

SPIRITS HIGH ON THE BLACKTOP

Men's Basketball prevails against
Milwaukee after honoring senior players
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SAFETY RANKING

Oakland campus rated second
safest campus in U.S.

PAGE 5

TUITION EXPLAINED

Tuition is on the rise and how the
money is spent

PAGES 10 & 11

BLACK PANTHER

Marvel's new movie sparks hope
for more diverse media

PAGE 12



on the web

Staff Reporter Falin Hakeem reviews Oscar front-runner "Three Billboards" in this week's online feature. Photo / IMDb
www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SENIOR NIGHT IN THE O'RENA // Oakland men's basketball seniors Nick Daniels (pictured), Jalen Hayes, Kendrick Nunn and Martez Walker were honored at the annual Seniors Night after a win over the Milwaukee Panthers.
Photo // Brendan Triola

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

POLL OF THE WEEK

What did you do for "spring" break this year?

- A I partied every single night
- B I watched 8 shows on Netflix
- C I neglected all of my homework
- D I went to bed early every night

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What do you wish was a Winter Olympics award?

- A) "Biggest snowboarding faceplant"
8 votes | 19%
- B) "Most vigorous curling sweeper"
15 votes | 35%
- C) "Best hockey boxing match"
11 votes | 26%
- D) "Most stylish team uniforms"
9 votes | 21%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

February 26, 1965

60 Oakland students protested police brutality following an instance in Pontiac, Mich.

February 27, 1978

\$75,000 was generated from an "Athletic Fee", but student leaders were not able to find how the money was used.

February 26, 2015

As only a sophomore, Kahlil "Kay" Felder was a frontrunner for the Horizon League's Player of the Year.



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NEXT STEP

Former Oakland professor looks to help students enter the work force
Photo// Nicole Morsfield



9

WORKING FOR TESLA

An Oakland alumus has found himself working for Tesla in Silicon Valle.
Photo// Sam Boggs



19

SPRING BREAK

Quick question: WHY IS OAKLAND'S SPRING BREAK SO EARLY?
Photo// Erin O'Neill

BY THE NUMBERS

2018 WINTER OLYMPICS

21

Medals the United States brought home this year

2

American athletes became the youngest to win gold in snowboarding events

1998

The last time U.S. women's hockey won gold before 2018

1

U.S men's curling earned its first medal gold medal

Staff Editorial

'Never Again': Parkland students creating movement for change

Katarina Kovac
Staff Reporter

The survivors of the Feb. 14 mass shooting in Parkland, Fla. are calling for the United States Congress to take action to prevent future school shootings. Their actions are allowing for gun laws to be debated on a national scale, unlike ever before.

Nikolas Cruz, a 19-year-old man who was previously expelled from the high school, opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MSD) in Parkland, Fla., killing 17 and wounding many others.



The massacre at MSD not only reignited the national debate over gun control, but also launched a group of teenage activists. The movement that emerged in its aftermath is called "Never Again." The students are holding a nationwide protest in Washington D.C., scheduled for March 24.

David Chipman currently serves as a senior policy advisor at Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization led by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords who survived an assassination attempt in Tucson, Ariz.

Previously, he served as a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for 25 years. During this career from 1987 until 2012, he performed many duties to include serving as a member of ATF's version of SWAT, investigated and arrested gun traffickers and supervised the ATF office in Flint, Mich.

Chipman firmly believes that mass shootings, such as the massacre at MSD, could have been prevented.

"These events are not acceptable nor are they normal," Chipman said. "To prevent these mass shootings, we have to more closely regulate how people acquire firearms, especially the same firearms I used as a member of ATF's SWAT team."

There are many gun control measures that could have prevented this massacre per-

formed by Cruz.

"Mandatory background checks for every gun sale and limiting the age to possess or acquire firearms until the age of 21 would have prevented this shooting," Chipman said.

A common debate in regard to gun ownership lies in the Second Amendment and the right to keep and bear arms.

"Most importantly, the court has also ruled that government has the right to regulate who can possess guns and under what conditions in support of public safety," Chipman said. "If the government regulated guns like they regulate cars in America, these events would be greatly reduced."

Since 2013, there have been nearly 300 school shootings in America — an average of about one a week. Officials argue that a major influence within these shooters is mental illness, but the facts beg to differ.

"Many have estimated that mental health is only the proximate cause of around 5 percent of gun violence incidents," Chipman said. "Most persons who suffer mental illness are not violent. What researchers do see is that illnesses such as depression and access to a gun increase the risk of a successful suicide attempt."

President Donald Trump recently proposed that teachers should be armed in schools in an effort to keep students safe. Chipman believes that it is a reckless and dangerous proposal.

"It is a craven attempt of the gun lobby to once again convince America that public safety is the responsibility of every individual who can only survive by buying more guns and carrying them at all times at the ready to win a Hollywood gunfight," Chipman said. "A police officer cannot be expected to guard an entire school against a mass shooter carrying weapons of war and a willingness to die, either."

The survivors of the shooting at MSD have opened conversation regarding gun control in ways that no other group of survivors has been able to.

"Our children are leading where their parents have failed," Chipman said.

The Parkland students have had the ability to turn grief into a national movement. They're here to make change while enforcing gun control regulations, not by sending "thoughts and prayers."



THE OAKLAND
POST

Address 61 Oakland Center,
Rochester, MI 48306
Phone 248.370.2537 or 248.370.4268
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial board

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4268

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor
ckramer@oakland.com
248.370.2537

Elyse Gregory
Photo Editor
emgregory@oakland.edu
248.370.4266

John Bozick
Web Editor
jcbozick@oakland.edu

editors

Trevor Tyle Campus Editor
ttyle@oakland.edu

Laurel Kraus Life Editor
lmkraus@oakland.edu

Skylar Tolfree Sports Editor
stolfree@oakland.edu

Simon Albaugh Social Media Editor
saalbaugh@oakland.edu

writers

Falin Hakeem Staff Reporter
Mary Siring Staff Reporter
Ariel Themm Staff Reporter
Katarina Kovac Staff Reporter
Dakota Brecht Staff Reporter
Sadie Layher Staff Reporter
Michael Pearce Staff Reporter
Emily Morris Staff Reporter
Jessica Leydet Staff Intern
Jordan Jewell Staff Intern

advertising

Whitney Roemer Ads Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4269

Angela Gebert Ads Assistant

copy & visual

AuJenee Hirsch Chief Copy Editor
Katie LaDuke Copy Editor
Mina Fuqua Copy Editor
Alexa Caccamo Copy Editor
Erin O'Neill Graphic Designer
Prakhya Chilukuri Graphic Assistant

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Samuel Summers Photographer

distribution

Rachel Burnett Distribution Director
Maxwell Pelkey Distributor
Christian Hiltz Distributor
Austin Souver Distributor
Dean Vaglia Distributor
Maxx Han Distributor
Brittany Brewster Distributor

advising

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
gjgilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

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Corrections Corner: The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact

Know of an error? Let us know at editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

Adviser of the Year award

April Thomas-Powell is celebrated after 10 years of advising students in the School of Nursing program

Jordan Jewell
Staff Intern

April Thomas-Powell, an adviser in Oakland University's School of Nursing, has been awarded the 2017-2018 Adviser of the Year Award.

The award was commemorated with a plaque that can be found in the Kresge Library. It is given out by the Professional Advisers Council each year to the academic adviser they feel has most impacted students with his or her mentorship and guidance. Thomas-Powell is also being recognized by the National Academic Advising Association.

“

“I started working with students as someone who was new to the professional world and I fell in love with the work I was doing almost immediately.”

April Thomas-Powell
School of Nursing adviser

Beginning her studies in Kansas, she has a bachelor's and master's degree in history and stumbled into the world of advising unexpectedly.

“I started working with students as someone who was new to the professional world, and I fell in love with the work I was doing almost immediately,” Thomas-Powell said.

Working with students became a passion for her after she joined Oakland's staff.

“There was a position to work with students at risk and I got to help them set up paths to success,” she said. “It's a chance to help students reach their fullest potential.”

Although she never had an interest in studying medicine, Thomas-

Powell joined the advising staff in the School of Nursing and has worked there since 2005. Her focus is on transfer students and students on academic probation.

Having worked with at-risk students for over 10 years, Thomas-Powell devotes herself to helping them stay motivated and on the correct path.

“I love the puzzles that come along with the job,” she said. “Each student is different and you get to help them figure out how to navigate Oakland University in a way that will work for them. When I think of what makes someone a great adviser, compassion and empathy definitely come to mind. You're constantly learning how you can improve the lives of students because no two students will have the same questions.”

Many students worry about adviser meetings because they aren't sure exactly how to prepare, an issue Thomas-Powell encounters frequently.

“Always write your questions down,” she said. “If you come into the office prepared then we have a better chance at being able to help you.”

She also pointed out that it's important for students to be proactive about meeting with an adviser.

“You don't want to wait until you're in a tough situation,” she said. “Look at the course catalogue and recognize the steps you need to take in order to reach your degree.”

