

THE OAKLAND POST

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY
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2015

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Photo by Sean Gardner/The Oakland Post

thisweek

February 11, 2015 // Volume 40. Issue 51



on the web

The weather outside might be chilly, but the Mr. Phi Sigma 2015 competition will be heating up Dodge Hall and Oakland University's hearts this Friday, Feb. 13. Read more at www.oaklandpostonline.com.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

COILS FOR THE CURE// Anthony Bogedin (left) and Jason Gorski (right) are on a team of Oakland University students developing new ways to destroy leukemia cancer cells by using heat-induced magnetic fields. The apparatus the students developed uses copper coils, a cooling system and a direct current alternator to create magnetic momentum. Read the full story at oaklandpostonline.com. Photo by Dave Jackson/The Oakland Post

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

What are you doing this Valentine's Day?

- A** Spending the day with my bae.
- B** Do you mean Singles Awareness Day?
- C** Spreading love to all my friends and family.
- D** Mentally preparing for the day-after candy sales.

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Did you watch the Super Bowl?

- A** Duh, of course. It's practically a national holiday.
25%
- B** I went to so many parties I didn't actually get to watch.
0%
- C** I tuned in for the halftime show. #TeamLeftShark
33.3%
- D** Nope. Don't you people know the Puppy Bowl was on?
41.7%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

February 5, 2009

"Bloody Bess", a play of a wealthy governor's daughter who becomes acting captain of a pirate ship, opened in the Varner Studio Theatre. It was performed by a cast almost entirely composed of OU theatre and musical theatre majors.

February 11, 1991

One of the campus's top priorities was to fix the blinds in the Wilson Hall art studios where nude models posed for art classes. As a result of the unshielded windows, students were treating it much like a peep show instead of as an artistic form of study.

February 17, 2001

The 25th annual Women's Studies Film Festival was held on campus, celebrating the theme of global citizenship. The festival screened several selections, including Nalini by Day, Nancy by Night and Lilya 4-Ever.

- Compiled by Morgan Dean, copy editor



7

A CULTURAL AFFAIR

Taste of Africa event brings food, music, language and more to the Oakland Center as part of African-American Celebration Month.



13

'SPRING'-ING INTO ACTION

Musical theatre alum Kryssy Becker stars as Wendla Bergmann in local musical filled with teenage sex, angst and self-discovery.



14

STAYING GROUNDED

Local artist Susan Goethel Campbell's 'Field Guide' art piece uses a wide range of materials to satisfy the senses while still "connecting to the ground."

BY THE NUMBERS
Valentine's Day edition

196 mil.
average number of roses produced in the U.S. for Valentine's Day

14%
U.S. women send flowers to themselves

\$116.21
amount the average U.S. consumer spends on Valentine's Day

1 bil.
Valentine's Day cards are sent each year in America

11,000
average number of children conceived on Feb. 14 each year in the U.S.

Editorial

Brian's lying, the media's crying and we're just sighing

By Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

Brian Williams, 57, started working with NBC News in 1993 as an anchor for the Weekend Nightly News. He is now the anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News, and in the 11 years since he came into that position, he has built up a reputation as a credible and respectable reporter.

That reputation is now shattered.

The details are everywhere, and there's little need to share it all again here — countless media organizations have been sharing it ad nauseum.

We at the *Oakland Post* are reluctant to continue this coverage, but we have a few questions about the latest media-focused fiasco.

We believe it's right to question Williams and hold him accountable. But to condemn him to such a painful degree?

We should be holding journalists to the highest standards, especially those who are the face of our news. We question, however, the fierceness with which everyone is attacking Williams in particular. We question how narrow — and arguably arbitrary — this ferocity is.

There are others who lie, cheat and misrepresent themselves on a daily basis, yet when they are found out (if ever), the consequences are rarely so severe and the response rarely so vehement.

Media or not, if the same attention was brought to each and every leader of the world — in journalism, education, engineering, law, medicine, etc. — America would be a much different place.

We at the *Post* have a hunch: our fellow media organizations (we say "fellow" loosely) are up in arms because it's another journalist, a prominent one, that has made a mistake. And since it's a common thing for media members to be questioned and attacked (unjustly so, of course!), these other journalists want to prove to the rest of the world that they and Williams are different kinds of journalists.

They want to save themselves. He is not credible, they are, and apparently giving constant air time to the subject is the best way to prove it.

We have to inform and serve the public, after all. It's journalism 101.

Jon Stewart brought this point up in his Monday night show, playing clips of other outlets discuss-

ing Williams' mishap with his usual no-holding-back humor.

"I love that now the media pretends that they must guard the crown jewel of their credibility, when we've already seen it's Al Capone's vault."

It's the best Williams coverage out there, and if you haven't seen it, you should check it out now.

....speaking of Stewart, the announcement was made halfway through the writing of this editorial that Stewart will no longer be hosting *The Daily Show* after this year.

We find this to be more important and interesting news than Williams' potential "misremembering" and have decided to dedicate the rest of our time to Stewart.

Williams will be out of a job for the next six months — perhaps he can give satire a try. If the media allows it, that is. Either way, he would be hard pressed to match Stewart's stellar reputation.

"I want to look back on my career and be proud of the work, and be proud that I tried everything," Stewart once said.

You should be proud, Mr. Stewart. We wish you luck and hope to continue hearing from you in some form or another. Thanks for the laughs, the insight and the honesty.

Corrections Corner

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline.com or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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Rochester, MI 48306
Phone 248.370.4263
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial board

Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-4268

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-2537

Salwan Georges
Photo Editor
photos@oaklandpostonline.com
248-991-7574

sections

Keyla Varicalli Campus &
Administration Editor
campus@oaklandpostonline.com

LeeAnn Brown Life, Arts &
Entertainment Editor
life@oaklandpostonline.com

Jackson Gilbert Sports Editor
sports@oaklandpostonline.com

Sean Gardner Web Editor
web@oaklandpostonline.com

Selah Fischer Blog Editor
scfische@oakland.edu

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advising

Holly Gilbert
Editorial Adviser
248.370.4138

Don Ritenburgh
Business Adviser
248.370.2533

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Perspectives

Student Statesman: How the debacle with NBC anchor Brian Williams affects the rest of us

Nick Walters
Student Statesman

I would be surprised if any of you regularly watched the nightly news on NBC.

After all, we're the generation that gets its news from social media and Jon Stewart, not traditional broadcast anchors that come on after dinner.



Nick Walters,
Student Statesman

Even so, most of you are probably familiar with Brian Williams, one of the news anchors

for NBC. He is, especially as a news anchor, regarded as one of the most trustworthy men in America.

That reputation is in trouble.

Here's the story

In 2003, Brian was on-site covering the Iraq War.

A helicopter that he was in was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG).

Usually, that would be the end of the chopper and all those inside it.

Miraculously, however, Brian's helicopter survived and made it the rest of the trip safely.

Except for the first sentence, that entire last paragraph was a lie. Yes, Brian was on-site covering the war. Everything

else, though, is false. There was a helicopter that was hit by an RPG, but it was an hour ahead of Brian's.

A fellow passenger on the news anchor's chopper has come forward and stated point-blank that their ride was untouched.

Williams has said that he remembered the incident wrong, even going so far as to say that his mind was affected by the "fog of war".

That is disgusting.

Our men and women serving in our military are out there every day fighting, struggling and dying while Brian Williams sits in his plush executive chair in his comfortable studio in New York and invents stories

about how heroic he was under fire and the "connection" he felt to our real servicemen and women. Williams is not risking himself for our country.

He is not sacrificing his entire life so that others can live theirs.

He is not putting himself in harm's way to save another's life.

Our military is, however, every single day, for far less money than McDonald's workers would make if they got the minimum wage raised to \$15 an hour, according to think tank 538 and data from the Army.

How this concerns us

Again, as I discuss all the time, what connection does this have to us as college students?

Why does this matter?

Because truth matters. Because the public figures we trust should be trustworthy.

What if you all were to find out that I, for example, was secretly lying about my grades?

You'd never trust me again.

And I would deserve it. (For the record, I am not lying about my grades.)

So, Brian Williams had our trust.

And he's lost it.

It remains to be seen whether or not he will ever truly apologize for his actions, or just continue making excuses.

Contact the writer at nwalter@oakland.edu.

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Campus

Grizzlies on the Prowl



"What's your favorite Valentine's Day pick-up line?"



