

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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Ballin' on the 'blacktop'

Rashad Williams and the men's basketball team prepares for their season, despite uncertainties.

Page 15

HOMEcoming WEEK

Festivities with a twist to follow campus safety guidelines

PAGE 7

MUSIC STRUGGLES

Concert venues in distress without any government aid

PAGE 10

FUTURE GOALS

Goalkeeper of the Year Sullivan Lauderdale moves to adviser

PAGE 13

PHOTO BY: MAGGIE WILLARD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



FALL TIME IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN The fountain outside of Kresge Library and the Oakland Center lights up, accompanied by crisp fall air and changing leaves.
PHOTO / EMILY MORRIS

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**A CHOICE WAS
MADE BUT IT
WASN'T OURS**

4 Students with Power X Not Mi

NOT "MI" CAMPUS

Online petition circulates regarding campus reopening
Photo/Change.org



NEW PROVOST

OU announces new provost to executive staff, Britt Rios-Ellis
Photo/Brian Bierley



THIS PAGE NOT EMPTY, YEET!

Examining the history of colloquial phrases in society
Photo/YouTube

POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT SPORT ARE YOU MISSING THE MOST RIGHT NOW?

- A) SOCCER
- B) CROSS COUNTRY
- C) VOLLEYBALL
- D) I'VE ALWAYS MISSED FOOTBALL

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT WOULD YOU PREFER THE MEADOW BROOK BALL BE THIS YEAR?

23%

A) UNDERWATER

13%

B) A VIRTUAL EVENT

58%

C) A SOCIAL DISTANCED IN-PERSON BALL

6%

D) GIVEAWAYS ON FACEBOOK

CAMPUS

Looking Back: OU celebrated National Coming Out Day in 2000

AUTUMN PAGE
Staff Reporter

A student that wasn't part of the Pride Forum said they found encouragement in the national day focused on the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Pride Forum set out literature and stickers for students to wear in order to show support for National Coming Out Day.

Rick Herron, senior, english literature and art history, said that he came out his own way on campus.

"On national Coming Out Day, The Pride Forum had a table inside the Oakland Center (OC) and they were giving out stickers and literature about being gay and it was the first day I wore anything pride on my body," Herron said.

"Even though it was only a sticker, it felt different, and it was a good experience I think for both me and the people surrounding me. I just didn't know what to expect."

Vice president of The Pride Forum, Adam Cadd, said that some reaction was received because of the flyers that hung around campus.

The flyers encouraged students to wear jeans if they supported the gay community.

"There was a reason behind it, it wasn't just for fun," Cadd said. "I had read on



PHOTO COURTESY OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
In 2000, Oakland University students took part in National Coming Out Day, wearing jeans to show solidarity with those in the LGBTQIA+ community.

a webpage that a pride forum at another school was tired of the way things were on campus. So they advertise in the newspaper, for all who were in support of gays to wear jeans, and it wasn't because they wanted to get back at them, they just wanted them to feel like they were being put into certain categories. It gave people a chance to feel what some of us feel everyday."

The Pride Forum advertised not only

with flyers in the OC, but with The Oakland Post, too.

Cadd said he saw someone ripping down a poster he had just put up, and refused to stop putting them up.

The Pride Forum had a couple of people who seemed interested in it, according to Cadd.

"We had people coming up to the table and wearing our stickers, but the coolest

thing was that some of the WOCO staff chalked nice little phrases under ours," he said. "It relieved a lot of stress to our campus subculture, and let others know that we are here if they need anything, like help and support in the coming out process to their families, friends and anyone else."

Herron believed the most important thing was to get people on campus talking about it.

"Any discussion is good, whether it be negative or positive because it's making students more aware of what it really means to be gay," he said.

He continued, saying that the students on campus aren't exposed to it often and when someone comes up to you on campus — it seems more real.

"Even more importantly, imagine if someone came up to you and asked you about heterosexuality; it's a little bit like that," Herron said. "Interest yourself in the person, not their category," he said.

OU still advocates for equality and education on sexual orientation.

The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) held forums, social gatherings and drag shows, but because of COVID-19 they meet via Google Meet. More information about GSA can be found here.

ADVERTISE
WITH
US!

Contact: ads@oaklandpostonline.com

Police Files

Cocaine Backup

An officer responded to a call for backup from a fellow officer on patrol near midnight on July 9 near the Mobil gas station on Walton Blvd. The officer arrived and immediately went and made contact with the driver of the car that the first officer had pulled over. The driver was identified and asked if there was anything inside of the car that may hurt the officers while they were searching it. The driver said there was not.

Following this, the driver was asked to leave the car and the vehicle was searched. While the search began, the driver stated that he was currently out on bond for a DWLS and narcotics arrest through the Pontiac District Court. At this point, a third officer also arrived at the scene.

While searching the car, one of the officers found a bag of white powder that was immediately identified as cocaine. Another small bag was found in the front pocket of the driver's pants when he was searched, along with an off-colored yellow chunk of compressed powder from the other pocket. The driver stated it was ecstasy he had purchased for \$5, along with the half-ball of cocaine he got for \$150.

The driver was arrested and the drugs underwent a field test to confirm their contents. The two substances tested as cocaine and ecstasy, as expected. The booking process was completed and the driver was transported to Oakland County Jail.

Compiled by Ben Hume, Web Editor

Make a Difference Week gives volunteer opportunities

The standard day was moved to a week due to COVID-19

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

Oakland University's Office for Student Involvement (OSI) annual Make a Difference Week will commence on Monday, Oct. 19 with a combination of in-person and virtual service projects and volunteer opportunities.

"The goal of Make A Difference Week is to bring the OU community together with the common mission of improving the lives of others and the community around us," said Jeremy Heinlein, coordinator of leadership and service programs at the OSI. "Students can expect a wide range of service opportunities that serve both our campus and local communities."

On Monday, Oct. 19, students have the opportunity to make audiobooks for a local elementary school — once participants RSVP, they will be emailed a powerpoint to create their audiobook. On Tuesday, Oct. 20, participants are writing thank-you letters for blood donors.

"[On Tuesday], we will be doing a Zoom meeting

in the morning so participants can meet with people and talk," said Emily Bernas, graduate assistant for leadership and service learning. "[Later on], we will do an informational session about the American Red Cross Club (whom the OSI is teaming up with for this event) and discuss where the donations are going."

