

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



ROLLING WITH THE GREEKS Greek Council kicked off Greek Week with roller rink skating in the Banquet rooms on Monday. The Greek organizations split into "decades" themed teams for friendly competition for the duration of the week's events.
PHOTO / ELIYAH RUSSELL

THE OAKLAND POST

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U.S. Representative Elissa Slotkin held her first town hall at Oakland University.
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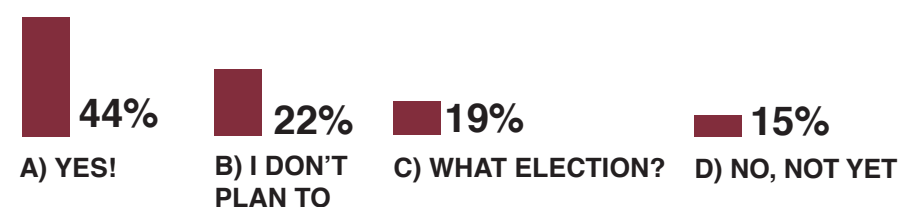
POLL OF THE WEEK

WHICH COMPUTER GAME WOULD YOU MAKE POPULAR AGAIN?

- A) WEBKINZ
- B) TOON TOWN
- C) NEOPETS
- D) CLUB PENGUIN

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED A VOTE FOR THE OUSC ELECTION?



LOOKING BACK

Backlash against golf course creation

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

The Board of Trustees passed a proposal for Oakland University to develop a golf course on June 4, 1998.

The course, R & S Golf Course, was causing a lot of disagreement among the community. While some people were excited for the new addition, a lot of people were unhappy with this decision.

The golf course blueprint was planned to be overlapping the research location in the campus woods used by the science classes.

OU administration, and the biology and physics departments were arguing over the environmental impacts and how much it would disturb the wildlife.

At the time, three professors' research and about 350 students each year depended on the location planned for the golf course. Lynn Schaefer, then vice president for finance and administration, was aware of the impact the construction would have and worked to minimize any problems.

"There is ongoing public discussion with interest parties involved in this project," Schaefer said. "We are working with various constituencies to improve nature trails throughout campus so one should expect greater access to natural area."

Zach Love, a pre-med sophomore at the time, started a



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND ATHLETICS
The R & S Golf Course proposal was passed June, 4 1998.

petition in his residence hall. Many people talked about how they thought education should come before sports. Before students signed the contract, Love made sure they understood the content.

"The people who signed this petition had heard about the golf course and weren't happy about it," Love said. "There wasn't a single rejection."

The Board of Trustees met later to approve a second golf course. Some felt the addition of the second course was not necessary. Upon meeting, they were greeted by over

200 community members who were unhappy with the golf course's construction. There were multiple topics the committee needed to discuss, but the golf course was the main purpose of the meeting.

The Board of Trustees was trying to approve the OU Katke-Cousins Golf Course, and R & S Sharf Golf Course under the Land Use and Development Guidelines.

"If they make this land a golf course, they will lose money," Jennifer Juskiewicz, a biology sophomore, said then. "This is the specific reason I came to OU. I wanted to walk to my studies. My friends at U-M and MSU have to go off-site. That means they need a car."

Stephan Sharf, a former trustee, believed a second golf course would be a great financial investment. Sharf and his wife donated \$2 million from their life insurance policy to be put toward the golf course.

Due to students' research projects being at the same location, OU and Sharf had the course designers reposition the 10th and 12th hole. This was OU trying to compromise between keeping the golf course and keeping students happy.

About 20,137 feet of nature trails were overlapping with the blueprints. OU's plan was to work with the leftover 19,128 feet to create more informal and safe pathways, and generate a total of 30,031 feet of trails.

The golf course did end up being made, the designers made as many compromises as possible to please everyone.

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U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin tackles issues at first town hall meeting

TAYLOR CRUMLEY
Staff Reporter

U.S. Representative Elissa Slotkin fulfilled one of her campaign promises on Thursday, March 21, 2019, as she held her first town hall meeting of the year. She promised in her campaign that she would hold one every three months.

The town hall meeting, which was hosted by the Oakland University Center for Civic Engagement (CCE), took place in the Oakland Center and was open to the public, who were encouraged to ask Slotkin questions.

"The Center for Civic Engagement has a goal of making OU known as a convener of conversations, and events like this helps us work toward that," said David Dulio, director for the CCE. "The conversation between a representative and their constituents is arguably the most important conversation there is in a democracy."

Slotkin began the town hall meeting by talking about the issues that she hears about the most, which are also the reason she got in this race — the price of healthcare and prescription drugs.

"Everyone has the right to healthcare they can afford," Slotkin said. "We have to get away from this idea that the only way to have insurance is to be tied to an employer."

Based on recent dramatic price increases on EpiPens and insulin, Slotkin said she wants to focus a lot of her initiatives on prescription drug prices.

"I sponsored a bill that says Medicare should be able



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. Rep. Slotkin answers questions from community members. Topics discussed include the Robert Mueller report, the price of insulin and buying into Medicare.

to negotiate for drug prices," Slotkin said.

She emphasized that she would have people coming up to her in Kroger telling her they cannot afford insulin for their child due to predatory price increases.

"The second bill related to drugs that I co-sponsored was called the Flat Pricing Bill," Slotkin said. "This bill penalizes any company that increases the price of their drug by more than 10 percent in one calendar year."

Another issue addressed was student debt, after an OU student asked Slotkin about it. She said a young adult's outlook on what they want to do with their life is controlled by having a steep monthly student loan payment

hanging over their heads.

"We should never be holding people back like that," she said. "A student loan should be capped at 2.5 percent."

With Slotkin's background as a CIA officer and Pentagon official, much of her life has been about preventing homeland attacks, which led the conversation into immigration and gun control.

"Our immigration system is broken, it's not working for anyone," Slotkin said. "This should not be a political issue between one party or the other. I actually support enhanced border security, I just want to be smart about it."

Slotkin said she focuses on the common ground when it comes to gun control, which is universal background checks and closing all loopholes for people who want to buy guns, whether at a gun shop or online.

Slotkin addressed climate change as something that needs action taken by the government.

"If we build it into the market... if there are financial incentives to do it, you will see people getting on that train," Slotkin said.

As the conversation closed, Slotkin said addressing questions about different issues made her hopeful for the future.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us on these issues," Slotkin said. "I feel particularly hopeful because I am a part of a class of over 100 new members of Congress — Democrats and Republicans — and we are a different breed with a different mission sent to Washington to get something done."

