

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 25 | March 24, 2021

## Walk-off ends winter

Softball takes series 3-1 against NKU, winning first homestand  
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On Match Day, fourth year medical students assigned residencies

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### ADVISING FOCUS

Jim Bilinski emphasizes student needs over university

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### ANTI-ASIAN HATE

Hate crimes are rising and need to be taken seriously

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NOORA NEIROUKH

# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**THE SEWAGE SAVIOR** Ann V. Nicholson and George T. Matthews student apartment residents were mandated to take a COVID-19 test at the Graham Health Center or the 4000s building after the UK variant of COVID-19 was found in the sewage.  
MICHAEL PEARCE / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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### MAKING STRIDES

"Trans Rights are Human Rights" panel looks to the future.  
Photo/Oakland University



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### DWAYNE 'THE PEBBLE?'

'Young Rock' on NBC takes viewers on a journey through Johnson's life.  
Photo/The New York Times



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### 5-0 IN THE DOME

Men's soccer stays undefeated at home.  
Photo/OU Athletics

**VOTE AND CONNECT AT:**  
[oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

## POLL OF THE WEEK

HOW MANY COVID-19 TESTS HAVE YOU TAKEN IN THE PAST YEAR?

- A) 0-1
- B) 2-4
- C) 5-10
- D) 10+

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU HOPE THE NEXT OUSC ADMINISTRATION FOCUSES ON THE MOST?



# CAMPUS

## Police and community relations: finding cultural sensitivity

**JESSICA ORLANDO**  
Campus Editor

Oakland University's Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program hosted a webinar featuring Harold Love, a retired police captain and professional counselor, on Tuesday, Mar. 16.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD LOVE  
Harold Love, a former Michigan state police officer, discussed how police relations could improve.

Love served 25 years with the Michigan state police before retiring as a captain in 2013. He was commander of the 2nd district during his 10 years as captain.

Love is also a national board certified and fully licensed professional counselor. He currently practices privately as a psychotherapist providing behavioral health services for public safety professionals.

Notably, Love's article "Resilience" has been featured in Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Magazine. He serves on the board of directors for the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

The article that Love wrote titled "Resilience" was meant to serve as a way to address some of the discourse going on in America, but also speak to the police community in a way that would serve as a "pick-me-up."

"There were a lot of [police] chiefs who were getting discouraged and that was echoing throughout the law enforcement community period," Love said.

Love wanted to discuss culture and community competence and highlight some ways that law enforcement and

community relations can get back on track.

"When you look at the definition of culture, it talks about an integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thoughts, communications, actions and beliefs of a particular group or organization," Love said.

By looking at the definition of culture, Love expressed that it should broaden our minds and understanding to view more than one's ethnicity and race.

"The law enforcement culture is a culture in and of itself," Love said.

"There are things that are prevalent among every law enforcement agency throughout the country."

Because of the fact that law enforcement work is very crisis-driven, police officers are always in decision making and potentially life-threatening states of mind.

"My wife tells me all the time that I'm not Captain Love anymore," Love said. "Because it's so ingrained in our culture, we can't turn it off sometimes."

Love explained the misconceptions about particular neighborhoods and races all fitting under a stereotypical umbrella and even all police officers fitting under the same agenda.

"We all had to be subjected to behavior from those police officers, because their perception of kids in my neighborhood was that we were all causing trouble even though many of us were not," Love said.

He stressed that perceptions of cultures need to be inclusive and open, otherwise we are doing a disservice to our ability to interact with others in a non-offensive manner.

"I have relationships today with young men I arrested thirty years ago and I've stood in weddings of people that I've arrested because I treated them with dignity and respect," Love said.

Interpersonal relations between both community members and law enforcement can be described as a two-way street in which people of the community can reach out and vice versa.

"For a police officer, those positive interactions make for a positive work environment," Love said. "To go above and beyond and be proactive in reconnecting and rebuilding trust within the community."

Love closed with an acknowledgement to the pain and chaos in America right now.

"My worldview is but one, and when I can learn and understand that other people have different world views, then I can develop very meaningful relationships," Love said.

 Information courtesy of the Oakland University Counseling Center

## MENTAL HEALTH TIPS DURING COVID-19



### 1. It's okay to not be okay

Take a break, mental health is just as important

### 2. Be flexible and adaptable

Accepting change makes it easier to deal with

### 3. Know your limits on news consumption

Balance is key, keep your consumption healthy

### 4. Write three things you're excited about each morning

Give yourself something to look forward to

### 5. Write three happy things about your day at night

Even the smallest things count

### 6. Routine is king

Focus on the things you can control

### 7. Connect with others creatively

Social media, video calls, online parties

### 8. Daily self-care

Exercise, relaxation, pet therapy, journaling

### 9. Acknowledge the grief we're experiencing

Loss of loved ones and of our old lives/routines

### 10. Know your resources

Call OUCC at 248-370-3465, talk to friends/family

# OUWB medical students reveal residency destinations

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**  
Staff Reporter



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER

On Friday, March 19th, fourth-year medical students at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) participated in Match Day, the event in which medical students across the country learn where they are going to take the next step in their medical training and complete their residencies.

Medical students start the match process in the fall of their last year of medical school. The process includes applying to and interviewing with residency programs

and creating a ranked list in order of program preferences.

Additionally, the directors of these programs also create a ranked list of students in order of preference. These lists are then submitted to a nonprofit, the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). The NRMP then combines the ranked lists and uses a mathematical algorithm to place applicants into residency programs in a complicated but well-designed process. The researchers who developed the algorithm were even awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

After the long process, medical students wait in suspense to find out where they will be training until Match Day. Tens of thousands of future physicians learn on the same day and at the same time. It is truly a career-defining moment.

Austin Morris, a fourth-year medical student at OUWB who matched in Internal Medicine at Beaumont Royal Oak, described Match Day as “exciting.”

“I was pretty comfortable where I was at,” Morris said. “I knew I had a pretty good idea of where I was going to stay. I liked Beaumont. I liked the program. It’s local, and I’m from the area, to begin with. For me, I was more excited than anything.”

One hundred thirteen members of

OUWB’s class of 2021 matched in residency programs across 24 different states, with 36% of students matching in Michigan. Some medical students (14%) will be continuing their training in Beaumont residency programs in seven specialties. Forty-four percent of OUWB medical students matched in primary care residencies. The top 5 specialties that OUWB students matched in include family medicine (19%), emergency medicine (15%), internal medicine (14%), general surgery (5%) and diagnostic radiology (5%).

In a pre COVID-19 world, this was a day of celebration with large festivities. This year, celebrations at OUWB were virtual, and students found out where they had matched via an email from NRMP.

Morris detailed where he had matched with his fiancée and shared his appreciation for how the medical school was still able to make the day special.

“I give the university a lot of credit,” Morris said. “They were put in a tough spot with the way the pandemic played out to try and make this day as special as it has been in the past, and I think they did a really good job of connecting us as students, connecting us with faculty and making sure that everyone felt included.”

Considering Internal Medicine as his

future specialty, Morris emphasized patient interaction.

