselves on top of the Horizon League and if Norris maintains anything near that for the next couple of seasons, he might find himself in the draft in a couple of years.

Norris and the Golden Grizzlies are on a little break until they hit the road for an eight-game extended road trip that starts against D1 powerhouse Xavier on Saturday, Dec. 1 and ends Thursday, Jan. 3, against Northern Kentucky.

## THE SPORTING BLITZ

### Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team hosted the Men Against Breast Cancer Oakland Hoops Challenge on their home court over the span of a week. In this tournament, they faced off against Defiance College, Oral Roberts University, James Madison University and Northern Illinois University, respectively.

The Golden Grizzlies took the first three games of the challenge and lost the last game against the Northern Illinois Huskies, 92-72.

In a 44 point victory over Defiance, Xavier Hill-Mais led the way scoring 30 points and not missing any of his 12 shots. Jaevin Cumberland and Jordan Nobles each chipped in 16 points as the Yellow Jackets were unable to catch up.

After a four day break, Oakland took on James Madison in a game that saw long-time Head Coach Greg Kampe with pink hair in support of breast cancer awareness. Just like Kampe's hair, the team did not disappoint, winning 77-69.

The next day, the Golden Grizzlies hosted a former Summit League rival Oral Roberts on Saturday, Nov. 24. In a high-scoring game, Oakland won 87-76. Cumberland recorded a game-high 31 points and Hill-Mais recorded 28 points of his own.

After last week's slate of games, Hill-Mais is now tied for 10th in the NCAA in scoring, averaging 25 points per game. The next game for the men's basketball team is on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 12 p.m. as they take on the Xavier University Musketeers in Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team had three games over the past two weeks, two on the road and one at home. On Saturday, Nov. 17 and Sunday, Nov. 18 the Golden Grizzlies headed to Ohio to compete in the Kent State Classic tournament at Kent State University.

On Nov. 17, Oakland took on the University of Akron, but ended up losing by 20 points, 85-65. LaKyesha Stennis led the team in scoring with 16 points, with Teneea Heston not far behind with 14 points. Mercy Agwaniru led the team in rebounds with eight, and Brianna Breedy led the team in assists with three.

The next day, Oakland took on Kent State University, and fell 75-65. Taylor Jones led the way for the Golden Grizzlies, scoring 23 points and pulling down 11 rebounds, she added five assists as well. Stennis was able to continue shooting like she did against Akron, scoring 15 points.

After a week long break, the women returned to the O'Rena to face Canisius College. Oakland ran away with the game from the start, as they won 71-60. The Golden Grizzlies held the lead for 36 of the 40 minutes of game time.

Nikita Telesford led the team in points at home, as she scored 17. Jones also added 16 points and secured 13 rebounds, a team high. The team as a whole outrebounded Canisius 41-32.

The women travel to Illinois State University on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. to take on the Redbirds.

*Compiled by Michael Pearce,  
Sports Editor*

# Three unknown facts about Ora Hirsch Pescovitz

**Michael Pearce**  
Sports Editor

**L**isten, we all know who runs the show here at Oakland.

It's that curly-haired woman we all know and love, Ora Hirsch Pescovitz. Ora is perhaps one of the best people to ever walk the campus of Oakland, and every day we are grateful for her being our president. But there are some things you may not know about Ora. Being the resident information sleuth here at OU, I've got three fun facts about Ora you wish you knew first.

### 1. Ora gave up a career as a professional basketball player

You see her at those basketball games cheering on the Golden Grizzlies, singing the fight song. But did you know at one point Ora had a chance to be the first woman to ever play in the National Basketball As-

sociation? Yes, you may not know it, but when she's sitting courtside at the O'Rena, she's diagnosing the defense and wondering why Kampe hasn't switched to a 2-3 zone when the offense can't buy a bucket from downtown.

Not to mention she has a 42-inch vertical leap and a shooting motion like Stephen Curry.

### 2. Ora's house is actually the eighth wonder of the world

You may think there are only seven wonders of the world, but in fact there are eight. National Geographic has been keeping this secret, but they plan to name the mansion that Ora lives in on campus as the eighth wonder of the world. The immaculate art collection combined with the beautiful architecture has wooed the entire world, and anyone who has stepped into her humble abode.

It is a great location for business presentations, meetings, parties or black tie events. I tend to be really sarcastic, but this is legit. Her house is beautiful. If I lived in that house maybe I'd be less of a prick.

### 3. Ora is the envy of all other universities

I hear all this hoopla about other college's presidents and how great they are because they referenced a meme one time, but no one can come close to what Ora does on a regular basis. No other university has a president like her, and no other will. Ora isn't a talk-the-talker, she is a walk-the-walker. When tragedies around the world happen, hardly any other universities' presidents will send out a well-written email discussing the event and trying to relate it to us and what we need. She is always on the



Photo illustration by Erin O'Neill

President Pescovitz has many talents, but did you know she played basketball?

job, thinking of her children. Her 19,000 children at Oakland University. That's why everyone is secretly jealous of us.

Every time some fool from another inferior university tries to talk up their president,

I just laugh. They're full of it. They have no knowledge of the one, the only, the BEST president that money could buy, Ora Hirsch Pescovitz. I expect zero talkback from the usual Facebookers, Ora is great. Don't talk to me.

# Biggest shopping day of the year comes to campus

**Patrick Sullivan**  
Web Editor

**G**etting a new TV or Xbox has been a staple of Black Friday for years, but apparently Oakland has been offering deals on something out of the norm: tuition.

Oakland University offered discounts on tuition this Black Friday, and no one knew until after the national shopping day was over.

Traditionally the campus has been closed for break whenever Black Friday comes around, which is one reason why the sale has been an accidental secret to students.

"We honestly have sales here every year," said Lauren Moseby, a worker in the Student Financial Services office. "I'm surprised that people don't ever really take advantage of it."

Deals were offered to all current students at OU, and these

sales could knock up to 70 percent off of a student's payment plan, and up to 40 percent of the total tuition. These Black Friday sales have been going on since 1997, according to Moseby, and they are still relatively unknown.

"We might get one or two students a year come through and get the discount," Moseby said. "They tend to just look confused as though they didn't know about it, but they end up leaving pretty happy."

So why has no one heard about these promotions? A lack of advertising could be one reason, with the Black Friday sale only being promoted through word of mouth, which is an interesting strategy when no one knows about the sale.

The only student to take advantage of this year's sale, Robert Zakowski, was shocked when he went into the Financial Services office last Friday. Zakowski is an

engineering major currently in his fourth year here at Oakland.

"I just wanted to check and make sure that everything was all squared away on my account," Zakowski said. "I ended up walking out with almost \$1,000 being taken off of my payment for this semester."

Zakowski described the office as looking "like there was a massive party going on." According to him, there were balloons, streamers hanging off of the ceiling and huge posters advertising the discounts that the office was offering.

"It was a really weird experience," Zakowski said. "It's like going to your mailbox to see if a package has come in, and you find an envelope with a few hundred dollars that you weren't expecting. It was great, but still weird."

For the past 20 years this deal has been happening, so how has this been kept a secret for such a long time? I guess we'll never know.



Photo illustration by Erin O'Neill

A weird and unknown sale on tuition for Black Friday occurs every year at Oakland.

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