POLICE FILES

Welfare Check

Oakland University Police Department dispatch received two separate calls for a welfare check on the night of Feb. 23. The respective students were concerned about possibly suicidal statements that were made to each other.

Two officers made contact with the first student inside of her dorm. She voiced her concerns about her friend's well-being, saying she believed he was going to hurt himself. She said he attended a party earlier in the evening and didn't have fun. Upon his return, he contacted her and said he felt worthless and he didn't matter. She also told the officers he had a troubled past and was suicidal during that time.

The officers then asked her about her own well-being, and the student denied wanting to hurt herself or having suicidal thoughts. The officers provided her with information on mental health counseling at the Graham Health Center. The student then provided the room for the man she was concerned about and told the officers he was still in his room.

The officers made contact with the second student, who was inside his dorm. The officers explained the situation to him. He said he had a text message conversation with the first student, and she kept telling him she was leaving. He read the text messages to the officers. The conversation that transpired did not indicate or suggest that either person was suicidal or possibly going to hurt themselves. He also told the officers he was last suicidal approximately five years ago and denied being suicidal that night. The officers gave him the services available at the Graham Health Center. He then told the officers the first student he was concerned about was battling cancer and was on multiple types of medication, and they should check on her again before the end of the night.

The officers checked on the first student a final time, smelling an odor of marijuana upon entering her dorm. She did not appear to be under the influence of marijuana, but was still informed about campus smoking policy. She was then asked again if she needed any counseling or assistance, to which she replied she had been going to counseling already and she felt if she spoke with another counselor it would hinder her current counseling. She said she would contact a friend to talk to. The officers cleared the scene and informed the Residence Director of the situation.

Compiled by
Ben Hume, Staff Reporter

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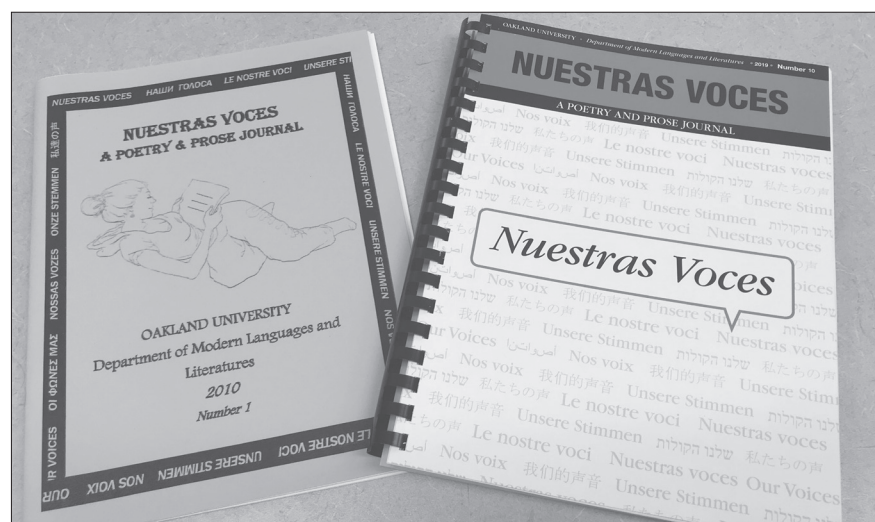
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COURTESY OF DR. CECILIA SAENZ-ROBY

The journal now includes six different languages including Japanese and Italian.

Literary Night to celebrate publishing students' foreign language pieces

KATIE VALLEY

Campus Editor

Students who submitted creative writing work in the foreign languages they are studying will be honored at the 10th annual Noche Literaria, or Literary Night, hosted by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL) on Wednesday, March 27.

The event celebrates the publication of students' work in the "Nuestras Voces" journal, which translates to "Our Voices." Students published in the journal will also get to showcase their pieces by reading them at the event in front of their peers, professors and parents.

The students submitted their pieces as part of the DMLL's annual Short Story/Prose Competition. Each language will have its own best poetry and best prose piece winners.

This year marks the 10th year "Nuestras Voces" has been published. The first edition of "Nuestras Voces" included just 27 Spanish pieces, according to Dr. Cecilia Saenz-Roby, founder and editor-in-chief of the journal.

Now, the journal includes six languages: Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese, German and Italian. This year's edition will include 102 works with the full support of the DMLL and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dikka Berven, French special instructor and French language editor for the journal, said it's meaningful for students to have an outlet to publish their creative works.

"I think students are a little bit surprised there's even an opportunity to do something like this, and it is a way for them to do something with the language that is creative and not part of the classroom," she said. "In my opinion, it's important for them to see that they can use the language to communicate their thoughts, or an emotion or an experi-

ence in a new way, working with the language in a new way."

Saenz-Roby created the journal as an outlet for student publication after being impressed with students' work. She shared the idea with her students, and they helped her pick the name and design the cover.

They first announced the Foreign Language Contest of Creative Writing in September 2008, according to Saenz-Roby. Now, students each year continue to be celebrated and the winners are rewarded for their work. She said "Nuestras Voces" emphasizes students' "perseverance, discipline and courage."

"Students have produced poems and short stories that showcase a great deal of creativity and critical thinking skills, while including a personal tone and style..." Saenz-Roby said. "Regardless of the topic, students have been able to experience a great deal of personal and professional growth through writing for 'Nuestras Voces.'"

The goal of the event to both Saenz-Roby and Berven is for students to feel inspired to read more works and express their own ideas in foreign languages. Berven said students are encouraged to bring their parents and feel proud of their work because their professors are proud of them.

"For us, to see a student do something creative in a foreign language is a thrill because in order to do it, a student has gotten to a certain level where they are freely using the language, so we feel proud," she said. "You sort of feel proud that your students could do something like that."

An exhibition of all 10 volumes of "Nuestras Voces" is now on display in Kresge Library. Previous editions are also available on the OU website.

The Noche Literaria will be Wednesday, March 27 in Oakland Center Banquet Room B from 5-8 p.m.

OUCARES Family Fun Day offers activities for people with ASD

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

To transition into April, which is also National Autism Awareness Month, the Joanne and Ted Lindsay Foundation Autism Reach Services (OUCARES) offered its 16th annual Family Fun Day for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

The event was hosted in the Oakland University Recreation Center and had activities such as bouncy inflatables, face painting, swimming, crafts and a sensory room by Kaufman Children's Center.