Kevin Kulchyski,
health sciences, junior

"I'm sorry I couldn't get you a box of chocolate but if you want something sweet, I'm right here."



Micah Jenkins, human resource development,
freshman

"If I could rearrange the alphabets, I would put U and I together."



Ryan Bean, English,
senior

"Once you go cupid, the rest are just stupid."



Santana Gaines, Spanish,
freshman

"Are you a parking ticket? Because you have fine written all over you."

— Compiled by Nowshin Chowdhury,
Photographer



POLICE FILES

Student arrested for marijuana possession in Ann V. Nicholson apartments

OUPD responded to Ann V. Nicholson apartments Feb. 3 at approximately 4:30 p.m. for a complaint of a marijuana odor.

The officers arrived on scene and spoke to the housing employee who made the call. She told police that while she doing some work in the building. When she entered one of the apartments, she made contact with students who gave off a marijuana odor. She then told police that she talked to one of the people in the room and she observed that the student had red, glassy eyes.

He then told the police that he had smoked marijuana about 20 minutes prior to arriving on Oakland University's campus. He said that he had smoked some marijuana with a few of his friends in the Burgrz parking lot on Walton, but told police that he did not drive and was given a ride to OU.

He then consented to handing over his backpack to police. He said that there was more marijuana inside the main pocket of the back pack. The contents of the bag pulled out of the bag included: a spaghetti sauce jar with marijuana, a burner, a bong, a pipe and a grinder.

The student was then placed under arrest for marijuana possession. He was taken back to station. He was then advised not to return to campus until he had been contacted by the dean of students.

— Compiled by Josh Soltman
Chief Copy Editor



\$15



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Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

With the looming threat of greater snowstorms, Oakland University altered its snow emergency policy for a more safe and efficient cleanup.

Snow time like the present

New snow emergency policy met with cheers by campus plow team

Shelby Tankersley
Staff Intern

Contrary to what some might think, the sidewalks and parking lots are not plowed and salted by the snow fairy. OU has a slew of employees that take care of it.

Last week's snow day brought approximately 13 inches of snow to campus, a hefty amount. As the residents scrambled to get their cars moved for OU's snow emergency policy, the grounds team worked to get all of the snow cleared.

The grounds team has had its share of headaches when it comes to snowfall and cars being in the way, but things have changed for the better.

Randy Drewry, the supervisor of grounds maintenance, said the new snow emergency policy that OU is implementing this year has already

helped out a lot.

"In prior years, we had a problem with the housing students removing their cars from the lots so we could plow," Drewry said. "So this year they instituted a snow emergency policy where cars must be removed from overnight lots. When we came in to plow at 11, all of the cars had been moved."

Constance Jones, the manager of custodial and grounds, agreed that the snow emergency policy has been a big help.

"It made it easier to plow the lots because vehicles were moved into the parking structures," Jones said. "This was the first time we used the policy, and I thought it worked well. I thought there was a lot of cooperation from the students."

Drewry said another big help has been the OU Alert texting system, which helps with the removal of cars. The grounds employees used to have to knock on doors to get cars moved. Now, anyone on the texting list is informed when there's an emergency.

Drewry said the employees have had

to work long hours to get rid of the snow, especially with last week's snow day.

"We have a staff of 17 and I have a few mechanics, so it's not like we have a lot of people working," Drewry said. "Sunday into Monday we worked 16 to 17 hours."

Some people put in 20 hours that day, and then they came back and put another 12 to 16 hours."

At a minimum, he said everyone put in at least 11 hours.

"I had the entire grounds staff working that day," Drewry said. "This was a good storm to have a lot of people show up and help out."

What policy?

The snow emergency policy states that all designated lots must be clear between the hours of 10 p.m. on the day a snow emergency (three or more inches of snowfall) is declared and 6 a.m. the next morning. Failure to comply will result in a towed car.

THIS WEEK AROUND CAMPUS

FEB.
11

6-7 p.m. Eric D. Thomas: The Secrets of Success in the Banquet Rooms, Oakland Center

FEB.
12

7:30-9:30 p.m. Oakland University Jazz Band and Singers in Varner Recital Hall

FEB.
13

12-5 p.m. Susan Goethel Campbell: Field Guide exhibition in 208 Wilson Hall

8-10 p.m. A Doll's House performed in Varner Studio Theatre

FEB.
14

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The 2015 Diverse Voices Conference in Meadow Brook Theatre

FEB.
15

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Pre-game Tailgate in the P-29 parking structure. Special appearance by the Grizz and Slow's BBQ food provided.

3 p.m. Men's Basketball: Detroit vs. Oakland in the Athletics Center O'rena

FEB.
16

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Orientation Student Leader Recruitment Interviews in North Foundation Hall

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Awareness and Suicide Prevention Training in the Oakland Center Heritage Room

FEB.
17

11 a.m. Leadership & Volunteer Center - Career Services: Internship Mixer in the Oakland Center, Banquet Rooms

Oakland gets a 'taste of Africa'

Annual event for African American Celebration Month continues to inspire

Cheyenne Kramer
Staff Intern

A 12-year tradition brought music, food and culture to the Oakland Center Feb. 12 in honor of African American Celebration Month.

The Taste of Africa event drew students and the surrounding community to learn about and celebrate their cultures. OU psychology student Mya Tompkins gave a spoken word performance.

"To reflect upon the horrible things of our past is not what I've come here for," Tompkins said. "I stand here to remind us of the beauty inside us."

Attendees participated in crafting outside of the Banquet Rooms, as they colored pictures and made necklaces, all hosted by the Golden Key National Honor Society.

Along with crafting, the event's main attraction was music. The OU African Ensemble played an assortment of songs for the audience in traditional rhythmical beats.

"It's good to see the culture at OU events. It's a good opportunity to see people from the community, to interact with other alumni and it's really good networking for current students and alumni alike."

Yolanda Williams
OU alumna

"The connection between African language and music was really interesting," African Ensemble member Austin Pickwick said. "The shift of beats in western music is really different than the African pieces we play. It's like a wall of interlocking rhythms."

Though the Taste of Africa event and other related events are small in size, they offer a diversified outlook from international students. These events help to exchange ideas and cultures between different groups of people, according to Pickwick.

The music and activities brought OU alumni back to campus as hosts and vendors.

In her time as a student, OU alumna Yolanda Williams attended each year's Taste of Africa event, and this year she came back and brought her family to take part in the events.

"It's good to see the culture at OU events," Williams said. "It's a good opportunity to see people from the community, to interact with other alumni and it's really good networking for current students and alumni alike."

Students can attend the "Surveillance in Post-War American Literary Expatriate Paris," hosted in Banquet Room B from 12-1:30 p.m. Feb. 13, put on by SurPrise. Students may also attend the closing ceremony in Gold Rooms B and C from 12-1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.



1



2



3

Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

1. Various spoken word performers, such as Mya Tompkins, took the stage to express their feelings on the celebration.

2. Yolanda Williams, OU alumna, sold some of her natural beauty products at the event.

3. Hosts gave out various prizes from the vendors such as body products and bracelets. The Center for Multicultural Initiatives also gave out shirts to many of the guests present.

4. The Oakland University African Ensemble performed at the festivities with a large variety of instruments traditional to African music.



4

OUCARES comic club teaches autistic students serious skills

Sean Gardner
Web Editor

Comic books: a way to break away from reality, flip through colorful pages and help children with autism learn.

"What is unique is that we aren't using them as a tool to read, we are using them to develop social skills," said Kristin Rohrbeck, program coordinator of OUCARES.

The OUCARES comic book club holds events for OU volunteers to work with children with autism and use comic books to help the children understand the emotions and feelings the characters go through.

For people with autism, it can be hard to "step in another person's shoes" and know what they are feeling, according to Rohrbeck.

However, being in a group, dis-

cussing the emotions is a different and unique way of teaching children.

One way the club teaches the children is with social villain cards. Each card has a social fear, such as 'worry wart.' The card lists what a worry wart is and the kids act out the fear. Then, together they discuss the best way to defeat the villain, according to Allie Blazius, the comic book club instructor.

"Engaging with them and talking with them is a huge deal," Blazius said. "If you make that connection, then they can just go off and talk about it for days on end."

The club teaches the children about independency skills, and by reading the comics, they can actually look at how the heroes deal with different emotions through the artwork and text bubbles.

