

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 23 | March 10, 2021

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Men's basketball reaches Horizon League title game for first time in school history

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX UNDERWOOD

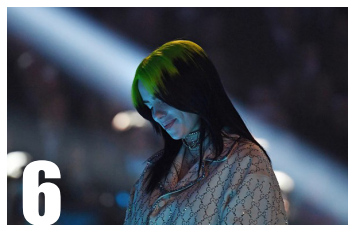
THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



SWIMMING WITH THE (POOL) SHARKS The Bear Cave reopened their pool tables to be used socially distant. A max of four players are allowed at each table, and all players must wear a mask and stay distanced.

MICHAEL PEARCE / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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BILLIE ON THE BIG SCREEN

Billie Eilish releases documentary to theaters, Apple TV+
Photo/NBC News



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SHE'S GOT MOXIE

Netflix released "Moxie," a modern-day feminist twist on high school
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GRIZZLY GRIT

Williams fights through three injuries to reach his goal of winning
Photo/Jose Juarez:OU Athletics

THE OAKLAND POST

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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF SPRINGTIME?

- A) NO SNOW
- B) SUNLIGHT RETURNING
- C) SEEING THE OAKLAND DEER ROAMING
- D) THE END OF THE SEMESTER

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHERE IS THE BEST SPOT ON CAMPUS TO HAVE A MENTAL BREAKDOWN?

7%

A)
KRESGE'S QUIET
FLOOR

23%

B)
THE OAKLAND CENTER
FOOD COURT

67%

C)
MY CAR IF ANY OF
THE 400 PARKING
LOTS

3%

D)
THE REC CENTER TRACK

NOW HIRING

LOOKING FOR A DRIVEN
INDIVIDUAL WITH A
GOOD WORK ETHIC,
EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION
SKILLS, AND ABILITY TO
WORK UNDER TIGHT
DEADLINES



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CREATING CONTRACTS AND
INVOICES AS WELL AS
TALKING WITH CLIENTS.
ASSISTING THE ADS
DIRECTOR WITH RUNNING
THE DEPARTMENT

ADS ASSISTANT

Encore webinar discusses gardening in small spaces

JESSICA ORLANDO

Staff Reporter

Oakland University hosted a webinar in their “OU Encore” series on container gardening. The webinar invited Melissa Norris to teach about gardening in small spaces.

Norris is the author of the best-selling book, “The Family Garden Plan: Raise a Year’s Worth of Sustainable and Healthy Food.” She is also a 5th generation homesteader and has taught many people how to grow their own fruits and vegetables. Norris’ website and popular podcast has allowed her to share simple modern homesteading solutions.

Norris’ presentation on Wednesday, Mar. 3 highlighted how to plant crops, increase harvest without expanding a garden and how to use container gardening as a means of food production.

“I like to give people the foundation so that they’ve got this infrastructure that they can build and grow up on and it becomes a part of their regular everyday life,” Norris said.

Container gardening, as emphasized by Norris, requires only a small amount of space and land. This type of gardening can be done on a balcony, a patio or a porch for those who do not have access to a backyard.

“You can still grow vegetables and fruit without a large yard space,” Norris said.

Norris pointed out that container gardening is less susceptible to pests and disease. She emphasized the control gardeners have over soil and their ability to create a microclimate.

“The really nice thing about that [microclimates] is that I am then able to move my containers really easily as the seasons change,” Norris said.

Norris discussed that container gardening also prevents plants that are considered to be invasive or perennial from spreading to other areas of the garden and backyard.

“It keeps them from spreading into areas of your yard or beds that you would rather not have it do or even from completely taking over,” Norris said. “For example, things that are in the mint family are kept in containers to prevent spreading and choking of other plants.”

One of the most beneficial aspects of container gardening is the lack of weeding. Containers do a great job of preventing weeds from spreading to the rest of the yard and other garden beds.

“You spend a lot less time weeding,” Norris said. “I might pull like three weeds out a year which is very vastly different compared to bed gardening.”

Norris discussed all the different varieties of fruits and vegetables that can be grown in containers such as root crops like garlic and popular choices like tomatoes and strawberries.

“You can grow almost any vegetable as well as quite a few fruit varieties in containers,” Norris said.

She explained that container gardening requires precision when deciding what size container will be adequate for the appropriate crop, giving recommendations about which crops fit best in certain sized containers.

One gallon container sizes will grow crops such as lettuce, spinach and radishes. Two gallon containers



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA NORRIS

will grow a pepper plant or a cucumber plant. Five gallons or larger can accommodate crops like beans, carrots and squashes.

“You want to make sure you have adequate soil space for the plant in order to sustain it and so it has got enough nutrients and root room in order to grow,” Norris said.

Norris noted that it is important to make sure that the container has enough drainage holes. Usually the larger a container is, the more drainage holes it requires. That rule can also go for watering the containers as well.

“Even if you are working a full time day job and you have lots of other things taking up your time, it is very doable to grow a small amount of fruits and vegetables in your backyard,” Norris said.

THE OP NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-2022 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

EIC is responsible for the management and production of the Oakland Post and reports to a board of directors. Responsibilities include:

- Updating the website daily and overseeing production of the weekly newspaper
- Recruiting editorial staff members and determining job responsibilities
- Deciding what is fit to print in the weekly newspaper
- Creating and maintaining relationships with university and department officials
- Working with the advertising and distribution directors to oversee those departments
- Organizing and submitting staff payroll every week
- Mentoring, guiding and teaching the staff to create quality journalism
- Overseeing The Post’s administrative functions and assisting in creating a yearly budget
- Representing The Post on the SAFAC board
- Being available to readers with complaints, corrections and suggestions
- Working closely with The Post’s Editorial financial advisors
- Being a collected and professional leader for the staff

Applicants do not have to be journalism majors, but should be:

- Excellent writers and communicators with great command of AP Style and news media standards
- Excellent with people and have the patience and heart to manage a group of peers

Compensation includes weekly pay.
Position effective late April 2021

Applications will be accepted through **March 15, 2021.**

Applicants can send resume, cover letter and work samples to editorial advisor **Garry Gilbert** at **gjgilber@oakland.edu**

CAMPUS

Cycling for a cause: OU and AHA partnership

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Staff Reporter

In order to raise money for life-saving stroke and heart disease research, University Recreation and Well-Being, Residence Life Association (RLA), and Student Congress have partnered up to bring the American Heart Association Cycle Nation event to campus from March 29th through April 1st.

The goal of the event is to have 250 students ride a half-hour each for 7,500 minutes in four days. All students, whether they live on or off campus, will be able to assist in reaching this goal and supporting the cause.

“OU has been involved with the American Heart Association for the past three years,” Becky Lewis, associate director of university recreation and well-being said. “We got involved because President Pescovitz, being a medical doctor, connected with metro Detroit heart walk chairs: Wayne State University’s president and the Henry Ford Health System’s CEO for a healthy cause. Not only was getting involved for a good cause, but the AHA also supports a lot of research being done by faculty and students at OU through grant funding. It is a win-win community partnership.”

RLA and Student Congress have

donated \$3,000 to the American Heart Association on behalf of all OU students.

“Any student can participate and ride at no cost to them out of pocket. It’s a fun activity,” Lewis said.

Stationary bikes will be set up in Hillcrest, Hamlin, and Oakview Residence Halls. Students who choose to ride a bike in the residence halls must register for a 30 minute bike time. Time Slots will be available at various times during the week and will be supervised for distancing and safety. A mask is required to ride.

The Recreation and Well-Being Center will also have bikes on Court 3. They will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants can log their time with a rec center employee.

“We want to promote engagement, good health, exercise, and a fun way to do that,” Lewis said.

The Recreation and Well-Being Center is also offering cycle nation classes and virtual fitness classes with a GroupX instructor.

Students interested can take classes from beginner to advanced and can find the classes on the Recreation and Well-Being Center Facebook page.

