

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's  
Independent Student  
Newspaper

Feb. 7, 2018

## A TASTE OF AFRICA

CMI kicks off African-American Celebration Month with plenty of singing, dancing and good food  
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### BOT MEETING

Trustees report successful AUFD, plans for campus rec activities  
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### PETITION TO LANSING

OUSC joins other public universities to increase state funding  
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### ASK ORA

Students ask President Pescovitz questions in open forum  
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## onthe**web**

Women's basketball fell 86-76 against the Youngstown State Penguins.

Photo // Nicole Morsfield

[www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

**OAKLAND V. UIC FLAMES** // Oakland took a loss on the Blacktop at the O'rena on Friday, Feb 2. The Flames took the Golden Grizzlies in a nail-biting match that ended 79-73. Martez Walker led Oakland in scoring with 21 points.  
Photo // Sadie Layher

Submit a photo to [editor@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:editor@oaklandpostonline.com) to be featured. View all submissions at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

## POLL OF THE WEEK

What did you think of the Super Bowl?

- A** It's impossible for me to care less
- B** Fly Eagles, fly!
- C** The Tom Brady era is over
- D** The kid who took a selfie with JT tho

Vote at [www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

## LAST WEEK'S POLL

What do you think of Michigan State University and Larry Nassar?

- A) All MSU officials need to resign  
16 votes | 31%
- B) Judge Aquilina is my hero  
9 votes | 17%
- C) The survivors are my heros  
11 votes | 21%
- D) TIME'S UP LARRY. BYE.  
16 votes | 31%

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### February 10, 1967

Oakland University held its first casino-themed event, which is known today as Casino Night

### February 4, 1985

A Hamlin Hall resident was trapped inside one of the building's elevators, but records don't say how long

### February 10, 1986

Theta Chi became Oakland's first Greek organization and had campus' first Greek Cottage



5

### ISLAMOPHOBIA

America's fear of Islam goes back farther than the last decade  
Photo// Nicole Morsfield



12

### WINTERFEST

The annual BYOB was a hit among Golden Grizzly fans this year  
Photo// Sadie Layher



18

### RECOVERY PARK

An Oakland alum turned his life around and now benefits the community  
Photo// RecoveryPark Farms

BY THE  
NUMBERS  
**TRUMP & RUSSIA**

51

Communications with Trump campaigners and Russians in 2016

12%

Of Trump associates had contact with Russia in 2016

19

Face-to-face meetings took place

0

Answers the Nunes memo gives on the subject

## BOT approves high ropes course



Elyse Gregory / The Oakland Post

Richard DeVore and President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz speak to attendees of the Feb. 5 Board of Trustees meeting.

**Laurel Kraus**  
Life Editor

The Oakland University Board of Trustees met on Monday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. in Banquet Room A of the Oakland Center. Beginning with the President's Report, President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz focused on the 2017 All-University Fund Drive and its achievements compared to previous years. Other items included two distinguished professor appointments, and the approval of a lease agreement for a high ropes course on campus.

### President's 2017 All-University Fund Drive

The AUFD is an annual employee and retired employee drive that dates back to the 1970s and is one of the top two annual giving campaigns every year.

The proceeds benefit various areas of the university such as scholarships, initiatives, departments and student organizations. This past year, Pescovitz pledged to match 20 percent of the drive's overall earnings with her personal funds but decided to round up to \$160,000 to provide 16 fundraising groups on campus with \$10,000 each.

"Winston Churchill is thought to have said, 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give,' Pescovitz said while introducing the drive.

With the inclusion of Pescovitz's gift, the 2017 AUFD raised a total of \$823,796 through the participation of 1,019 donors, which is a 71 percent increase over 2016.

### Distinguished professor appointments

Terri L. Orbuch and Frank Giblin were appointed by Provost James Lentini to the rank of distinguished professor.

Orbuch, professor of sociology, has been at

Oakland since August of 1998 where she has grown to gain national recognition as 'the love doctor' for her work with interpersonal relationship research. Her EYM (Early Years of Marriage) project is the longest longitudinal study of African-American couples. Orbuch's literary accomplishments include the publication of four books, 11 book chapters and 13 refereed journal articles.

Giblin joined OU in August 1974 and is currently the director and professor of The Eye Research Institute. He is considered one of the world's leading experts on oxidative stress of crystalline lens, whose work with the formation of cataracts has contributed to science's understanding of the condition.

Through his time at Oakland, he has participated in 50 committees, written 110 peer-reviewed articles and trained nearly 20 post-doctoral researchers.

### High ropes adventure and challenge course

A high ropes adventure and challenge course will be among the grand openings on campus in fall of 2018. The course will be placed on three acres of empty property on Walton and Adams through a partnership with Auburn Fly LLC.

The two and half to three hour experience will not only be an addition to campus recreational activities, but will also create the opportunity for student jobs, co-ops and internships.

Normal ticket prices will be between \$30 and \$50, but a student discount will bring the price down to around \$20. Oakland will join six other Michigan universities with some form of ropes course.

The Board of Trustees will meet next on April 9 at 2 p.m. in the Oakland Center's Banquet Room A.



THE OAKLAND  
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**Corrections Corner:** Last week, a quote was misattributed to women's Track and Field coach Tanisha Johnson. The quote came from PACE Assistant Director, Amy Olind.