They specifically use "Mar-

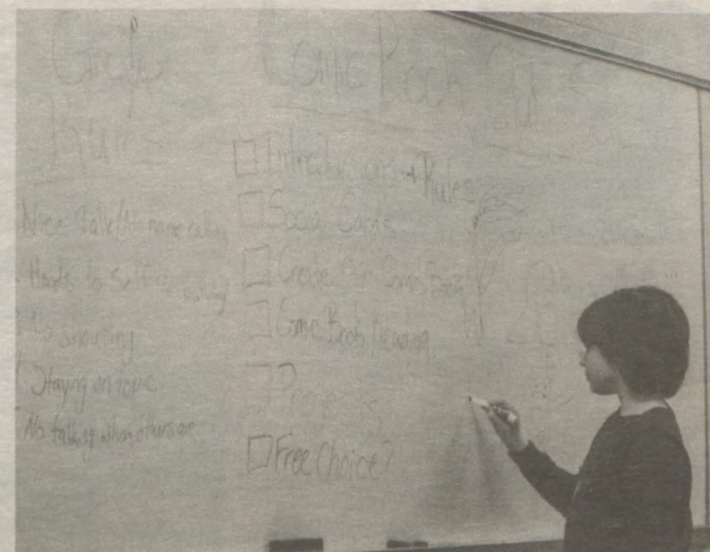
vel" and "Star Wars" comics, but many times the children will bring up all types of heroes - like "Mario," "Pokémon," not just traditional superheroes.

"We went down this road because children with autism like to fixate on one thing, like superheroes," Rohrbeck said.

The idea for the comic book club came when the director of OUCARES went to a Dallas conference about how children with autism can learn in different ways. The director decided to purchase the program, and from there, it evolved.

"[The club] teaches them coping skills and gives an avenue to try out different coping skills," OUCARES program coordinator Stephanie Laubach said.

Each session involves reading and talking about comics, as well as a few group activities—like creating personal comic strips



Danielle Cojocari / The Oakland Post

The club provides autistic children with coping mechanisms and outlets.

and games, which promote social interactions.

The club is also a place where the parents can connect. In an adjacent room, the parents can wait for the club to dismiss and many of them have become good friends. According to the parents, it is a nice way to talk to each other because they are all on the

same page and have something in common.

The comic book club has sessions for children 8-12 and 13 and up. Each session is eight weeks and meets once a week for an hour and a half.

For more information or to become a volunteer, visit oakland.edu/oucares

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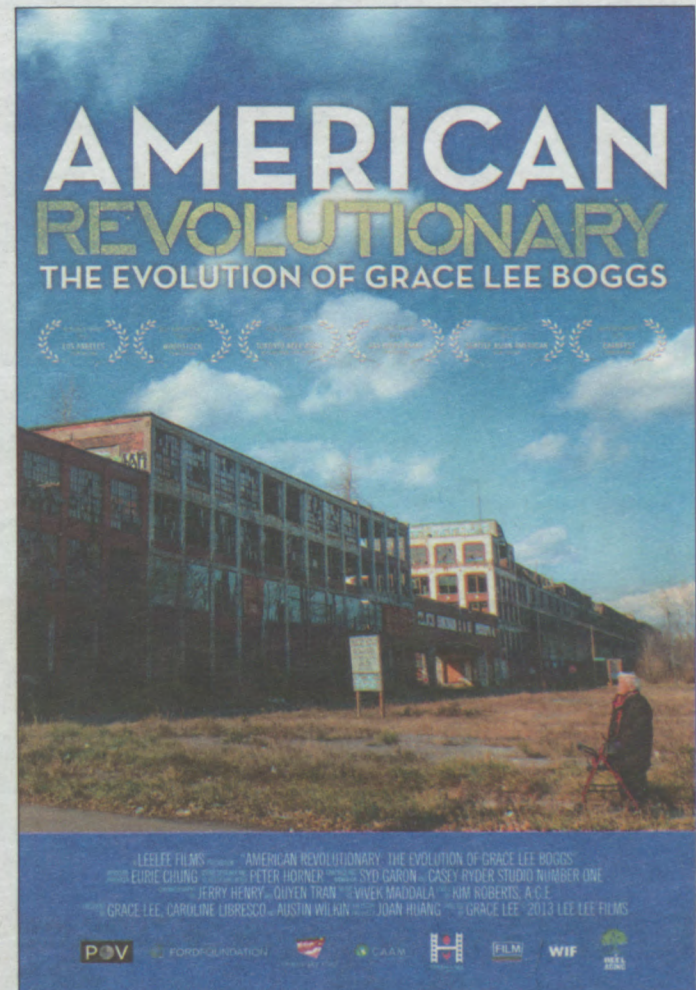
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Love is all OU

Stories by Grace Turner//Design by Kelly Lara

'It's just magic here'

Meadow Brook Hall doesn't collect dust. Every year, 50 to 60 weddings take place in the mansion and on the grounds.

Built in 1929 by Matilda Dodge Wilson, the hall is equipped to host everything from the ceremony to the reception. Couples can choose from two garden locations or the ballroom.

"It's just breathtaking," said Shannon O'Berski, the marketing and communications manager. "There's no place like it."

Kaniqua Daniels-Welch and Stefen Welch, both OU graduates, took full advantage the campus' historical venue when they tied the knot on June 9, 2012 in the Pegasus Garden.

"Stefen and I met at Oakland, so we wanted to have both our wedding and reception on campus," said Kaniqua Daniels-Welch. "Having our wedding at Meadow Brook felt almost like a fairy tale."

Along with the unique location, wedding guests enjoy tours and dinner. The hall offers its own professional wedding coordinator services to the bride and groom.

And with only one wedding held on the 124 acres at time, the venue is an exclusive one.

"It's like it's your castle for the evening," said Lori VanHulle, the hall's sales manager.

According to VanHulle, peak wedding season is from May to October, many hosting 300 to 350 guests, but the hall has seen marriage ceremonies with up to 400.

For some, however, the hall's history is not enough. Horses and fireworks have also become part of

Meadow Brook matrimony.

While VanHulle hasn't seen fireworks in her time working at the hall, she organized an Indian wedding in which the groom rode in on an elephant.

"It was fabulous. A little scary at first," she said. "[The elephant and I] had a good working relationship."

Because of its historical significance, there are some rules couples and their guests must follow: artifacts are too old to be replaced, open flame is not allowed, and certain furniture cannot be sat on or touched.

"Most people understand that and they respect that when they come here," VanHulle said.

For Daniels-Welch, the experience was nothing short of beautiful. "With the beautiful, historic architecture, gorgeous gardens and breathtaking landscaping, Meadow Brook is any bride's dream location for a wedding ceremony," she said.

"But I think the best part was being able to come back to the place where we first became friends to start our journey as one."

"It's just magic here," said VanHulle.



OU sweethearts Kaniqua Daniels-Welch (left) and Stefen Welch tied the knot in Meadow Brook's Pegasus Gardens on June 9, 2012.

Photo courtesy of Kaniqua Daniels-Welch

needs

The power of the tower

Ben Wiersma's family scattered rose petals over a heart made of snow in front of Elliott Tower, then hid, cameras ready, on Jan. 17.

Meanwhile, Wiersma, 25, asked his then-girlfriend Jill Finn, 24, both OU alumni, if she wanted to see the new Engineering Building.

They stopped instead at Elliott Tower, where Wiersma proposed to Finn.

"My whole goal was to catch Jill off guard," Wiersma said.

It worked. A shocked and ecstatic Finn said yes.

Wiersma and Finn graduated from OU in 2012, each with a bachelor's degree in pre-physical therapy.

The couple met in the fall of 2008 at a meeting for pre-physical therapy majors.

Finn said she recognized Wiersma from the dorms and went to talk to him because he was the cutest guy in the room.

"He put up with me right away," Finn said.

Wiersma said he thought Finn was very upfront.

"I just politely responded, answered questions, and I asked questions as well," he said.

As part of the Honors College, Wiersma's and Finn's friend groups intermingled. They participated in group activities on and around campus and started dating in January 2009.

The couple liked to walk around campus and go to church and Finn's parents' house on the weekends. Finn attended Wiersma's intermu-

ral sports events.

After graduation, Finn stayed at OU and Wiersma went to Grand Valley State University. Both are working toward doctoral degrees in physical therapy and will cross the stage this year.