Wednesday, Oct. 21 will be centered around making dog toys for the Oakland County Animal Shelter out of old t-shirts and blankets. A morning Zoom call will take place here as well, to allow for socialization and for the OSI to show participants how to make the toys.

"I think [socialization] is one of the main things we're missing with virtual activities," Bernas said. "Whether students know it or not, I think they're craving that, so [the OSI] is trying to make these activities more interactive."

The activity for Thursday, Oct. 22 is creating inspirational drawings for the Jenna Kast Believe in Miracles Foundation, and on Friday, Oct. 23, students have the opportunity to volunteer at the OU student farm from 9 a.m. - noon.

"We're helping with preparing everything for the winter," Bernas said in regard to the campus farm volunteer opportunity. "However, this opportunity is limited, there can only be eight people at a time. All of the other events have no limit."

The OSI office will be used as a drop off room for all activities throughout Make a Difference week — they are collecting donations for the Golden Grizzlies Pantry during the week, too.

"With the impact of COVID, we've had to alter every program to ensure safety while still being engaging and impactful," Heinlein said. "Student involvement hasn't stopped with the pandemic, but we have been maximizing our creative efforts to consistently offer high quality programs for our student community. The programs may look a little different this year, but the impact is still there."

For more information on the Make a Difference week lineup, visit GrizzOrgs and for additional upcoming opportunities and events, check out the OSI homepage.

Partnership eases financial burdens of nursing degree

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

Nurses with associate's degrees might want to expand their education. Oakland University's partnership with McLaren Oakland Hospital provides a seamless and affordable Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

"Getting a Bachelor's degree provides you such a broader world view of people and history and the ability to communicate and create change and lead," Judy Didion, the dean of the school of nursing said. "This kind of course work is not really emphasized with an associate degree."

McLaren is providing a limited number of scholarships for their nurses to complete their Bachelor's Degree through OU's programs.

OU is also working closely with McLaren nurses to help them get into the program and meet all the requirements. OU representatives also attend McLaren once or twice a year to inform the nurses of the program and the opportunities it provides.

"The seamless part is that our advising works with the nurses to make sure they meet the requirements," Carrie Buch, associate dean of the school of nursing said. "They have to have an associates degree from somewhere and then transfer credits to Oakland. Oakland itself has a lot

of affiliation and articulation agreements with community colleges."

Three years ago, OU approved a flat rate tuition of \$9,995 for the BSN program. Once the nurses start the program, they can do it full time and complete it within 12-20 months. Nurses need to complete 32 nursing credits to earn their BSN and all the classes are online.

The program provides people with options. For two semesters, nurses are able to take two, seven week classes the first half of the semesters and two more seven week classes the second half of the semesters. The third semester is a 14 week long class, this method completes the BSN in 12 months.

Additionally, for two semesters nurses have the option of taking two seven-week classes the first half of the semesters and two more seven week classes the second half of the semesters.

For those that want to go to school part time, they can take one class every seven weeks and then finish in 20 months.

"We revamped this this program three years ago and we made it seven weeks and eliminated some of the additional requirements and we made it much more competitive and much more friendly for the nurses so they don't have to jump through a lot of hoops," Buch said

By going through this, it allows the nurses to be able to go onto graduate school faster.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU MAGAZINE

OU and McLaren team up to offer a BSN in Nursing at an affordable cost.

OU grants nurses that already have their nursing license to receive 30 credits right away, this makes OU's program more appealing to nurses. With more nurses wanting this benefit, the program is more competitive amongst others.

McLaren also takes a lot of OU's traditional graduated students for clinical rotations. This partnership is an example of the Oakland-Pontiac initiative, which encourages community engagement and creating connections within the community.

"It's like they are helping to educate our nurses and we are helping to educate their nurses," Buch said. "That's just really fostering that whole connection."

To be eligible for this program, nurses have to be licensed in MI and have an earned and associates degree.

"It's been very gratifying because we've worked hard to strengthen that relationship with McLaren Oakland," Didion said.

CAMPUS

‘Not MI Campus’ petition circulates online

RACHEL YIM
Staff Reporter

As several public universities and colleges have welcomed students back to campus for the fall semester with hybrid learning systems, students across Michigan are still frustrated and concerned about the dangerous approaches their campuses are taking to re-opening.

Not MI Campus is a coalition of students from universities across Michigan. They’re dedicated to fighting any unsafe re-opening of campuses and demanding that resources go to students, faculty and staff members.

In mid-August, Oakland University launched its own petition, joining five other universities in Michigan, according to a news release. It has built a coalition of over 100 students, staff and faculty who are supportive of the demands to the OU administration.

The OU petition demands universal options for online learning as well as protection for its employees such as increased allocation of paid sick leave and more personal protective equipment for on-campus residents.

Kayla Sharpe, a sophomore at OU, is a member of Not MI Campus and an organizer with Michigan Student Power Network. Leading the coalition at OU, Sharpe said she is concerned that the OU administration is valuing profits over students’ well-being and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I am extremely disappointed with this current hybrid method of instruction, mainly because many classes that could be taught online are unnecessarily being taught in person, putting students at risk,” Sharpe said. “If students don’t want to gamble with their lives going to class in-person in a pandemic, they should not be forced to.”

As mentioned in the petition, the coalition’s main priority is to get OU to offer universal online options. This means having all courses offer at least one section online or grant student access to livestreams or recordings of the class as well as making sure all students have stable internet access and resources.

In addition to universal online options, the second most important demand is to make sure all student workers, staff and faculty are thoroughly protected and to encourage the faculty to use public-domain or low-cost course materials to reduce the burden of required textbooks.

“It is so heartbreaking and striking to read the horror stories each student is facing right now,” she said. “From nursing students being forced to do clinicals in hospitals still, to students being forced to live on campus to keep scholarships, the student body is realizing how unsupported we actually are.”

According to Sharpe, the OU petition has more than 100 signatures and nearly 2,000 statewide. She also said that the goal is to build a base of support for the petition if and when they escalate their actions. This action can be crucial as it educates people in the community about the

A CHOICE WAS MADE BUT IT WASN'T OURS

- Students with Power X Not Mi
Campus

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANGE.ORG

The motto of the change.org petition about re-opening campuses throughout Michigan.

policy of the universities and encourages them to make a change if they disagree with the current system.