"At OUCARES, we offer an annual Family Fun Day to offer resources in a really fun inclusive environment for families of individuals on the spectrum of all ages to come and gain not only, resources at our vendor fair, [but also] partake in a lot of fun activities," Kristin Rohrbeck, director of OUCARES, said. "It's really a time where families can come and have a really exciting day where they don't have to feel like they're being judged."

OUCARES offers multiple types of programs as well as the annual Family Fun Day. They have recreational programs such as baseball, bowling, soccer and volleyball where their goal is to help people on the spectrum build social skills and connections. They also have employment skills programs, parent programs and summer camps for ages 3 to 18 and up.

"With the younger kids, we do a lot of recreations, social skills, do fun science experiments and typical day camp

things," said Caroline Gorman, program coordinator for OUCARES. "For our teens and adults, we have life skills camps, so they come and they go grocery shopping every week, they learn how to make a budget, conflict resolution, working together, they start a micro business, and we visit different places where they can get jobs and learn about careers."

At the event, families could get information from vendors, such as ABA Pathways, Gateway Pediatric Therapy, Bright Connections Occupation Therapy, Kids in Motion and Michigan Alliance for Families.

"Whether they be therapy centers or other kinds of places where people can go to get information about autism, or support for someone on the spectrum or their families," Rohrbeck said. "A lot of families come specifically just for that: to get connected [and] know what other kinds of events and support systems there are in the autism community."

OU is having an autism awareness celebration on April 3, which will take place from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Oakland Center Founders Ballroom. OUCARES will be having an OU student come and talk about what it's like to be on the spectrum, how he's doing in higher education and the challenges he faces. This is a way to also inform the faculty and staff at OU of how to support people with ASD.

OUCARES is always looking for volunteers to help out in its social skills, recreation and employment skills programs. Students who are interested in these volunteering opportunities should contact OUCARES by emailing oucares@oakland.edu or calling 248-370-2424.



SERGIO MONTANEZ | PHOTOGRAPHER

Families had the opportunity to enjoy various activities such as swimming and face painting.



DEAN VAGLIA | STAFF REPORTER

The band has expanded from four or five students to 32 since Kroesche took over.

OU Brass Band plays its way to competition

DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

One of only 10 college-level brass bands in the United States, the OU Brass Band played a set of music on the night of March 22 in preparation for competitions in Ohio and Indiana.

The band is directed by music professor Dr. Kenneth Kroesche, who has been the leader since September 2009.

"We had started out as a very small brass ensemble," Kroesche said. "When I came here, I believe the brass ensemble I started with had basically about four to five students in it."

There were several ensembles at first, but things began to change during Kroesche's winter 2009 sabbatical.

"I had always been involved in playing and conducting brass bands before I came to Oakland," he said, "and the more I thought about it, the more I thought that a student — a collegiate brass band would be perfect for our students here."

Since forming, the band has expanded to 32 members, and has competed across in both national and international competitions.

"It is pretty amazing, what [the band] has done in such a short period of time," Kroesche said.

The band won the 2014 North American Brass Band Championship (NABBA), opening the door to play at the Butlin's National Mineworkers Open Brass Band Festival & Competition in England, and the Great American Brass Band Festival in Danville, Ky., in 2015.

Despite the highs of international recognition, the brass band is focused on the upcoming midwestern competition: the NABBA in Fort Wayne, Ind.

At the Dublin Festival of Brass on

March 23, the OU Brass Band was named Grand Champions for winning the Best March, Best Slow Melody and Best Major Work categories.

Band members also named best soprano cornet (Michael Baker), best Flugelhorn (Ben Feuerhelm) and the trombone, bass and percussion sections were recognized as the best in the competition.

The trombone section is comprised of Austin DeDalis, Tristan Hughes and Scott Voytush; the bass section is Brendan Ige, Colin Holstein, James Long and Brandon Thibault; and the percussion section is Domenic Santini, Kyle Paoletti, Neil Faulkner and Payton Miller.

Outside of competitions, Kroesche said 2018-2019 has been a fantastic year for the band. One of the highlights was being able to play with internationally acclaimed euphonium virtuoso Steven Mead on Dec. 2, 2018.

There is a high standard for students who join the band, according to Kroesche. Full band practices are twice a week, while sections meet at least one time outside of the designated practices.

"There are some sections that are getting together two or more times a week to work on and prepare their parts together," Kroesche said.

For members of the band, their time playing serves as the marker of good memories.

"While [in England] we got to sit in on a Black Dyke Brass Band rehearsal," euphonium player John Andersen said. "Black Dyke is a championship brass band that is world renowned. I remember very distinctly sitting on the floor of their tiny rehearsal venue right beside their principal euphonium and thinking to myself how lucky I was to be able to do something like this. Things like that are why I've continued to participate in our brass band."

OUWB oncology group raises more than \$10,000

Profits raised for the foundation to fund childhood cancer research

ALYSSA OCHSS
Staff Reporter

The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) oncology group recently raised \$10,710 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, surpassing its goal of \$10,000.

The St. Baldrick's Foundation's goal is to fund childhood cancer research to "fill the gap" in funding for adults and children. Its first event was held in 2000. According to the website, the cause has helped get Unituxin (Dinutuximab), a drug used to treat high-risk neuroblastoma in children, approved in 2015. The group has raised over \$258 million since 2005.

Along with raising money, participants have their heads and beards shaved, and cut inches off their hair in support of cancer patients.

According to the OU website, more than 20 people participated in "braving the shave" at the event, and even more raised money to fund research.

Nikhil Mankuzhy, co-president of the group, shaved his head at the event and reported this is the fourth year the event has been held on campus.

According to Mankuzhy, in 2018 the oncology group raised just around \$8,000 for the cause, and this year they wanted to set the goal higher by raising it to \$10,000. They earned \$710 more than the goal amount.

Alex Yang, co-president and medical student, said the oncology interest group tries to increase student interest each year. The majority of students at the event are first- and second-year medical students. Each year, group members try to set higher goals to fund as much for the St. Baldrick's Foundation as they can.

"The leadership of the oncology interest group has always been ambitious," Yang said. "So to get us

to improve and to get more people interested in the group, we've been setting bigger and bigger goals every year."

Yang believes everybody's lives have been touched by cancer in one way or another. Mitchell Becker, a first-year medical student, was brought to donate because he had cancer himself, and his grandma had it.