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



# National Survey of Student Engagement to capture campus climate

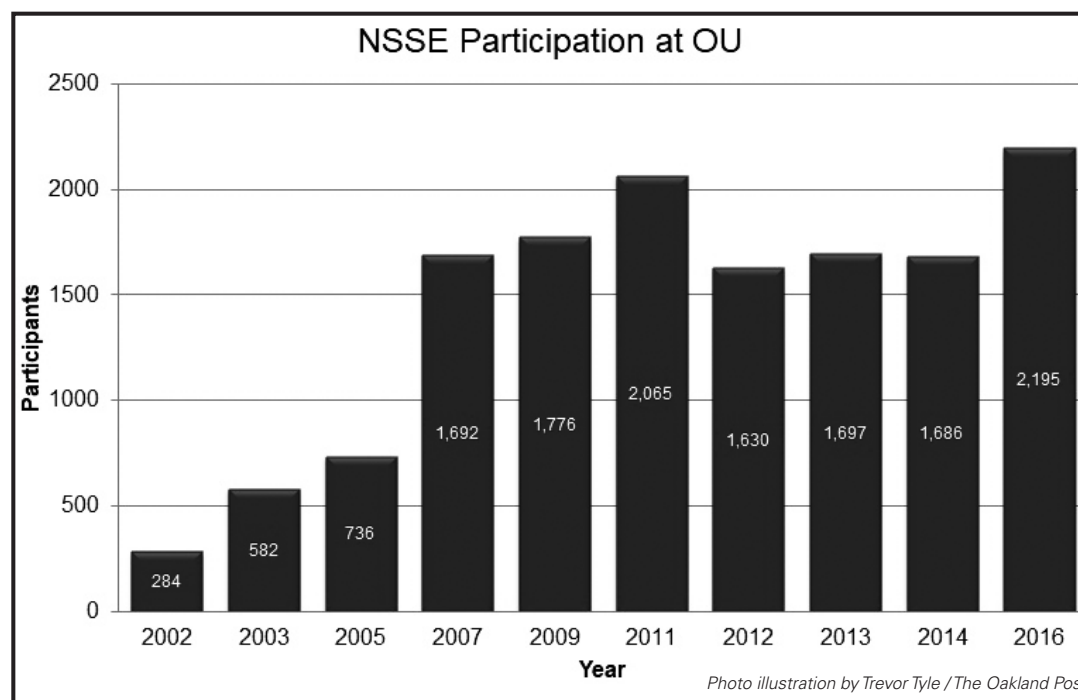
Trevor Tyle  
Campus Editor

The biennial National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will be emailed to freshman and senior undergraduate students on Feb. 15.

The survey is offered at universities around the country and is used as an opportunity for students to provide feedback on their college experience. The data collected gives schools more insight into how to improve the quality of their educational opportunities.

"It's something that the administration looks at to make policies that affect students, to better understand how we can improve, and to see how we're doing relative to our peers," said Susanne Condon, assessment coordinator for the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA). "It's important for us to know if students are getting the types of educational experiences that they are setting out here to do."

Many of the survey's questions pertain to how students spend their time on and off-campus, the content of the courses they have taken and their interactions with



various on-campus resources and employees. When the NSSE was last administered in 2016, it found that students' experiences with academic advisers were rated high, while employees in other administrative offices, such as the registrar

and financial aid, received lower scores.

"We're ecstatic to see the increase in the appreciation of the advising that happens in the first year," said Sara Webb, director of the First Year Advising Center.

Condon said there have been efforts to make services "more student-focused and easier for students to navigate" in response to the low ratings they received in 2016.

"We just want to emphasize that

students' voices are heard on this survey and that we take the information that they report very seriously and we use it to improve their experiences," she said.

In addition to the impact the NSSE's results can have on the improvement of campus as a whole, students who choose to participate will be entered in a drawing to win Oakland University gear, including OU water bottles, baseball hats, power boosts and hoodies.

The OIRA is hopeful that the incentives offered will lead to an increase in overall student feedback. The 2016 survey had 2,195 participants, an all-time high that they hope to exceed this year.

"By participating, it's really allowing students to give us the feedback we're going to need to do better—to do better as an institution, to do better in how we interact with them and to really benchmark what we're providing," Webb said. "Students have choices of where they want to go to college, and we want to be a place that is doing the best that we can do for our students."

Once it opens, the NSSE will be available for students to take until the end of March.

## Michigan universities ask for more state funding

*OUSC leads the way to ask state government for additional funding for student activities*

Simon Albaugh  
Social Media Editor

Michigan universities have come together on one of the most pressing issues to a healthy, functioning public university system: state appropriations.

Universities depend on the Michigan government to assist in the cost of running a public university. This aid helps provide a more affordable cost of attendance and a better quality education for students.

The problem is the aid that Michigan provides to colleges has remained stagnant over the years, according to a petition asking for an audience in Lansing. And factoring in the increased cost of administrations and student services, tuition increases are becoming a serious problem for a large number of students.

Need for this move is happening

while spending on correctional facilities has remained the same at approximately \$2 billion, despite a sharp decrease in the prison population.

The Detroit News reported that this means a proposed increase of \$1,480 per prisoner was drafted last year, while K-12 students saw an increase of only \$100 per student. So the issue is not whether college students are upset over the higher rate of tuition, but rather the fact that a matter of dwindling importance is one of the reasons for tuition hikes.

Oakland University Student Congress President Lena Mishack talked about some of the side-effects of tuition increases. The problems all stem from an increasing financial burden that can make student life difficult, jeopardizing the academic ability of students.

"It doesn't allow equal opportunity for all students in Michigan to get a

quality education," Mishack said.

So the solution was to hold a conference to highlight the issue to other universities and to establish a common goal among all Michigan college students. But Mishack's administration found there were similar projects already being planned.

"We've almost assembled a sort of task force with schools across Michigan," she said.

OUSC Legislative Affairs Director, Ryan Fox, talked about some of the details involved with the process, involving coordination with other student governments and the local representatives of college campuses.

"We're going to send a letter to the governor's office for the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget," Fox said. "We have a number of representatives we've been working with. So we're very excited for the efforts we've made and I think it's going to gain traction and

hopefully go on for years."

But the biggest issue involved with this is the sense of time. Each student has four years to improve campus life, and each OUSC President has one term to make the most lasting benefits.

Part of the goal of OUSC is to ensure that this becomes a continued issue that each ensuing administration creates pressure for in Michigan government.

"What we really want to push for is the next administration," Mishack said. "When we're transitioning them and presenting them with all the work we've done this year so far, it's really encouraging them to take on this issue now that there's communications with all the universities."

For more information or to sign the online petition to increase state appropriations for Michigan's public universities, visit the petition at [change.org](http://change.org).





Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Wayne State Professor Saeed Khan discussed the origins of Islamophobia on Feb. 1 in O'Dowd Hall.

# Muslims in America: The Canary In The Coal Mine

Mary Siring  
Staff Reporter

Islamophobia is seemingly a modern American issue, but the roots of this hatred and fear highlight a larger flaw. Professor Saeed Khan discussed Islamophobia on Feb. 1 in O'Dowd Hall, introducing the point that Islamophobia is a threat to all.