“Students are scared, feeling taken advantage of, but most importantly they are taking note of every move the university administration makes in treating our health like pawns,” Sharpe said. “This should scare the administration greatly.”

To learn more about petitions for Not MI Campus or to sign a petition, visit linktr.ee.

Graduate School Open House Goes Virtual

CAYLA SMITH
Campus Editor

For the first time ever, the graduate school open house is fully virtual.

The Virtual Graduate Open Houses are expected to take place Oct. 19-23. There, students can learn about each graduate program, curriculum, benefits, admission requirements and deadlines. Students can also expect to learn about financial aid, schedule a one-on-one session, international student admissions and general information about graduate school.

Coordinator of graduate recruitment, Todd Steele, says that the graduate school open house has been virtual before with only a limited number of programs presenting. It’s a little different this year.

“This is probably 60 or 70 different programs over a week-long period, and we have different sessions and opportunities,” Steele said. “This is on a much larger scale.”

Each school has a designated day of the week where a coordinator of each program will have 30 minute presentations.

Steele says that each program is only 30 minutes, so that it’s accommodating to both prospective and current students.

There’s a full list of all of the master’s programs within each of the schools.



MARY MITCHELL | ARCHIVES

The Virtual Graduate Open Houses are expected to take place Oct. 19-23.

After taking a look at the list, there’s a button under each school where students will be prompted to fill out a Google Form. Students are required to include their name, email and choose the session they would like to attend.

Students can sign up for as many sessions as they would like because they are all presented at different times.

If students can’t attend the presentation for their graduate program, there is a plan to record the sessions.

“These program sessions could be posted to the graduate school website as well as the academic school website,” Steele said. “If you missed it, you can go to our websites or reach out to us and we can provide you with a link directly.”

Other sessions are also available, like financial aid, one-on-one and applying as an international student.

The financial aid presentation will be on Tuesday Oct. 20 followed by a Q&A.

One-on-one sessions are available if students have questions about majors, the application process or even submitting documents.

International students can attend a session on either Tuesday, Oct. 20 or Friday, Oct. 23. To learn about the international application process, required documents and other issues.

General information sessions are available where students can learn about graduate benefits, admission requirements, deadlines and scholarships.

“If you are unsure about the program you want to go into, these information sessions help you get to that point about whether or not you want to make that decision,” Steele said. “It can also provide information about what to expect at the graduate level.”

Students can schedule a meeting with Todd Steele via email at tsteele@oakland.edu.

BOT to purchase research facility, review hiring practices



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

LAUREN KARMO

Staff Reporter

The Oakland University Board of Trustees (BOT) met Monday, Oct. 12 via WebEx to review enrollment, diverse hiring practices and potential expansions of research facilities, as well as announce the new vice president for Academic Affairs and provost.

President's report

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz revealed final enrollment numbers did not suffer as much as expected because of COVID-19. Based on previous years' enrollment, the projected number of students for fall 2020 pre-COVID-19 was 18,810 students, and this year's was 18,552 (-2.4%).

This number is more than 1,000 students above the projected drop in enrollment (17,527 students in the projected "realistic case"). According to Pescovitz, the 2.4% decline in enrollment is smaller than that of 11 of the 15 public universities in the state.

"Very importantly, again this year, 2020, just like in 2019, Oakland University is the No. 1 transfer destination among all 15 public universities in the state," Pescovitz said. "This is a really significant statistic, which makes us very, very proud."

Faculty and hiring diversity

Currently, OU has 25 active faculty searches and expect to see that number rise. Annually, OU typically recruits 40 new faculty members and hopes to employ diverse hiring practices in order to allow for the faculty to match the student population.

Overall, under-represented minorities make up 9% of the faculty and 15% of students. In 2019, 21% of new hires were under-represented minorities. The university has committed to improving the diversity among faculty in upcoming searches through the diversity advocate program.

"In that program, a diversity advocate is trained and developed and then serves as a voting member of the search committee," Cynthia Miree, interim associate provost, said. "As a voting member of the search

committee, they are tasked to ensure that unconscious bias is mitigated and not having a negative impact on candidates as they are moving through the process."

Off-campus research facility

The BOT approved the \$3.715 million purchase of 2817 Research Dr., located four miles south of campus in Rochester Hills. The 50,000-square-foot facility, which sits on 3.55 acres, will add 40 laboratories, offices, collaboration spaces and more following a \$10-12 million renovation.

"Ultimately I think [an on-campus facility] would be preferred, but because of the cost differential this purchase at \$3.7 million plus \$10 million renovation is about \$280 a square foot, as opposed to \$600 plus per square foot on campus," BOT Treasurer John Beaghan said. "So, the thinking is that we're going to get much more space in a much shorter time frame close to campus in an industrial area where many of our partners and potential partners also have facilities."

This facility will house faculty from the School of Engineering and Computer Science, currently in Dodge Hall. The 50,000 square feet of space will exceed the current projected need of research space of 21,000 square feet based on the 2016 Campus Master Plan.

Currently, OU does not have the space to accommodate faculty and hope the expansion to 2817 Research Dr. will fix that issue until the university can afford to create a comparable on-campus facility.

Other matters:

- Britt Rios-Ellis will assume the position of executive vice president of Academic Affairs and provost on Jan. 4, 2021.

- Trustee Melissa Stolicker said OU's previous fiscal year has a clean unqualified audit opinion but is currently awaiting results of the single audit. This is delayed due to new rules based on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

- South Foundation Hall renovations are awaiting approval from the state level while designs for Varner Hall renovations are in progress.



Information courtesy of Oakland University and the Center for Disease Control.

COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay home when you are sick.
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. Immediately throw tissues away.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces.
7. Keep all age recommended vaccines up to date including annual flu vaccine.

CAMPUS

OU Homecoming and Reunion Week Coming to Campus

The weeklong celebration runs from Oct. 19-24 with multiple events

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

Oakland University's annual Homecoming and Reunion Week will be in full force from Monday, Oct. 19 to Friday, Oct. 24, kicking off with Matilda's 137th birthday bash and wrapping up with a drive-in movie, featuring cult Halloween classic, "Hocus Pocus."