Additionally, Thomas-Powell has a desire to help students with the social side of college life. Since the OU community primarily consists of commuters, it can be hard to develop a fulfilling social life.

“My advice to students is to stay on campus as much as possible,” she said. “It can be tempting to go take a nap during your class breaks, but try to stick around.”

Her final piece of advice was encouraging students to join organizations that align with their interests.

“If you don't see a student org that speaks to your passions, create one,” Thomas-Powell said.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Attention First-Year Students & Seniors:

This year's National Survey of Student Engagement at OU is now open. Be sure to check your OU email and complete the survey by **March 23** for a chance to win one of 150 OU-themed prizes.

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Community engagement boosts campus safety ranking to second

Sadie Layher
Staff Reporter

In a ranking involving around 247 universities around the country, Oakland University came out as second for campus safety.

The ranking was done by the National Council for Home Safety and Security, and was partially calculated based on crime statistics on campus as well as neighboring city crime statistics.

OU is similar to a city in population, there are about 20,000 active students which could be on campus at any given point, along with around 3,200 students living in on-campus or university affiliated housing.

"Not only staff work on a goal like this, but a safe community is an engaged community," Oakland University Police Department Chief Mark Gordon said.

Another factor is how many students per officers there are on campus. There are around

23 sworn officers that are police certified and these officers go through the exact same training standard city police officers go through.

The campus police also have a mutual agreement with neighboring communities. If Troy or Auburn Hills required backup, OUPD would be of assistance and vice versa.

"We are very proactive and we always have educational programs and public safety programs such as the 'Lock It or Lose It' campaign," OUPD Lieutenant Nicole Thompson said.

OUPD's hope is that the community will feel good about Oakland ranking second out of around 250 universities. Michigan State University was number 47 while University of Michigan was number 51. However, both officers encourage students and staff that if they see something they should say something.

The most common crime that is committed on campus is larceny. Often, it is electronic

devices that are left unattended around campus such as in the Oakland Center or Kresge Library. When a situation such as this arises, calling OUPD should be one of the first things to do. The police will log the report, look on security cameras, interview others around the crime scene and attempt to locate the stolen property.

Both officers say students, staff and faculty educating themselves is the best way to protect themselves from various crimes. OUPD recommends to not leave items unattended and with the second most popular crime on campus, a Minor In Possession, save drinking for when the student is of age. Education is the top priority at a university whether it be studying or protecting against crime.

Community engagement is one of OU's top priorities in teaching, learning and being proactive after graduation.

"Even though we can't take full credit, it's the community



Photo Courtesy of Oakland University

The NSC ranked Oakland University as the second safest campus in the U.S.

partnerships that we have and we work closely with Housing and dean of students," Thompson said. "We are not immune from crime and students need to take initiative."

It is the close-knit local communities that help lower crime rates and bring the local universities higher campus safety

ratings. Students are a huge help whether it be the past, present or future because around every four years the entire population of the university and "city" change and shift.

Students should "continue to create a safe environment and have the community remain engaged," Gordon said.

Alumni and faculty add value to Oakland County

Golden Grizzlies make the Elite 40 Under 40 for their accomplishments

Laurel Kraus
Life Editor

The Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 Under 40 Class of 2018 included four Oakland University alumni, two current students and one faculty member, all who were honored at the State of the County Address on Feb. 7.

The 40 individuals who make this list each year are under 40 years old and exemplify great accomplishments in their respective fields within Oakland County.

Alexander Ayar

Ayar graduated from Oakland, where he met his wife of 10 years, in 2003, and is now an attorney specializing in commercial litigation at McDonald Hopkins. He has been awarded the Super Lawyers Rising Stars for Business Litigation from 2006 to 2013 and received a special tribute from the legislature in the state of Michigan in Nov. 2016. He also serves as a multi-term member of the Judicial Advisory Committee for the United States District Court for The Eastern District of Michigan.

Cheryl (Bartlebaugh) Boodram

Boodram graduated from Oakland in 2017 and is now a marketing and development manager at Chief Financial Credit Union and an ambassador for the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce. She is a corporate social responsibility advocate and has certifications in Leadership Greater Rochester from the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Disney's Approach to Business Excellence.

Jennifer Lucarelli

Lucarelli joined Oakland's faculty in 2009 as an associate professor of interdisciplinary health sciences. She is also chairperson of the Healthy Pontiac We Can! Coalition, which has brought together around 50 organizations and individuals to strive toward better nutrition and physical activity health in Pontiac at the policy level. She also works with the Oakland County Sheriff Police Athletic League to provide sports programming and mentorship to Pontiac children.

Jennifer (MacDonald) Meier

Meier graduated from Oakland in 2009

and is now the owner of Green Hippo Gifts in Lake Orion. She was a teacher for 10 years before creating the shop around four years ago with no previous experience. It has been voted both the best gift shop and best boutique in Orion and Oxford. Beyond the typical experience, the shop offers special events that benefit charity such as the recent Galentine's Day with proceeds going to Haven.

Kyle Nieporte

Nieporte graduated from Oakland in 2011 and is now an administration manager of surgical services at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland. Before deciding to return to the nonprofit hospital realm at St. Joseph Mercy, he helped to open eight surgery centers throughout the state of Michigan. He will potentially be moving into a directorial level roll at the hospital in the coming weeks.

Sarah Pazur

Pazur is currently pursuing a Ph.D in educational leadership from Oakland and is the principal of FlexTech High School. The school rethinks traditional

education to provide students with a more hands-on experience through project-based classes where they are able to utilize what they have learned. Pazur recently wrote and received a grant for community partnership with a local makerspace where 16 students now go to learn trade skills such as welding, woodworking and textiles in order to create projects that will positively impact their communities.

Maria Willett

Willett is currently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration from Oakland and is a founding member of the Young Professionals of Rochester, chief assistant to the mayor for the City of Rochester Hills and is involved with the Woman in Municipal Government Organization. As chief assistant, she organized a partnership between city hall and Life Remodel to clean up blight in Detroit which earned the Spirit of Detroit Award, as well as excursions to emphasize the importance of parts of the city such as Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Students awarded with Gjergj Kastrioti Scholarship

Scholarship for students of Albanian descent has awarded over \$100,000 since creation in 1999

Ariel Themm
Staff Reporter

After state-wide consideration, the Gjergj Kastrioti Scholarship will be awarded to two students from Oakland University on Saturday March 3.

This scholarship rewards academic achievement to students who are of at least 50 percent Albanian descent. This fund was originally started in 1999 and has awarded over \$100,000 since then. This year's winners are Kejda Amarku and Greti Gashaj.

"The scholarship is named after an Albanian national hero," Donald Demiri, the chairman of The Gjergj Kastrioti Scholarship Fund, said. "In the 1400s, the Turks were conquering left and right and Kastrioti was able to fight back against this in order to keep Albania independent. He represents heroism and patriotism for us. He is like a knight that fought for our freedom."

The scholarship fund also holds their St. Jude's Walk to give back to commu-

nities in Albania and in the U.S. A large portion of the money donated is given away to poorer communities in Albania to provide underprivileged school districts with more supplies.

The scholarship looks for students with high GPAs who attend a Michigan

““Even though you need to be some part Albanian to win, it’s really diverse there. You learn about different regions of Albania, where they have their own traditions and cultures.”

Donald Demiri
Chairman of the Gjergj Kastrioti Scholarship Fund

four-year university or college and are active in their campus community. The scholarship has previously included winners from Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

"Being awarded and going to the gala, it's where you basically connect, to build a network base," said Betira Shahollari, a senior at OU and last year's winner. "Even though you need to be some part Albanian to win, it's really diverse there. You learn about different regions of Albania, where they have their own traditions and cultures. There are some people who are born in Albania and those who are from the U.S. We're able to create a place to unite and become familiar with each other."

Shahollari is also a part of the Albanian American Student Organization on campus. She will be attending the gala to represent the chapter from OU and to support the cause behind the scholarship.

A gala will be held by the Gjergj Kastrioti Scholarship Fund that will not only recognize the students that won, but also operate as a fundraiser to continue the scholarship distributions for future years. The event's list of guest speakers will include the mayor of Rochester, Cathy Aragona-Daldin.

In addition to the award ceremony for scholarship winners, the gala will include guest speakers that will give professional advice on how to be successful and talk about previous winners.

There will also be dancing performances at the end by a cultural group.

"Sometimes it's a pride thing," Demiri said of the scholarship. "And we're expecting students to do something about it. This scholarship is all about paying it forward. Whether they want to be a doctor or a translator or anything, as long as they're adding value to society and making good contributions."

POLICE FILES

The caller that needs to cough

OUPD dispatch received a call on Jan. 20 at 4:53 a.m. from a subject stating her and her daughter had to cough. The caller sounded disoriented, would not clarify their last name, refused medical or police attention and had loud music playing. The facts they did provide changed as the conversation continued. The caller first described that her daughter, that was presumably with her, was first in her 30s and then was later described as 17 or 19 years old. They were first in a vacant house, then in a campus bathroom, and then back in a vacant house. Attempts to transfer the caller to Oakland County Dispatch were fruitless, as they would terminate the call and then call back OUPD. Officers started to track the phone number, tracing it to a address in Oak Park. Over the next several weeks, the subject called OUPD a number of times, eventually just being placed on hold each time.

