

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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STRONG WOMEN, STRONG VOICES

*"Dialogues of the Carmelites" on
social movement and standing
together through adversity*

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PHOTO BY SERGIO MONTANEZ

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



MENTAL MAGIC Husband and wife mentalist duo The Evasons perform their mind reading act in the Habitat on Thursday, Jan. 9. PHOTO / SERGIO MONTANEZ

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Trevor Tyle
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4266

Katie LaDuke
Managing Editor
katelynladuke@oakland.edu
248.370.2537

Katie Valley
Content Editor
kvalley@oakland.edu
248.370.4268

EDITORS

Nicole Morsfield Photo Editor
nmorsfield@oakland.edu

Ben Hume Web Editor
bhume@oakland.edu

Lauren Karmo Campus Editor
laurenkarmo@oakland.edu

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mpearce@oakland.edu

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ekovac@oakland.edu

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ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105
Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533



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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHO SHOULD REPLACE PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN MARKLE IN THE ROYAL FAMILY?

- A) THE GRIZZ AND ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ
- B) THE MANDALORIAN AND BABY YODA
- C) ANGRY LADY AND WHITE CAT, YOU KNOW THE MEME
- D) HARRY STYLES AND KATIE LADUKE

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO AVOID BEING DRAFTED FOR WORLD WAR III?

21%

A)
BECOME A
HOUSEWIFE

28%

B)
MENTAL ILLNESS
CHECK

36%

C)
STAY A STUDENT
FOREVER

15%

D)
JOIN A RELIGIOUS CULT

CORRECTIONS CORNER: Last week, we published a story titled "Alum discusses opening his first dental practice," which incorrectly implies the office is private practice when it is actually corporate practice. We apologize for the error. The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

LOOKING BACK

2010 benefit concert helps those devastated by disaster

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

Ring in the new decade in January 2010, Oakland University students did their part to raise money for the earthquake-devastated Haiti through a benefit concert. Hosted by WXOU, "Haiti-palooza!" raised \$6,900 for the nation recovering from a 7.0 earthquake that left the country in ruins and hundreds of thousands dead.

Kirby Hairston, who worked at WXOU at the time, heard about the tragedy and felt a responsibility to do something. Collaborating with her coworkers and the Center for Student Activities, as well as a few other student organizations, Hairston put together "Haiti-palooza!" in just a few days.

"We wanted to do it as quick as possible and capitalize on the momentum," Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, said at the time. "If we wait too long, people might lose interest."

Hairston wasted no time and quickly called as many local musicians and performers as she could.

"I got a really good response from everyone," Hairston said.

The artists involved were eager to give back in any way they could and support a cause they thought was important.

OU alumnus Noah "Noafex" Smith was one of the featured artists at the benefit concert. Smith graduated from OU in 2005, and was excited to be involved with "Haiti-palooza!"

"I think it's a great idea," the rap artist said of the concert. "I hope a lot of people come out to support this cause."

The concert featured 25 performers with a variety of acts from hip-hop to acoustic music to spoken word poetry. Featuring two live performers an hour, each act got a 15-20 minute time slot, and the event ran from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Pioneer Food Court of the Oakland Center.

"I think it is very great that people in the music community in Detroit are doing things to make a change," Detroit musician Quesami Hickerson said.

Hickerson went by the stage name "Rencen CoolBeanz," and closed out the concert as the last act.

"Dig in your pockets, dig in your soul and give whatever you have to help folks," he said.

In addition to the live music acts, WXOU had DJs filling the time in be-



COURTESY OF TALIA FRENKEL/AMERICAN RED CROSS

An American Red Cross worker helps a survivor of last week's earthquake in Haiti. Thousands of miles away, Oakland University students do their part via Haiti-Palooza!

tween performers. During the event, there were tables off to the side of the stage where WXOU collected monetary donations from any who wanted to give back. The concert was also broadcasted live on wxou.org.

Starting a new decade with yet another natural disaster, the spirit of "Haiti-palooza!" is one that is still relevant today. On the other side of the world, Australia is being ravaged by the worst set of fires that the country has ever seen,

killing half a billion animals and over 25 people and counting. Over 2,000 homes have been destroyed in the fires, displacing a large percentage of the country's population. Thousands of miles away, in New Zealand, the smoke from the Australia fires has been causing hundreds of people to fall ill.

As the decades change, the responsibility felt to help others remains the same.

"People are still people," Hairston said. "People should still help people."

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OUWB launches community first aid training programs

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Two Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) students are bringing medical training to the community.

Amy Halder and Lucas Nelson have been working to set up first aid training workshops in the Pontiac area as a chapter of Wayne State University's First Aid First program, which has Wayne State medical students go into the Detroit community and give first aid lessons.

First Aid First sessions are divided into two sections over three and a half hours. The first segment is a lecture where instructors show guests what to do in the case of emergencies such as someone passing out from heat stroke or having a seizure. Guests are also shown different medical techniques like how to administer CPR, how to tie a tourniquet and how to use an AED machine.

After a short break, guests get a chance to try out and learn firsthand how to do these techniques.

The idea to set up an OUWB First Aid First chapter came to Halder after being approached by Wayne State student Brandon Foster. The two met while volunteering at a medical clinic, and Foster



COURTESY OF OUWB
Lucas Nelson (left) and Amy Halder participate in training for OUWB's program.

inquired to Halder about expanding the program to the Pontiac area.

"From there on out, I recruited Lucas and we just started thinking about how we could bring this program here to OUWB," Halder said.

The duo attended training at Wayne State to get a better feel for the program and then began recruiting OUWB students to become trainers.

According to Nelson, OUWB First Aid First is unlike anything the school

has done before.

"OUWB has several outreach opportunities through free clinics that already exist," he said, "but we have never really had a program that is specifically dedicated for just first aid in the community. We [students] have received trainings like this from the Red Cross and OUWB faculty members as a part of our training. Having the opportunity to give the training outside of a medical setting is really exciting for us."

The next event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic in Pontiac from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. While only one training session has been completed so far, the OUWB First Aid First chapter is reaching out to Pontiac community groups like Haven and the Baldwin Center to set up more training sessions.

"There has been a lot of work behind the scenes working to find community partners," Nelson said. "That is still an ongoing process for us ... I feel that we are finally getting to see stuff come to fruition, and that we are finally getting to that point where we are able to start having trainings."

For anyone interested in everyday first aid, there are a few things Halder and Nelson recommend to be prepared for any medical emergencies.

"It is never a bad idea to have a general first aid kit," Nelson said. "That can be anything from having a few bandages to something as specific as having something like a tourniquet set."

First aid kits should include items like bandages and gloves, as well as seasonal-specific items like blankets for cold weather-related injuries.

For more information on OUWB First Aid First or to schedule an event, contact fafouwb@gmail.com.