“The big draw for internal medicine was just that — patient interaction,” Morris said. “I love connecting with people, I love having a long-term relationship where I get to see people get better, I get to see them grow and I get to see them achieve their goals. It’s the theme that internal medicine really presents — it’s the opportunity to see the patient as everything they really are. Both their health conditions and who they are outside of the hospital. That’s why I really liked internal medicine.”

As he approaches the start of residency in July, Morris was reflective.

“Things are real now,” he said. “You’re no longer a student — you’re a physician. You’re a resident physician, and people are going to be relying on you for their care. People are going to be relying on you to take care of them and to diagnose them. I think it’s a good balance of excitement and nervousness.”

As his time at Oakland University comes to an end, Morris echoed what many post-graduate professionals feel. He recognizes the sacrifices that the people important to him made on his behalf.

“I just want to thank my family, friends and fiancé for the support that they have given me,” Morris said.

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THE OP

## CAMPUS

## Trans rights panel promotes understanding and empathy

DEAN VAGLIA  
Staff Reporter

The Gender and Sexuality Center and Oakland University Libraries hosted the discussion panel “Trans Rights Are Human Rights” on Thursday, March 18.

Hosted over Zoom, Dean Nasreddine moderated the panel consisting of Lilliana Reyes and Jey’nce Poindexter of the Trans Sistas of Color Project and the Ruth Ellis Center, OU criminal justice student Evan Berns and ACLU of Michigan attorney Jay Kaplan. According to a flyer for the event, Nasreddine would help the panel navigate a discussion on issues facing transgender people such as access to safe housing, violence against trans people, legislation that threatens trans people and other topics of concern.

But for any meaningful discussion to occur, organizers and speakers had to work around a platform-unique hindrance: connection issues.

Technical difficulties plagued the meeting before speakers had a chance to introduce themselves. Speakers were unable to hear each other, everyone in the room was temporarily muted and silent panelists with frozen screens sent chat messages asking if they were being heard. Members of the room assumed high winds as the cause of the problems.

Once everyone decided turning off their cameras and changing the host would help stabilize the connection, Nasreddine introduced the panelists and kicked off the discussion.

“When we talk about trans rights, what

we are talking about is a varied set of things from employment opportunities, healthcare, housing and safety — even just like walking down the street to how trans people are treated in the criminal justice system,” Nasreddine said. “Every one of these issues at the end of the day is rooted in keeping trans people from authentically and actively engaging in public life as their true selves.”

Nasreddine’s first item for the panel discussion focused on the rise of anti-trans law proposals at the state level around the country, especially a bill in Alabama that makes administering hormones, puberty blockers and performing gender-affirming surgeries on people 19 years old and younger a felony.

“We think [the Alabama bill] is ridiculous,” Reyes said. “Not only is it ridiculous, it is discriminatory to specifically say that someone’s medical care — very specific medical care — is a felony.”

Nasreddine followed by commenting on the way anti-trans groups target trans youths, which Kaplan responded to by confirming that anti-trans groups target youths as a way to shut down progress toward LGBTQIA+ civil rights.

“Opponents of LGBT rights — having lost marriage equality — having tried to use bathrooms as this new tactic and their target is transgender youth, as well as access to medical care,” Kaplan said. “They are trying to use this as a basis to prevent civil rights legislation from passing. It is no surprise that in the debate over the Equality Act ... that opponents are bringing up those very same issues about treating transgender youths as

well as about participating in school sports. This is an orchestrated, coordinated effort in most state legislatures ... to promote fears about providing equality for LGBT people by focusing on trans youths.”

Kaplan expanded on why anti-trans organizations lean into the youth sports angle for opposing LGBTQIA+ civil rights.

“It kinda plays into their narrative that these are these innocent children, and by supporting the transgender identity of a trans young person, somehow you are putting them in harm,” Kaplan said. “The rationale behind trans youths — particularly trans girls — have an unfair competitive advantage in sports. The premise of all this legislation is based on mistruths and false information about transgender people, yet it plays into the emotions of people who can be persuaded not to support LGBT civil rights based on some of those mistruths.”

Nasreddine followed up by asking the panel how they thought the bills would affect the lives of trans people if passed.

“I think these bills are going to harm trans kids,” Berns said. “If something passed that let trans kids compete in sports as the gender they identify as, that would be such an amazing thing. If these bills were to pass and not allow kids to compete in their correct gender identity ... the negative consequences will have a fundamental effect against them.”

Technical difficulties returned after Berns’ answer, but Nasreddine was able to ask about how the fight for trans rights intersects with other civil rights struggles. Berns replied by stating the trans rights struggle could intersect with many other struggles such as housing

and healthcare rights. Kaplan concurred and connected the trans rights struggle to fights for racial equality, particularly in regards to economic and criminal justice disparities.

“We see frequently trans people of color are more likely to have negative encounters with law enforcement, more likely to be involved in the criminal justice system, more likely to face issues involving ... the correctional system as well,” Kaplan said. “There are definitely connections to anything involving racism.”

At this point Kaplan was disconnected from the call. Over the next few minutes, the number of people on the call dropped to 13, about half of how many were connected at the event’s peak. Reyes had also been disconnected from the call by this time.

The hour was approaching its end, and Nasreddine decided to close the room on the question of how cisgender people — people whose gender match the one they were assigned birth — can be better allies for their trans peers. Berns suggested that cis people can avoid certain reactions when a trans person comes out to them, such as saying “I had no idea you were trans.”

“Continue to treat everybody the same,” Berns said. “We are all human beings. It does not matter if somebody is cisgender or if somebody is transgender, we should all treat each other the same.”

The next OU Pride Month event, “Hot Topics in LGBTQ Film, Media, and Video Games,” will be on March 23 from 4-5:30 p.m.

## Pride Month adapts, goes completely virtual

CAYLA SMITH  
Campus Editor

The Gender and Sexuality Center is hosting their annual Pride Month celebrations all virtually this year.

Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of last year’s Pride Month, the planning committee made all events virtual.

Last year’s event got cancelled when the first case was found in Michigan — shortly after their opening events.

“We didn’t have the ability to transfer everything to virtual because all the events were set in person,” Gender and Sexuality Center Coordinator Grace Wojcik said.

This year’s festivities began March 9 and will continue until April 9.

The month began with a virtual ceremony and the annual Tim Larrabee Memorial Lecture via Zoom.

The ceremony included Peppermint and Sasha Velour, who are from RuPaul’s Drag Race.

Peppermint is an actress, singer, DJ, reality star and activist. She has raised money for LGBTQIA+ rights groups and partnered with the MAC Cosmetics AIDS Fund and is involved in the HIV Vaccine trials network.

As an activist, she is concerned about the challenges

transgender and non-binary people in today’s political climate deal with, and she takes every available opportunity to speak at universities and to various communities on the issue.

Sasha Velour, a gender-fluid drag queen, was the winner of season nine of RuPaul’s Drag Race.

Since winning, she has had top billing in drag shows around the world, including solo appearances in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Toronto, Vancouver and Auckland.

On top of doing shows, she has her own production company, House of Velour, where she has produced: a documentary TV show called NightGowns, a NY Fashion Week Show, a NYC World Pride float, a 300-page art book about drag, an off-off-Broadway show, a lauded international stage tour called Smoke and Mirrors and more.