“If someone wants to use their phone and they’re on a bike, whether it’s in another gym or the rec center rather than just riding with their music on, which they

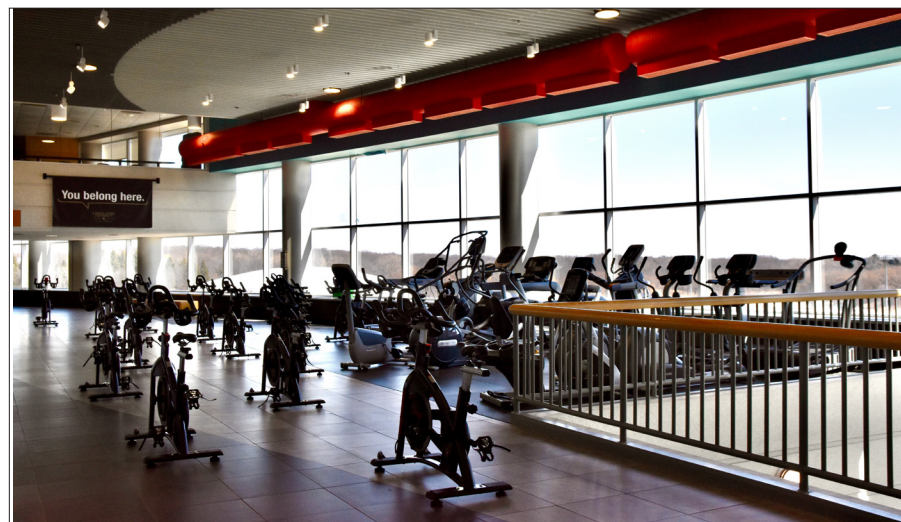


PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
The AHA is partnering with OU for a Cycle Nation event on campus from March 29th through April 1st.

can do, they can ride in the instructor’s virtual class,” Lewis said.

Additionally, students can choose to ride their own bike (stationary or non-stationary) at home or another workout facility and log their participation.

Everyone who participates and logs time is eligible to win prizes and enter giveaways.

A separate event for university staff is being planned for this summer. More information will be released at that time.

For more information on the Cycle Nation event, please visit OU Rec Well.

University institutes mandatory sexual violence training

RACHEL YIM
Staff Reporter

At the foundation of positive student experience is a healthy and safe learning environment. In modern days, however, where sexual violence has been one of the predominant issues especially in colleges, the safety of students is not guaranteed.

In an effort to maintain a safe and aware campus community, Oakland University has implemented a mandatory sexual violence prevention training for all students.

“We aim to remain in compliance with federal and state laws that we train and educate all Oakland University students on sexual violence, sexual misconduct and violence against women [on annual basis],” Jessie Hurse, associate Dean of Students, said.

According to a survey by the Association of American Universities

(AAU), one in eight college students has experienced nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or inability to consent. For undergraduate women, it was much higher: one in three students. Furthermore, 42% of students have experienced at least one sexually harassing behavior since enrollment.

While these numbers are shocking, the reality of ensuring a student’s legal rights is incredibly difficult. When students should feel that their campus is a safe environment to grow academically, emotionally and socially, one in four students reported that sexual assault or misconduct is extremely problematic at their institutions.

Hurse said there has been a high increase in sexual violence cases at the beginning of the academic year when majority of the students meet each other for the first time. Implementation annual mandatory sexual violence training

is expected to bring awareness to the community members and encourage more students to take part in the issue.

Many current OU students believe that this training will bring this topic to many people’s attention. At the same time, however, they also think that the universities should advertise and spread words more about how students can receive support when needed.

“I feel fairly safe on campus in general, which is a privilege that I recognize and appreciate a lot,” junior Fateha Zakaria said. “I think it’s a step in the right direction, but there is still a lot more that needs to be done in order to fully eradicate sexual violence especially when it comes to holding abusers fully accountable for the crimes they’ve committed.”

“As the dean of the students’ office and a deputy coordinator, I recognize that instances of sexual misconduct are not widely reported,” Hurse said. “In this

case, what we need more than anything is a community that is devoted to ensuring safety and well-being of every single member of this community.”

He also emphasized that taking part in this training module can really help to ensure that members of this community are working on one core to curb sexual violence throughout the campus.

“We are hopeful that students would be open to take an hour of their time to go through this in the sake that they are being respectful of their campus communities and that they know all information regarding the subject matter in an effort for OU to remain as a safe and reliable place for all students,” Hurse said.

The training course, which is due April 16, takes approximately 50-60 minutes to complete, and individuals can work at their own pace from any computer. For assistance or questions about the course, visit the Dean of Students website.

Billie Eilish gives fans a real sense of her life

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

One of the most successful young artists in pop music, Billie Eilish, has finally shown her fans behind the scene footage of her life in the new documentary, “Billie Eilish: The World’s A Little Blurry.”

This documentary, released Feb. 26, on Apple TV+, is a landmark piece of content for Apple’s streaming service. The documentary walks fans through how Eilish’s explosion in popularity has changed everything for her and her family.

Viewers are given an intimate view of Eilish’s experiences while making and promoting her groundbreaking 2019 album, “When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?”. The documentary boasts tons of new information about her songwriting, making music videos, touring, performing at Coachella, sustaining injuries while playing shows and how she’s handling personal relationships.

The cinematography was amazing. The camera angles were great, and the whole production was so well put together. The interview moments throughout the documentary were really well placed with seamless transitions between interviews, performance shots and backstage moments.

Above all else, the documentary felt genuine.

From music-writing clips with her brother Finneas O’Connell to her practicing her songs before a performance — the whole thing came across as authentic, giving an

honest depiction of Eilish’s thoughts throughout her journey. There were a lot of interesting moments captured of her being overwhelmed or her experiencing tics from her Tourette syndrome.

The focus — throughout the documentary — on her family played a huge part in making it feel so real. It was great to see her interactions with the family, which she’s obviously very close with. It also showed how she processed and went through a break up. Ultimately, the super-personable Eilish gave a lot of worthwhile advice viewers can apply to their own lives.

This documentary was just the right amount of context and background knowledge people needed about Eilish. At 19 years old, she’s young and super successful, and that can be a lot to handle. She seems very open with how she feels which is great to see in the media.

The documentary really did justice to portraying Eilish’s side of the story.

There was a crucial moment within the last 20 minutes of the documentary where Eilish discusses how bad of place she used to be in and how much she had struggled with her mental health, specifically depression. In a real eye-opening scene for the audience, Eilish shares journal entries that she would write when she was 14 years old. These past experiences with depression were moving, but not the whole documentary, as there is just so much more to Eilish than that.

Seeing the process of how many of her fan’s favorite songs were made was interesting, and so was hearing her

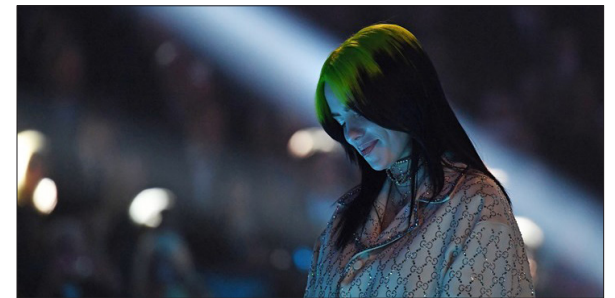


PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIEWIRE

Singer, song writer Billie Eilish unravels her rise to fame in Apple TV’s newest documentary. The film is structured thoughtfully and draws in audiences with personal moments.

talk about the visions she has in her head for the songs and the process of making them come to life while filming music videos.

The whole documentary wraps up at the Grammy Awards, which was the perfect way to end it. By showing how far she had come with her music, it highlighted the most important parts of Eilish’s career.

While the runtime of this documentary was long at 140 minutes, not a single moment was wasted. It was an awesome viewing experience from start to finish and is a must watch, even if you aren’t her biggest fan.

Rating: 5/5 stars

Joe Biden is killing \$15 per hour minimum wage

JEFF THOMAS

Features Editor

There won’t be a \$15 per hour minimum wage, or medicare-for-all, or free college tuition, or forgiving student loan debt during Joe Biden’s presidency. The reason is simply that Biden does not believe in and support these policies.

What was probably our best chance at getting a \$15 per hour minimum wage some time before the climate change apocalypse likely evaporated last Saturday, March 6 when the Democrat-controlled Senate passed the COVID-19 relief bill without the minimum wage raising clause approved by the House of Representatives.