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CETL Study Tips: What makes note-taking work

CHRISTINA MOORE

CETL Virtual Faculty Developer

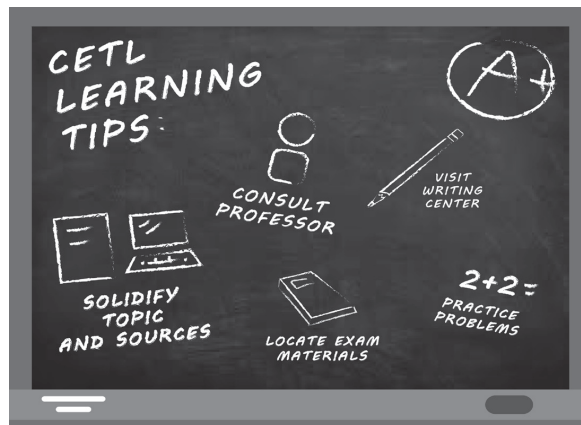
You've probably been taking notes in classes for many years, but how do you know the note-taking works? What makes note-taking good: how much you write, how you record notes, whether you use bullet lists, draw diagrams or sketch comics? In short, it doesn't so much matter how you take notes, but how engaged you are with the concepts being discussed.

For example, one popular study argued that writing notes by hand might be better for learning than typing notes, but these results have been difficult to replicate and the study does not claim this is true in all situations. More simply, while handwriting notes can have some cognitive benefits, such as creative note-taking and slowing down to consolidate and interpret class concepts, there isn't one right way to take notes.

No matter what method you use to take notes, there are some keys to making sure you are engaged in the process in a way that will help you remember and apply concepts.

Write what you think alongside what is being covered

Good notes do not merely record what the professor says or what a slide displays, but your thoughts connected to this content. A dual entry format works really well for this, meaning that one column is for the class content and the other column is for your thoughts connected to that content. (See our dual-entry note-taking template at tinyurl.com/dualentrynotes.) If your professor says a sentence can technically be a whole page long and



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

These tips will help you become a better note-taker in class. grammatically correct, you might think, "Hmm, my high school teacher said a sentence shouldn't be more than 30 words." The professor's comment would go in one column, and your related memory would go in the other column. Connecting course content to memories, experiences and examples helps you remember and apply those concepts better than merely transcribing the new material.

Record your questions

Inquiry should be a part of any learning process, whether reading, viewing or writing. Going back to the statement about long sentences, you might ask yourself, "Are there any popular examples of incredibly long sentences, and why might they have been used?" Rather than letting the question zip through your mind, write it down with a large question mark. The question may be answered later, or you may encounter a good opportunity to share the question. By engaging in the question, your brain is more actively connecting with the concept, and you are less likely to forget it.

Make predictions

Make predictions and take guesses about the content, even if the professor is not directly ask-

ing questions. Sticking with our long-sentences example, you might predict, "Misused commas and conjunctions are a common culprit of run-on sentences." In a study of math students, those who made guesses and predictions while learning content outperformed those who didn't.

End with summary and takeaways

At the end of each class session, take five minutes to summarize the content and write the main points that stick with you. This reflection activity helps your brain organize the new content and store it in a way you are more likely to be able to recall and build off of in the future.

Even if a class session isn't the most interesting or engaging, these note-taking behaviors can help you not only increase learning but also boost your motivation. In other words, it may just make your classes more enjoyable. It has worked well for me, especially during those night classes when I might otherwise start pinning for Netflix.

Find more Learning Tips at oakland.edu/teachingtips.

Christina Moore
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

CANDIDACY DEADLINE
JANUARY 17 @ 5PM

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Interested in becoming the next President, Vice President, or Legislator of Oakland University Student Congress?

Stop by the OUSC office (located in the basement of the OC) and ask for Kara Cermak! You will fill out a form that is to be turned in to her only.

For more information, email kecermak@oakland.edu or call 248-370-4291.



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POLICE FILES

Asthma attack

Oakland University Police dispatch received a phone call on the afternoon of Oct. 22, 2019 for a medical emergency. Dispatched called on-duty officers with information about a female having an extreme asthma attack in her dorm. Two officers responded to the call and arrived on the scene.

When they arrived, the two officers found the student sitting at her desk gasping for air. She would cough, speak a few words and then continue to gasp for air. Auburn Hills paramedics arrived on the scene shortly after and began their medical assessment of the student. The paramedics finished their assessment, and the student agreed to transport for additional medical care, where paramedics transported the student to Crittenton Hospital. Housing staff was also on scene and assisted first responders. The scene was then cleared.

Compiled by Ben Hume,
Web Editor

‘American Paintings’ showcases Civil War-era art in OU Art Gallery

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Art Gallery is showcasing the “American Paintings” exhibition from the Nancy and Sean Cotton Collection in a partnership with the Detroit Institute of Art (DIA).

According to the gallery’s website, the exhibition contains 40 paintings from 1850-1950 and allows visitors to get a “fascinating historical snapshot.”

Monica Bowman, who visited the gallery, said the paintings give a great perspective to the complex America was creating at the time.

“It says a lot about the quality of American painters with regard to the 19th century,” she said. “You can see everything from nature to industrialism and everything in between.”

Bowman also liked the didactic labels next to the some of the paintings. She said it allows every viewer to have some discourse on what they were seeing in the painting.

“I think instead of just taking the painting for what it is and maybe just looking at it and dismissing it or judging it, maybe we can also look at the artist’s lives and how they contributed to the meaning of the painting,” she said.

However, not all the artwork has didactic labels. According to Dick Goody, director of the OU Art Gallery, the paintings with labels are the ones that can be discussed further.

For example, only one piece in the collection is painted by a woman, Jane Peterson. The label next to her painting “Women and Children in the Park” explains why she is the only woman in the collection and goes into detail about her background and schooling. By the turn of the century there were more women being enrolled in

art schools, however, it was still rare. This makes Peterson’s inclusion in the collection even more significant.

According to Goody, this exhibition should leave visitors with questions.

The collection features paintings from before, during and after the Civil War, yet there is a complete lack of any portrayal of this in the artwork. Instead, Goody said the artwork shows an “idealized” and “picturesque” version of that time period.

“We’ve got this country that’s gone through this tremendous struggle — with half of the country wanting to enslave people and the other half not being keen on the idea — and we have this war,” he said. “There’s definitely not a great appetite to dwell on these things in the 19th century.”

According to Goody, there will be a few historical speakers coming to the gallery to explain why viewers see a lack of the struggle and conflict in the artwork of this era.

Leo Barnes, the OU Art Gallery manager, said the gallery tends to have a lot more contemporary artists, so this collection is a change of pace from the usual.

“It was a nice opportunity to work with the DIA and bring something new to Oakland that students typically wouldn’t have here,” he said.