According to OU's website, Becker alone raised a little over \$2,052 for the foundation and the cause.

OUWB students weren't the only ones involved. Outside students and professors also participated.

"The person who raised the second most amount of money wasn't even an OUWB student," Mankuzhy said. "We had faculty involved, and we had three people outside our med school. They were local and heard about the event and they joined."

Mankuzhy said goals for the event included getting more involvement from undergraduate students and the Rochester community. OUWB students want to reach out to more people outside of OUWB and show it is not limited to those in the med school.

Professor Jason Wasserman even offered to shave and "auctioned" off his beard. Whoever donated the most on his Facebook page was able to shave it.

Yang said both the cause and the head shaving brought people closer together and created a lasting moment of solidarity for the participants and those they support. He said classmates outside the event showed support as well by complimenting their new hair and joining in on the shaving.

"It's always a good bonding experience for the year," Yang said. "A lot of people get involved because of the cause to show solidarity with the children St. Baldrick's supports."

LIFE&ARTS

EMS in Michigan, and nation, suffering personnel shortage

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts a 15 percent increase for EMS jobs by 2026

LAUREL KRAUS
Managing Editor

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) field is experiencing a striking labor shortage of available paramedics for the open positions across the United States, and Michigan is no exception.

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts a 15 percent increase in jobs in the EMS field between now and 2026.

With a high turnover rate of just three to five years, positions cannot seem to be filled quickly enough.

"We get a lot of students entering EMT [Emergency Medical Technician] and paramedic programs that are looking to move on to become a physician or a nurse or something like that," said Matthew Rose, Paramedic and Public Information Officer for Emergent Health Partners, which is the largest ambulance provider in Michigan. "While we'd like to keep them as a career person, we understand that a lot of people move on to do other careers in the health field."

Beyond the growing field and potential that personnel recruitment is on a decline, the sharp contrast in positions and staff to fill those positions could also be attributed to an increase in need of these services.

"I think one of the big contributing factors is that the largest population we have, the baby boomers, are kind of getting to that age where they may be relying on EMS more and more as they exceed that age of 65," said Kenneth Riley, director of Support Services for the Oakland University Police Department. "So we're seeing more medical-related calls such as heart attacks and strokes with that population where inevitably EMS response would go up."

Americans of all ages additionally seem to be relying on emergency services more heavily and readily than has been done in the past.

"We're experiencing, both in the area and statewide, more calls to 911 or EMS services than we did just a decade ago as citizens come to expect more of a community health approach to pre-hospital care," said Jacob Fitzpatrick, an OU nursing alumnus who currently works in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Henry Ford Detroit. "We're seeing ambulances responding for patients with



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER
Oakland has been working on plan to bring EMS training to campus. The first licensing class was held fall 2018.

non-life threatening conditions that just a decade ago would have been driven to the emergency department by family members."

He added this could be due to the increased desire for immediate care even while on route to the hospital.

For OU's part, OU EMS Education is a less than year old initiative to bring EMS training to campus and offer certifications to students.

"I think that providing opportunities for students is really important, and allowing them to get involved with EMS early in their college careers may spark interest in a field that otherwise may not have been considered by students, so I really think exposure is key," Riley said.

A Medical First Responder Licensing Class was the first class held last fall, and due to its success, there will tentatively be an EMT class this fall. This depends on instructor availability and approval by the State of Michigan. Further information should be available in June.

"The students graduating from Oakland can now add an EMS license to their resume, which makes them extremely marketable to fire departments, EMS agencies and even hospitals in the area," Fitzpatrick said.

Looking forward, Rose suggested the field may be headed in a direction of becoming more proactive rather than simply reactive.

"I think the future of EMS is really only limited by our imagination," Fitzpatrick said. "With the technology we're seeing coupled with the advances in patient care, I think there's no better time to get into the EMS field."

CAREER SERVICES



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A photograph of Elizabeth Smart speaking at a podium. She is a young woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a green cardigan over a white blouse with a colorful floral pattern. She is looking down and to the right, speaking into a microphone. The podium is black with a silver microphone stand. The background is a solid light pink color.

Elizabeth Smart

Since breaking her silence, Smart has published m

The worries of most teens consist of school dances and pep rallies. For Elizabeth Smart, at the age of 14, these worries were replaced with one word: survival.

On June 5, 2002, Elizabeth Smart was kidnapped from her bed at knife point, her younger sister laying silently beside her. The knife pressed against her bookmarked the beginning of what would be a traumatic nine months.

Smart spoke at Oakland University on Wednesday, March 21 in Ballroom A of the Oakland Center to an audience of 800 people. Her story, though graphic in detail, highlights her strength, faith and wisdom.

“As we walked down a path, I remember looking up at the man who had kidnapped me and begging him: if you’re going to kill me, please do it here,” Smart said. “He simply smiled at me and informed me that he wasn’t going to kill me, yet.”

For nine months, Smart was held in a tent, tied to a tree, starved and raped by her captors. They forced her to wear a veil in public, and repeatedly threatened to kill her and her entire family if she told anyone who she was.

“I had no reason not to believe they’d kill me,” Smart said. “They’d done every other horrible thing to me.” Her family never gave up on the hope of finding their daughter, and in the end, it was that same hope that brought her home.

“A police officer stopped us and eventually pulled me to the side,” Smart said. “‘There’s a girl who’s been missing for a long time and her family has never given up on finding her,’ [he said].

‘They want her to come home more than anything in this world. Wouldn’t you like to come home now?’ It was in that moment that I felt safe.”

It took eight years for Elizabeth Smart’s case to go to trial. Brian David Micheal, the man who kidnapped her was sentenced to life in prison without parole. His wife, Wanda Barzee, who assisted in the rape and abuse of Smart, was sentenced to 15 years. She

Smart shares her story

multiple books and continues to inspire people

was released from prison in September 2018.

Throughout her talk, Smart only referred to Michael and Barzee as her captors.

“The trial is what originally prompted me to speak out. During those eight years I had hoped to keep the details of what happened to me to myself,” Smart said. “During the trial, so much came out as a simple list of bullet points. I decided that if it was all going to come out, it should be on my terms.”

Smart now speaks frequently around the United States about her trauma and how she has overcome it.

During the question and answer portion of her talk, she elaborated on topics like victim shaming.