Khan is currently in the Department of History and a lecturer in the Department of Near East & Asian Studies at Wayne State University.

"You may have encountered Dr. Khan via the mass media," said Alan Epstein, a special lecturer at Oakland University. "He has contributed to C-SPAN, NPR, Voice of America and the National Press Club. He also is a consultant for Middle Eastern affairs on BBC. He is, surely, an intellectual force of nature."

Back when there were coal mines, miners used to put canaries in cages down the mine shaft to test the gases in the shaft. It's also used as a metaphor for being a barometer or a test for not just a coal mine.

"In many ways, Muslim Americans have become the preverbal canary in the coal mine of an evolving American Society," Khan said. "The treatment of Muslim Americans today in this time, not compared to other demographic groups who were certainly subject to some difficult treatment in America's history, is really showing the direction and the trajectory of the United States today and how various demographic groups, individually as well as collectively, are going to be treated."

In August of 2010, Time magazine featured the question "Is America Islamophobic?" on the cover. This cover is historic for several reasons, one being that it is the first

time a major media outlet had actually used the word Islamophobia or its derivative in the U.S.

2010 also marked a time where Islamophobia was at its highest, even in comparison to its previous highpoint in 2001 after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. During this time was a flurry of activity trying at the state legislative level, to pass laws which would ban Sharia law. This tactic is not new. In the 1870s, the Blaine Amendments were proposed to target "problematic" Catholics.

"Now, some of these same amendments are being used against people of other faiths," Khan said. "You see the language, the legal construction of these pieces of legislation, having an awful lot in common."

Multiple legislative efforts are being seen to inhibit rights for particular groups including voter laws, immigration laws, reproductive rights and access, same sex marriage and labor issues.

"At a rate of 80 percent, a legislator at a state level who was trying to pass an anti-sharia law was 80 percent likely to try to pass a law in one of those other five categories," Khan said. "This showed a confirmation that those who were targeting Muslims and anti-sharia legislation weren't just targeting Muslims."

Islamophobia is not a disease unto itself, but a symptom of a bigger disease that is plaguing America at this time, according to Khan.

"Muslims have been a part of a changing America landscape for centuries," he said. "Far from being a pernicious, invasive, alien or foreign entity, we find then that these issues are code for a deeper and more racial, not religion based, discourse about America."

## Kindness Week on campus

Student organizations advocate for social awareness

Jordan Jewell  
Staff Intern

Kindness Week is a yearly event at Oakland University put on by the Center for Student Activities. Between Feb. 5 and Feb. 9 student organizations will be putting on activities for students that encourage kindness, social awareness and self care.

This year Hannah Clark, a graduate assistant of leadership and service learning, has coordinated the majority of the events. A form was provided on GrizzOrgs allowing student organizations to submit ideas for events.

"We have many departments and student organizations participating in this week, as well as an opportunity for students to participate in a campus kindness scavenger hunt," Clark said. "For a full listing of events and to sign up for the scavenger hunt, check out the CSA Facebook page."

The week will kick off with "The Art of Kindness," a talk given by Vincent Thurman. The presentation was held on Monday, Feb. 5 in Gold Room C in the Oakland Center.

Thurman began his "Hug Me Project" at Central Michigan University as a way of showing support to others through hugs, fist bumps and high fives. In his informational and inspirational video, he states that, "Even if someone's having a bad day, it can give them one single moment of happiness," he said.

The presentation centered around

ways students can spread kindness throughout Oakland's campus.

The Golden Key Honor Society invites all Oakland students to join them on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at noon. "We will be hosting our seventeenth annual PB&J Sandwich Making Day," said Caroline Wallis, Golden Key Honor Society president.

All sandwiches will be donated to the Detroit Salvation Army's Bed and Bread program and will help to feed the homeless population of Detroit.

"The event will take place in Banquet Room B from 12—1 p.m. and we are hoping to make about 3,000 sandwiches," Wallis said. "If you're looking for a quick and easy way to give back to the community, this event is a great opportunity."

The Asian American Association will be hosting a Kindness Notes activity in the hallway next to Au Bon Pain in the Oakland Center on Thursday, Feb. 8. Students are welcome to stop by anytime between noon and 3 p.m. to write a positive note that will later be posted around campus.

The CSA will also be hosting an Instagram challenge. In order to participate, students must participate in 5 kindness activities and post them to Instagram using the hashtag "#OUKindnessWeek."

Other events this week include Tutoring with Kindness, DIY Self Love Jars and Kindness Rocks. For a full list of events and times, be sure to visit the CSA Facebook page or stop by the CSA trailer outside the OC.

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# The past and future of human communities

**Sadie Layher**  
Staff Reporter

Rosemarie Garland-Thompson spoke on “The Future of Humanity: How We Shape Human Communities,” and specifically the communities and culture of people with disabilities on Thursday, Feb. 1.

The lecture was held as part of the College of Arts and Sciences’ unity and diversity program led by Kathleen Pfeiffer, professor of English. Garland-Thompson, beyond being a professor at Oakland University, is currently in the process of fulfilling her graduate degree in bioethics.

Her argument throughout the lecture was focused on three separate points about modern societies: shaping human communities, liberal eugenics and making as well as supporting disability culture.

According to her paraphrase of the eugenic definition, it is “the science of improving a human population by controlled breeding to increase the occurrence of desirable heritable characteristics.”

The first point was history in regards to old eugenics from the 19th century until 1945. It included the study of what was considered “good genes.” This mainly included what Nazi Germany did with its “disabled.” Hitler described these people

as “unworthy and economically draining.”

The famous legal case, *Buck v. Bell*, was a key part in the theory of eugenics coming into the United States.

Eugenics Archive reported “in the *Buck vs. Bell* decision of May 2, 1927, the United States Supreme Court upheld a Virginia statute that provided for the eugenic sterilization for people considered genetically unfit. The Court’s decision, delivered by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., included the infamous phrase “Three generations of imbeciles are enough.”

It was also claimed it did not violate the 14th Amendment of due process.

The next theory Garland-Thompson brought up was new eugenics from 1946-today. This housed more of the liberal eugenics.

“Liberal eugenics, [is] the moral obligation to create children with the best chance of the best life,” she said.