Since Wiersma and Finn only see each other every two or three weeks, graduate school took some adjustment.

However, the two still manage to find time to visit at their parents' houses or spend a day in Lansing.

Finn said she starts to get cranky after three Wiersma-less weeks, but their relationship is strong.

"If you really want it, you can do it," she said.

While the proposal is still fresh and details must be planned, the couple said the wedding will most likely take place in Spring 2016, probably on the west side of the state, where Wiersma is from.

Both families are excited and ready to help with the wedding.

"We're very blessed with our families and their support," Finn said.

The couple is eager to move into the next chapter of their lives, both with their relationship and professionally.

"We can start to move forward from the classroom," Wiersma said.

Finn said that even though OU is a commuter school, students should try to appreciate the campus and classes.

"We made it what we wanted to," Finn said, adding that she and Wiersma had fun and fell in love at OU.



Ben Wiersma pops the question to then-girlfriend Jill Finn under the Elliott Tower on Jan. 17. Scattering rose petals over a snow heart in front of the tower, Wiersma's family hid waiting to catch the moment on camera. (She said yes!)

Photo courtesy of Oakland University



BLAST TO THE PAST // On Feb. 12, 2014, students crowded around a horse and carriage parked in Hamlin Circle. It belonged to two students who were taking it for a romantic ride to Meadow Brook, which ended with a marriage proposal.

Photo from the Oakland Post archives

themix

didyouknow

According to BBC, it can take between 90 seconds and 4 minutes to decide if we are attracted to someone. Our perceptions are divided as follows: 55 percent through body language, 38 percent tone and speed of our voice. Only 7 percent is through what we say.

CONVERSATION HEARTS GONE WRONG

While we can all admit the "CALL ME" and "I LUV U" candy conversation hearts are overused, perhaps the short and sweet classics make the box for a reason. Here are a few conversation hearts sure to land you a lonely Valentine's season.

1. YOU REMIND ME OF MY DAD
2. LEARNED THIS ONE IN PRISON
3. NICKELBACK IS LIFE
4. CHIPOTLE
5. THE DOCTOR SAID IT'S ALMOST ALL GONE
6. DOES THIS SMELL LIKE CHLOROFORM?
7. BEYONCE WHO?
9. YOU CAN CALL ME DADDY
10. MOM'S BASEMENT IS BIG ENOUGH FOR TWO
11. HITLER WASN'T ALL BAD
12. HOW'S MY FEDORA LOOKING?
13. NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE
14. HUMAN CENTIPEDE FOR THE OSCAR
15. RIGHT SHARK WAS COOLER
16. VACCINE-FREE AND PROUD
17. CALLING ALL JUGGALOS



YAKS of the WEEK

Yik Yak:
The voice of the people

1. "Hardest part about having a rolling backpack is untangling the wheels from all the panties girls throw at me."
2. "Fun drinking game: take a shot of water every couple of hours to maintain a healthy and hydrated lifestyle."
3. "I'm dropping out to become a professional



ice skater. I'd like to thank Oakland University for not salting its sidewalks and helping me recognize my true calling."

4. "I would accompany my friend to an Honors College meeting, but I'm pretty sure I would burst into flames if I walked in there."

5. "What do they call the bad parts of Italy? The spaghettos."

6. "How many sorority girls does it take to screw in a light bulb? 1 to change it, 2 to take a picture and 45 to make a shirt of the event."

7. "Don't you hate it when you call your girlfriend and she's just like, 'FOR THE LAST TIME, I'M NOT YOUR GIRLFRIEND. HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?' Lol, I love you too baby."

8. "Redneck boy: 'Hey there.' Redneck girl: 'I have a cousin.'"

9. "I wish my GPA was going up on a Tuesday."

10. "So, if you slip on the stairs of the Engineering Building, you're pretty much dead."

—Compiled by Shelby Tankersley, intern

TOP TUNES

wxou albums of the week

1. Cloakroom — "Further Out"
2. Sleater-Kinney — "No Cities to Love"
3. Viet Cong — "Viet Cong"
4. Twerps — "Range Anxiety"
5. Ty Segall — "Mr. Face" [EP]
6. Jib Kidder — "Teaspoon to the Ocean"
7. Dr. Dog — "Live At A Flamingo Hotel"
8. Belle and Sebastian — "Girls in Peacetime Want to Dance"
9. Future of What — "Pro Dreams"
10. Alex Calder — "Strange Dreams"



Twerps - "Range Anxiety"

There must be something in the water in Australia.

The land down under has been cranking out gems of new music for the last few years. Artists like Tame Impala, Dune Rats, Courtney Barnett and even Iggy Azalea herself call the island continent home. With the release of its new album, you can now add Twerps to that.

"Range Anxiety," out now on Merge Records, is one of the most enjoyable albums in recent memory. Happy or sad, excited or brooding, eating in the food court or sitting home through yet another lonely Valentine's Day, Twerp's simple, "jenky pop" is suitable for any mood or situation.

"Somebody out there is doing better than me / They're kickin' back sippin' on an ice tea," member Martin Frawley sings on "Back to You." His statement is melancholy yet carefree and the rest of the album follows suit.

Recommended if you like: Power-pop, Iggy Azalea's accent, the "Crocodile Dundee" franchise.

Start with: "Strangers," "Back to You" and "I Don't Mind."

—Anthony Spak, WXOU Music Director

'A Doll's House' is no child's play

By Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

There are plays meant to entertain and there are plays meant to challenge the mind. "A Doll's House" falls into the latter category.

Written in 1879 by Henrik Ibsen and translated by Frank McGuinness, the play is a classic that was recently brought to life by OU's music, theatre and dance department.

"I believe I am first of all a human being, just as much as you — or at any rate that I must try to become one."

This is one of the many thought-provoking lines from character Nora Helmer, played by Alexa Moffo. She is a woman who at first acts the silly, loving role for her husband of eight years, playing for him as a doll would for a child, but who comes to question her role as a

wife and identity as a woman as the play progresses.

"A Doll's House" is a mature play and its success relies heavily on the eight-person cast's dialogue and interactions, particularly Nora's. Moffo seems to realize this and carries her role beautifully, keeping a strong grip on the audience from beginning to end with her natural delivery of Nora's words and actions.

Tim Falk in particular provides a smooth and subtle performance as the cranky yet lovable Dr. Rank. His few, layered lines are delivered in a manner that reaches the audience in a way print cannot.

His quiet parting line, "Thank you for the light," is one of the most powerful ones.

Brian Baylor also performs well as Nora's husband, creating his own version of the obviously condescending, over-confident and immature

Torvald Helmer. His lines are cringe-worthy and strongly delivered, particularly towards the end, when things get emotional.

He insultingly teases Nora for borrowing money from him, doesn't let her eat macaroons as they will stain her teeth and constantly refers to her as his "helpless little thing" and "girl" and "child."

While women today may cringe, it wasn't unusual for the time when this play was written. Nineteenth century wives were viewed as helpless creatures without their husbands, and "A Doll's House," revolutionary at the time, focuses on that theme of women's rights and responsibilities.

"I have to find out who's right — society, or me," Nora says towards the end of her play, when she is left lost and confused with her place in the world. "I have just found out



Erika Barker / The Oakland Post

Actress Alexa Moffo performed beautifully as Nora Helmer, who comes to question her role as a wife and identity as a woman.

that the laws are different from what I thought they were, but in no way can I get it into my head that those laws are right."

The play is all dialogue, but it's interesting dialogue that was well-delivered and still a topic

of interest in the 36 years since Ibsen first wrote it.

"A Doll's House" opened last weekend and will continue through Feb. 15. Visit www.oakland.edu/mtd for more information.

Theatre alum has 'Spring' in her step and voice

Becker is 'true gem' in local 'Spring Awakening' show

LeeAnn Brown

Life, Arts, Entertainment Editor

This weekend, millions of cheesy cards will be exchanged, and many chick-flicks will profit.



Kryssy Becker, OU Class of 2011 Musical Theatre BFA

If you want to skip the romance comedies this Valentine's Day, head out to Royal Oak's Baldwin Theatre for

production as a director. While he is usually drawn to full-blown, Broadway-style musicals, as displayed in his previous work on "Hairspray" and "Legally Blonde," this time he chose to direct one of the first shows he saw on Broadway.

"Spring Awakening, the Musical" is very much the anti-thesis of a production of that type," Miga said.