Slander threats

An Oakland University student contacted the dean of students on Jan. 4 and OUPD regarding another student who had been harassing him. The harassing student had accused him of sexually abusing her last year, but the investigation found him not in violation. He said that his accuser was posting pictures of him online stating that he had sexually abused her. OUPD contacted the student and explained that the way in which she was pursuing the matter could get her into trouble. She stated that she understood and would stop posting until she contacted an attorney.

The stalker ex

An individual came into OUPD's police station to file a report of an ex-boyfriend that had been harassing her via text message, email and showing up at her apartment. The two had dated for a month. She stated that she had made it clear that she did not want him to contact her anymore, blocked him on social media and his number, but he would use different phones to contact her. She showed three different number from earlier in the day. OUPD spoke with the male, warning him of the consequences of continued contact with her and he stated that he understood and would no longer contact her.

Compiled by Mary Siring,
Staff Reporter

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6 February 28, 2018 // The Oakland Post

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Life

Former professor helps students take 'Next Step'

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief

Edward Nakfoor entered a journalism classroom at Oakland University in September 2015 not expecting to enjoy his new job all that much. But after a few class sessions, he began to love getting up in front of aspiring journalists and starting each afternoon class with the same question:

"So tell me, what's going in the world today?"

His students' answers, or sometimes lack thereof, gave Nakfoor a passion for molding minds and helping students figure out where they wanted to fit in to the world they were about to enter.

Life has since taken Nakfoor out of the teaching field, but his passion to help students enter the working world persists. Consequently, Nakfoor has taken his experience as a public relations practitioner, columnist, educator, tutor, branding consultant and publicist to help students prepare for job applications with his business Next Step.

"I would always tell students they need a fresh set of eyes [on their work]," Nakfoor said. "So I'm that fresh set of eyes. I was working on my own resume recently and had someone look at it. They pointed out some issues, and you know, since it's my resume I thought everything was fine. It takes that fresh set of eyes, and that's what I am."

Next Step focuses on developing graduate school applications, resumes, cover letters, a personal brand and a job search strategy. Nakfoor meets with students in coffee shops or via FaceTime, whichever the student prefers. Nakfoor works alongside students via Google

Docs and makes sure their application materials are concise and impactful. He charges \$65 for an hour, \$90 for an hour and a half and \$120 for two hours.

Nakfoor has always looked at applying for a job as a job of its own. It's a mindset, and one of Next Step's purposes is to help students maintain that mindset as they search for internships or careers.

"When I started working out of my house in 2000, I would work like I was going to an office," Nakfoor said. "I would get up, get something to eat, have a cup of instant coffee, put a suit and tie on, walk to my office, hang my jacket over my chair and then go make a pot of coffee. So I would tell a student to get out of the house and put themselves in that mindset."

To help keep that mindset, Nakfoor helps students develop a personal brand and a plan to get a job they can be passionate about. One of his biggest pieces of advice to students is to remain confident in their abilities to do a job well.

"You've got to banish the word 'just' and stop saying, 'Well I'm just a college student,'" Nakfoor said. "'Just' is the worst word, it's the worst word. Don't say 'just' and don't apologize about yourself. There's nothing to be sorry about, be confident."

With confidence, top-notch application materials and the right mindset in tow, Next Step hopes to have the next generation ready for the work force, and Nakfoor looks forward to having students to teach once again.

"It's really fun for me," he said. "It's great to hear when they do well on an assignment or get an internship. It's very gratifying, there's nothing like it."



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Edward Nakfoor goes over common errors in resumes and cover letters with a group of students.

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A mother and a college student

Emily Morris
Staff Reporter

"I thought people would look at me and label me."

Samantha Orchard, a pre-nursing student at Oakland University, was used to being labeled by roles such as "athletic," "preppy" or "nerdy" has been the focal point of countless movies and is often glamorized, Orchard was preparing to take on a more unique role than the average student. For any student, sticking to the status quo is probably a much easier task in Disney's "High School Musical" than during actual preparation for college. In fact, some students, like Orchard, are blessed with unexpected role responsibilities that are life changing during college.

Each encounter throughout college has the potential to open new doors regarding personal life, spirituality or career pathways, but Orchard was fo-

cused on someone who was far more important than any college meeting. Her daughter, Elenora, was born during her transition into college, possibly labeling her as a teen mom before she could even begin creating her identity in the next chapter of her life.

"At first, I was kind of embarrassed to tell others that I was a teen mom," Orchard said. "Not that I don't love my daughter more than anything, but there's such a harsh stigma for teen moms."

Soon Orchard was able to defy solely being labeled as a teen mom and found several accompaniments for that title, which she attributes entirely to the positive feedback that surrounded her. For instance, a trip to Lima, Peru with MEDLIFE became a defining point on her journey to becoming a nurse, and being a teaching assistant for Oakland's Honors College gave her a second leadership role. Nevertheless, she claims her family is the main source of her independence to embark on opportunities, sustain

being a full-time student and keep a part-time job.

Being a student mother, of course, does encompass a variety of challenges, despite being blessed with supportive family and friends. Orchard ensured that her available study time does dwindle when she's at home and focusing on schoolwork within the time available is difficult, as well. If college wasn't already enough of a juggling act, balancing motherhood adds a new element to every day, too.

Despite the everyday inconveniences of simultaneously unraveling the responsibilities of parenthood and adulthood, it seems she's seamlessly intertwined all the labels in her life. In fact, Orchard gives Elenora some credit for influencing her decision to pursue nursing. A medical field was always a part of her future plans, but her role as a mother pushed her to choose nursing because of the complementing qualities of nursing and motherhood.

Mother was a label given to Or-

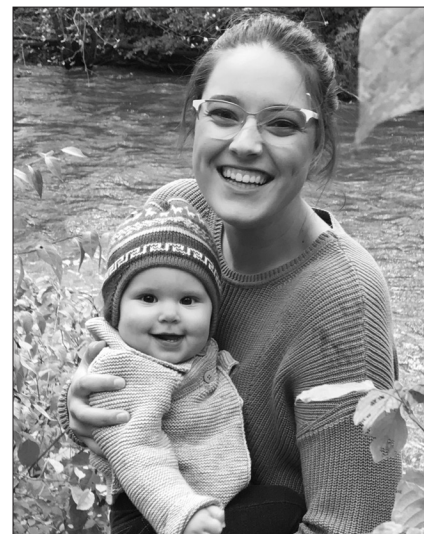


Photo courtesy of Samantha Orchard

Samantha Orchard and her daughter Elenora.

chard, not something she specifically choose, but the light in her eyes could be a key to illuminate how she feels. When holding Elenora, she seems to be consumed by a glow of happiness that resonates across her account, as well.

"Now, being a young mom is not the only thing that defines me, just a part," Orchard said.

VP of University Advancement hired

Shelby Tankersley
Editor-in-Chief

Following a national search that began back in Nov. 2017, Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz has announced that Micheal Westfall will be the university's first Vice President of University Advancement pending approval from the Board of Trustees.

Westfall comes to Oakland from Eastern Washington University, where he served as Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation for 11 years. Westfall has also worked with Radford University, Virginia Tech University, Georgetown University, Michigan State University and the University of Toronto.

"I am delighted to welcome Michael Westfall to my cabinet to lead fundraising and alumni relations for OU," Pescovitz said in a press release. "This is an exciting time as Michael joins us to take our advancement team to the next level."

As the VP of Advancement, Westfall will captain many of Oakland's fundraising initiatives as faithful donors are becoming increasingly important for universities to have. Westfall's position will also be key in creating fundraising campaigns and maintaining relationships with alumni.

"We have been looking for how to

make a fundraising operation that will be robust and able to fund itself," University Provost and head of the position's search committee, James Lentini, told The Post in November. "It's required, really, of all public institutions now. Having the systematic pieces in place to raise funds on a sustained basis is what we're really looking for."

Out of the applicant pool for the position, Lentini was especially impressed by Westfall's potential to maintain relationships with donors in an academic setting as opposed to a corporate one.

"[We needed someone] with the interpersonal skills, the experience and track record of being able to work with the president directly and the ability to work with major donors," Lentini said. "That balance with him is what stood out."

Lentini added that he most looks forward to seeing Westfall move Oakland toward making more connections with alumni and increasing individual donations to the university, which is something Oakland has lacked in the past.

Westfall will start at his work with Oakland on March 1, pending BOT approval.

"My family and I are thrilled to return 'home' to Michigan to join and contribute to the OU community," Westfall said in a press release. "I am excited to partner with President Pescovitz to create the vision and strategies for the next campaign effort."

THE OAKLAND POST

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Applications will be accepted through **March 24**. Applicants can send a **resume, cover letter** and **three writing samples** to Editor-in-Chief Shelby Tankersley at editor@oaklandpostonline.com

Oakland alumnus takes on automotives in *Silicon Valley*

Sadie Layher
Staff Reporter

Tesla Inc., a high profile automotive company in Silicon Valley, is currently being influenced by a recent Oakland University alumnus.