It’s one of the most well-attended events ever for Pride Month.

Opening night was a success and kicked off the month right, having over 100 attendees.

“I think it’s [the success of the event] partly because it was more accessible and folks didn’t have to come on campus and battle parking,” Wojcik said.

This month featured several panels regarding different

LGBTQIA+ topics and hot topics.

There are several more events being hosted throughout the upcoming weeks.

Unfortunately, the 17th annual Drag Show on March 26 is cancelled.

On April 7, there will be a Q&Gay with the Residence Life Association (RLA). It’s a trivia-style event and the questions relate to LGBTQ+ history and facts.

Drag Race Bingo with Drag Queen Alyssa Edwards will be hosted on April 7.

Lavender Graduation & Rewards will take place all day on April 9 for graduating LGBTQ+ students in classes 2020-2021. More information can be found here.

Registration for the Lavender Graduation event closes on March 26.

“Even though we’re doing a virtual ceremony, we’re still giving people the rainbow and lavender stoles -- which they can wear as part of their commencement regalia,” Wojcik said.

Wojcik and the committee are thinking about making all further Pride Months in-person and virtual.

Meaning there would be an in-person event and a livestream or recording of the event for people who can’t make it or who still want the opportunity to watch these events.

## Improving diversity, equity, inclusion in workplaces

### AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Career Services successfully hosted their virtual 2021 Diversity Panel and Mixer in February and are planning a bigger and better event for next year.

The Diversity Panel and Mixer gives students and employers the opportunity to engage with one another in important and mindful conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion in today's work environment.

"We wanted to have a casual mixer where students would feel comfortable to talk about some of the hard questions they may have," Sarah Swarz, the marketing and events coordinator for Career Services, said.

This event provided an opportunity for students to network with employers who prioritize inclusivity, and build awareness of the work being done around this topic in the workplace.

"The goal wasn't a hiring event, of course we'd love if students got hired from our events, the goal of it is students being able to learn what companies are doing well and to be able to identify red flags during their job hunt," Swarz said.

The 2021 Diversity Panel and Mixer

was made possible by a sponsorship from Rocket Mortgage — the second year Rocket Mortgage has sponsored this event. The panel also included representatives from Rock Ventures, Ernst and Young LLP, the City of Detroit and DTE.

They discussed topics on anti-racism, accessibility, LGBTQIA+ inclusivity and how to navigate returning to the office during the pandemic.

DJ Bridges, University Relations Manager for Rock Central, played a key role in helping this year's event. He served as panel moderator on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace as well.

"He led our panel and helped us develop questions — which was wonderful," Swarz said.

This year's Diversity Panel and Mixer was held virtually for more than 80 participants, including 12 employers who served as panelists and attended the mixer.

The event was included on the Oakland University African American Celebration Month calendar and was developed in partnership with the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, the Gender and Sexuality Center and Disability Support Services.

During the mixer portion of the event, students, alumni and staff were invited to



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND.EDU

hear from attending employers about their DEI initiatives and ask questions.

The panel was conducted on Zoom and once it was over, students, staff, alumni and faculty were automatically put into break-out rooms with employers. Everyone involved went to two break-out room sessions, each being 20 minute sessions.

After, there was a free roam period, where everyone could jump into different break-out rooms.

"It was awesome, we got some great conversations happening, everyone participating in that event set the tone for the evening," she said.

As for next year's event, Swarz is hopeful for a bigger event, maybe even over the course of a few days.

"We're still throwing around different things, but it's looking like this will be a bigger event than it was in 2020 — when we did it in person. It won't necessarily be after the career fair, but we're definitely planning to still have the panel — it was a really fulfilling part of the evening," she said.

She also hopes to keep the event within the same time frame, the first or second week in February.

# NOW HIRING

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# Advisor works for the students, not university

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Staff Reporter*

As a student, when deciding what classes to take or planning out your degree you email your advisor hoping for some guidance in the right direction. For the College of Arts and Sciences, Jim Bilinski is an advisor that comes with a lot of enthusiasm but realistic views.

“I marvel at how talented our students are,” Bilinski said via email. “Hearing them enthusiastically talk about all the cool [stuff] they’re doing in and out of the classroom is a ton of fun! It’s infectious.”

Bilinski attended Grand Valley State University for secondary education, in hopes of becoming the “cool” high school teacher that coaches sports. When his plan didn’t work out, and he was laid off from his original job idea. He then decided to go back to school and study counseling at Oakland University.

“Essentially, I truly enjoy learning new things, even though my interests and goals don’t relate to my current job,” Bilinski said. “I’ve been at OU in the same role for over five years now.”

Bilinski has an advantage because he attended OU as well as became an advisor. He knows the tricks of OU and how to navigate it well, which might help students.

He advises students within the College of Arts and Sciences, helping out those that major in natural/physical sciences, social sciences, fine/performing/communication arts and the humanities.

This profession deals a lot with students: what they need, how they feel and how to get them to graduation. With the background knowledge of teaching, Bilinski was hoping being an advisor would have a similar vibe and tasks to being a teacher.

“The metaphor I’d use is that I’m a lighthouse with an information kiosk,” Bilinski said. “If students feel like things are rocky -- whatever that might mean for them, it doesn’t necessarily have to be related to academics — then I can point them in the right direction.”

Bilinski prefers to let the students run his job. He tries to discuss with them what they need from him and does his best to either solve it himself or figure out who can help them the best.

While getting the students the information they need is top priority for Bilinski, he likes to focus on the mental health of the students as well. He prefers to start every appointment with a mental health check in because he realizes classes, homework, work and balancing a social life can put a lot of stress on some students.

As an advisor, he sees his role as



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTOGRAPHER  
The O'Dowd Hall on Oakland University's campus, where Jim Bilinski holds his face-to-face appointments

more of a guidance helper rather than telling students what to do. He presents the possibilities and outcomes out each path a student might choose to take and allows for the students to actually decide what they want to do with the information he has given them.

“Students feel that I worked for them, not that I work for OU,” Bilinski said.

Bilinski finds pride in helping students find the right major or minor and connecting them with the right professors to fit their needs. But he also appreciates the help he gets from the other CAS advisors, CAS Dean’s Office, Career Services and the Registrar’s Office.

“I would say the common thread is that students trust me because I provide objective info, follow through on my word and ensure their dignity remains intact when they face difficult situations,” Bilinski said. “I also try to empower students to take an active role

in their education.”

Bilinski finds himself sometimes at a stand still as to what he can do for students. He can’t fix the admissions cost, choose what classes are offered for which semesters or change the class times, but he applies himself the best way he can to provide problem-solving ideas as best he can.

He has been recognized for having the most face-to-face advising appointments and puts forth the effort for the students. While he has other hobbies outside of work, he does focus on advising while he’s at OU.

This profession might not have been Bilinski’s first choice, but he’s satisfied with the work he’s done and the impact he makes on students.

## Some randomly-selected survey responses from OU students giving feedback about Jim Bilinski

“He has always listened to my concerns, and has never made me feel dumb or silly for asking too many questions. He is also relaxed and funny which is good in a stressful situation like picking out classes.”

“Incredibly attentive to my questions and concerns as well as offering me options that I did not know I had.”