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for students and alumni to engage with OU despite the many challenges we have in getting everyone together," said director of Alumni Engagement, Erin Sudrovech. "We've come up with a pretty comprehensive slate of activities that are mostly virtual, [with] a few in-person opportunities."

To begin Homecoming Week, Matilda's 137th birthday bash will take place on campus (socially distant) at

noon on Oct. 19 at Elliott Tower. The Faculty after Five Series is another aspect of Homecoming Week, with sessions from Oct. 19-23. Sessions include "Totally Awesome 80's Media," "Mindful Well-Being During a Pandemic," among others, all led by OU faculty.

Other Homecoming Week events include Adventures with Grizz on Tuesday, Oct. 20, where participants can learn about OU history, buildings and Grizz's favorite campus locations, a Greg Kampe radio show on Wednesday, Oct. 21 and a virtual Thursday night mainstage featuring Emmy nominated comedian, Nicole Byer.

"I want to emphasize, even though it's virtual, it's live," senior director of the Office for Student Involvement (OSI), Jean Ann Miller, said of the Nicole Byer comedy show. "[It's] really awesome because [we've] had live events in

the past, and we're still keeping the tradition going — being innovative, being creative by bringing in a very well-known comedian."

A sidewalk chalk contest and sheet banner contest are scheduled to take place for student organizations as well throughout the week, with a grand prize on the line for both. Additionally, OU offices and departments are encouraged to take part in window decorating to show school spirit and liven up campus.

The "Hocus Pocus" drive-in movie will conclude Homecoming Week on Friday, Oct. 23 in person — registration is required. Movie-goers will receive a goody bag with snacks and water, and must stay in their cars through the duration of the event to comply with COVID-19 protocol.

"The most exciting [about the drive-in] is that it's in person," Miller said. "Even though we are in

[unprecedented] circumstances, even for Homecoming, we are trying to [bring in] some normalcy to make sure student and alumni programming is still happening. Hopefully, people will take advantage of everything that will be taking place that week."

Sudrovech had similar thoughts, mentioning she hopes Homecoming week will allow for engagement throughout the OU community.

"We want to make sure people have a way to stay involved with OU," Sudrovech said. "For students, it will give them a change to engage with the larger OU community [and] for alumni, it gives them the chance to come back and even do some engagement with students, which they love."

For more information on Homecoming and Reunion Week or for registration links, visit oakland.edu/homecoming.

OU names executive vice president of Academic Affairs and provost

LAUREN KARMO

Staff Reporter

After nine months of searching, Oakland University welcomed Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis as the executive new vice president of Academic Affairs and provost beginning Jan. 4, 2021.

The announcement came from President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz — who made the decision based on recommendations from the search committee — on Monday, Oct. 12 at the Board of Trustees meeting. Current Interim Provost Michelle Piskulich will be returning to her position as senior associate provost.

"Her vision is to elevate our academic programs, and she has a passion for serving underrepresented minority communities," Pescovitz said. "Her commitment is for teaching, learning and research, and she is determined that Oakland University will significantly impact the lives of our region, and she hopes that we will contribute mightily to our local economy, which is so consistent with everything that we have said about making Oakland University the university of choice."

The Portland native was the founding dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services at California State University, Monterey Bay where she worked to foster programs that benefited both students and the surrounding community, the creation of a homeless shelter and outreach program called Community Health Engagement (CHE).

OU's commitment to the strategic goal of community engagement, particularly through programs like the OU-Pontiac Initiative, was one factor that

drew Rios-Ellis to the university and aligns with her background.

"Universities, particularly right now, need to really serve the contextual needs of community," Rios-Ellis said. "When we look at the social determinants of health and well being, and we know that education is at the forefront of those, we need to understand that as educators we can really transform not only the lives of individual students but the lives of their families as well."

An ethnographer by trade, Rios-Ellis began her path looking to go into politics, which led her to public health and ultimately to higher education. She dedicated her time to an intersectional understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion with research into the HIV/AIDS epidemic among the Latinx community, as well as the creation of LGBTQIA+ curriculum at her previous institution.

The mother of three will be moving from California to Michigan with her husband, Enrique, who will be joining the faculty in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Her son, a sophomore, is also applying to attend OU in the winter semester.

In terms of leadership, Rios-Ellis hopes to listen and foster relationships with colleagues and students to reach collaborative goals.

"I very much see myself as a servant leader in definition and someone who is a power-with versus power-over type of leader," she said. "I think one of the reasons why I have been successful in leadership is that I tend to surround myself with folks who know a lot more than I do about certain things and then try to facilitate the environment wherein they can have the resources they need to move things along."



PHOTO FROM OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Britt Rios-Ellis was named executive vice president of Academic Affairs and provost by President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz. Her term begins on Jan. 4, 2021

When it comes to students, Rios-Ellis hopes to be as involved as possible. Rios-Ellis is "humbled, honored and excited" to take on this role and become a part of the OU community.







"People are saying to me, 'aren't you afraid of the cold?' and I said, 'Oh no, Oakland is already so warm and welcoming,' and that's because of the environment," Rios-Ellis said.



Steps for Safe Sex During the Pandemic

1. Minimize the number of sexual partners you have
2. Avoid sex partners who have symptoms of COVID-19
3. Avoid kissing
4. Avoid sexual behaviors that have a risk of fecal-oral transmission or that involve semen or urine
5. Use condoms and dental dams during oral and anal sex
6. Wear a mask during sexual activity
7. Wash your hands and shower before and after sexual activity
8. Wash sex toys before and after using them
9. Use soap or alcohol wipes to clean the area where you have sexual activity

Information Courtesy of the Mayo Clinic



Socially distant birds and the bees

Story and Design by Emily Morris

Navigating socialization, dating sites and sex is hardly ever as simple and swift as the stereotypical two-hour rom-com, and now social distancing adds yet another element.

Sex setback

Many couples have gotten past the quarantine quarrels, but not every individual received a pre pandemic coupling cue or wanted to couple up. Although six feet of social distancing is an obstacle, relationships — whether committed, budding or casual — are “important for our psychological and physical health,” according to Dr. Terri Orbuch, known as the love doctor.