Goody said if students have a half an hour of free time, they should come “have a seat, relax and enjoy.”

“I would just like as many students to come and see it as possible, because you don’t get the opportunity to see work that has been around for this long in this country,” he said. “It’s pretty remarkable, and there are some remarkable paintings.”

The opening reception was Friday, Jan. 10, and this collection will be available at the gallery until April 5.



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTOGRAPHER

The event was hosted by a personal development coaching organization.

Sisterhood Sunday inspires self-confidence in teen girls

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

Whitney Foley, owner and creator of Too Legit to Quit, danced into her Sisterhood Sunday event to “Run the World (Girls)” by Beyoncé with a group of around 30 teenage girls watching her, ready for an inspiring day.

Sisterhood Sunday was an event hosted on Jan. 12 by Too Legit to Quit, a personal development coaching organization. The event, targeted to teen girls, offered a few workshops to help young girls build their confidence in a safe and welcoming environment.

Whitney Foley, owner and creator of Too Legit to Quit, has always had a passion for helping people. Her desire to help people led her to creating this organization and planning this event.

“Teenage years are some of the toughest, and I think they’re an under-served market,” she said. “So, I wanted to do something about it.”

According to the organization’s website, the event included music, snacks, workshops and a “powerful message” from guest speaker Nicole Hague.

Hague, who is originally from Boston, shared stories about her rough childhood, three run-ins with cancer and her struggle with self-confidence. Her overall message throughout her speech was that all of the dark, rough experiences in her life led to some of her happiest and proudest moments.

“You’ll never be able to control everything that happens in your life, but you can always choose how you react,” Hague said.

Hague said she was trying to think of what she wishes she had been told when she was younger. In sharing her life experiences, she aimed to give these girls hope and perspective to keep fighting and believing in themselves.

According to Anaya Hines, a 15-year-old guest, Hague’s speech was interesting and inspirational. The biggest message she got from her stories was that everything happens for a reason.

After Hague’s speech, the girls separated into prearranged groups to start the workshops. There were three workshops the girls got the chance to visit — the “I Am” Board workshop, Interactive Connection workshop and the Kindness workshop.

The “I Am” Board workshop was about choosing powerful and inspiring description words the girls got to pick for themselves. Then, they would glue them to a small board and put them in a picture frame. At the Interactive Connection workshop, girls were asked a wide variety of questions, ranging from talking about what fires them up to what scares them the most. Foley said this workshop helps the girls relate to each other.

Seventh-grader Gabriella Rapetti, who enjoyed having the chance to meet and interact with new people, said this was her favorite workshop.

The Kindness Workshop allowed the girls to create a calendar with a kind deed written on every box. This workshop continues even after the event is over, since girls will have the calendar to remind them to be kind everyday.

According to Hague, the girls were engaged in the activities and opened up over the course of the event. She really enjoyed watching the shift in energy from the beginning, where they were all timid, to the end where they were laughing and making friends.

“It was amazing,” Foley said. “You never know how things like this are going to go — especially when you have so many different walks of life and ages and backgrounds under one roof — but really, it was magical.”



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTOGRAPHER

This collection of 40 paintings will be available at the OU Art Gallery until April 5.

Celebrities do more for Australian fire relief than our government

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Over the past several months, Australia has been dealing with massive fires that have been devastating to both the country and the citizens. More recently, an article by NPR said the fires have killed millions of animals and 25 people, burned million acres of land and made 2,000 citizens of Australia homeless. The fires started in September and are predicted to continue burning for a number of months.

A model named Kaylen Ward raised over \$500,000 by selling her nude pictures according to the Washington Post. I saw this on my timelines, truly iconic.

According to Insider, P!NK pledged \$500,000, while Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban pledged to donate \$500,000 to the Rural Fire Services. Ellen DeGeneres said she donated to three organizations. Selena Gomez said she was giving money to relief efforts, and urged followers to do the same.

Kacey Musgraves said she donated money after asking her Twitter followers about ways she could help. Russell Crowe donated \$105,000 to the NSW Rural Fire Service in November 2019. Steve Irwin's family saved 90,000 animals in Australia and treated them at their wildlife hospital in Queensland — they're too good for this world.

Chris Hemsworth said his family will be donating \$1 million to help his home country.

What I find interesting about the list of people is that there isn't any sort of governmental figure donating. I haven't seen



Trump talk about the fires, or even tweet about it — because we know how much he loves his Twitter.

The only political figure I found who donated was Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. Yeah, I get it. It isn't the biggest concern for Trump or for the U.S. government, but come on.

As to what started these fires, Australia typically has a fire season that runs from December to March, but according to a USA Today article, human-caused climate change has made this year's season particularly catastrophic.

Human-caused climate change lengthens the fire season, decreases precipitation and increases temperature, fueling the blazes, according to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. Last year was both the hottest and driest year ever measured in Australia, the bureau said. December was one of the top two hottest months on record for the nation.

Of course, we know climate change isn't real, though, because of our ever so wise president.

According to the New South Wales Police Force, there have been 24 people charged with deliberately setting fires among 183 facing legal action in the state. Another 53 people are facing legal action for not complying with the state's fire ban, and 47 people have faced legal action for discarding a lit cigarette or match on land. Starting a bushfire intentionally and being reckless in causing its

spread can result in up to 21 years in prison, according to authorities.

Australian Red Cross, GIVIT, Salvation Army Australia, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the NSW Rural Fire Service are all currently helping to raise money for the victims of these fires.

If you want to donate:

- Fire departments in Victoria: cfa.vic.gov.au
- Departments in New South Wales: their government website
- For the families of volunteer firefighters who have been killed while on duty: rfs.nsw.gov.au



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Celebrities who are donating and raising awareness on social media are doing more for the relief effort in Australia than our government is doing with their platforms.

Enjoying the moments in between day-to-day struggles

RACHEL BASELA

Life&Arts Editor

It's the beginning of a new semester, and most of us know that means cheesy introductions to a new group of faces on syllabus day. If you're anything like me, the adrenaline kicks in when it gets to be your turn to share a "fun fact" about yourself.

What's interesting about college-aged people anymore? We don't do much in terms of hobbies besides checking our social media or worrying about all of the things we have to accomplish before the end of the day.

However, hobbies and interests are beneficial to improving mental health. Can you think of the last time that you took a moment to relax and do an activity that you enjoy?

As for myself, I normally spend my time off work or class to get ahead. Cleaning and catching up on assignments can help you to feel productive, but tasks like this aren't made to feed your soul.

According to Dennis Prager in an article titled "Too many kids let screen time and homework crowd out real pursuits," our parents have instilled a routine of screen time as the main form of relaxation for their children at

a young age. This can lead to bad habits of consistently unwinding in front of the television or scrolling through social media feeds.