“Timely, thorough, friendly, genuinely interested in student success, honest, and intelligent.”

“He’s super nice, totally on top of emails and answering all questions. Super chill and knows how to talk to you and get you the best advising.”

“Always full of energy, honest, and seems to constantly be in a good mood.”

“He introduced me to the many options I had and helped me to weigh the pros and cons of each option, to make the decisions that were best for me, considering financial restrictions, health issues, etc. He follows up on appointments with eloquent emails that explain what we talked about. He is professional, patient, and knowledgeable and has introduced me to course options and scholarship opportunities which I had not known about previously.”

“Jim shows empathy and wants the best for each college student. He motivates me and allows me to see my potential! Without Jim I wouldt have been able to figure out my crazy schedule with school.”

# Becoming the Pioneer: OU's first mascot

Story and Design by Emily Morris

Pioneer Pete went down in history as Oakland University's first mascot, but the man behind those first cheers and crowd leading is actually Charles 'Chuck' Conklin.

"They [OU athletics] needed to do something to take it to another level," Conklin said. "That's what the mascot did, so I became the Pioneer."

Conklin originally attended Notre Dame University in 1975, but after his field — pre-medical studies — wasn't a good fit, he decided to "come home" to OU. In 1977, he began studying accounting, and he quickly got involved with OU Athletics.

With a background in high school cheerleading and announcing, becoming a mascot in college was the next step.

"My dream as a younger person — I would have loved to play college basketball, but I just wasn't tall enough," Conklin said. "I was competitive off the court, and... through cheerleading and announcing, I was able to [follow basketball closely]."

Initially, he was invited to audition for Notre Dame's mascot — the leprechaun — but he had already committed to transferring to OU. Because OU didn't have an established mascot, like Notre Dame, he made his own opportunity.

"To get more involved, I wanted to be a cheerleader," he said. "Oakland — at that time — had a cheerleading squad, but didn't have a mascot... I decided — in conversation with them — I had to volunteer to be the Pioneer and work with the cheerleaders as well as lead the team on the court."

Then he created his own uniform for games: a raccoon-skin hat, leather jacket, moccasins and a toy gun. While at first this was a just shopping trip, his purchases personified OU Athletics for the first time.

"I think [fans] were excited, with the exuberance and energy that [the Pioneer] generated," Conklin said.

Conklin's enthusiasm spilled over in every game, building connections with his cheer team, the basketball players and Head Coach Greg Kampe, who had just started his OU career in 1979. Today, he still stays in contact with Kampe as he follows OU basketball.

"I keep very close tabs on Greg's teams, who is recruiting and who his coaching staff is," he said. "Every once in a while if I have a question or critique, I give him a call ... It's pretty cool because he appreciates alumni and people that have a sincere interest in the program."

He's a regular season-ticket holder, and "his dream" would be watching them play in the National College Athletic Association — NCAA — Tournament.

When he cheered at OU, the team was Division II. They transitioned to Division I in 1998. While the switch also introduced the Grizz, replacing Pioneer Pete, he thinks it's "good" for OU and anticipates watching the team "grow" even more. In fact, Conklin attended the Grizz's debut game and welcomed them to the team.

"I think the Grizz does a nice job with the fans: activities during timeouts, goes up and down the stands and especially things around kids," he said. "It's good the university has a mascot."

Creating a welcoming and fun environment for the team and fans will only help the team and fan base grow, according to Conklin.

"The students that do that [cheer] have done a tremendous job, and it adds a lot of flair to the basketball atmosphere at Oakland University," he said.





This is a graphic of the original Pioneer design. Charles Conklin was the first to represent the Pioneer at OU games in the 1970s. (Photo Courtesy of Kresge Library)



In 1998, an aggressive version of the Grizz was initially pitched to replace the Pioneer. OU changed mascots to initiate athletics switching from Division I to Division II.



This is OU's current mascot, the Grizz. Conklin attended the transition ceremony when OU moved from the Pioneer to the Grizz. (Photo Courtesy of Golden Grizzlies Twitter)

# Alumna shares journey from volunteering to Lansing

**JESSICA ORLANDO**  
Staff Reporter

For Women's History Month, Oakland University's Center for Student Involvement asked OU alumni Melanie Brown to come speak about her role in Michigan's government and her career journey.

Brown, a deputy chief of staff in Governor Whitmer's office, is currently serving as the Director of Community Affairs for the executive office. Last Monday, Mar 15, she shared her perspective and experiences.

Brown is a veteran of state government, previously serving in multiple senior roles across Snyder and Granholm administrations. Her current role as Director of Community Affairs includes managing appointments, community affairs and constituent services within the executive office.

Originally, Brown had little interest in politics, besides watching the evening news with her parents. It was not until her sophomore year in high school that she became involved with her local congressional office.

"What ended up happening is that for two weeks, I volunteered and was a random staffer around the office and then I became the office manager," Brown said. "I quickly started making my way up the campaign rung."

After that experience, Brown fell in love with politics. She thought it was the coolest thing to be working with members of congress, dignitaries and government officials.

"I finally figured out a niche I wanted to explore," Brown said.

Brown encourages students to pursue what they're passionate about for a career, as that was the case for her and many of her peers.

"Things that peak your interest are really worthwhile to explore, because those types of positions and jobs tend to be the outcome of that passion," Brown said.

Interested in journalism, Brown wanted to be able to tell people's stories. She found a way to connect her interests in storytelling with politics.

"I used a lot of my writing and ability to tell a good story to write about the impact of policies and politics on different people," Brown said.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Brown talked about the progress that women have made in their careers and in removing gender barriers.

"I saw the women I wanted to pattern myself after who would walk into a room and sit down at a big conference table that was predominantly men," Brown said.

Brown explained that during her volunteer work in the '80s, the dichotomy between men and women was felt deeply. Now, because of exceptional women in senior positions, it gets better with each year she has been in politics.

"Because of people like Kamala Harris and Debbie Stabenow, all of the people that came before us, who maybe did not break that glass ceiling with a shatter, but took a knick out of it each time," Brown said.

Now it is almost expected that women be in a senior or director position, thanks to the progress toward gender equality made in recent years.

"We've now seen some really strong convincing women who have been in leadership and I think that society is more accustomed to seeing that now," Brown said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE BROWN

Alumna Melanie Brown discussed her journey and how she has connected politics and journalism with OU Students.

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## OPINION

# Anti-Asian violence must be taken seriously

**RACHEL YIM**  
Staff Reporter

A year ago this month, the global pandemic landed in the United States. While the COVID-19 cases are finally going down, COVID-19 inspired hate crimes against Asian-Americans have been on the rise ever since the start of the pandemic.

It's been a year of anti-Asian racism and rising violence. The mass shooting in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16th, where eight people – six of them Asian-American women, were targeted and killed at businesses owned by Asian-Americans, proves that the country has a serious problem with anti-Asian hate crimes.

After the capture of the suspect, the police noted that the shooter's violence was a response to a "sexual addiction" and was "not racially motivated." This explanation expects us to ignore the evidence that's right in front of our eyes.