Tesla is an automotive company that manufactures fully electric vehicles and most recently Elon Musk, the creator helped send a car into space titled Space X. One of the business models is to create more affordable and accessible clean transportation.

Rob Meyer graduated from Oakland in 2008 with a degree in business management. Meyer is from the Lake Orion community, and during his time at OU, he was the student body president.

Lizabeth Barclay, Meyer's former professor for Intro to Organizational Behavior (ORG 3300), a course required of all undergraduate SBA majors, remembers his work ethic.

"He actively participated and asked questions. He engaged the material and saw applications to his work and life," Lizabeth Barclay said.

Meyer became involved in the automotive world when he took an internship at Continental, a tier 1 automotive supplier. He



Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

Tesla cars line the parking garage outside of the car dealer in Somerset Collection in Troy.

worked there until 2012 and, after a job offer, moved to Ford Motor Company which involved traveling to China and hopes to travel abroad again soon. This led to Tesla recruiting him in 2015 where he has been working ever since.

The position Meyer has at Tesla is global supply manager, specifically for all the vehicle's safety systems. This includes airbags and seatbelts, steering wheels and also sensors inside cars. Meyer negotiates contracts with suppliers while working cross functionally with the engineering, finance and manufacturing departments and maintaining re-

lationships with Tesla's innovative suppliers.

Along with the other skills, Meyer said that staying in "ludicrous mode" is key. Ludicrous mode is a new setting within new vehicles Tesla is producing. It allows the car to speed from 0 to 60 mph in under three seconds.

"Having the ability to solve problems, adapt quickly and keep an open mind definitely helped me secure a job at Tesla," Meyer stated.

Critical thinking is key component for those working in the automotive field. It is often a course goal for various professors

who teach at OU.

According to Meyer, stresses that working for a company that a person believes in and actually wants to work in is the key for future careers. Networking in any industry is necessary as well as being proactive and being readily available for future employer opportunities.

Currently Meyer resides in San Francisco, Calif, which is about a 45 minute commute from Palo Alto or Silicon Valley. For reference, San Francisco is about 2,400 miles away from Meyer's Alma Mater of OU.

"I am a huge advocate for Detroit. However, I always believed that there is also an entire world out there to explore," Meyer said.

Fear is often an accompaniment of change regardless of how far a job might require a future employee to go. Fear is temporary and there will always be another opportunity waiting. There will always be a period of adjustment.

Meyer stresses that there are a significant number of opportunities, often more than students realize. OU has a lot of resources at student's fingerprints along with internships and workshops.

"Don't scare yourself into thinking you can't do more or reach for the high cherries," Meyer said. "Get yourself involved and continue thriving."

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Rise of TUITION

Story by Katie LaDuke // Design by Aulene Hirsch // Graphics by Prakhya Chilukuri

A college education has become a necessity when searching today's job market. Many employers require candidates to have at least a bachelor's degree. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, around 20.4 million students were expected to attend American colleges and universities for fall 2017. This is 5.1 million more than fall 2000.

The number of college students seem to be on the rise every year, despite the steady increase in college tuition. U.S. News reported that the average 2016-17 academic year tuition at in-state universities was \$10,691 for public and \$41,727 for private. This is more than twice the 2000 average where in-state public universities were at \$3,609 and private universities were \$18,613.

The Daily Beast reported that the price of tuition has increased 1,120 percent since 1978. This is more than any other part of the United States' economy.

Jill Blevins, a 1993 Oakland University graduate, remembers when she only had to pay \$100 per credit hour. Her yearly tuition for classes with room and board came to around \$6,000.

"Oakland did raise tuition while I was there, but it never rose a lot," Blevins said.

Dr. Maria Paino, a sociology professor, explained there are two main reasons why the cost of college continues to go up: less state funding and expensive administration salaries.

"We serve the state," Paino said. "That is our original purpose."

But when colleges and universities are receiving less funding from the state, institutions have to make up that difference somewhere else. This is what causes a rise in tuition.

According to the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, 46 states—with the exception of Montana, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming—all spent less per student for the 2015-16 school year than they did before the recession.

Paino said there's not necessarily a deficit when it comes to money for universities. Politicians in the capi-

Knox said some other areas the money goes toward are scholarships, improvements to classrooms and laboratories, maintenance of buildings and insurance. Despite these reasons, some students don't know where their money goes and feel that universities don't adequately inform the student body.

"Honestly, I have no idea," senior Andrea Kumm said. "I would think it goes to OU to help with bills and construction, but I don't think that's right."

The elevated cost, no matter the factors included, directly affects students.

"Full tuition scholarships are a thing of the past," Paino said.

She explained that full tuition scholarships often don't cover tuition in full in today's world. Those scholarships usually only cover around 85 percent. She also said that only 1.25 percent of universities in the U.S. provide full need-based financial aid. One of those schools is the famed Harvard University.

"Some students need all the financial help they can get," Kumm said.

But financial aid has taken on a different form in recent years. Scholarships and grants that don't have to be paid back are the more traditional and popular forms of financial aid. Students are now relying on federal and private loans to pay for school. These loans—while they pay for school in the moment—are required to be paid back after graduation.

"The average person leaves college with \$25,000 in student loan debt," Paino said.

Students have to determine if a college education is worth taking out loans that need a cosigner and have hefty interest rates.

"Ever since I was five years old I knew I wanted to be a teacher," Kumm said. "To be a teacher I had to go to college. My parents couldn't afford to pay for my whole bill, so loans had to be taken out. It's stressful knowing tuition goes up a lot and that I have to apply for my money from different loans."

Oakland freshman Emilia Gnida often thinks about how the price of tuition impacts the way she views her



Oakland's
most recent
tuition increases

3.74%
Fall 2017

In June 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a 3.74% tuition increase. Freshmen and sophomores paid \$12,420 annually and juniors and seniors paid \$14,392.50 annually.

3.95%
Fall 2016

In June 2016, the Board of Trustees approved a 3.74% tuition increase. Freshmen and sophomores paid \$11,970 annually and juniors and seniors paid \$13,875 annually.

ol are deciding to put less toward public education when deciding budgets.

There are some other ways schools have been dealing with less state funding. Michele Knox, Oakland's director of budget and financial planning, said some ways include increasing enrollment of out-of-state students who pay a higher tuition rate, increasing the overall number of students admitted and reducing expenses.

Then there's the salaries for top university administration. These are presidents, vice presidents and deans. Paino explained their salaries can be more than six times what professors make.

"That particular faction of the university has exploded," Paino said.

Oakland currently has 11 administrative executives according to the presidential organization chart on Oakland's website. Almost all of these executives have assisting positions under them.

When universities keep hiring these administrators with expensive salaries, it starts to add up.

Forbes recognized Michael Crow from Arizona State University as the highest-paid public university president in 2017. His salary came to \$1,554,058. The top eight on that list made \$1 million or more.

"We are paying them an exorbitant amount of money," Paino said.

There are other factors that go into the cost of tuition. The price covers class time and is often broken down into credit hours.

education. By the time she finishes her undergraduate and graduate degrees, she will have accumulated around \$50,000 in student loans.

"I have drive and motivation to achieve my career goal, but the cost is what pulls me back," Gnida said. "It's sad to me that before I make any decisions related to school, I think of the cost first. Not how much I would enjoy it or its benefits. I have had to make most of my decisions based on how much is covered before I have to pay. It makes college more stressful and irritating than it should be."

This mindset for people can carry over after graduation. Paino explained that many young people are waiting to get married and to make more extravagant purchases with houses and cars.

"When you pay the equivalent of a mortgage in student loan payments, then you don't go get a mortgage," Paino said.

There are some ideas floating around regarding what the education system and colleges can do for students. Paino suggested interest rates and payment schedules for loans need to be addressed. She also thinks schools should start to think more about the "student experience" and how the cost affects them.

"I think those who come up with these budgets need to ask the students about their opinions and take a walk in their shoes to see how detrimental these prices can be to their future and their bank account," Gnida said.

If the graphs and state funding cut backs are any indicators, tuition will likely keep rising.

8.48%
Fall 2015

In July 2015, the Board of Trustees approved a 8.48% tuition increase. This violated the state cap of 3.2%.

Top 10 Highest Paid Administration

These are the 10 people who got paid the most during the 2016-17 school year. Each person's job is partially or fully funded by tuition dollars.

Note: The associate dean of student affairs is currently a vacant position. No information could be found on who occupied the position during the 2016-17 academic year.

1

\$530,887

Robert Folberg, M.D.

2

\$457,500

Ora Hirsch Percovitz

3

\$325,000

James Lentini

4

\$293,760

Greg Hampe

5

\$291,652

Mohan Tanniru

6

\$245,000

Louay M. Chamra

7

\$243,022

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

8

\$226,591

John W. Beaghan, CMA

9

\$225,176

Michele D. Raible, M.D., Pharm.D

10

\$224,400

Glenn McIntosh

Black Panther is a movie for the ages

AuJenee Hirsch
Chief Copy Editor

Warning: This review contains spoilers.