The loss of the wildly popular increase to the minimum wage has caused an uproar among the Democratic party’s progressive wing. Conservative-Dem scapegoats like Senators Joe Manchin and Krysten Sinema have already appeared, but the bottom line is that Biden is the one who wields the power of the presidency and he is to blame for this failure.

Now \$1.9 trillion in relief is nothing to scoff at, but this was not the transformative piece of legislation that the American people needed. This was not a moment where Democrats seized the opportunity to advance their party platform. This legislation is, at best, a band-aid on the gushing bullet wound that COVID-19 has created in the U.S., a stop-gap half-measure of what it’s going to take to get people back on their feet.

Biden ran his campaign promising that he would deliver on \$15 an hour minimum. Now with Democrats in complete control of the presidency and congress, the Dems are full of excuses as to why he can’t deliver the promise.

When it comes to the minimum wage, Biden won’t

rally senate Dems to eliminate the filibuster. He wouldn’t instruct Vice President Kamala Harris to overrule the Senate Parliamentarian. God knows he wouldn’t lift a finger to get Senate Dems in line before this COVID-19 relief bill. Hell, he started giving up on \$15 per hour before the fight even started. It’s been a disaster.

The Democrats wield power like Phoebe Bridgers wields the guitar she’s trying to smash. It’s pitiful, just maddening to behold. While millions of Americans die in poverty and misery, Biden just keeps dangling the carrot of progress in front of Democratic voters.

And I cannot stress that point enough — the cost of our politicians continuing to drag their feet on progress is American lives. Studies show that a \$15 an hour minimum wage increase would lift millions of people out of poverty, and still nothing seems to inspire urgency from our politicians.

The fact is that Joe Biden is not a leader, he’s certainly not a fighter for the middle class and working class Americans. I don’t care what he says that he’ll do and you shouldn’t either until he actually starts delivering on his major promises. As of right now Biden is a liar and a phony.

It’s well documented that the man has been on the wrong side of dozens of major issues since he’s been in power. Whether it’s the Crime Bill, or the Iraq war or segregation on buses, Biden just never seems to be able to get it right. And guess what? People knew that. It’s why they didn’t vote for him in the Democratic primary until Barack Obama intervened. It’s why going into November’s election the enthusiasm for his candidacy was so loathsome.

What’s worse is that like so many of our rancid political leaders, Biden has never faced any serious repercussions for his shortcomings. The man has thrived for decades in the hierarchy of our broken two-party system without ever

being held accountable.

Now, after this abhorrent failure on \$15 per hour minimum wage, Biden and the Dems are already being let off the hook. The mainstream media is already running puff pieces about how great and transformative the COVID-19 relief bill is.

This process, ladies and gentlemen, is known as manufacturing consent. It’s one of the go-to instruments in the tool-kit of the establishment political corporate media apparatus that continually operates to control the public narrative and stifle progress for the American people.

It is this corrupt establishment that has delivered to us a federal government that has unlimited amounts of money for wars abroad, for corporate bailouts and for tax cuts for many of the wealthiest individuals in the world — yet only has means-tested watered-down table scraps for the American citizens that it is supposed to represent.

The current state of affairs in this country is unacceptable, and if the American people don’t hold political class accountable no one else is going to. Things won’t change without a serious push from the majority of Americans.

If this once-in-a-century COVID-19 crisis wasn’t enough to force our government to recognize the humanity of the American people and lend a firm helping hand to the most vulnerable people struggling in this country, then there won’t ever be circumstances where those in control yield their wealth and power in service of the greater good of our nation.

We must recognize this and commit boldly to radically changing the way our government operates. Make no mistake, Biden is not a transformative leader. No more good faith for his lies and inaction. I’m fed up.

Frontline worker to front of class: First recipient of scholarship

**GABBRIELLE
ABDELMESSIH**

Staff Reporter

To support workers on the frontlines of COVID-19 in their educational journey, Oakland University has created the Frontline Workers Scholarship, an extension of the statewide Futures for Frontliners initiative.

“At Oakland University, we wanted to show our commitment and appreciation to all frontline workers who have contributed so tirelessly to keep our essential industries running during Michigan’s COVID-19 shutdown in the spring of 2020,” Dawn Aubry, vice president for Enrollment Management said. “We are proud to be offering a new award to frontline workers from the entire state of Michigan, as a way of thanking them for their tremendous efforts throughout the pandemic and to support them in the pursuit of their bachelor’s degree.”

David McCallum is the first recipient of the scholarship. He is a CAD designer at Custom Biogenic Systems. He helps design cryogenic equipment and supplies used in scientific and research laboratories to allow for safe storage and transportation of climate-sensitive materials.

“I use CAD technology to help generate designs for complex projects. Everything we manufacture, we first design in CAD. This helps us to identify any design conflicts, create assembly drawings for production and visualize the product,” McCallum said.

McCallum is working full-time as a CAD designer while also completing the requirements for an associate’s degree in mathematics from Macomb Community College. He plans on transferring to Oakland University to pursue a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering.

McCallum learned about the scholarship through his sister and thought it would be a great opportunity.

“I have worked closely with the OU engineering advisor over the last two years to understand the transfer requirements and all the scholarship opportunities,” McCallum said. “With the scholarships I have been awarded through OU in addition to my employer’s tuition assistance program, I have an amazing opportunity to continue my education.”

McCallum also shared that his boss thought an engineering program was something he could complete and encouraged him to continue his education.

McCallum described his educational journey as a winding road and was open about his previous struggles with alcohol and prescription opioid abuse.

After being accepted into a sobriety program that provided access to a 12-step program, counseling, and recovery coaching, McCallum has been in recovery and has focused on his career and education.

“I have been in recovery since completing this program. It encouraged me to want to stop using, introduced me to mentors, and during this time, I was able to regain mental clarity. While attending 12-step meetings, I heard other people share my story who were where I was and who had found a way out,” McCallum said.

McCallum plans to begin classes full-time at Oakland University during the upcoming summer semester.

“I am really looking forward to getting on campus for the engineering labs and making new friends in my classes,” McCallum said.

For more information about the Frontline Workers Scholarship and to view eligibility requirements, please email visit@oakland.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU NEWS

David McCaullum uses equipment at Custum Biogenic Systems, where he is a CAD designer. He is the first recipient of OU's frontline scholarship.

Alumni starts video passion project telling OU's history



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

Horatiu Zglimbea sorts through the Oakland Post’s photo archives to add to “Oakland through the decades.” This is an ongoing project he’s working on to inform more people about OU’s history.

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

“Oakland University through the decades” will be a compilation of five minute video snippets, orchestrated by Horatiu Zglimbea, video production coordinator and producer.

After completing a reunion video to honor 1970 alumni, Zglimbea was drawn to OU’s history, but found few resources that didn’t feel “dense.”

Normally, class reunions are celebrated in person at the library with a display of archived photos from alumni’s time at OU, but the pandemic made the gathering shift online. With an online format, Zglimbea was introduced to the now-video celebration, which ignited his passion to tell more of OU’s history.

“Instead of getting [alumni] into Kresge Library to walk into the tiny space [where the archives are] and see photos, it would be a 20 minute documentary movie that they could watch at a specific time on YouTube,” Zglimbea said.

His reunion video made archives from the 1970s more accessible to the class, but the majority of the photos still hadn’t been shared with the entire OU community.

“I was like, ‘Man, I want to do more of this because we have all these pictures, and nobody sees them,’ Zglimbea said. “Even that video hasn’t been put out on YouTube for the masses. It was just a one time event, and then nobody else has seen it.”

With the help of archivists — Dominique Daniel and Shirley Paquette — Zglimbea has begun sorting through thousands of photos to add to his videos.

Many of the photos were from Kresge Library’s archives, but he also uncovered some photos from student organizations

— including the Oakland Post. Most photos from these organizations have never been publicly available, and his videos will be its first debut.

“Oakland University through the decades” will be available on OUTV, and he’s donating the collection to the communication and marketing departments to use.

Thus far, he plans on offering videos about the presidents of OU, mascots, university origins, groundbreaking and further construction timelines. “Oakland University through the decades” could span into other categories too though.