Evidence such as unfair power dynamics of race, gender or class can't be ignored. I mean, what about the legacy of America's history of violence in Asia? For many Asian-American women, racism and misogyny are deeply intertwined with their day-to-day lives.

It is heartbreaking and horrifying; but sadly, the violence in Atlanta isn't a surprise to many. Since the start of the pandemic last spring, Asian-Americans have faced racist violence at a much higher rate than in previous years. According to a report from Stop AAPI Hate, 3,795 anti-Asian discrimination reports were received.

"It's been a year of living in fear for their lives," President Joe Biden said.

The brutality toward Asian Americans runs through more than two centuries of American history. From the time the first wave of Chinese immigrants arrived in the U.S. as laborers in the 1850s, Asian Americans have always been subject to racist violence.

There is no exception on college campuses. While higher education is overflowing with statements about its commitment to greater diversity and its awareness, students who face discrimination often don't know how to get out of the situation.

To recognize different ethnic groups and to better understand each other is a key to a healthy college campus. The bottom line is that institutions of higher education need to step up and stand against bigotry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWHOPE.COM

In her email to Oakland University community members, OU President Ora Pescovitz emphasized the importance of recognizing the issue and accepting diversity.

"It is important to recognize that students, staff, faculty and alumni are negatively impacted by anti-Asian racism and xenophobia, which are antithetical to our commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, and ensuring the safety and well-being of all," Pescovitz said. "We stand together with Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in solidarity. In the strongest possible terms, we condemn the violence that resulted in the deaths of six women of Asian descent and two others."

Racism and racial violence are not something we are just told about. It is real, and this kind of violence has always existed in the United States. If in this pivotal moment we all walk away from this issue, this country will not change.

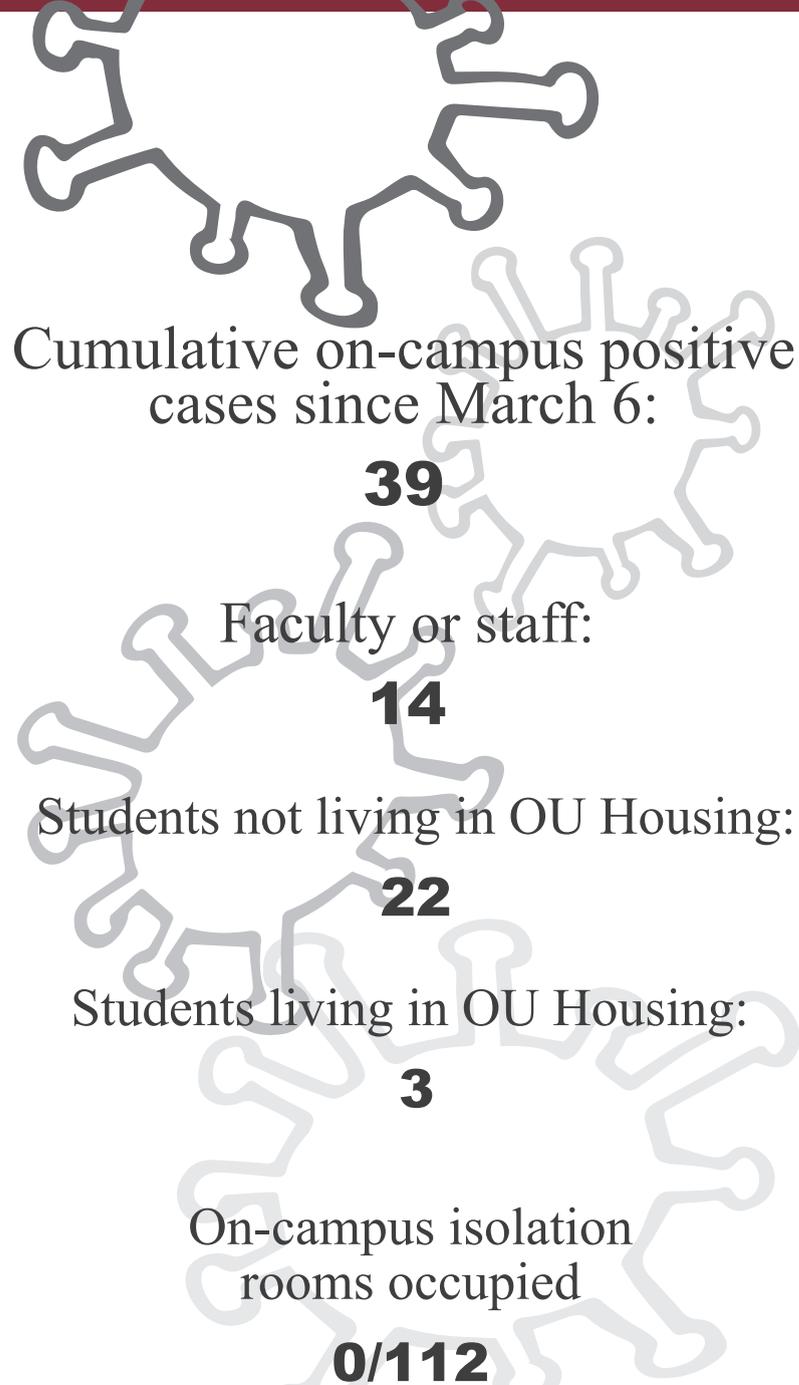
Fear of going out on a walk, being vilified, scapegoated and wrongfully blamed for the start of the pandemic is a reality that Asians are facing every day. How many more innocent lives will be lost before we recognize the seriousness of racism in this country?

The best way for us to respond to the mass shooting in Georgia is to take it seriously and work to understand the root of the problem so that another hate crime like this doesn't occur in the future.

There's no such thing as quick solutions to racism and racial violence. After all, what President Biden calls "un-American" is deeply ingrained in American history.

In order to end racism in the U.S., we need to confront centuries of discrimination, oppression and violence and recognize how it manifests today. Without doing so, can America be free of such racial controversy? I don't think so.

## GRIZZLIES PROTECT GRIZZLIES



All information is from OU COVID Public Dashboard

# “Yes Day” was just the right amount of family fun

**BRIDGET JANIS**  
Staff Reporter

Netflix’s new movie “Yes Day” is a great opportunity to sit down as a family and watch a movie that will put you in a good mood.

Just by scrolling past this movie on Netflix, you can guess what it’s going to be about. The poster for it seems to be way cheesier than the actual film, but definitely gives off the right vibes.

The parents, Allison (Jennifer Garner) and Carlos Torres (Edgar Ramirez), grew up doing extreme things and only ever saying ‘yes’ to everything. But as soon as they had their own kids, all that went out the window and they ended up becoming a little uptight.

Their three kids, Katie (Jenna Ortega), Evan (Julian Lerner) and Ellie (Everly Carganilla) are convinced that they have the most boring and stubborn parents in the world. So in hopes of building back up the fun in their family relationship, they all decide on doing a “yes day.”

For the yes day, the parents have to say yes to everything the kids want for the whole day. There are only a few rules, the request can’t be about some-

thing in the future and it can only be within 20 miles.

“Yes Day” carried a sincere family-oriented tone throughout the whole movie. The way the family bonded and how much fun the characters were having together is enough to bring a smile to anyone watching.