The safest sexual relationships during a pandemic scale from masturbation, virtual sex, sex with a live-in partner, casual sex and, lastly, sex with multiple partners. Each type of sex is still possible within the pandemic, with some added precautions.

People are having less sex since a pandemic was declared in March, according to the Leisure Sciences Journal. Even so, one in five people have also reported trying a new sexual activity in the same time period.

Social distant dating and creativity are main factors that contributes to this difference.

Additional consent

Meeting new romantic partners during the pandemic just adds another layer of consent. Meeting in-person and entering someone’s six foot bubble cannot be expectations of a new relationship anymore.

“There are many people that I talk to that do not feel comfortable meeting in-person and starting relationships that way... my big message is to make sure that you know your own preferences, you verbalize those preferences and you ask questions of the other person’s preferences,” Orbuch said.

Before the pandemic, people were starting with questions about sex, previous relationships and STI tests, according to Orbuch. Now, people can add another layer of similar questions: meeting preferences, previous contact with other people and COVID-19 tests. Both sets of curiosities follow the same customary format — there are just more discussion points now.

Meeting-less sex

After some clarification, people have to navigate the possibility of never meeting and have some level of relationship. Casual and coupled sex can continue contactless for any parties with that safety preference.

“You are your safest sex partner,” according to a New York government health report.

Masturbation is an alternative to meeting with anyone, but socialization is still an important health aspect.

Orbuch explained that “creative” dates can be a solution: virtual or socially distant.

Video call applications such as Zoom, WebEx and Google Meet are just a few ways to connect. These can be a new dating format or causal sex platform.

Parties can watch a movie or episode, cook together or order take-out, all synchronously. Although the couples are apart, they can still communicate and build a basis of a relationship.

On the other hand, some people prefer casual sex or are sex workers. Virtual platforms are the safest solution, according to a San Francisco government health report, with sexting, phone sex, porn and sex cam workers.

Social distanced sex

Physical touch is one of the five love languages, and some people rely mainly on human contact to feel loved and fulfilled.

This option is only viable if both parties consent to being together and connect only to personal comfort levels.

Outdoor dates are emphasized by Orbuch such as, walking, visiting a park, apple picking, pumpkin picking, snowmobiling or skiing. Being outside generally allows more space for six feet of social distancing. If partners choose to make their date more intimate, only meet “face to face in a safe place and assure that you’re both symptom free,” according to Orbuch.

New York health organizations encourage casual sex if it occurs without any mouth contact: kissing or rimming. Face masks can minimize the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding breath contact.

“Heavy breathing and panting can spread the virus further, and if you or your partner have COVID-19 and don’t know it, a mask can help stop that spread,” they said.

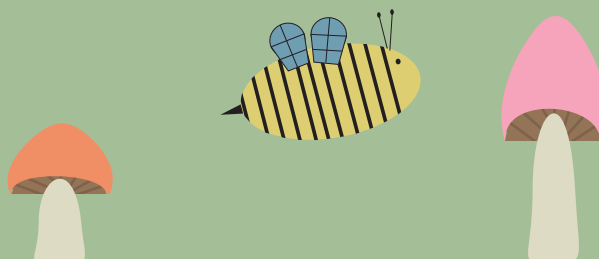
To ensure each partner is kept safe, the public health department recommended starting new relationships only as frequently as every four weeks.

This is the safest interaction because of the timeframe that COVID-19 symptoms arise.

Redefining safe sex

Safe sex is a traditional encouragement by health officials and relationship experts. The pandemic simply adds more conversation. Sexually important acronyms include STIs and COVID-19 now. This doesn’t have to be an obstacle in budding relationships though.

“Remember that creativity adds excitement and newness, and that’s all good for new relationships as well [as existing ones],” Orbuch said.



Cultivating culture: from ‘snowflake’ to ‘yeet’

EMILY MORRIS
Managing Editor

Budding colloquial phrases “low key” sprout “out of thin air” in every generation. Potentially elusive and non literal phrases aren’t just a confusing communication gap between generations, colloquialisms and their roots also “spill the beans” about generational culture.

Although your middle school English teacher may have avoided “ain’t,” “fixin’ to” or “gonna,” those words aren’t wrong. In fact, Dr. Hunter Lockwood, linguistics lecturer, noted “informal and colloquial language is not ungrammatical or lazy.”

Language mirrors the culture around it, and that connection is where new words and phrases can develop.

“Snowflake”

For example, the current political climate gave the word “snowflake” some additional popularity. “Snowflake” — aside from being a granule of snow — is also a term for someone who is overly sensitive, generally used by those on the political right side toward the left, according to the Merriam Webster Dictionary.

This word actually “snowballed” — “snowflake” isn’t only a modern political creation. Using “snowflake” as a colloquium dates back to the 1860s in Missouri, where it was originally used to describe someone who disagreed with the abolition of slavery and favored white people.

Between its political origin and resurgence, “snowflake” has also been used to describe a negative term for a man acting white, or synonym for cocaine in the 1970s and a synonym for unique and beautiful in “Fight Club,” a 1999 movie. Although none of these meanings stuck, “snowflake” has stuck around and evolved to fit the current culture and conversations in its varied uses.

“Rather than saying that personalizing language adds to culture, I like to think of culture as performed through people’s use of language,” Lockwood said. “This happens at every level of language, from the sounds of your vowels to the patterns of your stories.”

“Bury the hatchet”

Dating even farther back, “bury the hatchet” became a non literal English phrase in the 1600s and unlike “snowflake,” has maintained roughly the same

definition for 400 years. “Bury the hatchet” means that people or groups are making peace about a disagreement.

Before its commonality in English, “bury the hatchet” wasn’t a colloquialism at all — the phrase was actually meant more literally.

“The American English expression “bury the hatchet” was actually borrowed from speakers of Native American languages,” Lockwood said. “It was a metaphor used among many tribes in North America (including the Great Lakes regions).”

Although “burying the hatchet” can simply be a metaphor for reaching an agreement, some Native American cultures also literally buried a hatchet as a ceremonial practice, specifically as an act of diplomacy between European immigrants. These immigrants then began using “bury the hatchet” as an English phrase in the 1600s, even though it was originally part of Native American culture.

“Yeet”

Colloquialisms don’t always fit into historical boxes. “Yeet” emerged roughly in 2008 as a blip in Urban Dictionary’s mixed bag of generational, edgy and click-bate words. Usually dictated as an exclamation or while throwing something, “yeet” is defined as “discard[ing] an item at a high velocity.”