Garland-Thompson mentioned how scientists and those in bioethics are trying to fix genes so people can have what they think is the best quality of life. Iceland was discussed as they eradicated down syndrome according to Garland-Thompson.

Human rights covenants were brought up frequently throughout the presentation. The definition Garland-Thompson wrote was covenants “offer understanding



Sadie Layher / The Oakland Post

Rosemarie Garland-Thompson spoke about eugenics and the culture of people with disabilities.

of all human beings and are born equally in dignity and in rights.” This was also a part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

More modernly, the ADA Act (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and 2009) made it so people with disabilities are treated fairly and often times it comes into play when building so there are ADA accessible bathrooms and elevators. This Act received bipartisan support from Congress and branches into Oakland and the new residence hall, Hillcrest Hall.

“Change the environment not the per-

son, protect rather than regularize, abide rather than improve, accommodate rather than eliminate,” Garland-Thompson said.

She would like attitudes to change because there will always be more work to do. A few examples would be increasing access, building communities and cultivating leadership.

“The future of humanity is being shaped actively through implementing disability rights covenants,” Garland-Thompson said. “Disability rights covenants strengthen support for disability culture, presence and awareness across all institutions.”

## POLICE FILES

### Basketball Brawl

An individual arrived at the Oakland University Police Departments’ station to report he had been assaulted by another male while playing a pickup game of basketball at the Oakland RecWell on Dec. 8, 2017. The two had gotten into a heated argument due to a call on the court, at which point the assailant threw the ball and hit the complainant and then proceeded to punch him in the face. The complainant described that he was unable to defend himself, as he was being held by another student attempting to break up the fight. Officers attempted multiple times to contact the suspected assailant, but no contact could be made.

### Books, sweatshirts and thievery- oh my!

On Jan. 2, at 12:20 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Oakland Center Barnes and Noble Bookstore for retail theft. A description of the suspect was given, and an individual matching that description was seen outside the OC. He originally had a receipt for a bookstore transaction and was released, but was identified again by a bookstore employee and was stopped again. His vehicle was searched at which point the stolen items as well as a 45 ACP Smith and Wesson pistol were discovered. Including textbooks, sweatshirts, a water bottle and folders, the individual had stolen \$950.24 worth of merchandise. The individual was not charged with a crime. The Oakland County Jail refused admittance on a misdemeanor charge, so the individual was released.

### Chicken?

Officers were dispatched on Jan. 17 at 11:21 p.m. to investigate a domestic assault injury. The complainant was inside her apartment common area crying when officers made contact. She had bruising on her left elbow, right wrist and right side of her chin as well as lacerations above the right side of her lip and on the right side of her forehead. She said that two days before, on Jan. 15 when the incident had taken place, her and her boyfriend of five years had gotten into an argument about chicken, in which she left to go to her car, upset. Her boyfriend followed her into her car and slapped her. The two exited, at which point he threw ice and snow at her face. She returned to her apartment and called OUPD after another verbal argument on Jan. 17. OUPD has since attempted to locate the assailant.

Compiled by Mary Siring,  
Staff Reporter

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# Students get a 'Taste of Africa'

Ariel Themm  
Staff Reporter

The Center of Multicultural Initiatives (CMI) hosted its "Taste of Africa" event on Friday, Feb. 2 in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms as part of African-American Celebration Month.

The event featured African and African-American cuisine along with singing, dancing and spoken word performances. Roughly 80 volunteers were recruited to help with a variety of jobs such as greeting, serving food and helping with the activities offered.

Since it was open to the public, CMI's goal was to host a family-friendly event with activities including craft tables. Because of this, all the performances that were featured had previously been reviewed to ensure that the material used was appropriate for all ages.

"In the past, we've had Nigerian students come together and perform various singing and dancing traditions of their culture," said Denise Jones, the CMI retention coordinator. "Since that group graduated, we've stopped looking for outside sources

and focused more on OU students' community. We had a newer group from OU called the Abstract Dancing Company join in the celebration as well."

The food spread featured Ethiopian food such as Tomarri Cabbage Curry, along with soul food like catfish and collard greens. There were also vegetarian options to ensure that all guests felt included.

"I am really happy that this event is getting attention, and I feel very optimistic about it since it seems to be more inclusive," said OU freshman Chieme Nwachukwu. "I first came to America in 2006 from Nigeria and it was a different shift in everything. I had to adjust to the American culture and quickly get acclimated, yet I still faced bullying in schools for things like my accent. I think an event like this could remind me of where I grew up, of my home. There are over 100 different languages and cultures in that beautiful continent, which stressed the importance of having authentic displays through food and dancing."

The focus of the event was to help the community learn about and celebrate the



Brendan Tirola / The Oakland Post

In celebration of Black History Month, CMI provided cultural foods, songs and dances at 'Taste of Africa'.

African-American culture. CMI hoped that through the event's blend of historical, cultural and popular entertainment, guests could enjoy and connect with the performances.

"I think if next year they could incorporate a masquerade that would fit perfectly for their theme of Africa," Nwachukwu said. "There's nothing that Africans like more than getting together for a party."

However, he still believes the sentiment of the event is important for encouraging

diversity on campus.

"I think it's great that there's a whole month to celebrate people of color, but I'm more of an advocate of it being a 365 day deal with more representation for people of color all the time, while adding an extension of that to Africans too," Nwachukwu said. "In terms of minority, I'm African, so I don't see lots of representation for my culture. This event is really encouraging because it only adds to me being proud of my heritage."

## THE OAKLAND POST IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2018-19 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 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 the 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 and financial advisers
- 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 and a tuition stipend. Position effective late April 2018

Applications will be accepted through Feb. 17, 2018. Applicants can send a resume, cover letter and work samples to editorial adviser Garry Gilbert at [gjgilber@oakland.edu](mailto:gjgilber@oakland.edu)



# Ask Ora tackles serious college issues

*President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz talks sexual assault, construction remodelling*

Shelby Tankersley  
Editor-in-Chief

After a month of turbulent events around the country surrounding sexual harassment, assault and trust of higher education officials, Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz sat down with students to answer their questions and address concerns during the second Ask Ora open forum. Pescovitz was joined by Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer Glenn McIntosh at the Jan. 31 event that took place in the Oakland Center's Gold Rooms.