Some of the issue may be rooted in our upbringing, but part of it also comes from societal pressures to be proficient in and passionate about one thing. We are urged to find a path, create a detailed plan and execute it in a way that is strategic and concise.

"An emerging adult who takes the time to deeply reflect and raise their own self-awareness about their innermost desires can be guided by them if they have at least some clues from listening to who they are and what they value," education consultant Jennifer Miller said in an article from Parent Toolkit.

Many of us are not listening to who we are; instead, we're searching for our next step while focusing on an end goal.

I can remember being 14 years old, sitting in one of my first high school courses and being assigned a presentation on my short-term and long-term goals. As this may be helpful in pushing young students toward pursuing their aspirations, I took this as writing the roadmap to the rest of my life.

Now, six years later, I found that nothing went as

planned. But instead of dwelling over mending my tedious "dreams," I want to focus on what sparks interest in my day-to-day life, not just one immense goal that overtakes any small interests.

I'm here to tell you that you can be interested in many things. Most of you are here at OU to complete one step in a very specific plan that you've had set up for years. Try to find something in the meantime — your degree and that job will come as time goes on.

Pick up that instrument you've always wanted to learn how to play, take that class at your gym, open that craft set that's been sitting on your shelf for too long, start writing what's been on your mind, open up that book you've been meaning to read.

It's time that us college-aged people finally took time out of the pressures of our day to relax and enjoy something that'll do nothing for us except put some joy into our day. It's healthy to put stressful tasks on the backburner and do something small for yourself.

With a new semester and a new decade emerging, feed your soul instead of draining your energy. Small passions can create ripples of joy, and success will not truly exist without happiness.

SMTD PRESENTS 'DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES' AS ANNUAL OPERA

by Dean Vaglia | design by Erin O'Neill | graphics by Jimmy Williams | photos by Sergio Montanez

"Dialogues of the Carmelites," a Francis Poulenc opera based on the Martyrs of Compiègne, is the annual opera for the Oakland University School of Music, Theatre and Dance and runs from Jan. 16-19.

"Carmelites" presents a dramatized tale about French nuns during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror, a time when revolutionaries guillotined many members of the old social order. Against this larger story is the arc of Blanche de la Force, an aristocrat caught in the middle of this turmoil.

According to Drake Dantzler, show director and associate professor of music and voice, the decision to do "Carmelites" as this year's opera came down to the show's technical details and themes.

"In the world of opera, there are always challenges because most operas are written for fully matured voices and most voices do not mature until the late 20s to mid-30s," he said. "One of the things you are always doing when you are doing opera at a university, especially opera focused on undergraduate students, is trying to select appropriate repertoire that is healthy for [students] but also challenges them."

With regard to the show's themes, Dantzler pointed out that "Carmelites" showcases how larger social movements can affect people at the personal level. This is evident in the arc of Blanche, an aristocrat who joins the clergy in search of a safe haven. Her tale culminates in the dilemma of running away from the condemned monastery or standing with her sisters as they face the guillotine.

"I thought that, with all the things going on in our society these days

and the complexity of how a large society as a whole creates events for individual humans, that this kind of show would resonate with our audience and our students," Dantzler said.

The role of Blanche is double casted between Caroline Roberts and Gillian Tackett, who will play the nun on alternating nights.

"Blanche is a lot of extremes," Tackett said. "She has this overriding fear of death and this fear that bad things are going to happen to her. So, as a character, she has a lot of emotional extremes, and she is not someone you would necessarily see everyday."

Due to the shared task of handling Blanche, Roberts and Tackett have been working together to help bring Blanche to life. While double casting can create competition between performers, this is not a problem with Roberts and Tackett.

"We actually talked to each other a ton about the role," Roberts said. "We are really close friends, so being double cast with her has been no issue at all."

Dantzler believes "Carmelites" is a great opportunity for people who do not know much about opera to come and experience the artform, especially due to how "Carmelites" stands out from stereotypical operas. One major thing that makes the show stand out is its use of dialogue between characters rather than focusing on solo moments.

"I hope the people who came to see it who might not be experienced with opera would be able to appreciate it or be exposed to ideas about opera that they might not have expected," Dantzler said.





Selena Gomez’s new album ‘Rare’ isn’t one in a million

LAUREN KARMO
Campus Editor

Selena Gomez’s long-awaited third solo album “Rare” was released on Friday, Jan. 10, four years after her previous album “Revival.” The album celebrates her journey of self love during an emotional-charged time where she faced challenges in both her physical and mental health. Gomez has been sitting on this album for some time now, and as a fan, I am only partially satisfied.

I have been a fan of Gomez since she was Alex Russo on one of the greatest kids’ shows of all time, “Wizards of Waverly Place.” When she started making music all the way back in the late ’00s, I was in love. To be 10 years old, eating Halloween candy and dancing to “A Year Without Rain” in my living room, let’s just say I peaked. It does not get better than that.

Gomez dropped her first “grown up” album when I was a sophomore in high school, and I can remember it now — sitting in my journalism classroom and opening the PR box to see the “Revival” poster where she was posing nude? Wow. Since then, I’ve been waiting on the edge of my seat for new music — an EP, a set of singles, really anything — to drop. Four years later, we get “Rare,” and my anticipation was not matched by what I received.

As a disclaimer, I will say that I liked

this album. I didn’t hate it, but I expected to love it. I expected it to be my album of the year, already in the second week of January. Maybe it’s my fault for putting so much pressure on Selenerz like that, but it just felt like any other album. It didn’t rock my world, and for that I am bitter.

Opening with the titular track “Rare,” Gomez starts off her album with an upbeat, slightly sexy, bop to set the mood for the rest of the album. Establishing the themes for this album, “Rare” has its high moments by focusing on self-worth and love.

One of my favorite songs on this album is the sadder ballad “Lose You to Love Me.” I think anyone who has read any of my previous music reviews is not surprised by this pick, but I can’t help it. I’m a sucker for that emo music. This song reminded me of why I loved Selena all the way back when and really put me in my feels.

One track I was impressed by was “Ring,” slated fifth in the lineup. This slightly jazzy number is perfect for ’20s round two, and is quite different from anything else I’ve heard in the recent top 100. It still fits in with the rest of the album, but stands out among the rest. When you’ve listened to the same album on repeat for hours, the songs tend to blend together, but every time “Ring” came on, I snapped out of it and paid attention.

Gomez closes with “A Sweeter Place” fea-



COURTESY OF GENIUS

After a four-year hiatus, Selena Gomez returns with her highly-anticipated third studio album “Rare.”

turing Kid Cudi, which is one of the best songs on the album. It has a slightly slower beat and has a really interesting bass and drums combination underlying the main melodies. It’s honestly the perfect way to end this album.

While my socks were not knocked off, “Rare” is still a pretty good album. I may

have grown up a little bit, but Selena will always have a special place in my heart. I hope I won’t have to wait another four years for the next set of music.