While colloquialisms evolve through the years to surrounding culture and some have the same meaning for centuries, some words, like “yeet,” are products of a current generation. YouTube, Vine and TikTok launched the use of “yeet” roughly in the spring of 2014 with another major resurgence in 2016.

“Since we perform and mark our identities and relationships through language, language variation cuts across every social variable imaginable,” Lockwood said. “Some colloquialisms are more stable than others — some sayings survive through time and spread across multiple languages, while others disappear without a trace after only a short time.”

Thus far, the term has generally stayed in the confines of Generation Z, but that doesn’t mean the term isn’t here to stay. Because language is a reflection of culture, language can be just as variable.

“In the end, only time will tell whether a word or phrase will be yeeted into the next generation.”



Information courtesy of the Oakland University Counseling Center

MENTAL HEALTH TIPS DURING COVID-19



1. It's okay to not be okay

Take a break, mental health is just as important

2. Be flexible and adaptable

Accepting change makes it easier to deal with

3. Know your limits on news consumption

Balance is key, keep your consumption healthy

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

Give yourself something to look forward to

5. Write three happy things about your day at night

Even the smallest things count

6. Routine is king

Focus on the things you can control

7. Connect with others creatively

Social media, video calls, online parties

8. Daily self-care

Exercise, relaxation, pet therapy, journaling

9. Acknowledge the grief we're experiencing

Loss of loved ones and of our old lives/routines

10. Know your resources

Call OUCC at 248-370-346, talk to friends/family

Music venues still struggling with no help from federal government

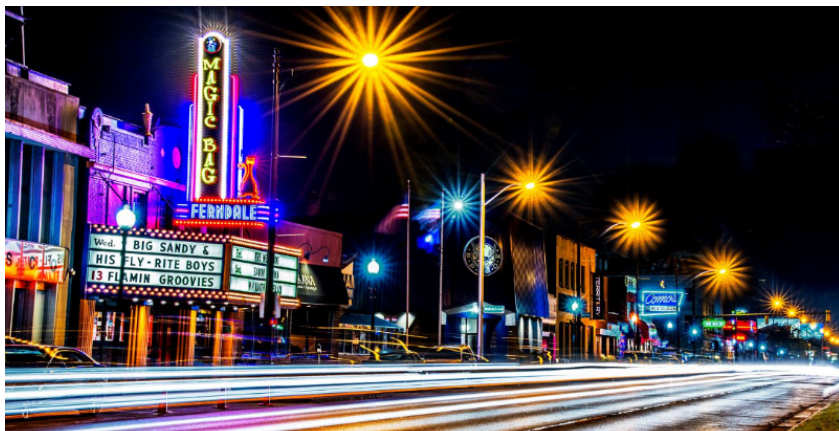


PHOTO COURTESY OF TICKETWEB

Ferndale's "The Magic Bag" is one of the struggling venues around the state.

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many music venue halls and companies financial struggle, and they still have no aid from the state or federal government.

Carey Denha, the owner of The Magic Bag and CEO of Tangerine Moon Productions, has been personally affected by the lack of aid.

The Magic Bag, located in Ferndale, is a comedy and music venue, and Tangerine Moon Productions is a high-end tribute act group.

The Magic Bag hosts events like The Mega '80s, which features music and videos from the '80s.

Denha is also a singer and one of the acts. He was affected in more than just his businesses. In March he was diagnosed with COVID-19.

"I could probably sing today, but it's been a rough road. I would be considered, what they, call a long hauler," he said.

It isn't just his companies that are struggling — the entire industry has pretty much decimated.

"There are multiple problems that have occurred — how it works is that you have bands that tour and they're booked by agents," Denha said. "So the agents that booked the acts, since the acts can't tour, the agencies are falling apart. The musicians aren't making money and the venues are having to close."

All independent music venues still haven't received any relief.

"No, no [I haven't received] state or federal. The National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) are lobbying congress on behalf of all the independent music venues throughout the nation," Denha said. "All the independent venues used to be in competition with

each other, but now we've all banded together to fight for survival. We're coming together to try to push congress to fund us and open."

Artists are stepping up and spreading awareness about the NIVA initiative, and two bills are in the works that could help these venues.

The #SaveMistages relief from NIVA isn't the only action being taken. Going online to savemistages.com and sending an email to local elected officials or texting "Go SaveMistages" to 50409 to send a letter to Governor Whitmer are ways to help.

The Save Our Stages bill and The Restart Act, which go in hand with The Heroes Act. Both provide relief to independent and small companies.

"Pretty much every week, something is closing in the United States," Denha said.

He closed down around March 16 and wouldn't reopen, right now if given the chance.

He said his company isn't going to reopen until there's a vaccine or a chance to vaccinate.

"I don't think taking temperatures at the doors really works because it doesn't work on asymptomatic cases, which we've learned is one of the biggest problems — you can have it and not know it. The best guarantee is understanding the virus and science and waiting until there's a vaccine."

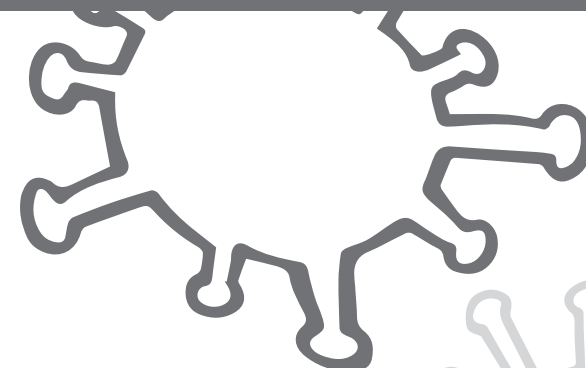
He's responsible for every event The Magic Bag has and doesn't want anyone at risk.

"I'd rather go out of business than put anyone at risk," he said.

When asked what advice he would give for anyone wanting to help, Denha focused on wearing a mask to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

"The faster we can contain the outbreak, the sooner we can open."