Two things in this world go together better than peanut butter and jelly—Marvel and Chadwick Boseman. Marvel's "Black Panther" hit theaters Friday, Feb. 16 and has come to be known as the best Marvel movie to date.

In its opening weekend, "Black Panther" made a whopping \$202 million and made \$108 million the following weekend. The movie has earned around \$400 million within 10 days of release, which makes it the third fastest grosser of all time behind "Jurassic World" (\$404 million) and "The Force Awakens" (\$540 million).

Marvel has done it once again with producing an amazing story line that is easy to follow and not complicated. The movie begins in Oakland, Calif. in the 1990s where someone is murdered and a boy is seen left alone.

This scene is basically the reason for everything that happens in the movie.

While the opening and premise of the movie is a bit cliché, the underlying themes of oppression and racism make all the difference. In an article written in Rolling Stone, director Ryan Coogler explained why he needed to make "Black Panther" after finishing the hit "Rocky" reboot "Creed".

"The biggest thing for me was the themes of the story – letting them [Marvel] know where my head was at and making sure they would get on board," Coogler said to Rolling Stone. "I was very honest about the idea I wanted to explore in this film, which is what it means to be African. That was one of the first things I talked about. And they were completely interested."

Although the young filmmaker only had two movies under his belt, "Fruitvale Station" and "Creed," he excelled at "Black Panther," and I'm thrilled Marvel didn't contact anyone else for the job.

The movie was cast perfectly, and I'm not just saying that because 99 percent of the cast was black, but because every person fit the role of their character. Boseman in "Black Panther" was a complete contrast to the T'Challa we saw in "Captain America: Civil War". T'Challa aka Black Panther presented himself with the grace and dignity of a king, but was also very humble with his people which made him a likeable character.

In contrast, Michael B. Jordan as Erik Killmonger was the ideal candidate to represent the rage many African Ameri-



Photo courtesy of IMDB

Black Panther is a must see Marvel sensation.

cans feel toward white people. Jordan seemed very authentic in his role and it was hard to dislike him because as a black person it was really easy to relate to his feelings and understand why he felt the way he felt.

The best part of the movie was T'Challa's little sister, Shuri. Letitia Wright brought Shuri's humor, spunk and intelligence to life, and I couldn't imagine anyone else as the iconic character. The comedic relief wasn't over the top like we've seen in the past, but it was just enough and came right when it was needed.

The movie has become a huge part of black culture—hello, it's the first black superhero this generation has seen on the big screen! That's a huge deal for the black community who oftentimes sees African Americans portrayed as criminals in the media. To see a black man in a position of power and as a good guy provides the younger members of the black community inspiration to be like Black Panther. This movie is inspiring in more ways than one, and I for one, am glad that there is finally a movie about black people that isn't about gang violence or drugs.

If you haven't gone to see the movie that is demolishing the box office right now, I recommend that you do. Not just because you may be a huge Marvel fan, but to see a pretty accurate representation of black people that hasn't been seen on the big screen before. Get ready to be welcomed into Wakanda!

Rating: 5/5 stars

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Natalie Portman shimmers in thrilling new film “Annihilation”

Trevor Tyle
Campus Editor

Natalie Portman is no stranger to badass female characters. Whether she’s fighting in a galaxy far, far away or stealing the heart of everyone’s favorite god of thunder, Portman is a force to be reckoned with, a statement only reinforced by the performance she gives in her new film, “Annihilation.”

Directed by “Ex Machina” director Alex Garland, “Annihilation” is loosely based on the Jeff VanderMeer novel of the same name—though, thanks to Garland’s impeccable storytelling, the film takes on a life of its own.

Portman plays Lena, a cellular biologist and former soldier whose husband, Kane (Oscar Isaac), has suddenly returned after disappearing on a mysterious mission she knows nothing about. Kane’s strange behavior prompts Lena’s failed attempt to take him to the hospital, which results in the couple’s abduction at the hands of government officials.

Lena is told that Kane is in critical condition after emerging the sole survivor of an expedition into the mysterious territory known as “the Shimmer,” a continuously growing area of unknown inhabitants that threatens to eventually absorb the entire world. Desperate for answers, Lena ventures into the Shimmer with a team of four other women to uncover what lives—and dies—in its depths.

Among the many triumphs of “Annihilation” are the five magnificent actresses at its forefront. Portman is as fierce and vulnerable as ever in her portrayal of Lena, though the performance is far from surprising for an actress of her versatility and commitment. Her talents are matched by the criminally underrated Jennifer Jason Leigh, who plays the expedition’s no-nonsense leader, psychologist Dr. Ventress. Meanwhile, Tessa Thompson (“Thor: Ragnarok”), Tuva Novotny (“Eat Pray Love”) and Gina Rodriguez (“Jane the Virgin”) are equally compelling in their supporting roles. The stellar performances showcased in the film are further driven by the women’s undeniable on-screen chemistry.

In all honesty, “Annihilation” probably won’t be widely enjoyed by many audience members. It exudes an intellectual depth that meets the approval of critics, but will be scoffed at by general audiences unwilling to give the film the thought it demands and deserves. This is exactly why Paramount opted to limit the film’s



Photo Courtesy of IMDb

Natalie Portman returns to the screens as Lena. theatrical release to the U.S. and China. But, it will be released internationally via Netflix in March.

The film’s polarizing nature is comparable to last year’s “mother!” in terms of how it challenges audiences, particularly during the film’s climax, which parallels the chaotic ending of “mother!” in an eerier, more tranquil fashion. “Annihilation” also perfectly pays homage to the first two “Alien” films—as well as its more recent prequels, “Prometheus” and “Covenant”—through its Ripley-esque protagonist and a few distinctly familiar shots in the film. However, “Annihilation” still feels completely fresh and new.

The rising suspense and terror of “Annihilation” create a film rich in character development and engaging plotlines. Its deliberate pacing and slow buildup result in a disturbingly satisfying conclusion, and believe me, it’s one for the books.

The fact that a film as bold as “Annihilation” can evoke such an indescribable sense of fear among its audiences is a true testament to Garland’s storytelling abilities. Though the scares are few and far between, this film will leave audiences in a cold sweat for its entire two-hour runtime.

With “Annihilation,” Garland has conceived what is perhaps one of the most refreshing and innovative science fiction films of our time.

Rating: 5/5 stars

Vance Joy’s new album is everything you would expect

Jessica Leydet
Staff Intern

James Gabriel Keogh, better known as Vance Joy, released his second album, “Nation of Two,” on Friday, Feb. 23. The Australian indie folk singer is widely known for his song “Riptide,” which was first released as a track on his debut EP “God Loves You When You’re Dancing” (2013) and is also featured on his first studio album “Dream Your Life Away” (2014).

The new album has the same light tonality and acoustic sound as his previous album, but the lyrics carry a little more weight—and of course, with his track record, most of the songs are about relationships.

“Alone with Me” is a love ballad in which he describes being smitten with someone. The song sweeps you off of your feet with the lyrics, “I saw you smile / I knew you had spirit / Oh, won’t you let your colors run / And isn’t it odd, the way we try to tell ourselves we got limits / You’re beautiful, but you just don’t see it sometimes.” I think this sort of lovey-dovey lyricism is expected when listening to his music, but that isn’t to say he isn’t good at winding you up in the fairytales he sings of.

The song, “One of These Days,” describes two people that love each other but the timing is off. The chorus describes the persistence one feels waiting for the other, “The moment you stop looking / Where-

ever you go, you’ll be in the right place / You’ll never know the difference it makes / When you let go, and give up your chance / I’ll come find you one of these days.” I think this song is something you would expect to hear just before the part in the rom-com when the guy runs to the airport to stop the girl from leaving.

“Lay It On Me” is one of my favorite tracks on the album, because it wanders from the idea of heartbreak. It is more upbeat and describes the mystery and excitement of meeting someone new. The lyrics, “I’m so gone / Anyone could see that I’m wasted / You cut through / And I just wanna know what’s in your head,” narrate this feeling so well. I think it is more realistic in terms of the way it describes how falling in love occurs—when you least expect it.

Overall, I would give this album 4 out of 5 stars. I think Vance Joy could have definitely tried to be more versatile in this new album. It sounds a lot like his previous album because he is glued to his typical singer-songwriter sound that he has perfected down to a science.

The issue for me is that he has become so comfortable with this sound that he doesn’t stray from it. He has such a warm voice that is flexible enough to tap into a wider variety of tempos and rhythms. I’d love to see him incorporate more of an subtle electric sound paired with his raw vocals in the future.