“Never start a question with the words why didn’t you, because a survivor will not hear your curiosity. They will hear the words ‘why didn’t you?’” Smart said. “Ultimately, they did their job. They survived.”

Smart has written two books “My Story” and “Where There’s Hope: Healing, Moving Forward, and Never Giving Up.”

In both books, she details how she was able to find happiness after her traumatic kidnapping.

“I have forgiven my captors, but for me that forgiveness was solely for myself,” Smart said. “I never want to see them again, I want nothing to do with them, but I will not let that anger take up a percentage of who I am.”

Throughout her journey toward healing, Smart was reminded of a lesson that her mother shared with her on the day she was rescued.

“These people stole nine months of my life from me,” she said. “I didn’t know when justice would be fully served, but the greatest punishment I could give these people is to be happy and move forward.”

Smart’s perspective on **FAMILY**

In a press conference prior to her talk, Smart was questioned about her children and whether the trauma she had experienced had deterred her from wanting to bring children into the world.

“What I went through didn’t affect my decision. Having a family is something I’ve always wanted,” Smart said. “Now that I have children, is it terrifying? Yes. When my oldest daughter was born it felt like my heart migrated into my throat and hasn’t come back down.”

*Smart has been married for seven years.
She has two daughters, Chloe and
Olivia, and a son, James.*

Rock opera 'The Who's Tommy' will tug at your heartstrings

TAYLOR CRUMLEY
Staff Reporter

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance presented the opening show of the rock opera "The Who's Tommy" last Thursday, March 21 in the Varner Studio Theatre.

"The Who's Tommy" is based on a 1969 concept album by the British rock band The Who, and is set in the aftermath of World War II. The show marks the first time the theatre department has done a full-on rock opera where a majority of the show is sung.

"It centers around Tommy, a boy who experiences trauma at an early age and can no longer hear, speak or see," said Stephanie Gettings, a senior performer in the show. "His family spends a lot of their time trying to heal him or figure out what's wrong, not knowing that this traumatic experience is what caused him to be unresponsive."

"The Who's Tommy" has taken home five Tony Awards, and deals with substantial topics such as mental health, abuse, while showing the troubles and healing of the characters throughout.

"We connect with the audience in a way that breaks your heart and mends it at the same time," Gettings said.

The sorrow presented in the story takes a turn when Tommy's extraordinary talent for playing pinball is discovered, which drives him to fame.

"There is no time for hesitancy, because the show moves so fast," said Mackenzie Grosse, who plays Tommy's mother, Mrs. Walker. "I have to know exactly what I'm feeling the second I hit the stage."



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTOGRAPHER

The rock opera is an electric and heartfelt show that tackles mental health, abuse and healing over time.

Gettings feels like this show is the "perfect finale" to her four years at OU.

"Everyone has worked so hard on this show and it's so special to me that this is my last one," Gettings said. "There's something about this show that feels like this big hug that you didn't know you needed."

Each performance of the show is shadow-signed for the deaf by Synergy on Stage.

"The music is absolutely stunning, and the coolest part of the entire thing is the work we do with Synergy

on Stage," Josh Frink, who plays Captain Walker, said. "Having them there is just so poignant and powerful."

Finding the opportunity as an actor to jump into someone else's life is an amazing experience, according to Frink. Other performers find their roles in the rock opera to be just as lively.

"Portraying Mrs. Walker is incredibly exhilarating," Grosse said. "I have loved telling a story with such a variety of inward and outward change on Mrs. Walker's behalf. It makes every night I perform full of new surprises."

The show is directed by Assistant Professor of theatre David Gram.

"There is something transformative about watching a musical," Gram said. "Music in any form hits us in unique and individual ways, and when you couple it with an engaging story... the result can be arresting."

The remaining performance dates are March 28 and 29 at 8 p.m., March 30 at both 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and March 31 at 2 p.m. There will be working pinball machines in the lobby for the audience to play.

"The talent on display in 'Tommy' is electric," Gram said. "The musical 'Tommy' is not often produced. Given the original rock album is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year, what better way to celebrate it than with our own homegrown production? Our hope is to offer the OU community a theatrically visceral experience."

Tickets for the show can be purchased online or at the Varner Hall Box Office. Tickets are \$12 for students and 10 a.m. matinee, and \$22 for the general public.



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PUZZLES

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- Across**

 - 1. Comics' place
 - 6. One of the Lesser Sundas
 - 10. In a skillful manner
 - 14. Kind of hole or layer
 - 15. Middle Eastern muck-a-muck (Var.)
 - 16. Professor Plum's game
 - 17. Zoologist's study
 - 18. Seneca's student
 - 19. Bamboozles
 - 20. Life imitator
 - 21. World Series precursor
 - 24. Achy
 - 25. Word after big, motor and bad
 - 26. The 75th meridian in the East
 - 31. Bindlestiffs
 - 32. Mighty trees
 - 33. ____ volente
 - 36. All over again
 - 37. "Uncle!"
 - 39. Globe production
 - 40. Happened upon
 - 41. ____ all-time high
 - 42. Bluffer's ploy
 - 43. "Mister Roberts" role
 - 46. Where many changes take place
 - 49. Units of energy
 - 50. Captain's superior
 - 53. Any ship at sea
 - 56. Lounge about
 - 57. What little things mean?
 - 58. Bee-fitting description?
 - 60. Quaint sigh
 - 61. Where water became wine
 - 62. Dither
 - 63. Former news agency
 - 64. Type of lift
 - 65. "So long!"
- Down**

 - 1. "Nude Lying on a ____"
 - 2. Former Winter Palace resident
 - 3. Trounce
 - 4. Motor lodge
 - 5. Some legumes
 - 6. Streamer
 - 7. Supplicant's conclusion
 - 8. One-time change in Rome
 - 9. Tyson's moniker
 - 10. Build up, as interest
 - 11. Puff up
 - 12. Type of counter
 - 13. Acquiescent answers
 - 22. Memorable time
 - 23. Some turkeys
 - 24. April or November surprise
 - 26. Bedding item
 - 27. Timbre
 - 28. Assist in malfeasance
 - 29. "Nothing ____!"
 - 30. 23rd letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 33. 554, in stone
 - 34. Natural effortlessness
 - 35. ____ and terminer
 - 37. Phrase of affirmation
 - 38. Moo goo ____ pan
 - 39. They hang together
 - 41. Part of A.D.
 - 42. Tykes TV show or movie
 - 43. Philadelphia squad
 - 44. Ambrosia accompaniment
 - 45. Prior to
 - 46. Key of B
 - 47. Wahine's welcome
 - 48. Soothing rub-ons
 - 51. Love handles, essentially
 - 52. Island close to Mull
 - 53. S or XL, e.g.
 - 54. Partially obscured
 - 55. "Watermark" chanteuse
 - 59. Chart type