Every movie Garner plays a mom in just makes sense. It is such a fitting role for her. Just like in “The Odd Life of Timothy Green,” she was simply born to play the mother role in these heartfelt films.

The jokes in the movie don’t seem to be going out of their way to be funny, a naturally funny dialogue was used, which was played in favor of the film. The activities that were shown were harmless — except maybe the balloon fight/paintball/capture the flag game, or the filling the house for a foam party, but still those did look like a lot of fun.

While the movie was fun to watch, I don’t think it is exactly memorable. It’s a very typical story line with the family coming together to have fun. It’s definitely something that’s been done before, but it is entertaining enough to keep you interested for the duration of the film.

Not every movie needs to be compli-

cated with a bunch of plot twists and puzzle piece clues to put together. Sometimes, a movie can just be simple and fun, and that’s it. The heartfelt family sentiment in this movie lands, and ultimately that’s enough.

The concept of the film made for a great family watch, it had my family and I laughing and joking around. We even started considering what our own version

of the yes day would have looked like.

The movie was well done, not too cheesy, just the right amount of family fun that people can handle.

I think I might need a yes day for myself.

**Rating: 4/5 stars**



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

“Yes Day” features family fun activities that bring this family together.

# HBO’s ‘Genera+ion’ gives inside look at Gen-Z life

**CAYLA SMITH**  
Campus Editor

HBO Max released an original called “Genera+ion” on March 11.

The show is a dramedy series that follows a group of Gen-Z teenagers, who test deeply rooted beliefs about life and love in their conservative community.

The first episode takes us through the same day, but from the perspective of each character and how they all come to have a connection with one another. The episode works down this order with Chester (Justice Smith), Greta (Haley Sanchez), Nathan (Uly Schlesinger) and the following episodes the audience is introduced to Riley (Chase Sui Wonders), Naomi (Chloe East), Arianna (Nathanya Alexander), Delilah (Lukita Maxwell) and J (Sydney Mae Diaz).

The show is comparable to HBO original “Euphoria,” but presents a more realistic approach and has yet to tackle heavy topics, like drug abuse and abusive relationships.

The show does a great job at having the voice and themes of Gen-z is going through because the show was co-created by 19-year-old Zelda Barnz, who worked with her dads creators Daniel and Ben Barnz

“I wanted to see myself and the people that I know onscreen represented in the most fresh, real and authentic

ways possible,” Barnz tells Glamour magazine. “I find it very confusing and weird and joyful and painful to be a teenager, and that’s what I want to see reflected in this show.”

The show deals with coming out, questioning your sexuality, love and just plain old finding yourself.

Something about the show is that anything you would think about the character should be thrown out of the window because the show trumps all expectations that we’ve grown to expect, like one of the characters has two dads, but is borderline homophobic and constantly explains that she can’t be homophobic because of her two dads.

As much as it may hurt the show gives the realistic perspective of not always being accepted by the people around you, and the internalized homophobia that comes with growing up conservative.

The audience gets a gritty realistic feel with all of the characters with the way that they’re dressed, the way that their hair is worn, etc. It doesn’t look like they walked out of hair and makeup and were styled by someone in costume, but like the teenagers that roam the streets today.

“I really wanted to make an effort to not be unrealistic and throw them in clothes that they couldn’t afford or possibly get,” Shirley Kurata, set costume designer tells Nylon Magazine,

said. “It’s just suspending that commitment to real teenage life. I think that the Barnzes’ purpose was to show, as much as possible, the world of teenagers, in a real way.”

The series decided to take a different approach with their release dates. Instead of releasing all of the episodes all at once, they’re staggered. The first three episodes aired on March 11, two episodes on March 18, two episodes on March 25 and one episode on April 1.

But this isn’t it for the series, part 2 of season 1 is set to air sometime later this year — but the date is not yet known.

It’s a relatable coming of age story that has a diverse cast with various aspects

to their personalities, so the audience is able to find themselves in each of the characters and find something likeable in a hateable character.

Companion podcast for the show called “Generation: The Podcast,” which showcases a behind the scenes look at the show featuring writers and cast members. The podcast can be streamed through platforms such as Apple Podcast and Spotify.

Tune in to the show through the HBOMax app or their website.

**Rating: 4.5/5 stars**



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLAMOUR

The group of teenagers presented in “Genera+ion” on HBO.

# Dwayne Johnson cooks up good TV on ‘Young Rock’

**GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH**  
Staff Reporter

Bringing more viewers to the NBC wrestling match than any other comedy since 2017, Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson’s newest television series, “Young Rock,” is a loose-biographical account of the acclaimed actor’s younger years.

The show takes place during the 2032 presidential campaign in which ‘The Rock’ is a candidate, with frequent flashbacks to three formative parts of his life: growing up in Hawaii surrounded by pro-wrestlers, attending high school as a 6’ 4” fifteen-year-old (mistaken for an undercover cop) and playing college football as a defensive lineman for the Miami Hurricanes.

With a hefty 224 million followers on Instagram, ‘The Rock’ posts stories of his past that are brought to life in this series. Viewers are transported into his world with photographs of family gatherings, wrestling matches of ‘The Rock’s’ dad, “Soul Man” Rocky Johnson, André the Giant and other professional wrestling icons. Also yes, there is THAT infamous picture of “The Rock” wearing a turtleneck and fanny pack.

As someone who knows nothing about wrestling, I thought that “Young Rock” was a great introduction to the world. When old video footage of their real-life counterparts is featured in an episode, viewers see just how uncanny the cast’s likenesses are.

Seeing a comedy where every member of the main cast is a person of color is notable. There are authentic representations of Black and Pacific Islander experiences on a main television network, like NBC.

The show focuses on ‘The Rock’s’ interracial family of Black and Samoan descent and discusses the racial barriers his dad broke down in professional wrestling and the struggles that came with them. Viewers are also introduced to his grandmother, the first female wrestling promoter and her trailblazing career. Family is everything to ‘The Rock,’ and this show made that very clear.

This is definitely a television show geared toward a multi-generational viewing experience, so it plays out like a typical sitcom: heart-warming, full of life lessons, and humorous. While all the different plot lines of ‘The Rock’s’ past may be a bit hard to follow, they are what make the show. The snippets of ‘The Rock’s’ future presidential run are a bit awkward



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES  
“Young Rock” goes into a loose biographical account of Dwayne Johnson’s life.

and sometimes cringe-worthy. After the past four years, and more specifically, the dumpster fire that was 2020, awkward and cringe-worthy, are an upgrade.

The highest-paid male actor who is one of the most recognizable figures in the world takes viewers back to when he was just a regular kid with an unusual upbringing, trying to figure out life while, and as he puts it, “working the gimmick” with his family. Viewers get a glimpse into the highs and lows of ‘The Rock’s’ life that

have shaped him into the man he is today. “Young Rock” emphasizes that what makes Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson an aspirational figure and so relatable are his humble upbringing, his incredible work ethic, and his “rock hard” abs.

Young Rock airs Tuesdays at 8 p.m on NBC.

**Rating: 3/5 stars**

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# Baseball aims to find consistency



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS  
Hayden Neirman pitching against the Purdue Fort Wayne Mastodons. Oakland Baseball has its first home series of the season starting Friday, March 26 at 2 p.m.