Questions were asked in person, via email and on Twitter through the hashtag #AskOra. Getting through more questions than the last Ask Ora event, the president addressed a wide spectrum of issues. Some of the questions and answers are highlighted below.

**I am a doctoral student in reading language arts. I am, I think, the only African-American male in my program... What is the university doing to recruit more men of color within its doctoral programs?**

**McIntosh:** About a year ago we issued a climate survey and when we got our results back it gave us a snapshot of how we looked in our faculty, staff and student ranks. Since that time, we've comprised a diversity council and one of the things we're looking at is students at the graduate and undergraduate level and asking the question, "Do we have representation of all groups?" And as Ora said, that comprises of a number of different categories. When it comes to African-American males, it's really letting various communities know that we have outstanding programs at the master's and doctoral level and that we have opportunities for them to come here.

**The main reason I commute instead of live in the dorms is the lack of kosher food... What steps are being done to bring more kosher food to campus?**

**Pescovitz:** ... I've been asked this question a few times and I do know that we are very interested in being a warm and welcoming community to as many students as possible. This would not just include kosher food but halal food as well... We are very interested as we expand [the Oakland Center]... and we want there to be more food choices.

**How do you plan to fix the little things [in some of the buildings] that can't have a full remodel?**



Photos by Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

Pescovitz and Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President of Student Affairs, Glenn McIntosh, answered questions ranging from building maintenance to the growing music program in Varner Hall.

**McIntosh:** We have a pretty lengthy deferred maintenance list. So it's really about setting priorities. As we upgrade some of the buildings it allows us to do some of the deferred maintenance in those buildings... Our list is pretty long, as you can imagine, for a university our age. So it is just about setting priorities.

**What is Oakland University doing to ensure that male and female athletes, as well as students in general, are safe from sexual harassment similar to what MSU is currently experiencing?**

**Pescovitz:** This is a topic that I think is, first of all, of the utmost importance. Let me just start by saying that the events of the recent couple of months, which re-

ally as we know have been going on for now many years, has really shaken our entire state... My heart bleeds, really, for the victims of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual assault... This could happen anywhere, and it probably does happen much more commonly than we realize. The first thing we have to think about is if anyone is aware of such an episode anywhere... you need to report this. We have wonderful ways to report things here at Oakland University. We have an amazing police department and we have available to us here, a reporting system. We have handouts that we brought with us today... And there are probably suspicious episodes happening here. We would never say there are not



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

## Diversity Inclusion Pledge

At Ask Ora, faculty, staff and students signed a Diversity Inclusion Pledge that served as a goal for the university community to be open and welcome to all. Encouraging community members to "stand up, stand strong and stand together," the hope of administrators is that the pledge will decrease bullying and increase reporting of suspicious events on campus.

things happening here. And that's why people need to be vigilant and aware.

**With the music program growing so much, practice space [in Varner Hall] is really becoming an issue. Anytime between 12-6 p.m., there's no space for us to practice. So we're ending up sitting in Varner until 2 a.m. or 3 a.m. just to get practice space.**

**Pescovitz:** Why don't we get you some time with our facilities people? I see the right people here that you need to meet with and they will follow up with you... It's not like you don't want to work hard, we're just not giving you the access, right? We want you to practice hard!

*Listen to the full forum online.*



## Release of the **anticlimactic** memo



**John Bozick**  
Web Editor

The Twitter hashtag #ReleaseTheMemo has been trending among right-wing twitter accounts in recent weeks over reports that House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes (R., Calif.) would soon release a memo that some believed would finally nail crooked Hillary Clinton and the DNC and bring an end

the Russia Investigation. Well, shortly after President Donald Trump's State of the Union address, the controversial memo has been released, yet is it really as important as Twitter has made it seem?

The memo, which was originally written by House Republicans led by Chairman Devin Nunes, allegedly states that the FBI abused their use of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) during the investigation into Russian meddling during the 2016 presidential election. The memo's release was surrounded in controversy as lawmakers on both sides of the aisle pondered its release.

While the memo's release was originally thought to confirm a longstanding conspiracy theory involving the Russia Investigation being sparked by Hillary Clinton and the Democratic National Committee paying off former Trump campaign aide Christopher Steele,

the memo actually does no such thing.

“..The dossier really has nothing to do with George Papadopoulos' meeting in Great Britain. It also doesn't have anything to do with obstruction of justice.”

Trey Gowdy  
Republican Representative

Instead it simply points out the FBI sought to obtain a warrant in order to wiretap former Trump campaign aid Carter Page, nothing pertaining to the DNC, Hillary Clinton, or even Steele himself was mentioned in the memo. Despite cries that it discredited the Russia Investigation, some members of congress denied this, in fact some members of the very same body that released the

memo think this way.

Republican Representative Trey Gowdy, a key member of the House Intelligence committee, denied reports that the memo was involved in the Russia investigation stating, “To the extent the memo deals with the dossier and the FISA process, the dossier has nothing to do with the meeting at Trump Tower.”

“The dossier has nothing to do with an email sent by Cambridge Analytica,” he said. The dossier really has nothing to do with George Papadopoulos' meeting in Great Britain. It also doesn't have anything to do with obstruction of justice.”

Gowdy's comments contradict those of Trump who tweeted that he believed the memo discredited the Russia Investigation as nothing more than a witch hunt against him.

“This memo totally vindicates ‘Trump’ in probe,” he tweeted. But the Russian Witch

Hunt goes on and on. Their was no Collusion and there was no Obstruction (the word now used because, after one year of looking endlessly and finding NOTHING, collusion is dead)."

“This is an American disgrace!”

Yet after months of jargon by Trump and his allies pushing for the memo's release, in the end, like most things pushed by Trump and his allies, nothing of worth has come from its release. There was no confirmation of a partisan attempt to take down Trump's presidency and the Russia Investigation is still ongoing.

Not only has the controversy surrounding the memos release shown the harshness of the partisan divide in congress, but it has also shown the disturbing discontent between the White House under the Trump administration and their own FBI and Justice Department.