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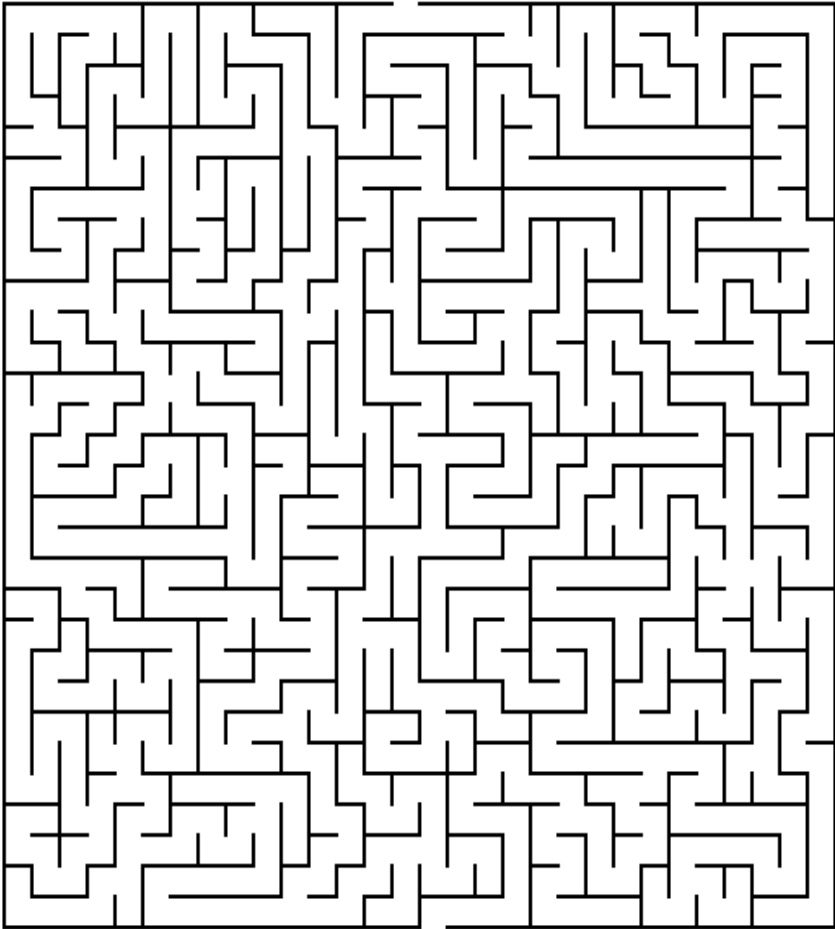
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The views expressed in Opinion do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.

Defending the United States Electoral College

TIMOTHY KANDOW
Contributor

After a candidate won the popular vote and yet lost the general election, the 2016 election has resurfaced the presidential voting process here in the United States. Several Democratic candidates have emerged to challenge incumbent President Donald Trump and propose removing the electoral college. This long-standing and unique voting process in the United States has been a topic of debate throughout U.S. history.

The electoral college originated as an agreement between representatives of the colonies while founding this nation. Some wanted the president to be elected through the popular vote, while others wanted the position to be appointed.

The electoral college became the compromise between the two groups. Each state has one electoral vote per representative and senator delegated to, in theory, cast a vote for the presidential candidate who gained the most votes within that state.

When discussing the electoral college, it's important to note the United States is not a democracy; the populus does not run the country. The United States is a constitutional republic composed of a federation of states.

Fears when founding this nation came in twofold: one, that the majority would rule over the minority, and two, powerful states choke the smaller states.

The purpose of the electoral college is to minimize the power of the bigger and more populated states. It was never



designed to grant one voter, one vote. In fact, the American electorate in its entirety is intended to equal the playing field amongst states and people, not solely people.

Though this may appear unfair—evidenced in the 2016 general election—the electoral college works to the standard of excellence and fulfills its intention.

Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton did win the popular vote by two percentage points. Trump, however, won the electoral college by 14 percentage points electing him president. Trump won using electoral votes.

The electoral college prevented Hillary Clinton from using her 6 million vote victory in New York and California while ignoring her 3 million-vote loss in the other 48 states. When combined, Clinton only won the popular vote using only two states. Ignore these two and Trump won the popular vote by over 3 million votes.

If the U.S. had a popular vote system, two states would have decided the result of the 2016 election for the other 48. If we did away with the electoral college, candidates would only focus on the most populated states, completely

ignoring the smaller.

Currently, the electoral college pressures candidates to campaign in a variety of states with diversity in economies, ideals and people. Because of the need to appeal to a variety of people, candidates and political parties provide a large platform covering assorted policies and solutions.

The United States has found a system where the state population is accounted for and at the same time gives a voice to the minority states. The United States is not a democracy, we are a constitutional republic made up of a federation of states each diverse.

The electoral college has become the best compromise between the states rights and the people's voice. Abolishing the electoral college would be a mistake for this country with grave consequences.

Trump forces colleges to protect citizens with unsafe views



BEN HUME
Staff Reporter

American conservatives use the protection of free speech frequently in their defense of dangerous opinions.

This statement should not be as controversial as it appears in political discourse, and yet it is a defining aspect of arguments nationwide. Nowhere is this anger felt more than college campuses, where conservative groups are

frequently the vocal minority.

This week, fulfilling a promise he made on March 2, President Donald Trump will sign an executive order forcing college campuses to certify they protect free speech on their campuses or risk losing federal research funding.

The story Trump cited in a speech to conservative activists was the case of Hayden Williams, who was punched in the face while recruiting for the right wing group Turning Point USA. The group has rightfully been accused of spreading half truths and false information in the past to forward their heavily conservative platform, bordering on alt-right.

As a disclaimer, violence should not have been the answer to Williams' recruiting. But using the guise of free speech as a way to enforce a policy like this is simply wrong.

Let's take a closer look at Hayden Williams' case and others like it to see why freedom of speech is not the same as freedom to be stupid.

To spread the good word of Turning Point USA, Williams had set up two signs on a walk path on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley.