“I thought it would not be quick, but I thought it would be manageable,” Zglimbea said. “There’s so much, and I don’t want to tell an incomplete story with these videos... so I don’t know when it’ll end.”

Finding together photos to match a script can be “difficult to keep together.”

He wrote a “super cool script” about John Dale Russel — who was a key community member during OU’s origins — only to find there are very few photos that exist of him. Then he had to adjust his video plan, avoiding a lull in visuals.

Despite challenges, Zglimbea wants to share the history he’s unraveling with people who may not have experienced it before.

“I went to Oakland from 2007 to 2011, I started working here in 2012 and now, it’s 2021,” Zglimbea said. “I’ve been here a long time, and after all that time, I barely knew the history of OU.”

There are many historic markers tucked away across campus — records, articles, art, buildings and photos — but Zglimbea’s video series will be a one-stop learning tool, compiling history.

“I just want students and people in the community to really become informed and just appreciate where Oakland came from,” Zglimbea said.

PRIDE

IS FOR

EVERYONE

DRAG QUEENS PEPPERMINT, SASHA VELOUR KICKOFF **PRIDE** MONTH

LAUREN KARMO

Marketing Director

Pride Month 2021 kicked off virtually with the 2nd Annual Tim Larrabee Memorial Lecture featuring drag queens Peppermint and Sasha Velour. Touching on themes of activism, queer history, community and more, the Zoom lecture facilitated by the Gender and Sexuality Center garnered close to 100 viewers on Tuesday, March 9.

Pride Month, traditionally in June in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Riots, has been officially celebrated at Oakland University for the past four years. The opening ceremony was held in memoriam of late Tim Larrabee, who was an associate professor of education and teacher development and LGBTQIA+ advocate.

“Dr. Larrabee founded the SOGI initiative on campus, which was aimed to create a safe, welcoming, supportive and inclusive campus climate for all ... Tim was instrumental in advocating for many of the changes on campus that have allowed Oakland University to be recognized as one of the most LGBTQ[IA+] inclusive campuses in the state of Michigan,” said Grace A. Wojcik, coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Center.

Wojcik introduced Peppermint and Sasha Velour, who were the runner-up and winner, respectively, of season nine of RuPaul’s Drag Race. In addition to their appearance on Drag Race, they are lifelong entertainers, artists and activists.

Both spoke about how drag and activism have gone hand-in-hand, dating back several generations.

“When we talk about drag activism, it’s more than just representation, which is very important, but it is actually coming up with strategies for making change,” Sasha Velour said. “Like everyone was saying, as soon as I started seeing drag, especially in New York City, they would be registering voters like at the drag club. We would be hosting auctions and raffles with things we had made to raise money.”

In addition to their personal experiences with activism, the two shared anecdotes about honoring the trailblazers from LGBTQIA+ history like José Sarria, the first openly gay person to run for political

office, and William Dorcey Swann, the first American queer activist and drag queen.

In 2020, Peppermint and fellow Drag Race star Bob the Drag Queen created the Black Queer Town Hall with Angela Davis for pride. Riding on the coattails of the Black Lives Matter movement, similar activism projects like a march for Black trans lives in Brooklyn were also organized by drag queens.

“Drag kind of like makes you a fierce organizer and teaches you how to get stuff done and own your power, often because we are literally making everything happen for ourselves from scratch,” Sasha Velour said.

Peppermint talked about her upcoming album, and how she has been able to use her art and platform to “give people a story about a black transgender woman that doesn’t end in murder, to give people a story about a black transgender woman who’s being loved by the people around her, and cared for and adored and cherished, publicly.”

They also spoke candidly about their gender identities and how they, Peppermint as a transgender woman and Sasha Velour as a genderfluid person, became comfortable in their own skin through drag.

Peppermint described her style of drag as being “born out of desperation,” when she was young and looking for validation in her gender identity. She said that her experience with drag, like others, had made her stronger and more confident to face challenges when coming out.

Sasha Velour expressed a similar strength found through drag.

“Yes, it is my job,” she said. “But it is a job that’s allowed me to own and literally profit from a very real aspect of me that I was told would be a hindrance and a danger for me. So to be able to turn that into power is huge.”

The pair took questions from the audience, who asked about community and for advice.

“[Making connections] will feed your queer sensibility, and then you’ll be some of the strongest, most developed, most well thought people around, because that’s what queer people are,” Peppermint said. “We do not tear down communities, we build them.”

ONE

#LGBTQIA+

Roundnet club spikes into OU

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

As quarantine winds down, students will be looking for ways to get out and be active. One club has just the game for this time: roundnet.

“[Roundnet is] if volleyball and foursquare had a baby,” Alex Doty, Oakland University Roundnet president said.

Roundnet — the generic name for Spikeball, which is used by the company that owns the rights to the game and equipment — is played with four people around a circular net. Teams of two stand together and the game starts when team A spikes the ball onto the net, bouncing it toward team B. Team B has to hit the ball three times before bouncing off the net and back into team A’s possession.

A typical roundnet rally goes like this: the ball bounces off the net toward player one, player one hits the ball to player two, player two hits the ball back to player one and player one hits the ball back to the net, which bounces the ball to the other team.

The game continues until a team fails to make three hits or a fault occurs. While there are teams, there are no set

sides in roundnet, creating a frantic atmosphere where anything can happen and everywhere is in play.

For a more in-depth look at rules and to see a game in action, Roundnet Australia has a video explaining everything.

“It loos pretty easy, but it is not easy your first time,” Doty said. “By about the third or fourth game you pick it up and you start to figure things out.”

Doty founded the club after

entertaining the idea for about two years.

“The summer of 2018, right before I came to Oakland, was when I first started playing Spikeball,” Doty said. “I kinda thought about it my freshman year and started thinking about it more seriously my sophomore year. When the pandemic hit, it threw off any plans I had to start the club in the spring.”

Fortunes changed once Jon Herppich, club vice president, started classes at OU

in 2020. Doty and Herppich got some friends together, formed the club and began officially playing by September as a club sport. After three weeks the club grew to about 20 players, which the club attributes to their Instagram account with over 200 followers.

“I feel like we have gotten so much exposure out on there and it’s just been shared around like crazy,” Doty said.

The pandemic has prevented OU Roundnet from competing against other schools’ clubs, but the club is registered with the Spikeball Roundnet Association and ready for competitions once the all clear is given.

If roundnet sounds like something to get into, practices are held on Tuesday nights from 10:14 to 11:45 p.m. at the dome on Pioneer Dr. OU students are welcome to drop in, though they need to fill out the forms on IMLeagues before playing. Nets and balls are provided, so all players need are sturdy shoes and the readiness to run.

“Spikeball is going to be the new biggest sport,” Herppich said. “It is going to be — at least in the college atmosphere — as big as football and soccer. It is on the rise.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX DOTY
OU Roundnet practicing their skills at the upper fields.

Rec Well initiates a wellness calendar promoting healthy habits

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The March wellness calendar has kicked off on Oakland University’s campus, promoting healthy habits all month.

OU’s Recreation and Well-Being Center started the tradition of monthly wellness calendars last year in April to help students, faculty and staff with the restrictions of the pandemic.

“When the calendar was published on social media, the feedback was that people appreciated that we were giving them new options and things that they hadn’t thought of,” Courtney Heileman, health and wellness coordinator, said.

Every month, Heileman and her team of wellness ambassadors pick out a specific theme for the calendar.

The themes come from the initiatives of Healthy Campus for Michigan.

The Healthy Campus initiative is a campus-wide effort to prioritize mental health, well-being and an overall healthy campus.

“For this calendar, March is all about being physically active and trying to connect with one another,” Heileman said.

Throughout the month, each day of the week has a theme.

Mondays are “My Healthy Mondays,” Tuesdays are “Tasty Tuesdays,”

Wednesdays are “Wellness Wednesdays,” Thursdays are “Thoughtful Thursdays,” Fridays are “Fitness Fridays,” Saturdays are “Social Saturdays” and Sundays are “Self-care Sundays.”

There are two challenges implemented throughout the month — the hydration challenge and the shamrock step challenge.

The hydration challenge lasts the entire month of March, and participants are challenged to drink 80 ounces of water per day.