Rating 3/5 stars

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‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ is unnervingly believable

EMILY MORRIS

WXOU News Director

“When we think of the past, it’s the beautiful things we pick out,” Margaret Atwood wrote in her 1985 novel “The Handmaid’s Tale.”

In the years since its release, the renowned novel has been remembered as “beautiful” and has been rerendered into a Hulu original series. Although the medium and some details are altered from the original, the powerful and timely message about human rights reigns true still.

Set in a dystopian future, the United States is crumbling and being consumed by a new age, led by the Republic of Gilead. The world’s reproductive ability has been slighted, reaching dangerous levels. Hence, Gilead construes biblical ideas to justify isolation, silence women’s voices and facilitate rape.

Offred (Elizabeth Moss) is at the center of Gilead’s movement, serving as a handmaid — a baby-making slave — under Commander Fred Waterford (Joseph Fiennes). Moreover, “Offred” is simply a blend of words or a portmanteau symbolizing Waterford’s control: “of Fred.” Offred is a borrowed name and a constant reminder of hierarchy.

This control leaks into almost every aspect of handmaids’ lives. Their daily schedule is equipped with cautiously moving about someone else’s home and occasional accompanied shopping trips to stores resemblant of children’s picture books. Reading of any form is forbidden to all women and girls, even the Bible — the very book on which their law is supposedly built.



COURTESY OF IMDB

Elizabeth Moss stars in the dystopian series on Hulu.

Specifically, the story of Rachel and Billah is basis for the handmaids’ position in every commander home. Billah became the biological mother of Jacob’s two children because his wife, Rachel, was barren and Billah was seen as their property. Gilead translates this into modern times by forcing handmaids to copulate monthly with their assigned commanders while their wives are present — this is known as “the ceremony.”

Moss’ emotional adaptation of the novel’s imagery is memorizing and unflinching. Her character, Offred, dances

with despairing and hopeful reactions to women’s steady reduction of human rights. Despite being captive in a mind-boggling society, Offred radiates strength and gives glimmers of encouragement in the most dire times.

There are currently three seasons released on Hulu, but the series is predicted to have a continuation, especially following Atwood’s newest novel, “The Testaments,” a sequel to “The Handmaid’s Tale.” Atwood has been involved in the production of the series thus far, ensuring vivid accuracy to her novel and timely connections.

The “before” is shown as eerily reflective of today. Gilead’s takeover began with putting motherhood on a pillar, fetishizing femininity and degrading the LGBTQIA+ community. Their movement further diminished women’s rights, and feminist protests followed, but Gilead already had a firm grip on the future.

Today, women have had restrictive body standards reflected in media for decades, according to CNN. The phrase “rape culture” has been prevalent for 50 years, shedding light that awareness does not always provoke immediate change. As recently as March, a room of only men discussed the future of women’s health.

“The Handmaid’s Tale” is a beautiful adaptation composed of remarkable actors that is sure to leave you puzzling today’s current events. The moral of “The Handmaid’s Tale” is that people can undertake flexible belief systems that can make the unbelievable seem normal. Hence, taking step into Gilead can easily shift from a breathtaking example of cinematic work to unnerving.

Rating: 5/5 stars

‘Cats’: The horniest, worst movie of all time

MICHAEL PEARCE & LAUREN KARMO

Sports Editor & Campus Editor

Holy cat Jesus, this movie was something of nightmares. That’s why we teamed up to review this monstrosity, one editor alone would have perished.

M: First off, I just want to say how weirdly sexual this movie was. For no reason, these cats would be brushing up against each other and quivering. There was a lot of unnecessarily horny movement in this movie.

The entire time I was looking for Jason Derulo’s penis, because it was allegedly CGI’ed out, but there was no bulge. Taylor Swift oddly had some large cat breasts for her 45 seconds of screentime. The editors of this movie really needed to get laid.

L: We open with the main character, who is just straight-up bad. There is just no other way to describe it. I don’t know where the \$90 million budget went, but it definitely wasn’t spent on the talent for this movie. They had all these big name actors and actresses for all the supporting roles, but the main cat Victoria (Francesca Hayward) was just some rando off the street and it showed. She made one face

the whole time, and I’m surprised she didn’t catch flies.

For the amount of screentime and attention Vicky got, she didn’t do anything. She barely had any solos, she had no backstory, she was irrelevant to the plot. I don’t know why she was there, to be honest. If there wasn’t a close zoom on her emotionless face every minute or so, I would not have noticed she was even there.

M: Veronica, or whatever the hell her name was, was really bad for sure, but what the hell was James Corden doing in this movie? The movie just made four fat jokes, then kicked him in the balls twice before banishing his awful character to Siberia.

L: Maybe we weren’t the audience for this movie, because neither of us are the biggest fans of musicals (with the exception of “High School Musical,” which we respect), but wow. All of the songs sounded the same, and there wasn’t a point to half of them. It felt like people were singing just because, not for any reason relevant to the movie.

So many characters had an introduction song and then did not appear again throughout the rest of the movie. Why did I watch them sing for 10 minutes if they weren’t important at all? And all the screentime devoted to all



COURTESY OF IMDB

“Cats” had a star-studded cast but did not live up to the expectations of its big budget.

this other nonsense distracted us from the plot, which was hard to follow in the first place.

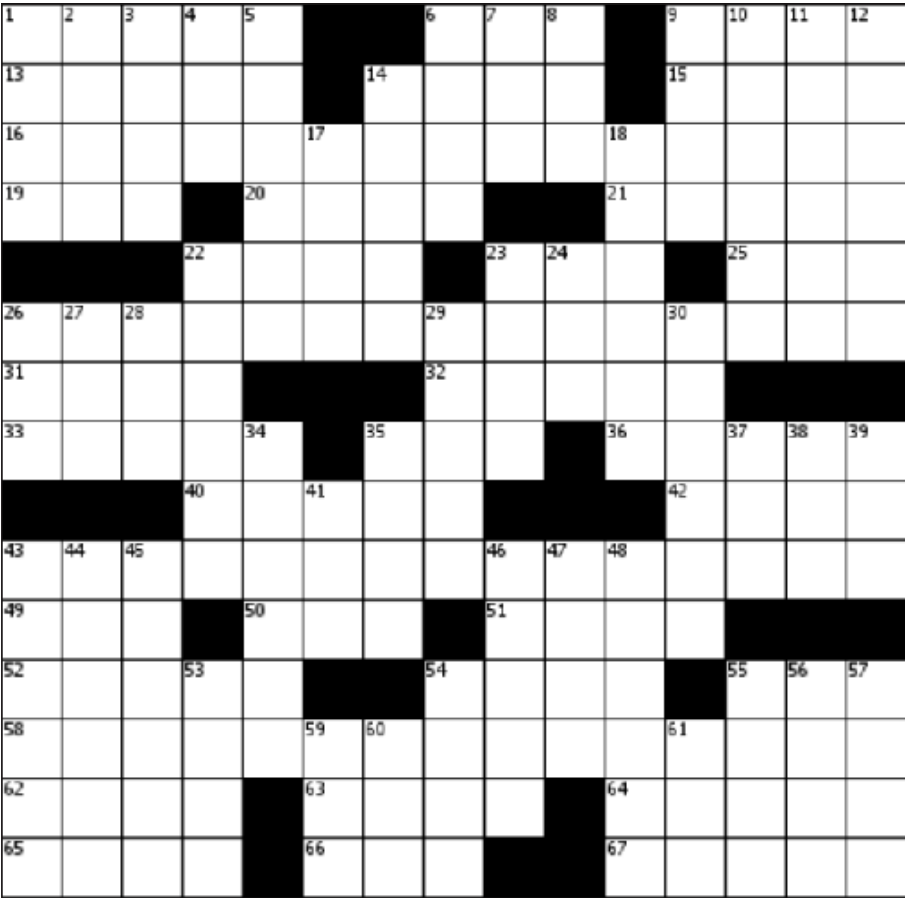
M: The story also made basically no sense. The prize for being the best singer was death and rebirth into a better life. What kind of sick, twisted shit is that? Jennifer Hudson’s cat should have put Old Deuteronomy into a choke hold and sent her to the shadow realm, claiming her spot as cat queen. That would be a plot twist worthy