The first said, "Hate Crime Hoaxes Hurt Real Victims," in reference to the case of Jussie Smollett, and the second said, "This Is MAGA Country."

The first sign is an excellent example of a dangerous half truth frequently promoted by this organization. Yes, it is true that fake attacks like Smollett's can create a precedent that less cases will be taken seriously if there is a history of falsification; however, the fact of the matter is the vast majority of hate crimes are already not taken seriously. Victims should be believed until proven otherwise, and rhetoric like this suggests there is a legitimate reason to not believe the victims of hate crimes. Smollett's case should be taken as an oddity and not as the rallying cry of a conservative group.

The second sign is self explanatory. Trump supporters have used the MAGA warcry as a quick and easy way to be aggressive toward anyone who doesn't believe in the same policies they do. The basis of the saying "Make America Great Again" is racist because of all of the policies and rhetoric which the president has surrounded it. That phrase cannot be dissociated from the inhumane treatment of immi-

grant families at the southern border. It cannot be dissociated from calling all Mexicans rapists, drug dealers and less than human.

Anyone going to a college campus, or any public space for that matter, with a sign as blatant as Williams' is looking to make trouble just based on the content of the message.

Conservative groups loved Trump's speech on March 2 because they want more freedom to promote messages like Williams'. They fear they will be unable to have a safe space on liberal-leaning locations like college campuses.

And to that, I say, too bad. The right to freedom of speech in the First Amendment does not guarantee a freedom of consequences. As I said previously, the man who assaulted Williams deserves punishment equal to his crimes, because assault should not be the answer to aggression.

This does not mean colleges and universities should take the fall. They should be able to enforce their policies without worrying about losing funding. That means being able to say "no" to people who they believe will make their campus a less safe place.

‘Us’ is a terrifying cinematic triumph

TREVOR TYLE
Life&Arts Editor

There’s no denying Jordan Peele is a master storyteller. After the worldwide success of his 2017 directorial debut, “Get Out,” Peele has returned with a film that, much like its predecessor, both challenges and exceeds audience expectations in the best way.

Peele’s latest effort, “Us,” is intoxicating, to say the least. In spite of the complexities that come with it, the brilliant cast of the film makes “Us” feel real, ultimately triggering a greater emotional response.

“Us” follows the Wilsons, a seemingly normal family who are vacationing in Santa Cruz. The family’s matriarch, Adelaide (an incomprehensibly remarkable Lupita Nyong’o) has reservations about returning to the local beach, where she suffered a traumatic encounter as a child that has haunted her well into adulthood. But her family, which also consists of patri-

arch Gabe (Winston Duke) and children Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and Jason (Evan Alex), convinces her otherwise.

However, because this is a horror film — and a Jordan Peele one, at that — it doesn’t take long for things to go wrong. After discovering mysterious intruders outside their home one night, the family is attacked and imprisoned by their own doppelgängers (also played by the same actors).

Anything beyond that delves into spoiler territory. Every time you think you understand where the film is going, it throws you for another loop.

“Us” is a film rich in symbolism, offering audiences limitless interpretations of... well, literally everything. It’s truly one of the most thought-provoking films since Darren Aronofsky’s “mother!” in 2017 — though the care and attention to detail Peele has undoubtedly invested into “Us” delivers a far greater payoff than the latter.

There’s a universality to the

story Peele is telling — and as the film’s writer, producer and director, this is all on him. In spite of its intricacies, at the core of “Us” is a narrative of ourselves and how we as a society are our own worst enemy. It’s a film that warrants a second screening and hours of thought long after the credits have rolled.

Early reactions to the film compared Peele to a “modern day Hitchcock,” a statement I’m hesitant to lend my support to only because I don’t want to jinx it. But it’s clear Peele has the potential to follow in the legendary director’s footsteps. Much like Hitchcock, he boasts a rare star power that makes the success of his films more director-driven than actor-driven.

With only “Get Out” under his belt, Peele has made a name for himself, one that can clearly sell a shit ton of movie tickets and leave audiences anxiously awaiting his next release.

And if you thought “Get Out” blew your mind, you haven’t



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Nyong’o delivers a stellar performance in this modern day horror movie.

seen anything yet. With “Us,” not only has Peele raised the bar, but he’s managed to evade the dreaded directorial sophomore slump. Nyong’o, meanwhile, leads a slew of impressive performances, set behind a narrative that leaves you both invested and horrified from beginning to end.

There’s a visceral thrill to this film that is truly unlike anything I’ve ever witnessed before. “Us” never stops surprising audiences, a pattern that culminates with one

of the most unsettling, astounding plot twists I’ve ever experienced in a film.

I can honestly say that seeing this film on the big screen was one of the most rewarding and communal theatergoing experiences I’ve ever had in my entire life. “Us” is a film that packs as much soul as it does fear. It’s a film that deserves to be seen and remembered — and believe me, it will.

Rating: 5/5 stars

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THE SPORTING BLITZ

Track & Field

Outdoor Track & Field season has begun and the Golden Grizzlies are already setting new records. After two second place finishes in the indoor track season, the team started outdoor competition at the Vertklasse Meet in High Point, N.C.

Jimmie Williams headlined the Golden Grizzlies' performance with a new personal and school record in the 400m dash with a time of 47.11, which earned him first place. Malcolm McIntyre also competed in the 400m, taking 12th place with a time of 50.10. The men's sprinting team placed in other events as well, with Napoleon Outlaw recording a sixth place finish in the 100m run with a 10.75 time. Sheldon Drake was right behind him with a 10.77 time, two tenths of a second behind Outlaw, which was good for seventh place.

For the women, Chanel Gardner took sixth place in the 400m with a time of 56.56. She also took 12th place in the 200m with a 26.76 time. Gabby Cyriax placed in the field events

for the women as well, placing ninth in the discus event with a 130 ft., 11 in. throw. The men's 4x100m relay team of Chase Novak, Drake, McIntyre and Outlaw recorded a fourth place finish with a time of 42.12.

Next weekend both teams will travel to North Carolina State University to take place in the Raleigh Relays in Raleigh, N.C..

Baseball

The baseball team earned their first win of the season on Saturday with a victory against the Youngstown State University Penguins. The Golden Grizzlies were able to defeat their Horizon League opponent in extra innings in the second game of their double header thanks to Drew Demumbrum, who knocked in five runs, including the game-winning double in the 11th inning.