“We’re trying to reach a middle for the majority of people and along with it comes little educational pieces and weekly prizes from those who consumed the most that week,” she said.

It doesn’t have to be plain either, it can be through tea or infused water as well.

The shamrock step challenge is only a week long, and participants are challenged to get as many steps in as they can.

For both challenges, there is a tracker for all participants that get submitted.

Another notable event happening during March is Pet Therapy.

There will be therapy dogs from the nonprofit organization Fur Angels on the 22, from 12 to 2 p.m. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing, it will look different compared to the

previous times OU has brought therapy dogs on campus.

The dog handlers will be spread throughout the lower level of the Recreation center and the dogs will be on leashes. Only one participant per dog is allowed, and everyone is required to wear masks.

“We’re trying to eliminate people gathering and congregating by making sure it’s only one person per dog,” Heileman said.

The dogs will be at the end of their leash, and the goal is to create as much

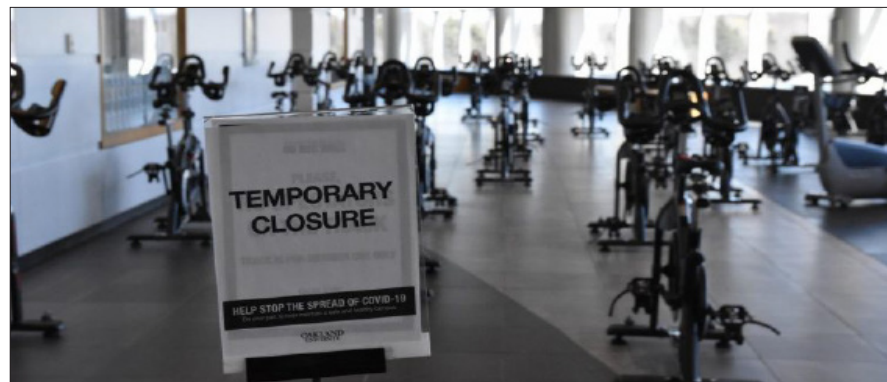
space between the handlers as possible.

Each calendar has activities for all ages and isn’t only for students.

Each month will continue to have calendars made — just in time for warmer weather.

“We’ll have nice weather so we can encourage people to get outside and participate in the things that the Rec Center and the rest of campus has to offer.”

All calendars can be found on OU’s Rec Center Instagram page, along with tips from some wellness ambassadors.



NOORA NEIROUKH | PHOTOGRAPHER
The Rec-well center adding virtual challenges after the rec center closed

Finding the value in unpaid internships

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Staff Reporter

In order to get a good job out of college, most companies will require an unpaid internship. That's anywhere from 10-40 hours per week of free labor.

Many of these companies will have students do traditional office work— such as getting the coffee and/or donuts— instead of gaining actual experience. Others will have students do work that a paid employee should do.

Then there's students that are economically disadvantaged and cannot afford working an unpaid internship — that's a problem.

There are some great potential employees out there that aren't getting the same opportunities as someone who comes from a wealthier background.

Garry Gilbert, director of the Journalism Department at Oakland University, said 80% of internships the university offers are unpaid.

"That's a problem for a lot of students," Gilbert said. "We expect students to put in 150 to 160 hours over a 15-week period in an internship. That means an average of 10 hours a week, or if you're doing it during the summer as a full time internship, that would mean four to five

weeks. That's a load for a student to do without getting compensated in some way for it."

Gilbert said there are three advantages to an unpaid internship: experience, network opportunities and putting it on your resume.

"We check our internship employers... to make sure they're actually giving our students some valuable experience [and] they're not just asking them to do office tasks," Gilbert said. "You get to meet people who might be in a position to be able to hire you later, or to be able to refer you to somebody else — [So] you make a good impression on them, and then that helps you find the job later on."

Gilbert continued on to say these internships are great resume builders.

"Then you get the opportunity to list this on your resume," Gilbert said. "Because when you go out and start looking for that first job, one of the first things you're going to be asked and particularly if you're a journalism or PR major is, 'tell us about your internship experience.'"

Gilbert said the internship department tries to find alternative options for students who can't afford to work an unpaid internship.

"For the last 10 years, we have offered a course called OU News Bureau, and it is the equivalent of an

internship," Gilbert said. "Brian Hlavaty was the director of that class. Brian has decided to retire however, and we just haven't seen the demand for the Bureau in recent years. So we've discontinued that class [and] we're looking now for another type of opportunity."

Gilbert said Kate Roff, an instructor in the journalism program, is working to reinvent the OU News Bureau class as a "solutions journalism" class.

"Solutions journalism' is sort of a buzz phrase that's out there in the media world where reporters are trained to look for answers to society's problems," Gilbert said.

Gilbert mentioned employers only hiring people who have worked an unpaid internship creates a lack of diversity in the hiring pool.

"Frankly, we see students who are economically disadvantaged, and it makes it more difficult for them to take an unpaid internship," Gilbert said. "More economically advantaged students probably tend to come from wealthier areas, or maybe from the suburbs. They have perhaps better opportunities, they get the kind of internships or the kind of networking that they can get."

It's time to change the stigma around unpaid internships. Employers need to start compensating their interns for their hard work and create equal opportunities for everyone.

Award winning composer shares his creative process

JESSICA ORLANDO

Staff Reporter

Oakland University's School of Music, Theatre and Dance invited leading composer and musician Kevin Day to talk about his recent pieces and process in musical composition on Tuesday, Mar 1.

Day is a composer, multi-instrumentalist and producer. His music combines influences from jazz, minimalism, Latin music, fusion and contemporary classical. His primary instruments include euphonium, tuba and jazz piano.

Winner of the BMI Student Composer Award and other musical honors, Day has composed over 150 pieces and has performed in numerous countries including Austria and Japan. His composed pieces have been performed by multiple national and international level symphony orchestras, including the Fresno Philharmonic.

Currently, Day is getting his Master of Music in Composition Degree at the University of Georgia. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree in Tuba/Euphonium Performance from Texas Christian University (TCU).

During his conversation with OU, Day reminisced about his childhood and considered what factors influenced him in both his compositional writing and musicality.

Born in 1996, Day was raised in Arlington, Texas where he was creatively influenced by both his parents. His dad was a well-known hip-hop producer in the late 1980s, and his mom was a prominent gospel singer.

"Before I joined the band as a euphonium player, I was sort of involved a lot with Gospel music," Day said. "I was a church musician and a jazz musician on



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUNDCLOUD | KEVIN DAY
Composer and musician Kevin Day virtually visited OU on Tuesday, March 1. He discussed his creative process.

piano before I joined the band."

In grade school, Day formally joined the band as both a euphonium and tuba player. He spent his weekdays playing with his school and on the weekend he traveled with his family to play jazz and gospel music.

"I was learning two different worlds completely and I was involved in two different worlds," Day said. "Up until college those two worlds never came together in any way, but eventually I began embracing all parts of my upbringing and experience."

In terms of composition, Day learned much of his beginning concepts from his dad who produced hip-hop beats. He did not get into classical composition until much later in his life.

"My dad being a producer, he showed me how to create a beat, groove and a baseline and then layer things on top of that like cords and the melody," Day said.

Day wrote much of his own compositions in high school. He practiced writing for his friends and took influence from artists he listened to at the time such as Thelonious Monk.

"I was writing for my colleagues at the time just to try small things until sort of getting into the band world after that through my time at TCU," Day said.

Day shared one of his most recent compositions titled "Ignition" which was commissioned by the BSO Low Brass.

"That was a reworking of a tuba/euphonium piece of mine also called 'Ignition' that different people have played at this point," Day said. "I decided to take back a lot of the notes that were in that arrangement and try to make it a more concise version."

Day also provided a sneak-peek to his "Concerto" which is expected premiere in September by the University of Georgia's Hodgson Wind Ensemble. There are five movements in the Concerto with movements two and three being tributes to his mom and dad.

"It's a piece that is intentionally bringing in my upbringing as a Gospel and Jazz piano player and really infusing it with this classical contemporary wind band medium," Day said.

Quarantinaversary: A look back after one year of COVID-19

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter



MEG SPEAKS | DESIGN EDITOR

COVID-19 is nothing new. It's been a year since quarantines started, and the feeling of nostalgia is getting real. The first — and hopefully last — quarantinaversary is here, so it's time to look back and reflect on what everyone has been doing this past year.