He said that "Spring Awakening" does feature a strong social message, an amazing score including vibrant punk-influenced numbers such as "The Bitch of Living" and character stories that resonate with his life, which are all important aspects for Miga when he chooses a production.

The musical, based on the 1891 play by Frank Wedekind, takes the audience through the tumultuous teenage years, as characters learn about sexuality and reality.

Miga's rendition of the 19th

century German play is bare bones. Utilizing minimal stage visuals, Miga's simplistic production pays homage to Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," which was traditionally performed with only chairs and ladders.

One of the talents in the upcoming musical is OU alumni Kryssy Becker, who plays the lead role of Wendla Bergmann.

Having graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater in 2011, Becker is no stranger to the stage — or to this play, for that matter.

Not her first rodeo

"Three years ago I was in a production of 'Spring Awakening' at the Emerald Theatre in Mount Clemens, and I played Wendla then, as well," Becker said. "So, going into this audition, I was really open to playing any role."

While she was open, she again landed the role of

Wendla, a character that is usually described as "young" and "naïve."

Becker said that is a surface-level description.

"Her naivety and innocence only come out of a lack of knowledge presented to her, but she senses that she's missing out on something and actively seeks the answer," Becker said. "She's very playful and outgoing, maybe even a little precocious at times. And hopeful — she's very hopeful."

Despite Becker's previous experience with Wendla, she said had to look at the character from different a perspective: Miga's.

While familiar with each other's repertoire, this is the first time the two have worked together.

"She is a true gem to work with," Miga said. "She brings her own ideas to rehearsal and is willing to try new things as well as make powerful suggestions."

"In addition, she was able

to help choreograph our fight scenes in the show, which was a huge help."

Typically, the actors come straight from day jobs to practice, which make it a stressful time, but the finished product is worth it, according to Miga.

"In the end, it's always thrilling to see how everything pulls together. I do lots of napping and deep breathing to survive these weeks," he said.

For Becker, it's taking care of herself physically and mentally.

"This show is very physical, so I've been trying to eat well and be kind to my body," she said. "I definitely try to take care of myself and my voice, listen to music that inspires me for the character and get excited to perform."

"Spring Awakening" will run Feb. 13 - March 1. Tickets and information are available at www.stagecrafters.org.

Stagecrafters' presentation of "Spring Awakening, the Musical," directed by Matthew Miga.

This will be Miga's third

Let Campbell 'guide' you

Local artist's work, 'Field Guide' on exhibit in the OU Art Gallery

Kaleigh Jerzykowski
Staff Reporter

A box of floating milkweed, the sound of planes flying overhead and disks of rye grass roots overturned on the gallery floor.

These works and many other sensory delights compose "Field Guide," the Oakland University Art Gallery's current exhibition from local artist, Susan Goethel Campbell.

Campbell's diverse body of work can be experienced in the OUAG until Feb. 22.

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, campus and community members gathered in the OUAG to hear Campbell discuss her pieces, creative process and to take questions from the audience for the gallery's Artist Talk series.

Campbell earned an MFA in printmaking from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and went on to show her work internationally. She was also one of 18 artists chosen for the Kresge

Artist Fellowship, granting her funds that helped make portions of "Field Guide" a possibility.

"Her artwork comprises various bodies of work: printmaking, video, landscape images and weather-based artwork," said associate professor of art and OUAG director, Dick Goody. "Since much of her work is data-driven and quasi-scientific, it only seemed appropriate to have a 'field guide' to document her work — the exhibition and [her] 120 page catalogue of the same name."

"Field Guide" displayed landscape prints on wood block, an audio/visual portion, prints using environmental elements and small-scale paintings.

"[I'm] marveling at what's out there. I never stop marveling at how we can engineer the landscape," Campbell said of her searing, bright orange prints depicting a city viewed from above.

"What is heat?" she said, explaining her interest in the concept of "heat islands," where a

city becomes so warm that it creates its own weather pattern.

"I wanted to make the colors as hot as I could," she said of this particular work, called "Wood-block prints with hand stenciling."

In addition to large-scale prints from wooden blocks, Campbell discussed working with HVAC specialists and collecting air filters from different locations, which she quantified and translated into prints, illustrating a place's respective "filthiness."

Campbell did everything from growing rye grass in post-consumer waste containers, resulting in concentric rings of grass root, to making a time-lapse film of the city of Detroit in 2010, documenting its weather from a building high in the city skyline.

In the projection room of the OUAG, Campbell looped a film she made that shows every aircraft to pass over her home during the course of several evenings.



Danielle Cojocari / The Oakland Post

Planted in waste containers, the rye grass grows in concentric rings.

"All of the work I do comes out of curiosity," she said.

This was evident, as she took the light pattern from overhead airplanes, strung them together into flickering beams and projected them onto a Lucite box filled with floating, snow-like milkweed.

"I work with the setup," Campbell said. "I don't control what happens."

Much of Campbell's work embodies this belief with her use of natural elements, like air

particles collected from filters or a series of prints she made by hurling black walnuts at canvas.

Campbell said that her work is a way to "connect [herself] to the ground," and that she views the idea of a landscape as a process rather than a picture.

Campbell's diverse and creative use of materials, mediums and techniques lend to a tactile and sensory experience in the OUAG and provide an interesting point of perspective on the natural world.

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Photo illustration by Katherine Cagle / The Oakland Post

Students can gain many benefits by meditating, from balancing their mood to decreasing anxiety.

'All you have to do is breathe'

Kaleigh Jerzykowski
Staff Reporter

Meditation: it's a buzzword that carries a myriad of preconceptions, misconceptions and questions.

Samantha Arin and Jamie Anderson, certified yoga instructors who have taught in several cities in the Metro Detroit area, demystify the ancient tradition of meditation and provide expert tips on how students can start a meditation practice of their own to care for the mind and body.

"Anyone can meditate," Anderson said. "All you have to do is breathe."

"Focus on the breath as it passes in and out through the nose."

Meditation helps to increase concentration and helps one deal with the ups and downs of life by making the mind less reactive, Anderson said.

"It helps to balance moods and decrease anxiety."

It's no secret that university students deal with tremendous amounts of stress and anxiety - not just during exams, but also on a daily basis.

In fact, OU students ranked above average in stress and anxiety according to the National College Health Assessment, a survey given every three years to measure students' health and

wellness habits.

38 percent of OU students reported high stress levels, with the national collegiate average being 28 percent.

Having numbers like these on campus, it may be more beneficial for students to incorporate just minutes of a simple breathing practice a day into their busy schedules.

"Be patient," Arin said. "Understand that one doesn't learn how to be a skillful meditator overnight. You have to hone in on the skill. It requires tremendous dedication."

Just one minute a day, she said, is enough for students to start sharpening their meditation skills.

"Then maybe try going for three or five," she said. "You don't need to sit for an hour. It's more so about making just a few moments each day where you can quiet the mind."

For OU students who are familiar with meditation or yoga and are looking to take their practice to the next level, the Recreation Center provides an opportunity to do so.

On March 21 and 22, the Recreation Center is hosting Yoga Instructor Training Level 1 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., ending with an examination for a certificate of completion, through YogaFit.

"I think [yoga classes] are an amazing opportunity for the students who live on campus, in

"Understand that one doesn't learn how to be a skillful meditator overnight. You have to hone in on the skill."

Samantha Arin
Certified Yoga Instructor

addition to having the teacher training through OU," said sophomore Bohdanna Cherstylo, who works as a receptionist at a local yoga studio.

With teacher training at the Recreation Center running students \$399, and studios in the area charging upwards of \$2,000, Cherstylo said that although some may see teacher training as a hobby or pastime, it isn't a decision to be taken lightly.

However, for students who want to attain better mental health, concentration and greater relaxation, they need not look any further than their breath.

Best of all, that's free of charge. Meditating daily isn't necessary for one to see the benefits that will start to permeate everyday life, but Arin suggests that for a beginner, the more frequent, the better.

"Remember," she said, "you just have to be patient and know that there's a reason it's called a 'practice.'"

Celebrating the smooth sounds of Motown

Kevin Teller
Staff Reporter

On Feb. 4, students learned how the sounds of Motown have shaped musical culture throughout the world. Senior curator of the Detroit Historical Society, Joel Stone, delivered a speech on the history of the music of Detroit.

The festivities took place at an African American celebration event hosted by Kresge Library. The event focused on culture and how music fits in as a part, according to Outreach librarian Anne Switzer.