of my money. Instead, she just got sent to heaven in a hot air balloon as the cats lectured the audience, breaking the fourth wall.

L: We spent two hours in that movie theater watching weird CGI cats rub up on each other and beg for death. I can’t get that time back.

Save your time and do not ever see this movie, even as a meme.

Rating: 0/5 stars



Across

1. Leveled, in London
6. '60s hallucinogen
9. QED part
13. Ice house
14. Very upset, with "off"
15. Toy block
16. Taking desperate action
19. Friday or Preston: Abbr.
20. Yukon, e.g.: Abbr.
21. Roy's wife Dale
22. Near or Far follower
23. Lower, as lights
25. JFK predecessor
26. Battling confrontationally
31. Physicians, briefly
32. Moisten in the pan
33. Islamic family chief
35. Speak
36. Author Madeleine L'____
40. Nigeria's largest city
42. ____-do-well
43. Been destroyed or forgotten
49. "____ clear day..."
50. Hesitant sounds
51. Rocky peaks
52. Hi-tech vision-

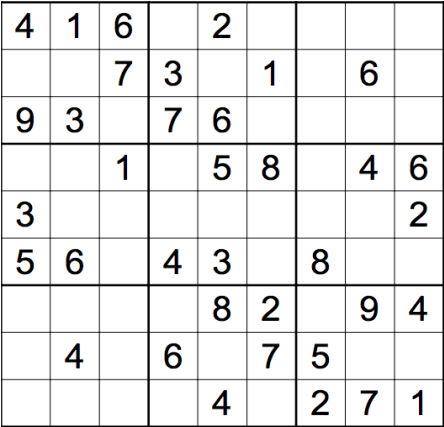
- improving procedure
54. Bangkok native
55. Tea holder
58. Sold, e.g., and a hint to this puzzle's theme
62. Pierce
63. 1804 duel winner
64. Use the soapbox
65. Sped
66. B&B
67. Stocking material

Down

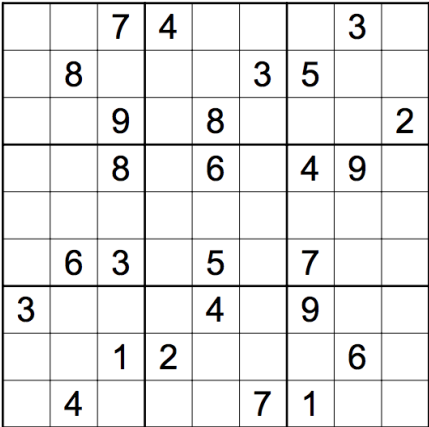
1. Fixes, as an election
2. Wide-eyed
3. Thin opening
4. Long time
5. Soldier's ID
6. Sly look
7. HBO's "____ and the City"
8. Banned pesticide
9. Mountain ht.
10. Done over
11. Chairperson's list
12. Threw easily
14. Rich dessert
17. New Age musician John
18. Channel surfer's gismo

22. Store, as fodder
23. 1944 turning point
24. "____ been fun"
26. Mdse.
27. Delighted cry
28. Zamboni surface
29. Embarrass
30. Dyes in a salon
34. Japanese drama form
35. Tipplers
37. Fr. neighbor
38. Guided
39. Hosp. trauma units
41. Jungle ____
43. Have the final turn
44. Running by itself
45. Jeff Gordon's gp.
46. Former anesthetic
47. Wild swine
48. Prayer
53. The Beatles' "Let ____"
54. Gull relative
55. False god
56. Choir member
57. Small valley
59. Sash in Sapporo
60. Sisterhood member
61. Shed a tear