GRIZZLIES PROTECT GRIZZLIES



Cumulative on-campus positive cases since July 12:

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Faculty or staff:

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SPORTS

Reigning Goalkeeper of the Year forced into advisory role

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-In-Chief

Coming off a season where he won Horizon League Goalkeeper of the Year, Sullivan Lauderdale is now in an advisory role during what was supposed to be his final playing season.

Lauderdale graduates in December, and in August the Horizon League announced fall sports would be postponed until spring. For Lauderdale, this meant the end of his collegiate career.

"It was hard, especially when I first found out," he said. "I was pretty upset because I thought that we'd be able to at least have a Horizon League season."

In what is now his final season, Lauderdale was named the conference's best goalkeeper and was placed on the All-Horizon League first team. He had four clean sheets in conference play, three of those ending in victories.

For him, receiving the Goalkeeper of the Year award was a big honor.

"I was really happy to receive that [award]," Lauderdale said. "It came down to the fact that as a team we had a really good season and that just really put me in a good position to receive that."

Lauderdale will advise the team and occasionally fill in during practices in an unprecedentedly long offseason.

"It's a different feeling," he said. "Usually when you start training in the fall, we're getting straight into games and all of our season. The excitement is still there, obviously, but it's not the same as it would be if we were coming in the preseason in August."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS
Sullivan Lauderdale, the reigning Horizon League First Team goalie, just lost his senior season after COVID-19 postponed fall sports until spring.

The advisory role was suggested to him by Head Coach Eric Pogue during the summer quarantining period. At the time, Lauderdale was weighing his options of internships, his studies and soccer.

"I spoke with Pogue on a personal level about how I mad to make some decisions coming up," Lauderdale said. "He was really supportive throughout the whole process and made it clear that if I wasn't going to be around as often I was still welcome to help coaching."

Last season, the men's soccer team finished their season with a 7-9-3 record, putting them at the four seed in the Horizon League Tournament. In the tournament, they lost to the No. 5 seeded Wright State Raiders, 4-1.

Now, the Golden Grizzlies will have a new goalkeeper in the spring, and Lauderdale will graduate with an engineering degree after coaching them up in the fall.

The options for the next goalkeeper are Finn Jurak and Nour Maoui, but Pogue could add more goalkeepers before the spring season. Neither have played minutes for the Golden Grizzlies yet, but Lauderdale was confident in their abilities.

"They're both very good," he said. "The biggest thing I've learned is you have to be confident in your role, and once you're confident and you believe — you can do the job you're meant to do."

Despite the delay in their season and the uncertainty of the pandemic, Lauderdale felt the men's soccer team was keeping a positive attitude and enjoying training and practice.

"It's been really great and exciting to get back," he said. "Everybody is really excited right now just because everybody has been apart or alone for so long."

There are many new members of the team, but Lauderdale felt the process of training brings everyone together, regardless of how long they have been a Golden Grizzly.

"Even though there's a lot of new people, we're all used to doing the same thing every season," he said. "Once you're in training you don't even worry about who's new and who's not or anything like that."

The Oakland Post is looking for *SPORTS REPORTERS*

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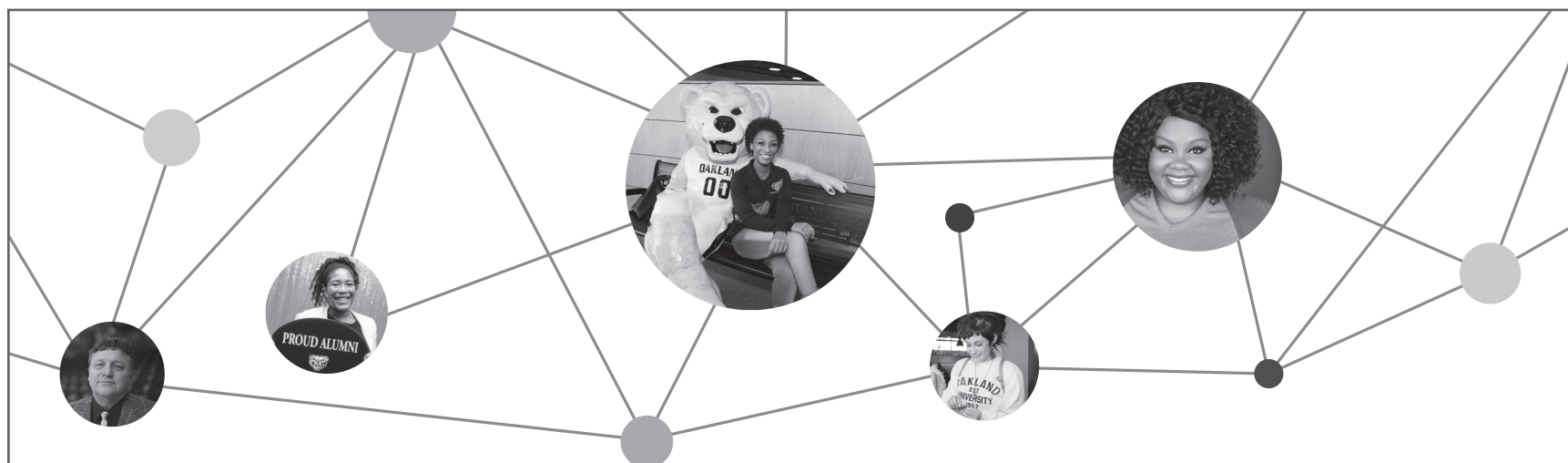
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Noon

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Rashad Williams sets sights on league title

Star point guard is ready to lead his team into an unusual season

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

Four games into conference play in 2020, the men's basketball team received a boost to their lineup when Rashad Williams was granted his waiver from the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) and was cleared to play.



MAGGIE WILLARD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Williams outside of the O'Rena. In the 15 games which he appeared in, Williams showed a tendency to shoot, taking 251 shots, almost 17 shots per game.

Williams' first two games as a Golden Grizzly were in Wisconsin against Green Bay and Milwaukee, and both ended in single-digit losses. He scored a combined 24 points in the games.

"Me jumping in the middle of the season last year, not knowing if I was going to be clear to play or not — it put a toll on my mental health," Williams said.

As the season went on, the sophomore transfer from Cleveland State gained his footing, proven by his 37-point breakout in Detroit against The University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) Titans and their star point guard, Antoine Davis.

From the UDM game on, Williams kept getting buckets. He scored 34 against Northern Kentucky, 28 against Cleveland State and 29 against The University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC).