While this specific event concerned topics of Motown and Detroit music, there are a wide variety of subjects that the Detroit Historical Society will send Stone out to speak about.

"Much of music today is built on Motown," said Nancy Bulgarelli, interim dean of university libraries. "Because OU has such strong programs in the performing arts, Motown is a great topic for students here."

The impact of Motown is not lost in the newer generations of musical styles either. Students were able to walk away from the lecture with a greater understanding of music that came before their time.

"[Stone] was extremely inspirational," said Chris Hesano, OU student and professional DJ. "It was great to see what Detroit was all about

back then."

Beginning in 1710, Stone described the city's musical origins in small ensembles, beginning with small, easy-to-carry instruments that were popular in France at the time.

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, musicians were a highly-prized commodity. No party or social gathering was complete without at least a solo violinist to add to the atmosphere, according to Stone.

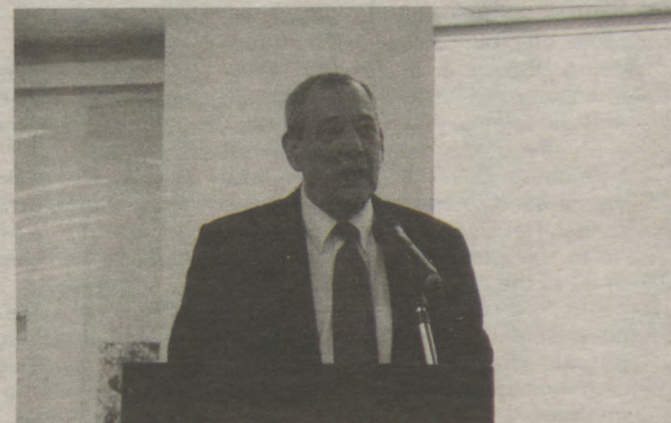
Coming from a background of being a musician and working for 20 years in the record business, Stone understood and communicated the work that Berry Gordy put into the Motown record label.

Gordy selected studio musicians from the great numbers that were present in Detroit during the golden eras of jazz and bebop as well as premier classical musicians, such as those from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

"Motown is a part of the mojo of Detroit," Stone said. "It would be played at any party, no matter what [ethnic] group it was."

Stone acknowledged that this music is an important chapter in Detroit's global contributions, both musically and culturally.

African American Celebration Month runs Jan. 19 through Feb. 19. For more information on events, visit oakland.edu/cmi/aacm.



Erica Barker / The Oakland Post

Joel Stone, senior curator of the Detroit Historical Society, visited Kresge Library to offer insight to Detroit's Motown music scene.

SATIRE

No virtues in Valentine's Day

Josh Soltman

Chief Copy Editor/Heart Surgeon

Love doesn't exist. OK, that's not fair. It does exist, but it's stupid and dumb and I hate it. This reason alone is why having a "holiday" based solely off of this faux idea of love is incredibly ridiculous. Of course, there are a multitude of other reasons why it's a bad idea.

First of all, the origins of Valentine's Day are never talked about for some reason, probably because nobody seems to care about facts. Named after St. Valentine, a Christian martyr from the fifth century, the holiday has virtually no ties to romantic love in most cultures. Leave it to Americans to find an excuse to eat their body weight in chocolate and buy overpriced greeting cards with Nickelodeon characters plastered all over them. Leave it to hapless men to spend hundreds of dollars on flowers and jewelry in the faint hope of receiving some hand or mouth stuff. Lucky for me, I don't need that; I am a ninja in the masturbatory arts.

Valentine's Day is completely a hallmark holiday. I don't think anyone can disagree with that. According to history.com, approximately one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year. That's one billion pieces of cardboard. That's one billion pieces of trees that have been decimated in the name of greed and gluttony. Keep pulling flowers from their natural habitat only to adorn the table on your coffee table before being thrown in the trash a week later. Keep eating your fancy dinners and chocolates, you nature killers.

My favorite (and only) thing about Valentine's Day that I like is how we all used to celebrate it in grade school. Have your mommy or daddy go to the store and buy you a box of 30 of the most generic cards you could find. Of course, they would have Spiderman or Spongebob or Rugrats characters, an assortment of things not associated with love, on them.

Then you would go to school on Valentine's Day, and for the last 20 or 30 minutes of class everyone would

walk around to each desk and drop a card into everyone's box, compiling a homogenous blob of insincere love notes. Some would have a sucker or a chocolate treat attached. Some would simply say "be mine" or "you're a rad dad" on them. Then you would go home and dump all the cards right into the garbage (not before eating the candy though, LOL amirite?).

This wonderful grade school tradition is just about the only enjoyable thing about the day, and captures the very essence of what I believe Valentine's Day should be all about. It's a childish stupor of affection that is done for absolutely no reason at all. Stupidity. Love is a synonym for stupidity.

Most people think that anyone who bitches about hating Valentine's Day is just lonely and bitter due to a lack of significant other. This is half true. I am about as bitter as Godiva is dark. Anyone whom is ever within scent of me can attest to that.

My hatred of love stems mostly from past experiences—that and the fact that I don't have the balls to go after the woman of my dreams (I still love you, Oprah Winfrey).

Still, I feel that my opinion is not biased. My heart may not have always been as black and vapid as it is now, but rest assured—my stance on Valentine's Day was always destined to end up this way.

I already hate all the other useless holidays (St. Patrick's Day, birthdays, production night) so it was inevitable no matter what, I'd fall in hate with national love day.

I'm taking this opportunity to begin a new culture, a new Valentine's Day tradition. Instead of giving your loved ones candy, give them nothing.

Instead of saying "I love you," give them the cold shoulder. Instead of going out to a fancy dinner of wine and assorted cheeses, starve.

If everyone can follow these simple steps, we can be on our way to a better non-existent holiday.

Then, once everyone gets so worn down and reaches my level of unhappiness, I can finally stop being the most miserable mope on campus.

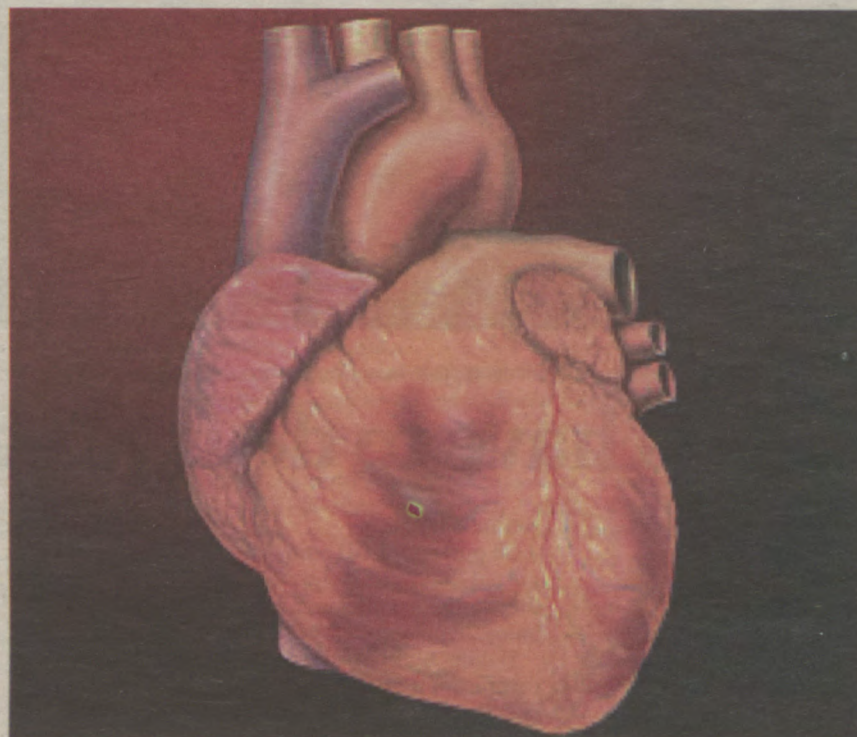


Photo provided by a camera I shoved up my urethra

Chief Copy Editor Josh Soltman's heart before it became black with a righteous hatred.