## MATTHEW SCHEIDEL Staff Reporter

The Oakland University baseball team has already eclipsed their season win total from last season before the shutdown.

The Golden Grizzlies currently sit at 8-10 overall, and 2-5 in Horizon League play. Head Coach Jordon Banfield said the team was playing pretty well up until the weekend of Mar. 13 at Northern Kentucky.

“To be able to get one from Middle

Tennessee, three from Longwood, two from Dayton — we wouldn’t have been favored in many of those games,” Banfield said. “This weekend we came out and stole the first one, and then gave two games away on Saturday — that was the first day that was really disappointing. Then Sunday we got rolled, so this weekend leaves a sour taste and we need to get back. Whether we win or are competitive or we don’t win, this year has really been dictated by how we play. [When] we play [well], we’ve proven that

we can play with anybody.”

Outfielder and catcher Cam Post said while he feels the team got off to a good start, they have not played a complete game yet.

“I think once we can get those pieces together and start playing [the] level of baseball that we all know we can play, it’ll really show what direction this program is heading,” Post said.

Banfield said his team will play their best baseball when they start playing cleaner.

“No mental errors, no execution errors on offense, hanging on the baseball on defense, pounding the strike zone,” Banfield said. “Playing clean baseball and letting the results dictate how the game goes.”

Post and infielder Jared Miller are among a few players that have stuck out to Banfield.

“[They’ve been] the two guys who’ve been the most consistently good players for us,” Banfield said. “Cam [has] swung the bat the entire year, start to finish, hitting in our three hole every game. He’s as good as a two strike hitter [or] good of a RBI guy as there could be anywhere right now. [He’s] super competitive — really bought into the two strike approach that I preach — [it’s] just been awesome for him as a senior.”

Post is currently batting .362 with 11 RBIs and an OPS [on-base percentage plus

slugging percentage] of .896. The key to Post’s success this season is he’s been able to make some adjustments that he couldn’t in the past.

“I think I’m seeing the ball well,” Post said. “Last year in the short season I thought I was seeing it well, taking some good swings. This year, [I had] a few ups and downs but made a few adjustments here and there and I think it’s really starting to show offensively what I can do and what I know I can do.”

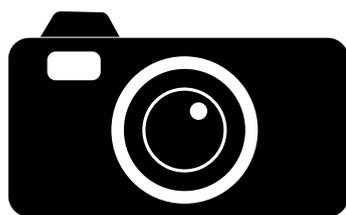
Banfield said while he is looking forward to playing four series in a row at home, his focus is on the task at hand.

“The focus right now is just getting back to playing winning baseball this weekend in Fort Wayne,” Banfield said. “But definitely when this weekend is over we’ll be excited — we’re going to play at home four weekends in a row and get to [have some fans there] and feel like we’re on home turf.”

Post is also looking forward to playing on home field.

“There’ll be more games at home in three weeks than there has been my entire career here at Oakland,” Post said. “So I’m looking forward to it, definitely.”

The Golden Grizzlies’ first home game will be Friday, March 26 at 2 p.m. at the Oakland Baseball Field.



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# Softball improves to 6-2 with walk-off win

**MICHAEL PEARCE**

*Editor-in-Chief*

Walk-off wins are always fun for the team, but especially to cap off the first homestand of the season.

The Golden Grizzlies softball team improved to 6-2 in conference play after a 3-1 series victory over Northern Kentucky University, including a 4-3 walk-off win in the final game.

“It feels really good,” Head Coach Lauren Karn said. “It feels better for the girls, though. They’re the ones out there putting everything on the line.”

After NKU tied the game at three in the seventh inning, the game sat tied until the bottom of the ninth. Cammie Brummitt walked, then reached second on an error and then reached third on a fielder’s choice.

Catcher Jen Krizka hit a fly ball to right field, which was deep enough to advance Brummitt on a sacrifice fly, and the ball game was over.

Karn credited the team’s ability to stay in the game to the relief pitchers.

“Our pitchers kept it tied for us and then we were able to push across that run before we got into international

tiebreakers,” she said.

Right now, the softball team is focused on improving their approach to the plate and getting to the ball faster on defense.

Since the Golden Grizzlies are 6-2, the mental adjustments the coaching staff wants to make are aimed at tightening up their game in pursuit of a championship. With a pretty demanding schedule as well, Karn and the coaching staff are focused on keeping the team rested and focused.

Some weeks, the softball team will play two double headers on Friday and Saturday, then another on Tuesday.

“It’s a major challenge, and one that is a little bit different than past years,” Karn said. “Right now, our team is leaving it all out on the field, every single pitch. We just need to hope they can recover quickly.”

Brummitt (.310), Lauren Griffith (.364), Madison Jones (.326) and Jessie Munson (.306) all have batting averages over .300 right now. Brummitt has been especially good at driving in runs, she leads the team with 12 RBIs.

According to Karn, having a “core group” of players that can be relied upon provides a sense of confidence for the team, even during adversity.

“When there’s a sense of consistency,

there’s also a sense of calmness, competitiveness and you don’t want to give up because you know at any point you have a core group of people who can really turn the game around,” Karn said.

Early in this Horizon League season, the Golden Grizzlies sit atop the standings, tied with the University of Illinois-Chicago.

At 6-2 currently, Karn is confident and optimistic about her team reaching the

Horizon League championship game for the first time since 2018.

“Based on what I’m seeing and the way we’re competing, I feel like we have a really good shot at getting to that championship game,” Karn said. “What we have to do is maintain this or even get a little bit better, and that’s the most challenging piece because our season is long.”



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER

Sydney Campbell winds up to throw against Northern Kentucky. Head Coach Karn praised the pitching staff for their role in the 4-3 series clinching win.

# Strong goalkeeping leads men’s soccer past Cleveland State

**MATTHEW SCHEIDEL**

*Staff Reporter*

On Thursday, Mar. 18 at the Grizz dome, keeping the pressure on from the first minute, the Oakland University men’s soccer team defeated the Cleveland State Vikings 3-2.

Forward Dawsun Schrum scored the first goal in the seventh minute, assisted by midfielder Dylan Borczak. Borczak had another assist on a goal from forward Charlie Braithwaite at the nine minute mark. It was Braithwaite’s fifth goal of the season.

The Vikings started to give the Grizzlies some pressure of their own around the 18th minute — they had a chance in the 20th minute, but Bojan Kolevski missed wide left. Julian Pellegrini had a shot blocked by Oakland goalkeeper Finn Jurak.

Borczak barely missed what would have been an incredible cross to Schrum in the 27th minute. Also, in the 34th minute, midfielder Noah Jensen missed what would have been a great shot just outside the box.

Cleveland State was awarded a penalty shot in the 40th after a handball was called on Oakland. Midfielder Mohammad Jamal Issa was given a red card on the play, ejecting him from the game.

Jurak made the stop on the penalty kick, but the Grizzlies were forced to play with 10 players the rest of the way, taking a 2-0 lead into the locker room.

In the second half, Oakland was awarded a penalty shot in the 47th minute, and Jensen converted to give

the Grizzlies a 3-0 lead.