"Coach [Kampe] and my teammates — they gave me the confidence to do what I needed to do, to make sure I was confident and we could position ourselves to win," he said.

In the Horizon League Tournament against his former team, the Cleveland State Vikings, Williams was one of four Golden Grizzlies to score double-digits, and the team won 80-59.

Williams, the junior guard from Detroit, posing near the free throw line in the O'Rena. Williams hit 61 3-pointers in the 15 games he played. (Maggie Willard)

In the quarterfinals, Oakland fell to the Green Bay Phoenix 78-63, ending their season and cutting Williams' goals of a Horizon League title and NCAA Tournament run short.

Despite a rocky road to the postseason — in which the team took more losses than usual in the conference schedule — Williams felt the people around him uplifted him.

"[Winning] didn't go that way many times, but the support and everything was there from the guys and everybody else in the offices, they really made it easy," he said.

Williams didn't play enough games to qualify for the season stat leaders on the Horizon League's official website, but had he qualified. He would have been third in the league in scoring last season, averaging 19.5 points per game.

Now, the men's basketball team faces a level of uncertainty and strangeness that has never been seen in the landscape of college basketball. No one knows if the season will start on time, if games will be cut or if the season is put on hold indefinitely, like it was in March.

"I try to tell the guys that we stay ready so we don't need to get ready," Williams said. "Just to make sure we're still doing what we're supposed to do every day — staying in the gym, staying sharp, watching film, getting in with coaches and keeping our bond tight."

In the midst of the pandemic, the junior team leader is taking on a mentorship role with the new additions to the team. The men's basketball team had two graduations and multiple transfers, so the 2020 roster is half newcomers and half veterans.

"We just kind of try to find little ways to bond with each other so that when we do get on the court, some type of bond translates to winning games," Williams said. "I'm blessed to have these guys to lead and win games with."

Williams' goals remain the same from last year to this year. Last season, Williams hoped to win the Horizon League Tournament and move on to the NCAA Tournament.



MAGGIE WILLARD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Williams, the junior guard from Detroit, posing near the free throw line in the O'Rena. Williams hit 61 3-pointers in the 15 games he played.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Williams heading to the basket against UIC in a game where he scored 29 points. Williams averaged 19.5 points per game in his first season as a Golden Grizzly.

The NCAA tournament was eventually cancelled, but Oakland was eliminated almost a week before the pandemic affected all major sports in the U.S.

"The biggest reason I played last year was because I felt like we had a chance with that team to get to the NCAA Tournament, so that's always my number one priority," he said. "Anything I can do to help the team with my own personal abilities, that's a second [priority]."

Williams is outside of the O'Rena. In the 15 games which he appeared in, Williams showed a tendency to shoot, taking 251 shots, good for almost 17 shots per game. (Maggie Willard)

Last season, Williams felt the team "ran out of gas" in the tournament, something he hopes to avoid in the eventual 2021 Horizon League Tournament.

"We're taking care of our bodies, taking recovery and our strength and conditioning really seriously," he said. "We're just making sure we're overall in good health through everything going on with the pandemic and COVID[-19]."

Along with physical health, mental health during one of the most unique set of obstacles in history is paramount for the Golden Grizzlies.

One of the reasons Williams transferred from Cleveland State was to be closer to his family. As a big proponent of family, Williams treats his teammates like his family through all of the uncertainties and roadblocks that COVID-19 presented.

"We are all we have," he said. "There's a lot of crazy things going on in this world, and we're still here living through it all, we're blessed. We're just keeping good vibes, high frequencies, staying happy and being productive."

The men's basketball team is currently unsure of their 2020-2021 season's status but always remains ready to go, according to Williams.

Vice Presidential debate fly interviewed by DNC strategists

BEN HUME
Web Editor

The black fly that famously landed on Mike Pence’s head during the first Vice Presidential debate was finally brought in for questioning by the Democratic Party strategists this weekend to improve their debating strategies for the future.

The analysts were surprised to learn, however, that the fly was actually previously incarcerated by Kamala Harris after being mistaken for a black man, and some amount of awkwardness ensued.

The fly explained that he was given a life sentence of four days by Harris for possession of three grams of marijuana. He escaped from prison to rush the VP debate stage in order to protest the immoral incarceration of black people under Harris’s watch, but instead his image was plastered all over social media as a reminder to vote. The fly was rather peeved that his protest was manipulated to support the institution that had him locked up in the first place.

The DNC strategists were baffled. They were used to this criticism from the annoying leftists within their party, but a common house fly criticizing their platform? This was unheard of.

They just could not understand how they could be at fault for the tragedy that was this bug.

Well, the strategists asked the fly, “If you really did want to make a statement of protest about Harris’s immoral past as a prosecutor, why did you sit on Pence’s head for so long?” He said he was simply very hungry and his favorite snacks are pieces of shit. The fly said that he was not going to pass up the veritable buffet that was Pence’s hair.

This was just unfathomable to the strategists. An individual who hated the policies of the Democratic party but still thought Republicans were unsavory pieces of shit? This fly must be one of the mystical independent voters they had heard so much about! They just had to get some more answers out of the fly to crack the case of how to finally swing those independent voters in their favor. That must be the secret to winning the election, and this fly was going to give them the keys to the kingdom.

Unfortunately for the DNC strategists, they very much underestimated how short the lifespan of a common fly was, and watched in horror as the bug buzzed his last words.

“There’s no such thing as an independent



PHOTO | BEN HUME

The fly, which rested on Mike Pence’s head, was brought into the Democratic lair to be questioned. Little did the democrats know, the fly was a victim of Kamala Harris.

voter, just give us healthcare ... bzzzz,” gasped the fly as he finally came to rest.

The strategists immediately called a meeting of Democratic party leadership to tell them their findings. They said that the fly was incredibly cryptic, but they interpreted the fly’s last words to mean that they should immediately plaster every social media page with pictures of the fly with Donald Trump’s face with the word

VOTE written below it in bad impact font from a 2011 meme template.

Everyone agreed this was a good idea and immediately told their unpaid interns to get to work creating the memes, as party leadership took off for the day.

They couldn’t afford to miss tonight’s Saturday Night Live skit — they heard their favorite fly was the star of the show that night.



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