Rating: 4/5 stars

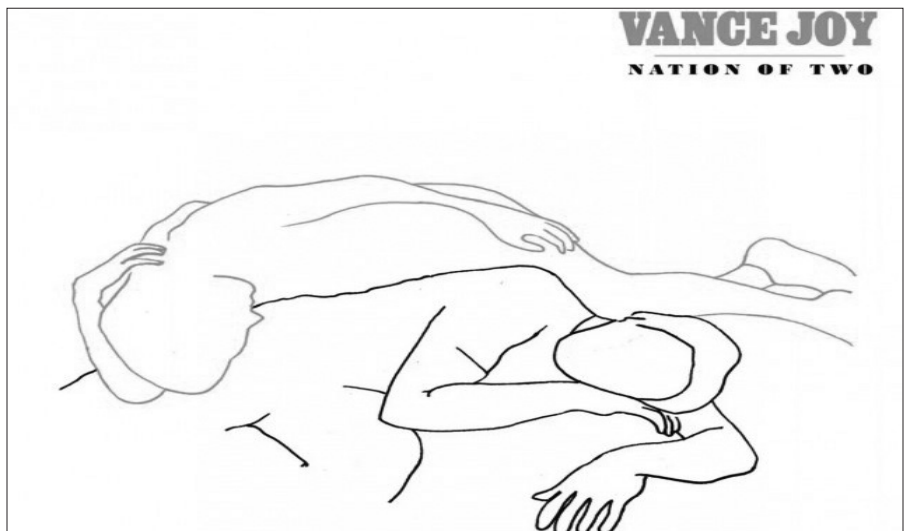


Photo Courtesy of Billboard

“Nation of Two,” the second album of indie folk singer Vance Joy, made its debut on Feb. 23

The controversial case of Israel's capital



John Bozick
Web Editor

From 1947 to about 1949, 750,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes to make way for the incoming colonization of Palestine into the state of Israel. To many Palestinians, this event is known as the “catastrophe” and is commemorated on May 15 of

every year, and it just so happens that this upcoming May will see another event added to the “catastrophe.”

On Feb. 22, the Trump Administration formally announced that it’s incredibly controversial embassy in Jerusalem will hold its opening ceremony on May 14, the day celebrated as Jerusalem’s Independence Day. This move comes after Vice President Mike Pence told the Israeli Parliament last month that the embassy would not be moved to Jerusalem until 2019.

When the Trump Administration announced that the United States would be moving its embassy in Israel from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem, many instantly worried of the consequences that could follow, and how this move would impact peace talks between Israel and Palestine.

Palestine claims the eastern part of the city, which is currently under occupation by Israel, as the site of its capital under a future Palestinian state. The city, which houses some

of the holiest sites for Islam, Christianity and Judaism, was to be a critical point of discussion in upcoming peace talks.

As controversial as President Donald Trump’s move is, the U.S. Congress did pass a resolution in 1995 that legally required the U.S. to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, yet no former leader since then has moved the embassy over fears of backlash by the people of Palestine. By moving on this resolution the U.S. was officially disqualified as a mediator in peace talks between Israel and Palestine.

In the days following Trump’s announcement there have been multiple demonstrations in Palestine, the Middle East and other countries condemning the move. The United Nations general assembly also voted 128-9 to condemn the plan, much to the U.S. and Israel’s objection.

The plan to move the U.S. embassy is a mistake that could severely impede the idea of peace in the region. Instead of blindly supporting

Israel over Palestine, the U.S. should be working toward a two-state solution.

Much of Palestine remains under illegal occupation by Israel and by declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel, the U.S. has shown once again that it does not support the idea of peace and a two state solution in the region. It also shows that the people of Palestine will continue to face oppression and violence as more of their land is taken from them and used to build homes and neighborhoods for Israeli settlers.

While the argument of terrorism can be made against Palestine, one can only wonder what else can be done for a generation that has grown up seeing airstrikes, tear gas and soldiers on a daily basis? By moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, the U.S. has only given more reason for violence in both Israel and Palestine. Serious peace talks should be done before any side lays claim to a city as historically and culturally significant as Jerusalem.

Remembering Black History and the Peanut Man

George Carver overcame adversity despite facing continuous rejection on account of his race

Isaac Martin
Political Contributor

“It is not the style of clothes one wears, neither the kind of automobile one drives, nor the amount of money one has in the bank that counts. It is service that measures success.” - George Washington Carver

George Carver was a distinguished scholar and humble teacher, awarded multiple doctorates, a post in the U.S. government and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London. He is primarily known for his tremendous work with the peanut, so the story of Carver’s life before fame is recounted less often.

A love for nature

Born near the end of the Civil War and a slave to Moses and Susan Carver, George was orphaned at an early age. The Carvers adopted George and his brother Jim and raised them as their own. George was homeschooled by Mrs. Carver and learned to do the chores of the household. When his chores were completed, George would spend hours in nature studying plants and animals.

“Many are the tears I have shed,” Carver remembered. “Because I would break the roots or

flowers off some of my pets while removing them from the ground, and strange to say all sorts of vegetation succeeded to thrive under my touch until... plants from all over the county would be brought to me for treatment.”

A thirst for knowledge

Denied entrance at the local school on account of his skin color and at 11 years old, George moved out of the Carver’s home to go to a school for black children eight miles away. He had an appetite for knowledge and within a year he had learned everything there was to learn at that school. The next 14 years were a time of roaming for George as he attended five different schools and made a living on his own.

Though young, George worked extremely hard and saved his money for schooling. This time was marked by sorrow and joy for Carver. In this time, “Sunshine and shadow were profusely intermingled such as naturally befall a defenseless orphan by those who wish to prey upon them,” he recalled.

He witnessed a lynching of a black man, suffered sabotage by white classmates and was denied admission to a college on account of his skin. However, Carver received kindness from many who supported the broke student’s busi-

ness endeavors, giving him the resources he needed.

A college man

At 28 years old, the wandering phase of George’s life drew to a close as he enrolled at Simpson College to study music and art. At first, he barely scraped by at Simpson.

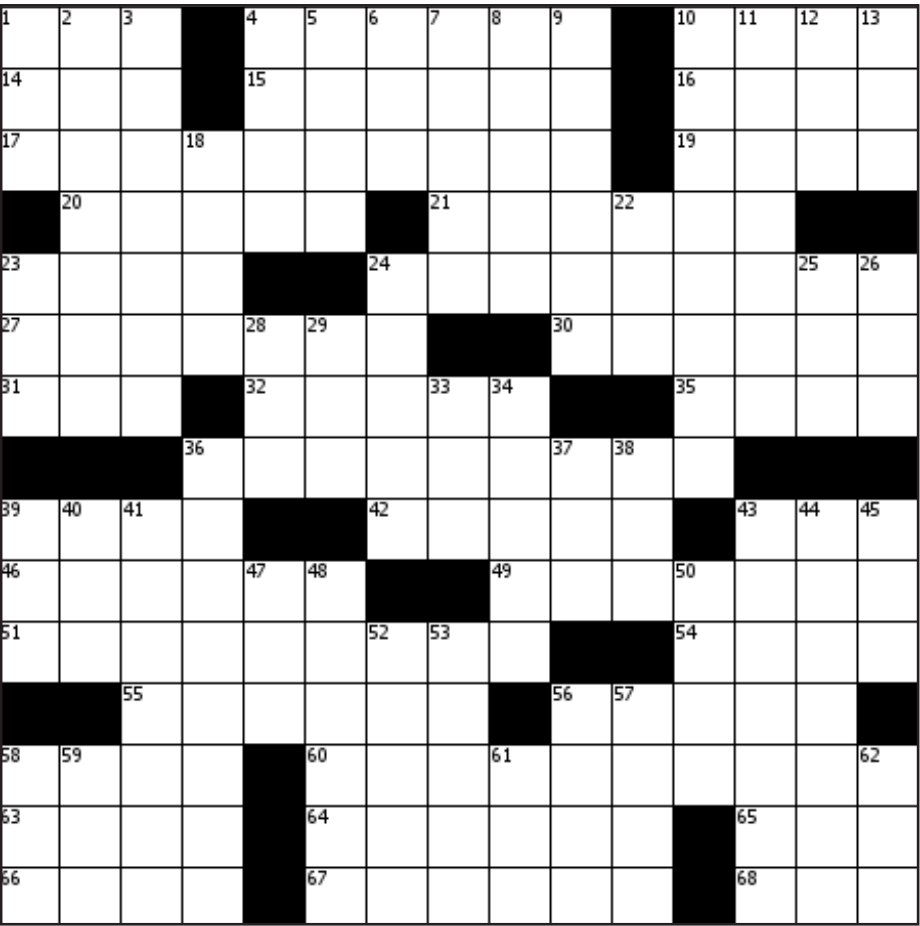
“For quite one month,” Carver wrote, “I lived on prayer, beef suet and cornmeal, and quite often being without the suet and meal.”

Through dint of hard work, frugality and the kindness of the community toward him, George eventually excelled at Simpson as a pianist and a painter — one of his artworks was displayed in the World’s Fair of 1894. However, George was more inclined to botany and thus transferred to what is now known as Iowa State University.

There, he quickly gained renown for his research and upon graduation in 1894 was promptly hired as a faculty member where he oversaw systematic botany and all work conducted in the school’s greenhouses. After completing his Master’s in Agriculture, the first African American to do so at Iowa State, George began his work at the Tuskegee Institute.