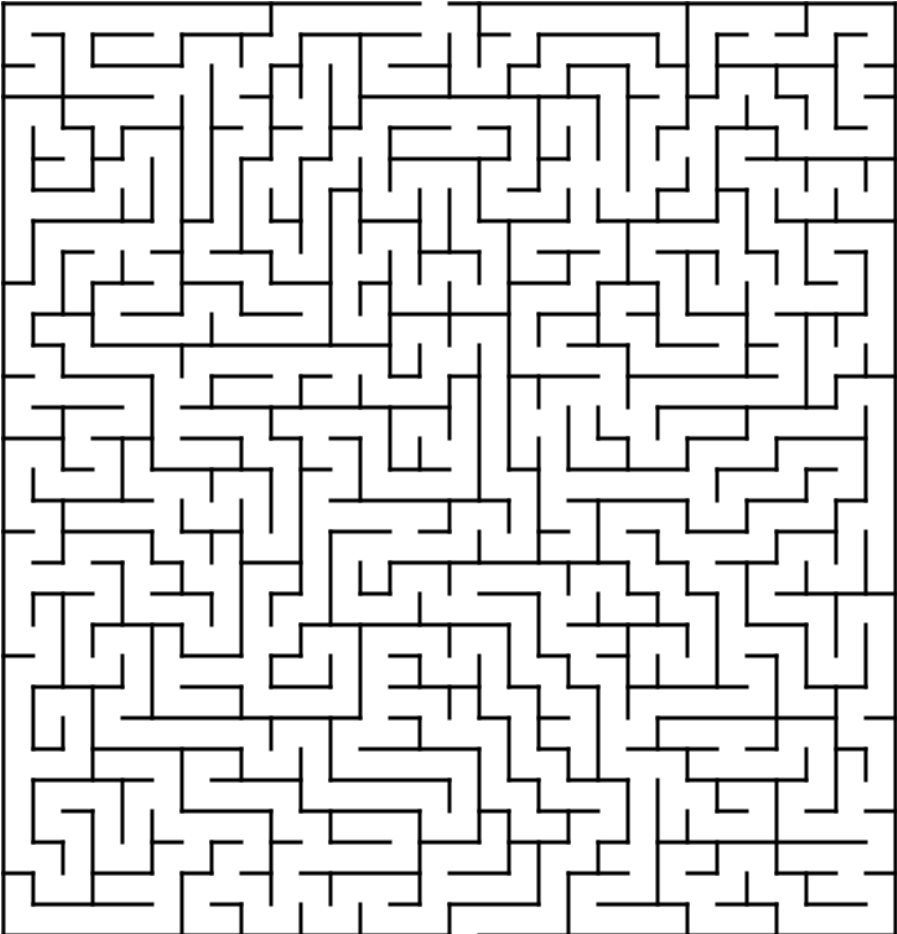
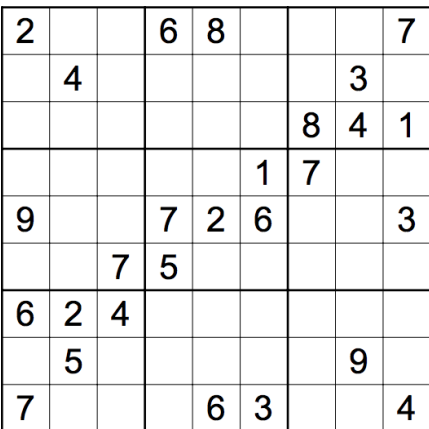
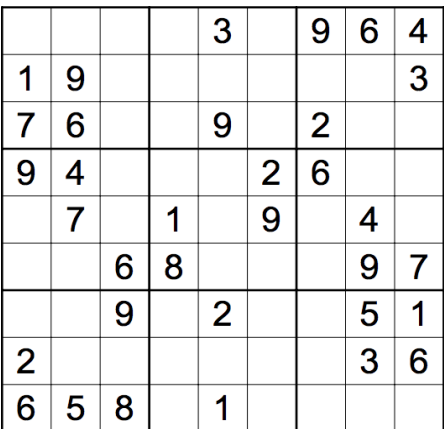
NOVICE



TOUGH



INTERMEDIATE



SPORTS

Women's basketball takes down Green Bay, 93-88

BRITTANY WELCH

Staff Reporter

The Oakland University women's basketball team opened up their conference play at home on Thursday, Jan. 9 against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. The Grizzlies were victorious, defeating the Phoenix with a final score of 93-88.

In the first quarter, the Grizzlies were down by eight, but they didn't let that stop them from playing hard, according to sophomore forward Kayla Luchenbach.

"This was a huge game for us, especially being able to defend our home court," she said. "We had great practices all week and we all had a really good feeling about this game."

Luchenbach said the team picked up the intensity and energy in order to overcome an early deficit.

"At the end of the first quarter, we were down by eight, and we knew we needed to step up our defense and our offense would come from that," she said. "We picked up our energy on defense and it gave us the momentum we needed."

The Grizzlies looked different in the second quarter fighting for each and every point. It was enough for them to win over



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTO EDITOR

Women's basketball defeats Green Bay 93-88 on Thursday, Jan. 9 in the O'rena.

the second quarter.

"In the second quarter, we were down by 10 points and came back to go up one at the half," Luchenbach said. "We knew the second half was going to be another battle, but we were all ready."

The Grizzlies were not backing down. More 3-pointers were being taken, and the Grizzlies became more aggressive, which

helped them earn their lead at the half.

"At the end of the third quarter, Teneea Heston hit a huge 3- pointer at the buzzer to put us up four," Luchenbach said. "This gave us so much momentum heading into the fourth quarter."

That momentum carried into the fourth quarter with Kahlajah Dean and Jalisha Terry both making shots at the free throw

line to help the Golden Grizzlies keep their lead. Along with Dean and Terry, junior center Autumn Kissman added 19 points for the Grizzlies.

"We knew if we won, it was going to be a statement game for how we truly are as a team, and we executed perfectly," Luchenbach said.

According to Luchenbach, the team is like a family — everyone has each other's backs and believes in each other, whether it be in school or on the court or in life.

"We all have so much confidence in each other in the games, especially like tonight," she said. "Everyone was just so positive and had so much energy throughout the entire game, which was crucial for us."

That confidence and positive energy throughout the team helped them be successful in the game, especially for Luchenbach.

"Overall, we played really well as a team tonight, we were making the extra pass and looking for each other to hit the open shots and everything was just working for us," she said. "My team really helped me stay positive when I was in foul trouble because when I came off, they helped me stay positive and have a good mindset for when I would go back in the game."

The Sporting Blitz

The women's basketball team was the only team on campus this week. Men's basketball, the track team and the swim team competed in Ohio and at Saginaw Valley State University.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team took on the Youngstown State Penguins and Cleveland State Vikings on Thursday, Jan. 9 and Saturday, Jan. 11.

Against Youngstown State, the Golden Grizzlies fell in the final seconds of the game as Penguins point guard Darius Quisenberry drove the length of the floor and dropped in the game-winning layup. With a final score of 61-60, the men's basketball team fell to 1-3 in Horizon League play. Xavier Hill-Mais led the team with 15 points, Tray Maddox had 11 and Madison Monroe scored 10.

Two days later, the team traveled to Cleveland to take on the Vikings. Coming into this game, Cleveland State was in the top half of the conference at 3-1. The Golden Grizzlies were able to break their three-game losing streak, defeating Cleveland State 68-55.

Hill-Mais and Blake Lampman finished the game both with 15 points, with Kevin Kangu the only other player in double figures with 13 points.

The men's basketball team continues their road trip

over the next week, traveling to Green Bay and Milwaukee to face the 2-3 Phoenix and 3-2 Panthers.

Track

The track team resumed their indoor season at the Saginaw Valley State Open at Saginaw Valley State University. The women's team's distance runners finished in five of the top six spots in the 3000m run. Megan Nichols took first, Heather Czarnecki took second, Rachel Kempf took third, Courtney Jarema took fifth and Taylor Conner took sixth.

The men's 3000m team also had the top four finishers in the 3000m run. Connor Wuori, Shawn Slater, Zach Pettinga and Nathaniel Langlie finished one through four respectively.

Eddie Harrell III took first in the 800m run, while Zach Stadnika took fourth. Harrell took third in the mile run, while Nate Corcoran-Miller finished in second.

Other top finishers include: Olivia Kane in pole vault (T-1st), Malcolm McIntyre in the 200m (1st), Sheldon Drake in the 60m dash (1st), Marcus Nellum in the 60m hurdles (1st).