Last March the virus hit, and it hit hard. According to the Center for Disease Control, there have been over 28 million cases reported, over 327 million COVID-19 tests and 68 million vaccines administered all in the past year.

Since the first quarantine that happened last March, many OU students have moved back to their hometowns with their parents. Instead of days spent in class, everyone transitioned to days spent on Zoom and TikTok.

According to Wallaroo media, Tiktok has increased its monthly users by 1.1 billion as of February 2021. Trends in meme culture and exciting do it yourself (DIY) videos presented on the platform have gone hand and hand with the free time people have had since the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions.

I know many people that have tried the

whipped coffee or the famous feta pasta. And there have also been some arts and crafts, centric DIYs made popular on TikTok. My personal favorite was the air-dry clay making, which I just can't seem to stop doing.

Another trend has been people binge watching every series available and any new movies they could find. Netflix and Hulu created a lot of original content through the year and viewers have been eating it up.

From "Tiger King" to "Bridgerton" and everything in between, it's easy to form an obsession over a show. I gotta admit, watching these shows at the same time as everyone else in the U.S. was almost comforting. It was wholesome seeing all the memes that came from them. It made me feel like we were all connected during the lockdowns.

Those were the distracting and, frankly, the fun parts of the past year. Other than that, it was risking our lives — working in a pandemic and trying to self-teach through online classes.

As a server (now known as an essential worker) I've had to deal with the people

and the pandemic. Let me say — not the best combination. With restaurants only being at 50% or 25% capacity, customers have been impatient and unreasonable.

On top of that, there's been so much uncertainty. Restaurants have gone from open to closed so many times it's hard to keep up.

It'd be an understatement to say that online school has been far from easy. I don't know if the classes are harder or if I'm less motivated or if maybe it's a little bit of both, but it just seems like a struggle to turn in the work.

I feel like I wake up and sit in bed all day either on Zoom or on TikTok just waiting to go to bed. It's hard to believe this continuous cycle of boredom.

There've been some ups and some real downs during the quarantined year that everyone has had to go through. I mean if it wasn't for the pandemic, maybe this year would have been the year I got my life together. Let's hope the next 12 months will be a lot better than the last.

Texas, others lift COVID-19 restrictions, health officials disagree

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Texas's Gov. Greg Abbott announced on Tuesday, March 2 that the state will lift the mask mandate and any COVID-19 restrictions in place.

This is a bold move from Gov. Abbott, since no other state has gotten close to this — unless you count Florida.

Most states are still on some type of lockdown with COVID-19 procedures and are very cautious.

Abbott also announced that businesses of any type may open 100% beginning March 10.

"Too many Texans have been sidelined from employment opportunities. Too many small business owners have struggled to pay their bills. This must end. It is now time to open Texas 100%," Abbott said.

I can see where Abbott is coming from, it's been almost an entire year and people want to go back to normal. That's all I got to justify this.

Abbott continues, saying, "COVID-19 has not suddenly disappeared, but state mandates are no longer needed."

I had the chance to speak to Isabel Chappa, a student who attends the University of Texas at Austin.

"Living in Texas throughout this pandemic has been extremely disappointing, when it comes to the state of our leadership," Chappa said.

Chappa continued, saying that only a small percentage of the state is vaccinated and the COVID-19 cases are nowhere near as low as they were at the beginning.

"To put it simply, it's another demonstration that the Texas government does not care for its people, only money matters," Chappa said.

Chappa isn't the only Texas citizen that feels this way either.

New York Times bestselling author Kurt Eichenwald expressed his concern, stating in a tweet,

"Texas already has FIVE variants that have turned up: Britain, South Africa, Brazil, New York and California. The NY and CA variants could weaken vaccine effectiveness. Now idiot Greg Abbott throws open the state. Possibly of a vaccine resistant #Abbottvariant is growing."

Others like Eichenwald have taken to Twitter to express their feelings about the lack of COVID-19 precautions.

Other states have announced that they will do the same in removing mask mandates and adding full business operations.

"Starting tomorrow, we are lifting all of our county mask mandates and businesses will operate at full capacity with no state-imposed rules. Our hospitalizations

and case numbers have plummeted, and the vaccine is being rapidly distributed. It is time!" Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said via Twitter.

Looking at the Mississippi Department of Health data, it looks like the total number of cases as of March 5 has gone down.

Hospitalization for people with confirmed cases and the occurrence of COVID-19 cases have both been on the decline.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker announced that restaurants in the state will no longer have to adhere to capacity restrictions. Other states, including Montana, Mississippi and Iowa, have lifted their mask mandates as well.

I think this could lead us in the opposite direction of where we're trying to go — health officials would have to agree, too, stating that this could lead to another surge.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky warned against the rollbacks that Abbott and Reeves have implemented.

"I am really worried about reports that more states are rolling back the exact public health measures we have recommended to protect people from Covid-19," Walensky said. "Please hear me clearly - at this level of cases with variants spreading, we stand to completely lose the hard earned ground we have gained."



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN PAGE

I'll say I'm not surprised that Texas is the state to do this because it's a red state and the majority of Republicans don't see the need for masks, but I'm worried about the increase of cases that's going to come.

OPINION

‘Moxie’ puts an empowering twist on high school

LAUREN REID
Sports Editor

Directed by and starring Amy Poehler, Netflix’s ‘Moxie’ unpacks real-world issues, as Vivian (Hadley Robinson) starts a feminist revolution at her high school after being inspired by her mother (Poehler’s) past — one stemming from a push for gender equality.

Every year, some of the popular jocks at Vivian’s school create a demeaning list ranking girls from “most bangable” to “future MILF.” Motivated by this and the perpetually disrespectful behavior of guys at her school — primarily football star Mitchell Wilson (Patrick Schwarzenegger) — Vivian creates an anonymous zine called Moxie that she leaves in the girl’s bathroom.

Vivian’s Moxie grows extremely popular, inspiring and driving girls at her school to keep the momentum going (Alycia Pascual-Pena, Anjelika Washington, Sabrina Haskett, Sydney Park). Soon enough, Moxie is a club

working to spread awareness and advocate for gender equality, but nobody knows Vivian is the one behind the revolution.

Of course, amidst it all, Vivian has a romantic interest — feminist skater King Seth (Nico Hiraga).

As a bitter 20-year-old, high school movies generally make me cringe. I’m not a fan of the girl who never talks to anyone (which was me) getting pursued by the outgoing, “hot” guy. I learned the hard way — that doesn’t happen. But honestly, this movie didn’t make me cringe. Vivian and Seth were undeniably a cute couple, minus the fact Vivian had some lowkey rude outbursts, but I forgive her.

Also, side note: Patrick Schwarzenegger is 27. Why have we normalized letting people who haven’t stepped foot in a high school for a decade play the high-schooler? I’m staring directly at you, Riverdale.

‘Moxie’ put an empowering, fresh take onto your average high school drama, and I really appreciated it. The film’s message is uplifting and needed. The way these girls tackle sexism at their school is

tenacious and heartwarming at the same time, and the way they build friendships and acknowledge their differences in a positive way is special.

All the while, ‘Moxie’ is equipped with romance, humor, drama and endearing moments, all of which you’d expect from its high school setting.

There is one thing that really made me feel weird about this movie though, and I feel like it has to be addressed.

For Vivian and Seth’s first real date, he took her to sneak into a funeral home, and it just felt like a big red flag to me. I’m not a relationship expert, but if the guy I liked took me to a funeral home and asked me which casket I liked best (this literally happened in the movie), I’d probably be dialing 911.

They also ended up laying in one of the caskets together. I know it was supposed to be a cute moment, but I felt really, really uncomfortable. I feel like they could’ve gone literally anywhere else — I mean he could’ve taken her to an abandoned 7-11 and been like “I used to ride my skateboard here” and I’d be



PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIEWIRE
‘Moxie’ unpacks real-world issues as Vivian starts a feminist revolution at her school, inspired by her mother.

like “aw, sentimental.” But c’mon, not a funeral home.