LOVESICK

HUMPDAY

FEB 18, 2015

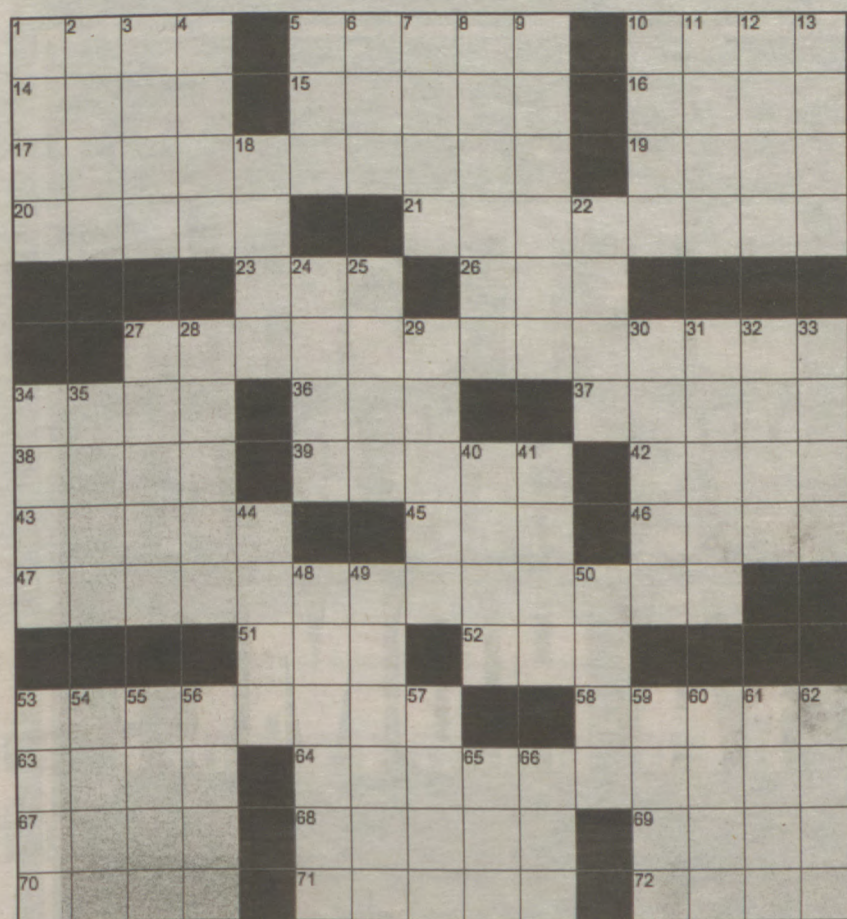
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Puzzles



Across

- 1: 'If I Were a ___ Man'
 5: Melonlike fruit
 10: Provides weapons to
 14: Primordial sludge
 15: Ticked off
 16: Brat's stocking stuffer
 17: Cave deposit
 19: Roid or road follower
 20: Ahead of schedule
 21: Produced a likeness of
 23: Mont Blanc, for one
 26: Churchill's title
 27: 'Boston Public' figure
 34: Peru's capital
 36: Apiary occupant
 37: Welcome guests
 38: Footnote word
 39: Collar inserts
 42: Drive train element
 43: Free-for-all
 45: Red or Yellow
 46: Promontory
 47: Cowardly, in slang
 51: Wedding page word
 52: Kind of talk
 53: Identical
 58: Keyboard key
 63: Sandbox plaything
 64: In a robust manner
 67: Bailiwick
 68: Destroy by degrees
 69: Coin toss
 70: Counterfeit coin

- 71: Put a counter to zero
 72: Lavish party

Down

- 1: Thorny flower
 2: Greek letter
 3: Undemocratic leader
 4: Satan's domain
 5: Corkscrew-tailed animal
 6: Get ready for a fight
 7: Weak poker hand
 8: Bear witness
 9: Hot dog
 10: Piece of property
 11: Niagara Falls sound
 12: Conjuror
 13: Kane's dying thought
 18: Indian maid
 22: Bummer
 24: Wimbledon hits
 25: Browning of pages of
 verse, for example
 27: Scent
 28: Caravan beast
 29: Tenant's contract
 30: Construction site hoist
 31: Put the whammy on
 32: They get into sushi
 33: St. and ave.
 34: Like a rickey
 35: ___ fixe
 40: Puppy's plaint
 41: Cause of a Macy's riot?
 44: Geological time periods

- 48: Actress Sigourney
 49: Soil
 50: ___ facto
 53: Hot tubs
 54: Count's counterpart
 55: Stead
 56: Pennant
 57: Qualities of the con-
 ceited
 59: Bit of a fit
 60: Sea spot
 61: Act the butterfly
 62: A or B, in personalities
 65: Pindar product
 66: Out of work? (abbr.)

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4	9		6		2		3	5
3		5	4		8			
			3	1				
	5			4			7	2
	7		9			4	6	

Sports

Gilbert's Guide: Tips for spectators

How to be a good sport in the stands on Sunday

Most people have never been to a sporting event where the entire experience was ruined by an unruly or just plain uneducated fan.

But it happens.

During the last few years, I've gone on three road trips with my dad with the sole purpose of checking out some of the best venues in college sports. I've watched basketball games in eight different states through those trips, including stops at Mizzou, Louisville, Illinois and Pitt.

I've also visited two places that could be considered the holy lands of college basketball — Butler's historic Hinkle Fieldhouse and Kentucky's Rupp Arena (twice for games that went into overtime). Fans of those programs know how to watch a freaking basketball game. Here are some things I've learned.

Attention is key

I acknowledge the fact that not everyone goes to a basketball game for the sole purpose of watching the game. It's a social event for some and a party atmosphere for others. But my message to those people who aren't there for the game is to respect the ones that are. Pay attention to the game.

Sit the #%& down (unless everyone else is standing)!

Standard etiquette during sporting events is that you wait to get up from your seat until there is a stoppage in play or an intermission so that you don't obstruct the view of the people behind you who are there for the game and not your rear end.

Stand the #%& up (unless everyone else is sitting down)!

Did your team just go on a run with 10 unanswered points and the opposing coach called a timeout? Guess what! Your team is playing well and is deserving of a standing ovation. Stand up and let your team know that you're supporting them.

Put the phone down

At Rupp Arena, fans of Big Blue Nation don't use their phones when the game is on. Instead, they're clapping and yelling.



Jackson Gilbert
Sports Editor

Why use your phone during the game when you could be applauding and yelling for your team? Also, flash photography is never allowed at any sports events so make sure to turn that feature off.

The game started 45 minutes ago. Where have you been?

The University of Michigan recently changed its student ticket program to first-come-first-serve. It was having problems with students arriving late into the first half of games because they had their seats waiting for them. This year, latecomers were met with crappy seats, eliminating the problem. Get to the game early and check out some of the cool pregame ceremonies. If nothing else, your team will appreciate the support.

The game isn't over yet — where are you going?

Last year, Oakland trailed Youngstown State by four points with three seconds to go in a Horizon League tournament game and managed to win in overtime. A lot of people left that game early and missed one of the most amazing plays in Oakland sports history. Don't miss the play that everyone is talking about.

Be reasonable (students, take note)

I understand that some people love to heckle. Getting into the opposition's head is a bona fide strategy in all sports. Just don't take things too far. College and pro athletes are people too. They work hard for what they do. Don't say anything to them while they're on the court that you wouldn't say to them in person. That's just common courtesy. It's up to fans to police themselves and those around them.

Contact Sports Editor Jackson Gilbert at jjgilber@oakland.edu.

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Courtesy of Oakland Athletic Communications

Forward Olivia Nash recorded a double-double with 21 points and 14 rebounds in the win against Green Bay.

Oakland gives Green Bay its first Horizon League loss, 70-67

Women's basketball team aims to finish season strong

Scott Davis
Staff Reporter

In what Oakland's women's basketball coach Jeff Tungate has repeatedly described as an "inconsistent season," the Golden Grizzlies will need a strong finish to separate the team from the tight Horizon League race.

Oakland not only finds itself in the middle of a four-game road trip, but also just past the midway point of the Horizon League season. Oakland picked up an impressive win last Wednesday as it was able to hand Green Bay its first Horizon League loss of the season in a 70-67 thriller. Olivia Nash recorded a double-double with 21 points and 14 rebounds as the Golden Grizzlies battled back from a halftime deficit to secure the upset.

"I think we took away that we could beat anybody on any given night," Nash said. "Even though Green Bay is put up on this pedestal, anyone can beat them... It

proves how crazy this league really is and that anybody can beat anybody. There's a small margin for error and you have to show up each night."