Swim & Dive

The men's and women's teams recorded 13 top two

finishes against the University of Cincinnati and Kenyon College on Saturday, Jan. 11. The women recorded six of the 11 top finishes, with Katie Colwell getting three of them. Colwell was part of three top finishes in the 50 free, 200 free relay and 400 Medley Relay.

Taylor Bailey finished first in the 200 breaststroke, Susan LaGrand took first in the 200 backstroke and Sohvi Nenonen took first in the 200 butterfly to round out the other top finishes for the women's team.

The men tallied five top finishes, with Mario Khotynetskyi finishing second in the 200 backstroke and 200 IM. The 200 free team of Christian Bart, Mack Flowers, Ryan Geheb and Rudy Aguilar also took second place with a time of 1:23.63.

As a team, the Golden Grizzlies finished second to Cincinnati in both men's and women's competition. The swim teams will travel to East Lansing to take on MSU next on Saturday, Jan. 18.

*Compiled by Michael Pearce,
Sports Editor*

Women’s basketball improves to 3-2 in league play

MICHAEL PEARCE
Sports Editor

After defeating the 21-time Horizon League champion Green Bay Phoenix on Thursday, the women’s basketball team hosted the Milwaukee Panthers for a 3 p.m. game on Saturday, Jan. 11.

Both teams came into the game sitting at 2-2 in Horizon League play, tied for fourth place. The Golden Grizzlies came out on top, defeating Milwaukee 78-62. Jalisha Terry led the team in scoring with 19 points, with Kahlajah Dean not far behind at 17 points.

Autumn Kissman had 14 rebounds and 13 points, recording a double-double as the Golden Grizzlies defeated the Panthers, only trailing for three and a half minutes of game time.

Terry led all scorers in the first quarter with nine points as the first quarter ended tied 19-19, she also scored the first seven points of the game for the Golden Grizzlies.

Oakland jumped out to an early lead, but Milwaukee was able to battle back, utilizing their zone defense and finding the gaps in Oakland’s defense. Eventually, the Panthers found their first lead at 17-15.

After consecutive traveling calls, Oakland was able to tie the game up at 19 before missing a go-ahead shot to end the first quarter.

Both teams struggled more offensively in the second quarter than they did in the first, but Oakland was able to find more opportunities to score, eventually taking a six point lead at halftime, 35-29.

The Panthers offense slowed down considerably af-



SAM SUMMERS | PHOTOGRAPHER
The Golden Grizzlies earn a 78-62 victory over Milwaukee.

ter shooting 57% from the field in the first quarter, the Golden Grizzlies defense held them to 30.8% shooting from the floor and 0-6 from three in the second quarter, which proved to be the pivotal period in this game.

“We went back to the basics and started to do the things we know we can do, which is defend one-on-one and have great help side defense,” Acting Head Coach Ke’Sha Blanton said. “We were a little out of character in the first quarter but we got it back together.”

Terry still led all scorers with 14 points at halftime,

consistently getting inside, finding space and getting to the free throw line.

“It felt really good getting to the basket and getting those calls, doing what I do best,” Terry said.

Oakland opened up the third quarter on a 10-2 run, capped off by a three-pointer from Dean. A 45-31 score forced Milwaukee to take a timeout. After the timeout, the Panthers were able to fight back into the game, chipping away at the lead.

Dean started off the fourth quarter hitting back-to-back three pointers. Both teams were getting good looks offensively, making the fourth quarter an offensive showing for both sides. After four minutes, the Golden Grizzlies had 12 points in the quarter.

After going down 13, Milwaukee shifted to a more zone-heavy defense, something they had been using throughout the game. Oakland was still able to find gaps in the defense, with players like Dean and Terry getting inside and beating the press Milwaukee implemented with four minutes remaining.

“We knew we had to attack, and not stay stagnant,” Terry said. “We moved the ball well and attacked the gaps whenever we saw it (zone).”

Oakland was able to hold onto the lead, improving to 3-2 in Horizon League play. However, Blanton said the team is not satisfied yet.

“We’re excited but we aren’t satisfied, we’re looking for more every time we step out on the court,” she said. “It’s great, but we have to keep it going because we have bigger goals as a team, which include us winning many, many more games.”

The next home game for the women’s team is Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. against Youngstown State.

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January 23rd at Noon in the Habitat

Presidential advisers forget which Middle Eastern country to bomb

BEN HUME
Web Editor

Intelligence reports released last week from the Pentagon revealed internal discussions on pressing security threats to the United States. All of the threats came from countries in the Middle East, and each of the pages of the security reports had notes in the margins detailing which countries would be the target of our next attack. Among the choices were Iran, Iraq and even Jordan. Many of the countries were scribbled out, including Iran, which had a sticky note attached to it that said, “Too much bad press, cannot bomb this week. Save for a rainy day.”

Experts in the field had time to analyze these reports and were all baffled when they couldn’t find the report’s final decision. White House correspondent Wahar Hawk was worried that the President and the Pentagon were unable to choose which country to strike this week.

“Normally, it’s quite clear which country the White House decides to bomb each week, but worryingly enough this week didn’t have a clear decision,” Hawk said. “I’m worried that this lack of decision will make our country appear weak — if we don’t use our multitude of Tomahawk missiles to enforce our hegemonic status, what would the world think of us?”

The U.S. foreign policy framework for the past few decades has followed the “shoot first, ask questions later” doctrine, which was expanded by young Bush to include the “weekly carpet bombing” clause during his presidency. The assassination of

Iranian general Qassem Soleimani was one such weekly bombing, conveniently aligning with security reports that a Pentagon intern accidentally dug up from 2004 while looking for the bathroom.

Without a target to drone strike last week, special interest groups from every military fabrication company visited the White House to make sure everything was alright. The Trump administration immediately came out with a press release stating they would get right back on schedule this week.

With the bombing schedule back in place, upcoming targets might include anyone from Turkey to the U.A.E. depending on the business interests of the commander-in-chief. Hawk noted that in his many years of covering the White House, who the U.S. targets next is always an exciting surprise.

“Who knows what country we’ll make an excuse to attack tomorrow!” Hawk said. “We, as the most powerful country in the world, get a chance to solidify our power, and the Middle East becomes even safer due to our benevolence. We kill terrorists, and they reap the benefits, what’s not to love?”

The coming months will have many important milestones in the wrapping up of the Iran assassination and embassy crisis, but at the end of the day no one in the United States will suffer the consequences of an attack overseas. So to most of the citizens of the U.S., rejoice at the increased national security!

And to anyone who has family or connection to the countries in question, just try to forget that this country has historically committed war crimes in the name of oil money. Surely no reason to be anxious.



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

The Pentagon staff enters work each day wondering, “Who does Donnie want to bomb today?”



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