There he received neither wealth nor prestige, but simply the opportunity to serve.

Puzzles



Across

1. One calling the shots?
4. Teeming, as a beehive
10. Veggie enhancers
14. High dudgeon
15. London payment
16. Pelvic bones
17. Game resembling squash
19. Heap
20. Capital on the Han River
21. Weevil, e.g.
23. Throw
24. Winner of five AL batting titles
27. Public speaker's skill
30. Approve
31. Help for a bad hair day, perhaps
32. Rope fiber
35. ___ mater
36. Health club staple
39. Woodstock guitarist
42. Upstanding
43. VP who became president
46. Successful coed
49. "Assumption of the Virgin" artist
51. Host of TV's longest-running game show
54. Ethereal

55. Live-in nanny
56. Like rams and lambs
58. Gloomy
60. Be an optimistic borrower
63. Subj. with skeletons in the closet
64. Second man on the moon
65. Ben's "Paycheck" co-star
66. Azerbaijan capital
67. Central African menace
68. Retired speedster

Down

1. Split
2. Deletion
3. Type of government
4. U.S. rights defender
5. "The Giving Tree" author
6. Intricate network
7. Gulf branching from the Red Sea
8. Laid down the law
9. Scuffles
10. Traitorous
11. Prohibited
12. Humble dessert?
13. Detected
18. Lamebrain
22. "We'll tell you later,"

- briefly
23. Glutton
24. Reagan's fiancée, once
25. Phys ed
26. One place to find turtles
28. Gretzky forerunner
29. "The Facts of Life" actress Charlotte
33. Swear words?
34. Smoldering bit
36. Islamic caravan center of Africa
37. Out of sorts
38. Trip segment
39. Poke
40. UN advocate for workers
41. Sadat's successor
43. Really evil
44. Blood-curdling sounds
45. Miniature
47. Dagwood indulgence
48. 1994 Nobel
50. Transportation option
52. Prevents publication of
53. Abrade
56. Soul singer Redding
57. Meteorology tool
58. Wee bit
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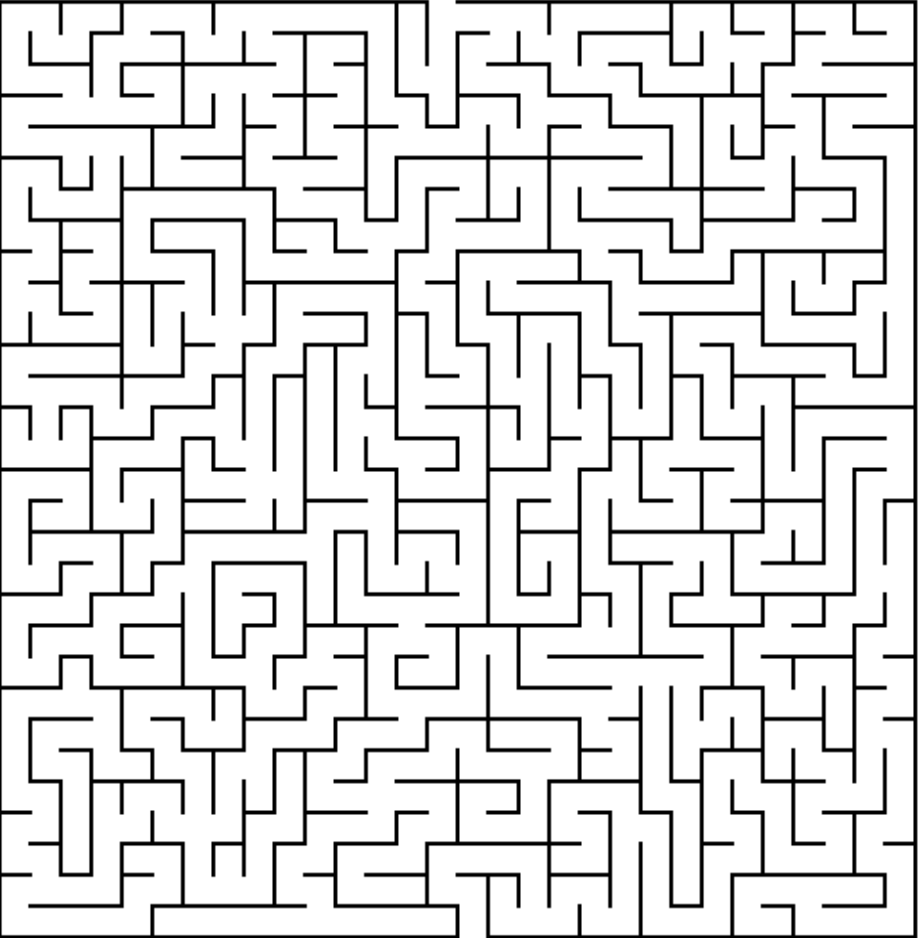
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Oakland *defeats* Milwaukee on senior night

Michael Pearce
Staff Reporter

Seniors Kendrick Nunn, Nick Daniels, Jalen Hayes and Martez Walker were honored before Oakland took the floor against Milwaukee on Saturday, Feb. 24. The four were honored with video tributes, flowers and pictures with their families before the game.

"Senior night is always emotional — especially with this group," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "Jalen and Nick have been here five years. For them to get that win and the attention they deserve, it was really heartwarming."

The game was back and forth the entire way, but Milwaukee held the advantage early on. After five minutes, the Panthers led 10-9, capitalizing off five Oakland turnovers.

The Golden Grizzlies were implementing zone defense early on, which led to repeated open 3-pointers from the Panthers.

With seven minutes to go, Milwaukee had connected on five of its 12 three point attempts, leading 25-21.

Oakland was unable to gain ground before the half ended and trailed 36-31 at halftime. Nunn was the main source of offense for the Golden Grizzlies, scoring 17 points on five of 10, shots.

After two and a half minutes, Milwaukee had stretched the lead to eight points with back to back 3-pointers. The deficit was at four when Oakland took control of the game and shifted momentum. Freshman Chris Gilbert hit a corner 3-pointer, and Nunn followed with a steal and dunk to put the Golden Grizzlies up by one.

"I think Chris making the three was huge," Kampe said. "The only time he played was during a blowout, him going and making that shot was special. Our bench and fans came alive, the arena exploded."

After the lead change, the

game was back and forth with 3-pointers being exchanged between both teams. With three minutes and 20 seconds remaining, Milwaukee held a 68-63 lead and had possession of the ball. Oakland came up with a stop, and Nunn buried a 3-pointer to cut the lead to two points.

"Jalen and Kendrick have come up big every game," Kampe said. "They're the two main scorers. If we want to win, they have to make shots. They understand that, they have to be good at that."

With just under two minutes remaining in the half, Daniels had a costly turnover on a wild pass, which put Milwaukee up 68-66. A defensive stop and then an assisted 3-pointer from Daniels to Nunn gave Oakland the lead, 69-68 with only 56 seconds remaining in the game.

The crowd erupted, and Oakland was able to hold onto that lead. The final score read 72-70 as Nunn intercepted a last second heave down court, stop-



Brendan Triola / The Oakland Post

Nick Daniels gives out autographs and high-fives after an Oakland victory.

ping Milwaukee's final effort.

"It meant a lot to finish," Daniels said. "As a senior I can't make those mistakes down the stretch. I have to keep learning and keep growing. Next week is a big week for us."

Directly after the win the team was only focused on enjoying senior night, which concluded with fans taking photos and receiving autographs from all of the players.

"It was very important for us

to win on senior night," Daniels said. "We always want to go out with a win for ourselves. Especially leading up to the tournament as well, it was very important to win."

The Golden Grizzlies face off against the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Jaguars in the first round of the Horizon League tournament at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit on Sunday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

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The Oakland Post Archives

Men's and women's basketball teams will be playing at the Little Caesars Arena.

Horizon League Tournament preview

Michael Pearce
Staff Reporter

The brackets are set, and the teams are preparing. Horizon League regular season play ended for both the men and women on Sunday, Feb. 25, which means the Motor City Madness tournament bracket is finalized, and the seeding is complete.

Women's basketball

The Oakland University women will kick off all tournament play, as they face off against the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) flames on Friday, March 2 at noon. UIC finished last in the Horizon League, with a 1-16 conference record. The Golden Grizzlies defeated the Flames both times this season, winning the first matchup by four points and the second by 17.

If the Golden Grizzlies beat UIC, the women face off against the number two seed in the tournament, the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Jaguars. IUPUI finished with a 13-5 conference record, and beat Oakland by 16 and 18 points in each game.

If the women were to advance further, the matchups would be determined by who wins games on the other side of the bracket. If that is the case, the Golden Grizzlies would likely be looking at a matchup with number 22 in the country, the Green Bay Phoenix, as the Phoenix's are the number one seed in the tournament and one of the best defenses in the country.

Men's basketball

The men are off until Sunday, March 4 for their game, which is scheduled against the IUPUI Jaguars at 7:30 p.m. The Jaguars finished with an 8-10 record in conference play, as well as an 11-18 overall record.