## OPINION: Considering life on Lincoln's birthday

Perspective on nation wide controversial topic regarding the matter of a woman's choice

Isaac Martin  
Political Contributor

*“Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed.”*  
-Abraham Lincoln

As we commemorate America's 16th President's 209th birthday, our country lies in similar straits as antebellum America: deeply divided and riven with strife. One of the most controversial issues faced by our society as a nation is abortion. According to the Pew Forum, 57 percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Though popular opinion is important, I believe the majority of Americans are wrong.

### Is it a life?

People object to the pro-life message because they don't believe the fetus is a child. So when does life b

egin? It appears to me there are only three choices: life must start either before fertilization, at fertilization or after fertilization.

Life can't begin before fertilization: sperm don't spontaneously become babies. If life begins after fertilization, it would be tough to pinpoint the exact instant it begins.

We know toddlers don't simply appear, they were babies first. But that begs the innocent question, where do babies come from? They couldn't have just materialized, and so we continue going farther and farther back in the progression. This really leaves only one true choice: life must begin at fertilization. Before conception there exist two disparate entities that can not produce life of themselves. At conception, they unite and life begins.

### I'm pro-life, except...

Many people will agree to the above and yet are quick to mention excep-

tions where abortion is deemed morally acceptable. They argue abortion is justified in cases of rape, incest or when the mother is young and struggling financially. All of these cases are very difficult.

Imagine a child who was born into a life of poverty. Would it be right for the mother to kill that born child because of her financial difficulties? Their lives would be difficult, yet no one would say to that mom “you should kill your child so you can live better.” Why then is it right to kill a pre-born child? Imagine someone else, a teenage girl, who has been kidnapped in a big city and raped, finding out later she's pregnant.

Well, that's Leanna's story.

### From abuse to love

Pro-life speaker Stephanie Gray, in a talk last summer at Google, shared Leanna's story with the tech giant's employees. Growing up in Mexico City, Leanna was kidnapped by two

men and brutally raped over the course of two days when she was 12 years old.

The experience was horrific. When Leanna found out that she was pregnant, her doctor offered her abortion. She asked if it would help her forget the rape or help ease her suffering. The doctor shook his head and Leanna declined the abortion.

In the coming months after the rape, Leanna's life became hellish. No matter how many times she showed, she could not get rid of the filthy feeling.

Thoughts of suicide began flitting to and fro in her mind. Yet, whenever her mind turned toward suicide, she remembered she had a child and had to care not only for herself, but also for the child. These thoughts sustained her and kept her from killing herself. Leanna had saved her daughter, but her daughter really saved her.

What grows in the womb isn't simply a fetus, it's a life.



# This week in the

## ‘Phantom Thread’ *doesn’t quite fit the eye of the needle*

Falin Hakeem // Staff Reporter



Photo courtesy of IMDb

When I first saw the trailer for Paul Thomas Anderson’s “Phantom Thread” and heard about all of the Oscar buzz it was receiving, I thought “Daniel Day-Lewis as a costume designer? This should be riveting.” But after leaving the theater, I felt as if the film’s plot should’ve unraveled a lot more than it did.

Set in London during the 1950s, “Phantom Thread” is about the life of an esteemed, and also fussy, dress-maker Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis), who dresses all kinds of royalty, celebrities and socialites in the prestigious House of Woodcock.

The film begins with Woodcock eating breakfast with his wife Johanna (Camila Rutherford), and not exactly enjoying it or her company for that matter, as he is a notorious bachelor. Reynolds proceeds to go out for some fresh air and meets a waitress named Alma (Vicky Krieps) who quickly becomes his lover and his muse. Reynolds’ perfectly stitched world starts to tear apart once she starts living with he and his sister.

My favorite aspect of the film had to be the intertwining triangle woven between Reynolds, Alma and Cyril, Reynolds’ beloved sister (Leslie Manville). Cyril was definitely one of the most critical parts of the film. She is the only family Reynolds has, and she is his right hand and consultant in all matters, whether it be clients or Alma. I thought Manville did a brilliant job in

her portrayal, without even really saying much. At one point Alma came to Cyril to get her approval on surprising Reynolds with a dinner. But, of course Alma went ahead and did it after Cyril advised against it. I think you can predict how that went.

Now there were other aspects of the film I very much appreciated and adored even, such as Day-Lewis’ performance of the controlling perfectionist that is Reynolds as well as Krieps’ portrayal of the headstrong Alma. Not to mention the beautiful gowns and attention to detail with each close-up shot of a character’s face.

However, I felt as if I was constantly waiting for something more to happen. I needed more to happen. I needed that shock value you crave when watching a film that is so captivating visually. I typically have patience when watching lengthier films, especially ones that seem so promising. But “Phantom” dragged on quite a bit, like the tail of a wedding gown designed by non-other than House of Woodcock.

When I left the theater, the film did not trace back to my mind throughout the entire day, almost like it was a ghost. “Phantom Thread” tried hard, and for that I give Day-Lewis and Anderson credit, especially with it being Day-Lewis’ final performance before retiring.

**Rating: 3/5 stars**

## ‘Devilman Crybaby’ *proves a wild ride with riveting plot*

Cheyenne Kramer // Managing Editor

**Warning:** This review contains minor spoilers of the first episode of “Devilman Crybaby.”

The 1970s were a very different time for anime. Works like “Mobile Suit Gundam” and “Lupin The Third” were dominating the market. These were a far cry from today’s hits like “My Hero Academia” and “Madoka Magica.”

One work from the ‘70s stands out as revolutionary, cutting edge and rife with controversy—Go Nagai’s “Devilman.” In January 2017, “Devilman” got its first anime to follow the entirety of Nagai’s manga series, stylized as “Devilman Crybaby.”

In “Crybaby’s” first episode, we follow Akira, a high school boy living in Japan, who rescues his friend Miki from a dock where she’s being harassed by a group of freestyle rappers. His childhood friend, Ryo, shows up with a machine gun and runs off with Akira, telling him about the existence of demons.

Ryo tells Akira they have to prove that a recent string of crimes are related to this increase in demonic activity. Akira agrees and finds himself in a nightclub filled with young people engaging in what all young people do: Taking drugs from strangers and having sex.

That is until Ryo says demons need blood to appear, breaks a bottle and murders innocent club goers. Suddenly, demons are appearing inside of hu-

mans, tearing them to pieces and nearly killing Akira. But instead of dying, Akira becomes possessed by the demon “champion” Amon, a man with the body of a demon and the heart of a human and becomes a man.