Not even 48 hours later, the Golden Grizzlies had to face off against the Milwaukee Panthers in a game Friday afternoon.

Oakland had the lead late in the second half, but was unable to hold on as the Panthers won 66-60. Peyton Apsey scored 19 points, while Elena Popkey and Nola Anderson each had 10 in the losing effort.

The loss dropped the Golden Grizzlies to 4-5 in the league and 10-12 overall. Oakland sits at sixth place in the standings with seven regular season games left. The good news for the Golden Grizzlies is that four teams have a 4-5 record in conference, so a lot is still to be decided in the last couple weeks of conference play.

"We definitely look at that, but we do take things one game at a time," Popkey said. "We know where we stand and we know that minor changes can affect you positively or negatively, but at the same time you cannot be looking too far ahead you have to be looking at the next game

because one game at a time is how you do it no matter what."

Of the seven regular season games remaining for Oakland, four will be on the road and three will take place at the O'rena. Oakland will have two huge road games this week against Youngstown State and Cleveland State, both of whom are just ahead of the Golden Grizzlies in the standings.

The Golden Grizzlies will have to find some consistency both offensively and defensively if they want to get a favorable seed in the Horizon League tournament. After the Milwaukee loss Friday, Tungate stressed that the team needs to be much more consistent and needs to outwork teams in effort if it wants to succeed.

"We talked about after Green Bay, we have to keep momentum to compete in this league and we haven't done that... we have to be a consistent basketball team if we want to do something and have a chance to host a conference tournament game," Tungate said.

Oakland will be in action Wednesday at Youngstown State. The tip is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. and can be seen on ESPN3.

Oakland athletes are 'very superstitious'

Players believe certain actions affect their performances

Melissa Deatsch
Staff Reporter

It's common for athletes to have a very specific ritual before games or meets. There are many superstitions that Oakland athletes simply can't play without.

Here are four of the most common types of sports superstitions around Oakland Athletics.

Initials

Many student athletes play with departed loved ones in their hearts. A few athletes write the initials of those loved ones somewhere before the game. Alex Mason, junior transfer on the baseball team, writes the initials of his friend who died three years ago on the center field warning track during warm ups.

Jake VanderLaan, a junior on the men's soccer team, wears tape on his left wrist with MMH written on it.

"It stands for my friend Michael Martin Herman," VanderLaan said. "He passed away but was so influential to me for soccer."

Clothing

Many of Oakland's athletes are very specific about their clothing during sporting events. A common superstition is that players perform better in certain gear.

Track runners Elizabeth Girardot, Casey Stribbel and Laura Johnston are all superstitious about wearing the same clothing at every meet.

Jorden Merrilees of the Oakland swim team can only compete in a certain pair of goggles.

Some of the student athletes are specific with the order in which they put on their gear. Trent Drumbheller of the baseball team claims he always puts his left bat-

ting glove on before his right and his right cleat on before his left.

From the basketball team, Corey Petros is guilty of a similar superstition. He says he must put his right sock on before his left.

Pregame Rituals

Every team seems to have specific pregame rituals. Vanderlaan explained one of the soccer team's.

"Before we walk down for games we always shut the lights off, play a banger and have a strobe light going," Vanderlaan said.

Dante Williams, a senior on the basketball team, said he and a couple of the other players from the team sit in the chairs lined up along the side line after shoot around and they don't leave until they make a shot.

Merrilees has a routine of his own before competition.

"I always try to listen to relaxing music to stay calm and keep my heart rate as low as possible because I generally swim longer events. I also clap three times before I get up on the blocks before a race."

Prayer

It is quite common for athletes to turn to God before a contest. It is no different inside Oakland Athletics. Quite a few players' rituals involve prayer. Freshman left-handed pitcher Nate Schweers said he prays the Bear Bryant Devotional before every game, a prayer Paul Bryant, long time head coach of the Alabama football team, always carried with him in his wallet.

Sarah Moen, a sophomore track runner, recites a line from scripture before every race.

"I get in the blocks the same exact way every time and I say, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Then I whisper 'Let go' and then I run my race," Moen said.

Sports

It's time to break a few records

Men's basketball team to settle score against Detroit on Sunday

Jackson Gilbert
Sports Editor

The seventh episode of the Metro Series rivalry between Detroit Mercy and Oakland will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday at the O'rena, featuring a rematch in men's basketball.

Currently, the standings favor Detroit, 8-4, with each individual matchup between the schools in all Horizon League varsity sports counting for two points to the winning team.

Oakland has already captured victories in men's soccer and women's cross country while losing in women's soccer, men's cross country, men's basketball and women's basketball.

Both basketball teams still have home matchups against Detroit: the Golden Grizzlies women host Detroit Feb. 18.

Last Valentine's Day, Detroit visited Oakland for a memorable men's overtime game that set the all-time O'rena attendance record at 4,065.

Oakland will look to break that record this Sunday.

The Golden Grizzlies will also look to break a two game losing streak coming off of losses



Jackson Gilbert / The Oakland Post

The men's basketball team lost to Valparaiso on Sunday in Indiana.

at Valparaiso and at Milwaukee this week.

The stakes are much higher than they were even a week ago.

With the losses, Oakland now sits at fourth in the Horizon behind Valparaiso, Green Bay, and Cleveland State.

As of Monday night, the reserve tickets were 90 percent

sold out, but no student will be turned away with a proper ID, according to Assistant Athletic Director Scott MacDonald.

Sunday promotions include a free T-shirt and rally towel for the first 200 students to arrive. Fans will have an opportunity to win a car with in a half-court shot contest sponsored by

Chrysler.

Ladies will have an opportunity to win a Valentine's date with the Grizz. Students are also asked to dress in all black for a blackout.

Student Congress is also hosting its second annual university-wide tailgate. It's a BYOB tailgate, as long as you are of age.

There will also be Slow's Barbecue available for students. The tailgate takes place on the second level of the P-29 parking structure from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Brittany Hall, associate chair of the Student Programming Board, urged students to dress warmly for the occasion.

"It's going to be cold, but it's BYOB and we're going to have barbecue."

She also suggested that students try to arrive early for the game because non-reserved seats are first-come, first-serve.

Remaining Schedule

Detroit

Feb. 11, 3 p.m.

@ Wright State

Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

UIC

Feb. 22, 3 p.m.

Youngstown State

Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

@ Green Bay

Feb. 28, 2 p.m.

Horizon League Standings

Men's Basketball	W	L	W	L
1. Valparaiso	9	2	22	4
2. Cleveland State	9	2	15	10
3. Green Bay	8	2	19	5
4. OAKLAND	7	4	12	14
5. Milwaukee	5	6	10	15
6. Detroit	4	7	11	15
7. Wright State	3	7	11	13
8. UIC	2	8	6	19
9. Youngstown State	1	10	10	16

Women's Basketball	W	L	W	L
1. Green Bay	8	1	18	4
2. Wright State	7	2	18	5
3. Cleveland State	5	4	13	9
4. Youngstown State	4	5	15	7
5. UIC	4	5	14	8
6. OAKLAND	4	5	10	12
7. Milwaukee	4	5	8	13
8. Detroit	3	5	8	13
9. Valparaiso	1	8	5	17

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Women's softball

The Golden Grizzlies softball team got its season started this past weekend as it travelled to East Carolina for the Pirate Classic tournament. Oakland won both of its games against Delaware State, but dropped two games against East Carolina and one against Longwood. The team will travel to Fort Meyers, Florida to compete in the Florida Gulf Coast tournament starting Feb. 20.

Women's tennis

The women's tennis team dropped two matches against Evansville and IPFW last week in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Golden Grizzlies lost both matches 6-1, but they were able to pick up two doubles victories against Evansville and a singles victory from Karine Celis against IPFW. Oakland will go on the road again this Saturday to face off against the Western Michigan Broncos.

Men and women's track

Oakland's men and women's track and field teams had another strong showing this week as they traveled to Youngstown, Ohio to compete in the YSU National Invite. The meet was highlighted by two record-breaking performances for Oakland. Kairli Keur, Elizabeth Girardot, Lydia Stanley and Ashley Burr combined to set the school record in the distance medley relay with a time of 12:01. George O'Connor, Chris Scott, David Koponen and Bryce Stroede combined to set the same record for the men with a time of 9:54.

— Compiled by Scott Davis,
Staff Reporter