Overall, the movie was creative, motivating and did a great job conveying its message. I wouldn’t watch it again, but it was worth checking out.

Rating: 3.5/5 stars

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Rashad Williams perseveres through tough season

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Staff Reporter

It's been a tumultuous year for all of us, but for junior point guard Rashad Williams, it's been especially so.

"I got into a car accident right before the season started [and] messed up my shoulder a little bit," Williams said. "Then in the second game against Toledo, I ended up hurting my hip, so I had to sit. More recently before we played Cleveland State, I hurt my ankle. So I just got to give the glory to God for keeping me sane through all of this."

After the shoulder injury healed a bit, Williams went off for back-to-back 30+ point performances against Oklahoma State and Michigan State.

"I just remember that [Head] Coach [Kampe] was protecting me because of my shoulder injury," Williams said. "Then I remember for the Oklahoma State game, [Kampe] said he was gonna let me go. I was really pleased to play against those guys — those were two really good teams, especially with Cade Cunningham [of OSU] potentially being the number one pick in the upcoming draft, and a good team in Michigan State. So it was just really fun getting out there and competing against two of the top teams in the country. Both of them [are] top 25 caliber teams. I really have fought with my teammates who are

out there competing, and I think that really prepared us for now."

Williams' tough season culminated in a huge performance against Youngstown State in the Horizon League tournament quarterfinals. He had 22 points on 5-10 3-point shooting.

"My teammates did a fantastic job getting the ball to me when I was holding in my sweet spot," Williams said. "I decided to return the favor and try to make things happen and try to help us win."

Head Coach Greg Kampe said the team wouldn't still be playing if it weren't for Williams against Youngstown State.

"That's what great players do," Kampe said. "They come up big when you need them to come up big. The year's been a tough one for him because of no practice, injuries, things like that. And [then] we're playing Cleveland State and he sprains his ankle. If there's any team he probably wants to play, it's Cleveland State. So just to go through that and one [punch in the gut] after another, to play like he did Tuesday night, just warmed my heart. It was great to see and I was really happy for him."

Williams said he will be playing with a chip on his shoulder if Oakland makes the Horizon League championship game and faces Cleveland State, his former team.

"I talk to some of those guys who are still there, who were there when I was there," Williams said. "I still talk to those guys often. I



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ
Rashad Williams celebrating against Youngstown State in the Horizon League quarterfinals.

know they're gonna be trying to come at us so we definitely got to be ready to attack them."

Williams' number one priority for the rest of his time at Oakland is winning.

"Obviously I want to get to the NCAA Tournament," Williams said. "Winning the Horizon League is all I care about. Since I've been here, Coach Kampe can tell you that has been my motto — [the] number one priority

is winning the championship. I saw Coach Kampe lose against the school that I was going to out of high school, Cleveland State, when Kendrick Nunn was here. So seeing that kind of inspired me, especially with me transferring here. That's definitely something I want to get done is winning. That's something I pride myself on."

Women's basketball sees third season of improvement

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

When his team lost in the Horizon League title game in 2018, Head Coach Jeff Tungate was staring down a problem.

The majority of his team was graduating, including the entire starting lineup of Cierra Bond, Sha'Keya Graves, Taylor Gleason, Leah Somerfield and Korrin Taylor.

"We just graduated so many players," Tungate said. "It put us in a tough spot."

The following season, the team had their worst season since Tungate took over, finishing 3-15 in Horizon League play. At the same time, he was dealing with intense health problems related to a botched spinal surgery.

Each year following, the team improved their record and finished better in the final standings. This season, the team had their first playoff home game under Tungate, finishing 12-8 in the conference and earning the No. 4 seed in the tournament.

In their first home playoff game, the Golden Grizzlies had a tough draw, facing the reigning league champion IUPUI Jaguars and the three-time player of the year Macee Williams. In the end,

Williams and the 13-3 Jaguars defeated Oakland 86-64 and moved on to the Horizon League semifinals.

"We knew it was a tough draw coming in," Tungate said. "But, we hoped after they had a few weeks off we could play our game and come out on top."

Playing hard and fast can come with downsides, as the Golden Grizzlies saw against IUPUI. The Jaguars got out to a very early lead, forcing the Golden Grizzlies to play catch-up for most of the game. Even when Oakland was stringing together solid possessions, the reigning champs kept them at arms' length.

"We just dug ourselves a hole early that we couldn't climb out of," Tungate said.

Williams finished with a game-high 28 points and nine rebounds for the Jaguars. For Oakland, Horizon League first-teamer Kahlaiah Dean led the way with 13 points and three assists.

The only other Golden Grizzly in double figures was senior Autumn Kissman, who finished with 10 points. In her final start at Oakland, Kissman grabbed five boards and blocked one shot as well.

Moving forward, Tungate and the Golden Grizzlies are looking to improve

for the fourth season in a row. To do that, avoiding digging holes like they had against IUPUI will be a priority.

To do that, the team will lean on Dean. Dean, who earned first-team honors before the tournament, will be in consideration for preseason player of the year after her improvement this season. Tungate stressed the importance of her consistency, while also mentioning that in order for the team to succeed, Dean needs to be the best leader she can.

This year's graduating class is Myka Cromwell, Kissman, Chloe Guingrich and Jalisha Terry. Guingrich and Kissman played the majority of their minutes in frontcourt roles, which means current juniors Kayla Luchenbach and Breanna Perry will see increased minutes for Oakland.

Perry, who missed time due to an injury, saw increased minutes as the season went on. Luchenbach showed her potential during a 15-point, 14-rebound game against Green Bay Jan. 1.

"Kayla has proven she can hit the three and crash the glass," Tungate said. "Bre never really recovered from her injury this season, people haven't even seen her true game yet."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE JUAREZ
Kissman shooting a three against IUPUI.

Moving forward from a season that was defined by COVID-19, Tungate is just hoping for more normalcy in the remainder of 2021. Despite a good season, jumping through pandemic hoops is something Tungate hopes the team never has to do again.

With a diverse recruiting class coming in and a foundation built from years of steady recruiting, Oakland Women's Basketball is looking to return to championship form.

Men's basketball makes program history

After seven years, the Golden Grizzlies played in their first Horizon title



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKIP TOWNSEND
Kevin Kangu looks to drive to the basket against Northern Kentucky. Kangu, Oakland's lone senior, scored three against the Norse.

MICHAEL PEARCE
Editor-in-Chief

For the first time since they joined the Horizon League, the men's basketball team reached the championship game, facing the No. 1 seed Cleveland State Vikings.

The path to get to the title game was a unique one — not only due to COVID-19, but the history behind Head Coach Greg Kampe and the Golden Grizzlies in the tournament.

It hasn't been an illustrious history for Kampe and Oakland. Since 2011, the school has seen multiple upsets and last-second losses in the Horizon Tournament. But, this season, the team was able to defeat two familiar foes on the road to history.

After a home overtime win over Youngstown State, the Golden Grizzlies took to Indianapolis to face the team that knocked them out of the tournament two years earlier — the Northern Kentucky Norse.

With both teams fighting for their lives, the typically high-flying Oakland offense was kept in check, but the defense made the difference. The typically slippery court at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum held to form, so the game resembled a bar fight rather than a shootout. Bodies were hitting the floor constantly whether it was slipping or pursuit of loose balls.

Daniel Oladapo led the Golden Grizzlies in scoring and rebounding against the Norse, putting up 19 points to go with nine rebounds. Oladapo not only cleaned the glass, he cleaned the floor when he pitched in on mop duty halfway through the game.

Rashad Williams was not far behind

Oladapo in scoring, scoring 17 points and hitting three 3-pointers. Jalen Moore put up another stat-stuffing game of 14 points, seven assists and six rebounds against a talented NKU backcourt.

Oakland recorded a season-low four turnovers in the win, but shot poorly from the free throw line. It wasn't that they didn't get to the line, converting was the issue. The Golden Grizzlies shot 38.5% from the free throw line, 10-26.

Despite that, the team held onto about a 10-point lead for most of the second half, stifling the Norse on offense. Freshman of the year Marques Warrick shot just 3-15 from the floor and 1-9 from 3-point range, one of his worst offensive performances of his young career.