This summary seems all over the place, and it is. The plot doesn’t stay still for all 10 episodes, taking you through a variety of interesting side characters and plots, building up the world of “Crybaby” into something nearly unmatched in any anime of its length.

The show is heartbreaking, as well as absolutely disgusting. There’s some intense gore and violence and scenes that made me cringe from how absolutely disgusting they were, so this show isn’t for the faint of heart. But what it does well, it does very well. It has some of the most amazing music I’ve seen in an anime in years, while making frequent callbacks and references to the original “Devilman” of the ‘70s.

The art style is a weird blend of realism and absurdism. The scenes are timed perfectly with animation cuts and movements, making you feel like you’re right in the middle of the action.

“Crybaby” excels with its characters. Many side characters get enough time to shine on their own, and their character arcs are well developed and interesting.

The downsides of the show have to be the afore-

mentioned sex and violence. This isn’t a show for everyone. It’s one of the few anime free from any and all censorship. There’s many scenes that make you question your morals, and make you feel disgusting for even watching. If you’re sensitive to a shows content, I highly recommend seeking out a list of potential triggers before viewing.

But when all is said and done, “Crybaby” is filled with believable and well-executed characters and storylines. The music is phenomenal, and though the animation can be off-putting, it’s refreshing compared to the usual anime style we see.

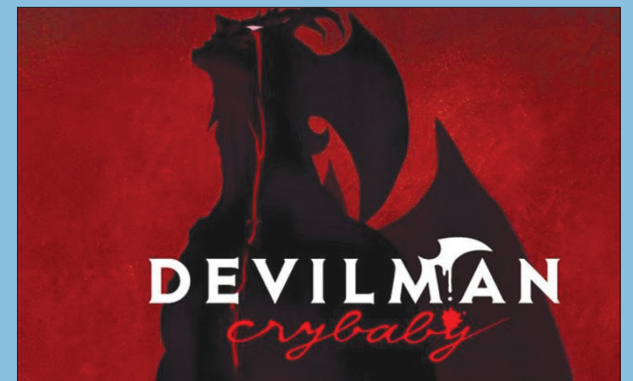


Photo courtesy of Netflix



# news and reviews...

## *'This is Us' Super Bowl episode* will obliterate your soul

Falin Hakeem // Staff Reporter

**Warning:** This review contains spoilers.

If the New England Patriots losing to the Philadelphia Eagles didn't have much of an effect on you—side-eyeing all of you Philly fans—the special “This is Us” episode that premiered right after Sunday's game surely had to have ripped your heart out, spit on it and stomped all over it with shoes made out of glass.

The episode, respectively titled “Super Bowl Sunday,” finally revealed beloved TV dad Jack Pearson's (Milo Ventimiglia) fate, which is the elephant in the room that fans have been waiting to be acknowledged for almost two whole seasons. I know, take a minute to breathe. Or two. Maybe bring your inhaler? Never mind, just take the day off work.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the show, football is a huge deal in the Pearson household. The episode started off with a flashback from that fateful night of the Super Bowl that happened thirty-something years ago, switching back to scenes of the present, and how Rebecca (Mandy Moore), Kate (Chrissy Metz), Kevin (Justin Hartley) and Randall (Sterling K. Brown) all spend their Super Bowl Sunday in real time. The way Rebecca spends hers, of course, making Jack's favorite dish, lasagna, and watching the game was the most heart-wrenching of them all to watch. Let's not even get started on the two laughs thing.

In true “This is Us” fashion, the story of how Jack's death happened was not exactly what fans were expecting. In the episode prior, we learned it definitely had to do with their Crock-Pot that had a finicky switch, gifted to them from the family who used to live in the house, and a battery-less smoke detector.

Naturally, fans thought they knew what lied ahead in the next episode but boy, were they wrong. When Jack realized the house was on fire, he managed to safely get himself, Rebecca, Kate, Randall and their dog Louie (surprise!) along with a bag of family memories out of the house, which is not we all saw coming. He then dies of smoke inhalation, which came as a shock to many.

It is a sense of relief that we finally know how Jack's death happened after spending countless amounts of hours putting together pieces of the puzzle every week. But at the same time, it is vastly unsettling. It feels like there's nothing to live for anymore. What happens now? I imagine this this is how the characters in the show feel, especially Rebecca, whose performance during the hospital scene shook me to my rotting core. The pain she exuded was unforgettable.

I don't know about you, but I will never look at a Crock-Pot the same way again.

**Rating: 5/5 stars**



Photo courtesy of IMDb

## *New world, new monsters, same excitement*

Patrick Sullivan // Contributor

The “Monster Hunter” franchise is approaching its 14th birthday this March. Since 2004, a total of 21 games in the series have released on 13 different systems, and the latest release, “Monster Hunter: World,” proves that the series still has the ability

to grow and improve.

At its core, “Monster Hunter: World” has the same gameplay as its predecessors. The player, as a hunter, runs around and kills different monsters with the hopes of getting different materials from those monsters to make

better weapons and armor. With improved gear, players then attempt to hunt stronger monsters. Players can either do this alone or can invite up to three friends to help you with the hunt.

This has been the main draw of the “Monster Hunter” series since its initial release. The rewarding feeling of progression, the sense of pride you feel when you finally kill a monster that's been destroying you for hours, and the wonder of what is going to come next have made players dump hundreds of hours into this series.

While “Monster Hunter: World” doesn't change that much in terms of the core gameplay, the changes that do exist improve upon the formula that already exists. One major change to “World” from the previous installments is the new map system. In previous entries, each map would be separated into

different areas, each requiring a small load time to enter and exit. In “World,” the map is all loaded at once, so you can seamlessly chase a monster from one end of the map to another without having to wait.

Other changes that “World” brings to the table are the introduction of scoutflies, which makes tracking monsters a bit easier, the new mantle items which provide different power ups to players, and the slinger, which allows players to throw various items at monsters.

Visually, “Monster Hunter: World” is stunning to look at, with each of the five different playable maps presenting a distinct setting and theme. From the desert plains of the Wildspire Wastes to the Coral Highlands, which is presented as an above ground giant coral reef, it is easy to get immersed into the world.