The Vikings got on the board in the 50th minute after a goal from forward Bojan Kolevski, making it 3-1. They turned up the heat after that, almost converting a couple times.

Cleveland State wasn’t without their chances in the second half — they controlled the possession for most of it and had a couple breakaways they couldn’t capitalize on.

Head Coach Eric Pogue said playing with 10 men on the field had an impact in the second half.

“Playing a man down for 55 minutes is tough to do,” Pogue said. “But luckily, we had a two goal and three goal cushion [and] we didn’t need to push for a fourth goal, so we played it safe and focused on playing solid defensively and hitting them on the counter like we did for the third goal.”

Jurak had a couple big saves down the stretch, going full extension on one in the 82nd minute.

Pogue said Jurak was “fantastic,” adding that he “did what all top keepers need to do.”

“He really stepped up his game after the red card and made key stop after key stop to keep us in the game,” Pogue said.

However, he let one through in the 87th minute when Jannis Schmidt scored one for the Vikings, cutting Oakland’s lead to 3-2. The Grizzlies did everything in their power to keep the ball during the last three minutes.

A red card was issued to Schmidt after a brief altercation with Jurak in the 89th minute, ridding the Vikings of their man-advantage. In the end, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Noah Jensen attacking against Cleveland State. The Golden Grizzlies men’s soccer team is undefeated at home this season.

Grizzlies held on for a 3-2 victory.

Pogue said he was happy with his team’s performance overall, but noted that “things got interesting toward the end.”

“We were very good the first 20-25 minutes and unlucky not to be up 4-0,” Pogue said. “But we let up a bit and got complacent and the game evened out.”

The win improved the Grizzlies’ record to 5-1-2, including a perfect 5-0-0 record at home.

# 'COVID College Students' coming to TLC next month

**LAUREN REID**  
Sports Editor

You know them, you love them and heck, you probably are one. TLC's newest hit show, "COVID College Students," focuses on the daily routines of college students smack dab in the middle of a global pandemic.

"I set my alarm for 7:30 a.m. in a rare mindset of productivity the night before, wake up around 10 a.m. and have motivation for maybe five minutes tops," said 'COVID College Students' star I-Wanna Vaccine. "It's too bad I just sit in bed on TikTok for those five minutes."

The show features four college students: Vaccine, along with Gabby Imaginary, Harvey Hypothetical and Cantstopwastingmoney Onstarbucks, who goes by the nickname Starbies.

"Recently I've started playing Roller Coaster Tycoon 3 instead of completing my assignments," Starbies revealed in her exclusive interview with The Oakland Post. "It's fun when you don't complete the track and the ride vehicles go catapulting off the incomplete ride. I guess that's how I feel mentally."

Imaginary has also utilized computer games as an escape during the pandemic, but she plays the iconic life simulator game, The Sims 4, instead.

"I like to make really perfect families and live vicariously through them," Imaginary said. "I thought I'd feel fulfilled in life once I hit my 20's, but instead I'm just trolling the Sims franchise on Twitter asking them for new hair colors as Moodle notifications destroy my inbox."

The show follows all four college students on a daily basis — even the moments where they break out into a stress rash, simply because they had to unmute themselves on Zoom.

"My social skills are at an all time low," Hypothetical said. "My hand shakily hovers over the unmute button for an hour and 47 minutes everyday during class, only for me to never get the chance to click it. I just sit there in a cold sweat."

All four college students mentioned they have seen an immense drop in social skills, but more than anything, they lack any and all motivation.

"When I see a new homework assignment, I just stare at it with no life in my eyes," Vaccine said. "Back in the day, I'd maybe write it down in my planner and try to see how it fit into my schedule. But nowadays, I simply can't be bothered and I don't know how to change that."

Starbies, a Starbucks regular, mentioned she often sits in her childhood bedroom and whips out her childhood piggy bank to spend her K-12 life savings on a \$6 cup of Starbucks coffee, thinking it will provide her with the motivation she needs to finish her homework.

"I wanted to try that new brown sugar oat milk shaken espresso — it's all over my for you page," Starbies said. "I figured once I got home, I'd feel productive with my cute little cup of coffee. But instead, I just chugged it in my car and drove around aimlessly for two hours. So no, it didn't work and I still have to do that same assignment."

Hypothetical agreed, saying he used to be a star



MICHAEL PEARCE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TLC is coming out with another banger, "COVID College Students."

student, but now can't even fathom a forum post.

"I was the annoying kid who always knew what he was doing and had assignments done weeks in advance," Hypothetical said. "But just yesterday, I turned my computer off and took a nap because I didn't want to reply in the forum — I'm fading fast."

The show will air along with two additional new TLC installments: 'Intimidating YouTube Vlog Couples' and '19 Kids and Counting: Still Counting.'

Hang in there, COVID college students. We're almost there.

## Police Files

### Illness Check-in

On the morning of Jan. 11, two officers from the Oakland University Police Department were dispatched to the scene of a cleaning crew worker who had felt physically ill. When the two officers arrived at the scene, they found the worker who had called in the illness sitting in a lounge area. She stated that she felt light headed and dizzy, along with a sore throat. She said that all of these symptoms had started the day before, but as the morning had developed her symptoms had got worse, along with shortness of breath. The Auburn Hills Fire Department medical vehicle arrived on the scene shortly after the officers made contact and transported the cleaning crew worker to Ascension Hospital in Rochester for further evaluation. One of the dispatched officers made sure to call dispatch and indicate the employee's vehicle should be marked in P16 and a report should be filed for the medical event. The scene was then cleared without further incident.

Compiled by Ben Hume, Web Editor

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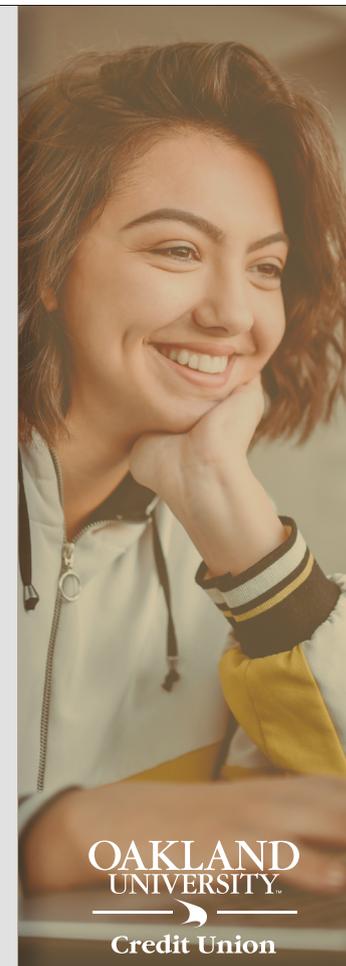
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Offer of \$100 valid 1/1/21 to 3/31/21 for members who qualify under the OU student SEG. OU Credit Union Visa Debit Card must be activated by 3/31/21 and 10 debit card purchases must post within 30 days of card activation to qualify. The \$100 will be deposited into member's checking account within 4 to 6 weeks of the 10th purchase. Not valid for existing members with an OU Credit Union checking account. May not be combined with any other deposit offers. If new member is referred to the Credit Union, member referral offer will not apply.



**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**  
Credit Union