Demumbrum went four of six on the day, hitting a home run as well as a two run single. Oakland trailed 3-2 heading into the seventh inning, and Demumbrum hit his two run single to take the lead. After a wild pitch scored

another run, the Golden Grizzlies had a 5-3 lead, which the Penguins quickly erased. After a full day of baseball, the teams went into extra innings tied 5-5, and no one was able to break the tie until Demumbrum stepped back into the batters box.

Austin Sherry closed out the game in the bottom of the 11th inning, recording a win in relief, and Oakland picked up their first regular season and Horizon League win, improving to 1-18 overall and 1-4 in league play.

The next day, the team picked up their second win of the season, 8-0. This shutout win improved the team's record to 2-18 overall and 2-4 in the Horizon League.

Looking to improve on a two game win streak, the baseball team returns home to face off against the Northern Kentucky Norse for a three game series this weekend, pending weather.

Compiled by Michael Pearce,
Sports Editor

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EDITORIAL

Three things wrong with March Madness

JONATHAN SAVICH
Staff Reporter

March Madness creates the most exciting basketball you'll see all year and that encompasses the NBA as well. From Cinderellas of the past like the Butler teams in 2010 and 2011 that made back-to-back national championships as No. 8 and 5 seeds, to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Retrievers of 2018 who became the first ever 16 seed to defeat a No. 1 seed. Considering that, this article is not a knock on the tournament, but it showcases things that are inherently wrong with the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and a 68 team, single elimination format.

#1 Play-in games (The First 4)

In 2011, the NCAA tournament added four teams to the 64-team format. For the NCAA, more games means more money. When making this decision, it's like they didn't care to ruin the symmetry and fairness of having four branches of 16 teams. The NCAA has two teams compete for a 16 seed and 2 others for an 11 seed.

If you fill out an NCAA bracket, you'll notice the "First Four" aren't games you even choose from, which further justifies the point the games aren't viewed as actual tournament games. Also, why do two teams that are supposed to be ranked 11 compete to get in? We have the other one

seeds and higher minus the 16 seed play-in game, getting a one-game advantage. If the NCAA wanted to make any sense out of this mess, the "First Four" would actually be the first four teams in the tournament over the teams that just missed the tournament.

#2 The Regular Season has Low Stakes

Again, 68 teams make the tournament so there is room for any decent Division I team. If the team is in a major conference like the Big 10 all you need to do is go a few games over .500. and you can qualify. Ohio State who went 20-15 got an 11 seed. Even worse, automatic qualifying conference tournaments like our very own Horizon League tournament enables mediocre teams to get hot at the end of the year and make the tournament with a sub-par record and difficulty of schedule.

In 2005, Before Oakland was in the Horizon League, they made the tournament with a record of 13-18; I can't imagine the number of teams that were better in terms of record and on the court that got robbed. The NCAA might as well call everything until March the pre-season.

#3 The Athletes Take Home Zero Dollars

This issue is an NCAA wide issue, but let's focus on the tournament specifically. With \$10 billion being bet on the games and the tournament creating \$1 billion in revenue in 2017 with projections saying it'll stay on the rise in

YEAR	CHAMPION (RECORD)
2018	Villanova (36-4)
2017	North Carolina (33-7)
2016	Villanova (35-5)
2015	Duke (35-4)
2014	Connecticut (32-8)
2013	Louisville (35-5)*

PHOTO COURTESY OF NCAA
March Madness competition winners from previous years.

2019 and beyond, how can we not pay the players? So that makes me mad, but what irks me more is athletes are not allowed to make money via sponsorships or sales of memorabilia. Who is to say you can't make money on your own time? The NCAA tournament could, and should, act as a springboard for the players' basketball careers and finances.

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DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

Last October saw the grand opening of the new Oakland Center (OC), a months-long project that added new restaurants, seating areas, ballrooms, offices and The Habitat event space.

When The Post covered the opening of the \$47 million expansion and renovation project, there was celebration and hope for the future of student life at Oakland University. But the results of a recent investigation show that initial high spirits were in vain.

Where the new ballrooms and Habitat are, thousands of earthworms were forcibly removed from their homes.

"It's terrible," earthworm Jimothy, 5, said. "My life, my family, my whole livelihood — it's all gone."

Jimothy lived in a patch of dirt located between the OC and O'Dowd hall for three years.

The worm claims he was not approached by university representatives or offered compensation for their property prior to demolition. Jimothy relocated to a rocky planter in parking lot P1.

This sentiment is common among the worm diaspora, who shared stories of "big scooping things" blotting out the sun and "stealing people up."

"Yeah, it was totally crazy," Pete St. Worm, 4, said. "Like these big dump things just went 'Skrrrrrrrr' and then it was like 'BANG!' — everything is gone!"

With so many worms displaced without compensation, several worms have begun building a case against the State of Michigan directed toward the federal court.

"I mean, like, you cannot just take someone's home and not leave them with nothing, right?" said Willy Wormenstein, founder of Worms Against Eminent Domain (WAED). "Like it is just basically un-American, and worms are, like,

as American as they come. Wait — what's that about eagles?"

Other worms have decided to take a more proactive approach to securing compensation. The Oakland County Earthworm Anarchists (OCEA) have begun holding flash demonstrations to "get people's heads out of the dirt and focused on our dirt."

One OCEA member, who spoke under the condition of anonymity, said, "My family has been here since forever. My granddad survived the O'Dowd razings, my dad survived the P1 massacres, and I am not about to die for some concrete amphitheater! 'Habitat,' more like 'habi-theft!'"

Despite the spirited camps forming, many of the displaced residents simply want to move on with their lives.

"I know I cannot get my home back," Jimothy said, "but hopefully we can get a chance to rebuild."

While Jimothy has applied for



PRAKHYA CHILUKURI | GRAPHIC ASSISTANT

Sure, the Oakland Center is nice but what about the well being of the worms?

state and federal aid, he has faced significant push back from officials due to being a worm.

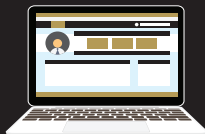
"It's hard out there," Jimothy said. "They treat you as if worms do not have rights. It makes me sick." The same resistance Jimothy has faced might be the norm for the worm activists. A spokes-

woman for the Sixth Circuit Court said no judges would honor a case brought forth by worms.

"Please stop contacting me," she said. "If you do not stop, I will call the cops on you, OK? Just leave me alone."

OC Director Chris Reed did not wish to comment on the story.

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