"In my time at Oakland, we've won a lot of basketball games, but this is the first time that we've ever won a game because of our defense," Kampe said. "I think we played 40 minutes of incredible defense."

Kampe credited freshman Micah Parrish for his defensive effort on the perimeter, while praising Oladapo and Trey Townsend for their interior defense.

The defensive-minded win set a date with the Vikings — Williams' former team and the No. 1 seed in the tournament on Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. Both teams were set to duel for an NCAA Tournament bid, which would be the first for Cleveland State since 2009 and first for Oakland since 2011.

More in-depth coverage of Oakland's game against Cleveland State to go to the NCAA Tournament will be on oaklandpostonline.com, the Oakland Post's website.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKIP TOWNSEND
Jalen Moore and Rashad Williams high-five against the Northern Kentucky Norse in the Horizon semifinals. Oakland won against NKU, 69-58.

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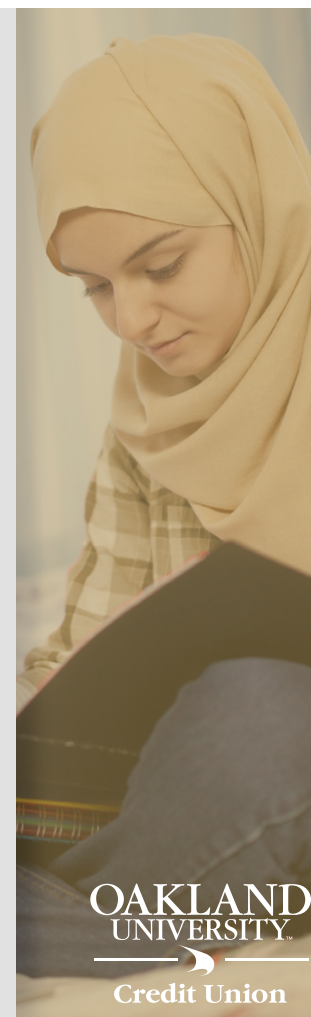
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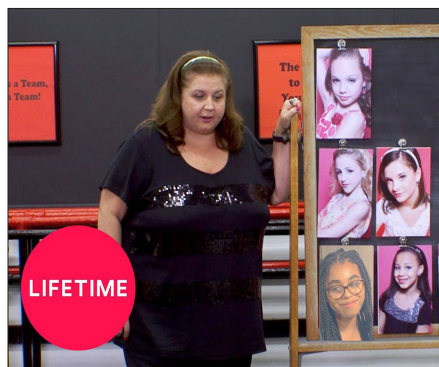
Being at the bottom of the pyramid on ‘Dance Moms’

CAYLA SMITH

Campus Editor

I started watching “Dance Moms” when I was 11-years-old and consistently watched it for years until my favorite dancers left — oh — and until Abby Lee got sent to federal prison.

Watching the show from the comfort of my living room couch, I had a lot of confidence in the dancer that I wasn’t.



MICHAEL PEARCE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Cayla Smith’s photo is in the left corner of the ‘Dance Moms’ top dancer list.

Meaning, I had a lot to say when I didn’t even know what a plié was, and I would almost always agree with Abby. Kendall and Paige are crybabies, and Brooke gave up on her potential.

I even pretended to be a dance instructor before I even took lessons and I began coaching my little sister.

How did I do that? Absolutely no idea, but I think she’s a great dancer. My parents finally put me in dance, and I was truly humbled.

For starters, apparently you have to be a great dancer to be on a competition team. After my first class, it was clear I would never go to nationals. I can not dance — despite my extensive “Dance Moms” experience. There are some things in this world that can not be taught.

I have very few redeeming traits, and dancing is NOT one of them. No, I’m not naming them.

Here is a list of why I would constantly be at the bottom of the pyramid:

Crying.

Dancing aside, I would just be at the bottom of the pyramid because of how much I would’ve cried from Abby just talking.

I’m a very sensitive person and I cry a lot. It’s very easy for me to cry, like if someone slightly raised their voice at me I would turn into a walking thunderstorm.

Abby yells a lot and throws chairs at

children. I would be kicked out of the room and placed on the bottom just for a voice crack when Abby asks me why I’m on the bottom.

I trip over my own two feet.

I consistently trip over air, and if I didn’t trip a minimum of 100 times in a week it would be an off week for me.

I’m about as coordinated as someone wearing heels for the very first time. Not a baby heel that your mom wants you to wear, but a “it’s my eighth grade graduation — I’m wearing heels” kind of heel.

I sprained my ankle in high school by landing on my own two feet. I would be at the bottom of the pyramid because I’m a liability — not to Abby — but to myself.

I would forget the routine.

My anxiety causes me to basically black out when performing, so I only remember walking on and off.

States in 2015 haunt me because I had a big part in a section, where I basically had a solo. I completely blew it because I was dancing on a sprained ankle and did not jump when I was supposed to, so I ended up standing as stiff as a wooden ruler for four counts.

This is the part where Abby would probably turn to Abby in the audience and try to get a reasonable answer out of her.

This mistake would cost everyone the group routine, I would get yelled at in the dressing room and benched at the next competition.

That actually happened, but at least my ankle partly recovered.

Just because she can.

Questioning Abby was a no-go, and I’m a very curious person.

My parents say that I never left my “why?” childhood phase. I could ask why I’m at the bottom, which would be followed by crying because Abby would yell at me for not knowing the answer to my own question.

Also, just out of spite. If Abby didn’t like you, she made sure that you knew.

I’ve gotten comfortable at the bottom of the pyramid, but with Abby out of the way, I would be a pretty decent dance instructor. I have my extensive watch history with the show, the forced practice with my sister, I won’t make children cry and to make up for my haunting mistake — I’ll make sure everyone gets through a full eight count.

Feminism isn’t enough, it’s time we demand male oppression

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

With it being International Women’s Month, I got to thinking about how feminism just isn’t doing it for me anymore. Equality between men and women? Absolutely not. Ladies, it’s about time we demand misandry. That’s right — we need to oppress men.

Feminism has far too long catered to men in assuring them we just want to be seen as the same. Babe, I am not the same. Men are smelly, naive and hormone driven — we can’t trust them with even the smallest amount of power.

The Y chromosome has spent too long being in the middle of everyone’s business, especially considering research points to it weakening over time. The Y already has less genes on it and evolution will not be kind. I’m starting to wonder why we ever thought that shrivelly little thing was superior.

There is simply nothing appealing about men and I don’t understand it. Their fragile egos have caused all of the world’s issues, from enslaving people of color they didn’t understand to destroying the environment for capitalistic gain. Who’s left to clean up the mess?

The age of girlbosses needs to come to a close. I don’t want to hear about white feminists shattering the glass ceiling, or whatever. We need to totally reverse the privilege pyramid and put men in their rightful place.

Feminism has been trying to right men’s wrongs for over 150 years, and it’s clear that it’s not enough.

Misandry presents the ultimate solution. The age of the white cishet man needs to come to a close.

With women at the helm, this ship would run much smoother. Finally, a person capable of empathy making decisions for the world.

Not only will misandry benefit women, non-binary folks and all patriarchy-affected people, but it will benefit men as well. No longer will they be hurting themselves in their confusion: a big strong woman can come along and take care of them.

With misandry, men will no longer fear being held accountable for sexual harassment and assault because they won’t have the power to threaten the women around them in the first place. Seems like a win-win situation to me.

Men might be thinking, “How will women even cope without us telling them what to do?” and that is so close to having validity. Yet, I think we’ll manage. Anything you can do, we can do better.

“But men dominate the workforce,” said @MerryMisogynist420 on Twitter. “Men make up 73.3% of Congress, 87% of engineers and 96.5% of firefighters. Get back in the kitchen, females.”

OK, and? Anybody can spray some water, build some bridges or vote no on life-saving legislation. Men are not special, women can do it in half the time with twice the style.

It’s time we place some respect on women and give them what they deserve. Feminism simply isn’t enough — it’s not intersectional enough, it’s not achieving enough, it’s not moving fast enough. At the current rate, it’ll take over 250 years for the gender pay gap to close.

I don’t deserve the same as my male counterparts, I deserve better. All of the ladies and non-binary people do. It’s time we got what we deserved.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALI SPAGNOLA