In both matchups between the teams, the home team won, so a neutral site should provide a close game. Oakland was without starters in each matchup as well, missing sophomore Isaiah Brock in the first matchup and senior Martez Walker in the second.

"The first game we played, Isaiah didn't play, we had a comfy win," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "The second game they beat us with Isaiah but no Martez. We're going to dissect it and figure it out."

If the men beat IUPUI the Golden Grizzlies will face off against either Northern Kentucky, Cleveland State or Youngstown State. The most likely matchup is the Northern Kentucky Norse, who won the Horizon League outright. The Golden Grizzlies did beat the Norse on their home court, 83-70 in January, but that was with a Walker.

All games can be viewed on ESPN3, and tickets are on sale for student section members until Thursday, March 1 at 10 a.m. on the Horizon League's website. All games will take place at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, and general admission tickets will be available up until game time each day of each game.

Injury causes Walker to miss out on season

Dakota Brecht
Staff Reporter

Wednesday Feb. 14, News broke that Oakland University guard, Martez Walker had suffered a broken left foot and will miss the rest of the season. Multiple sources confirmed on Twitter, saying Walker's absence is a heartbreaking loss for the Golden Grizzlies.

Walker was averaging 15.4 points a game and nearly 38 minutes a contest. Walker had a huge impact on and off the floor and has been known as a team leader since his arrival in 2015. In the 2016-17 campaign, Walker led Oakland in scoring with 17.8 points per game, which ranked fourth in the Horizon League. Known for not only his offense, he is also known as a fantastic defender and usually matches up with the opposing team's best offensive player every game.

Walker has been a fan favorite at Oakland during his tenure and many people showed him love and support on social media after the news broke.

"I feel awful for Martez... it sucks it has to end like this for him... one of my favorite guys of all time," voice of the Golden Grizzlies, Neal Ruhl said.

Born and raised in Detroit, Walker went to Pershing High School on Detroit's north side. After high school, Walker went to Texas University before deciding to come home and transferring to Oakland University.

"I am heartbroken for Martez," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "He was having an MVP-type season and all he wanted to do was win and go to the NCAA Tournament. Now he has lost that chance."

As a fifth year senior, this is the final season for Walker and his last game as a Golden Grizzly was an 87-78 win over rival Detroit Mercy University. Walker went down halfway through the second half with the injury, but returned with roughly three minutes to go in the contest.

With Oakland sitting at 16-10 overall and five games to play, the loss of Walker will greatly affect their chances of capturing the elusive Horizon League Championship.

The Sporting Blitz

Swim and Dive: The Oakland Golden Grizzlies claimed the Horizon League titles once again. This marks the men's 40 straight year, and the women's 24 straight year. The men and women's team combined for six first place finishes on the fourth and final day of the tournament.

Katie Colwell, Amber Lefler, Aryn de Leeuw and Holly Morren swam the 400-yard freestyle in 3:20.38 for a first place finish, a new school record and a new league championship record.

Oakland swimmers and divers also received many specialty awards.

Women

Freshman of the Year: Sydney McDowell

Swimmer of the Meet: Grace Shinske

Men

Freshman of the Year: Rudy Aguilar

Swimmer of the Meet: Paul Huch

Diver of the Meet: Joe Smith

Diving Coach of the Year: Larry Albright

Women's Golf: The Golden Grizzlies finished in sixth place in Phoenix, AR with a final score of 911 (+47). Fiona

Schmidt finished the tournament tied for ninth with a score of 223 (+7).

Alexis Jones finished the tournament with 228 (+12), Veronica Haque with 230 (+14) and Maddelyn Zack 231 (+15).

Track and Field: The women's track team finished in second place at the Horizon League Indoor Championships on Feb. 25, and the Men's team finished in third.

Maggie Schneider was named Women's Freshman of the Year, Running. Zach Stadnika was named Men's Championship Outstanding Performer, Fielding.

Chanel Gardner set a school record in the 400m with a time of 56.20. The men's 4x400 relay team Corey Goodloe, Tyler Brenner, Andrew Storm and Jimmie Williams finished with a school record time of 3:15.85 and placing first. Other podium finishers can be found on the Golden Grizzlies Athletics website.

Compiled by Skylar Tolfree
Sports Editor



Photo Courtesy of the Swimming Club

The swimming club was founded by Amber Gier as a way to enjoy the sport without any competitions.

Club Sports spotlight: Swimming club

Katie LaDuke
Copy Editor

On any given night, the Olympic-size pool on the lower level of the Oakland University Rec Well is populated with people of all skill levels, including kids just beginning to learn. But the far right lanes are used by Oakland's swim club on Monday nights.

The two-year-old club was founded by its current president Amber Gier as a way to continue the sport without the NCAA Division I competition. However, many members are familiar with competition since they swam before college.

"I like how the club is really laid back, and it's not so competitive or hard-core like high school was," member Tia Falzarano said. "The college club is a social experience but also staying active."

The club holds around 20 to 25 members each semester but is still accepting new members. There is no official try-out process, but it is recommended that interested members are familiar with the four strokes: freestyle, breast, back and butterfly. This is not required as the club can work with members that have little swimming experience.

"We welcome anybody in our practices," Gier said. "If they can only do one stroke, then we help them with the other strokes."

Practices are typically held on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mondays are spent in the pool working on strokes and distance. Members are on the track running on Tuesdays. Both days are flexible with members working at their own pace.

"We incorporate running into our practices because it helps build up endurance in different muscles you're using in the pool," Gier said.

These practices help get members ready for meets. Typically, the club is

invited to around three meets each semester and attends at least one. Clubs from a variety of Michigan schools, including Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University, usually attend.

Meets are set up like normal competitions with meter races and relays, but it depends on the host school. Schools can add unique races such as co-ed relays or one specific to the school.

At one meet, there was a "Laker Relay." Four members from a team would swim 25 meters while wearing a t-shirt. Members would have to climb out of the pool and put the t-shirt on the next person.

The meets are also not as competitive as regular competitions. The focus is more personal bests. Teams are scored with points, but no trophies or awards are given. Each team's total points can range based on the amount of members.

"Your teammates are there to support you and nobody is pressuring you," Falzarano said. "You do it for your personal goals."

Members are just as active out of the pool as well. There are several fundraisers a year and members participate in community involvement. The club sponsored a table for the Ruth Ellis Center at OU Make a Difference Day.

Team bonding is also an important aspect for the swimmers. The club usually goes to Oakland club hockey games and out for dinner as a group.

"[The club] is motivation to keep me going," Gier said. "Everyone is just so friendly, and it doesn't matter about your ability. I love how the team bonds by seeing everybody who you wouldn't expect to be friends bonding together and connecting."

The club is scheduled to have its first home meet of the semester on Saturday, March 24 at the Rec Well pool.

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An Open Letter on #Freethespringbreak

Stephen Armica
Satirist

I'm not one to complain, but this year's "winter break" (spring break) sucked. It rained so much, I had to share my cigarettes with the raccoons taking shelter on my porch. It was cold enough that an Alaskan tourist complained about it. But mostly, it was the worst time for spring break.

There's a point I'm trying to make here. And no, it's not that I have the resources to publish my complaints. It's that the students deserve to know whose stupid idea it was to have spring break at such a dumb time.

We just want accountability. As a public institution, the students want to know about the decisions being made on our behalf. And probably the most important decision is when we don't have to put a single unit of effort into classwork.

"Why is this an issue?" asks my friends at the college administration. Well, I'll tell you.

I wanted to go see a friend at Michigan State University. They had midterms. When I made the hour-and-a-half drive, they had time to tell me how their day was going (bad) before they had to go finish a paper.

I wanted to get drunk with some buddies at the University of Michigan. But guess what. They're so stressed that I spent half my time treating someone for anxiety and depression. Also, their spring break is a week after ours.

Spring break marks an elite institution from its more pedestrian compatriots. I read it on the US News & World Report "Best Colleges List" Criteria.

If the students have a more opportune time for spring break, their GPAs go up. When spring break is closer to the other colleges, then the culture of the campus becomes more engaging. And if students feel more engaged, they're more likely to donate to the institution that they felt was the greatest time of their lives.

What's that? Cite my sources? No.

This issue isn't about specifics. It's about the problem at hand. And the problem is that like many students, I couldn't afford to go to Panama City, Fla. for my spring break. Instead I was stuck sitting on my couch yelling at my phone screen every time someone posted something about being somewhere warm and not here.

And do you know what the worst part was? I actually found a lot about myself. I realized that the greatest things in life don't involve going to expensive places but instead involve making the most of every waking moment in order to live the life we choose.

I shouldn't have to think about stuff like that, Oakland University administration. I should be drunk on a beach somewhere. It's your job to fix this.

If it helps any, I know Bill Gates. I personally follow him on twitter and I'm sure he will gladly donate big for this cause.

But better yet, we'll start a movement, #Freethespringbreak. Look for

it on Twitter, because I'm not grossly overestimating the reach of this article and you're going to be seeing a lot of that.



Photo illustration by Erin O'Neill / The Oakland Post

Sunshine, warm weather, and alcohol were not present at this year's "spring break."



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