The fun of this game comes

from the solid gameplay and the rush of dopamine you get when you successfully slay a difficult monster or get a drop that you've been looking for for hours. While the game does provide a long story mode, the story itself is not going to stick with you for years to come. But, you won't form any massive connections with characters while playing. There are more than one major characters in “Monster Hunter: World” that I do not remember the names of, or remember at all. If you are looking for a good story, “World” might not be to your liking.

Despite this, the story was never supposed to be the main draw of “World,” and neither are connections you might make with characters in game. The main draw of this game is the excitement of hunting monsters, and “Monster Hunter: World” executes that excitement perfectly.



Photo courtesy of Destructoid



# Sports

## Walking in a Winter(fest) Wonderland

**Dakota Brecht**  
Staff Reporter

The frigid February temperatures couldn't keep faithful Golden Grizzly fans away as the third annual winterfest tailgate was a huge success. Everything from Buffalo Wild Wings and Dominos pizza to beer pong and a car smash, the tailgate had everything one could imagine. To help with the bitter cold, there was a big heated tent and for the students/alumni of age it was a BYOB tailgate.

The event was hosted by Athletics and the Student Congress in a collaboration that has been very successful in years past. Arth Patel has been a part of the tailgate committee for the Student Congress for a long time and he had this to say on the planning behind Winterfest.

"It started a good couple

months ago, we had this plan, we knew when it was coming and it's been a lot of work but it's nice to see everyone come together for the Golden Grizzlies," Patel said.

Most events on campus are DJ'ed by the on campus radio station WXOU, and this one was no different. The DJ's from WXOU braved the cold and came through like they always do. General Manager of the radio station Drew Marczewski was happy to be there and appreciates the support the radio station gets.

"We're just another student organization, and we just like to give back to other student organizations by doing events like this," Marczewski said.

Grizz Gang was in attendance and they could not believe how many fans came out in the cold to support.

"I'm just happy all these peo-

ple came out, and I'm thankful to athletics and OUSC for setting this all up, I think it really improves the students and brings a bigger turnout for the student section," said Grizz Gang Secretary John Hassenzahl.

With all the excitement and hype around the game before it even started, the thoughts in many Golden Grizzly fans was that their team would run away with a win over UIC. That was not the case as Oakland never got the ball rolling and fell to UIC 79-73. It was a devastating loss for the Black and Gold and as the losses pile up, their chances of winning the outright Horizon League Championship look very grim.

Martez Walker led Oakland in scoring with 21 points, and Kendrick Nunn was right behind him with 20. Jalen Hayes also tacked on a solid 15 points but other than that, there was nothing go-



Sadie Layher / The Oakland Post

OU Athletics and Student Congress worked together to put on this event.

ing for the Golden Grizzlies.

With another week there's another big game looming and Monday starts Detroit Mercy hate week for Golden Grizzly fans. On Friday Feb. 9 Detroit

Mercy comes to town and it will bring on another tailgate, this one hosted by Grizz Gang. Win or lose, you cannot deny that it is an exciting time for those fans of the Black and Gold.

## Leah Somerfield was awarded with Horizon League player of the week

*Meet the girl who is full of leadership, skills, and talent*

**Katie LaDuke**  
Staff Reporter

On Monday, Jan. 30, the league office announced Leah Somerfield from Oakland women's basketball as the Horizon League Player of the Week. This announcement came after Oakland's Jan. 27 Metro Series win over Detroit Mercy.

"I was ecstatic," Somerfield said. "It was just a great feeling."

In that rival showdown, Somerfield recorded her career-high fifth double-double of the season with career-highs in points (27) and rebounds (18). The senior also posted career-highs in field-goals and blocks with 10 and three, respectively.

"That took me by surprise," Somerfield said. "I didn't even now that I broke all those records until after the

game."

Somerfield recorded her first career double-double in November of her junior year. With her time at Oakland, all of her double-doubles have included at least 13 points and 10 rebounds.

"I really don't focus on the stats at all until after the game," Somerfield said. "I really try to focus on winning."

In the 2016-17 season, Somerfield started 28 of 30 games. She averaged 11.1 points a game ending the season with 332 points. With 198 rebounds, Somerfield averaged 6.6 a game. She also put up 25 steals, 13 blocks and a .719 shooting percent in free-throws.

"We try to find five people that will fill a role on the team," Oakland women's basketball Head Coach Jeff Tungate said. "[Somerfield] can score, she can defend,

she can rebound, both offensively and defensively. She brings a lot of leadership to the team as well. She's just a great all-around player."

As of Feb. 1 2018, Somerfield has started 21 games. In conference games, she leads the team with 11 blocks and 114 points averaging 11.4 a game. She has a total 165 in rebounds averaging 7.9 a game, and she is second on the team in free-throw percentage with .642.

"I can see myself being more vocal," Somerfield said. "We need that leadership on the floor. I think my biggest accomplishment this season has been improving in my role. Our coach talks about how we have our own role on the team, and we try to be the best we can at that role."

With that role, Somerfield wants to help be the energy



Brendan Triola / The Oakland Post

On the court, Somerfield becomes a leader to bring home a win for OU.

for the team, whether that be huddling the team up when they need it or bringing positivity when they are down.

She is also working on becoming more versatile in practices.

"Last year I was a little more confident and actually shooting more, and I think players started to realize that," Somerfield said. "Now, I'm trying to work on my inside game."

With her senior season in full force, Somerfield is pursuing options to continue

playing her sport after college. She has been thinking of trying out for the International Women's Combine teams overseas.

"[Somerfield] has gotten a lot more confident in these four years," Tungate said. "She got a lot stronger, but I think the biggest thing is she got a lot more confident in her abilities. That shows on the court. She's at her best. She's a really confident player, and I think that has really developed over the last four years."





The Oakland Post Archives

Jalen Hayes scored 21 points against the Jaguars. Houled out with just over nine minutes left in the game.

## Men's basketball takes on Horizon League newcomer

*The Golden Grizzlies beat the IUPUI Jaguars 82-74*

**Michael Pearce**  
Staff Reporter

The Golden Grizzly men's basketball team ended a two-game losing streak with a 82-74 win against the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Jaguars on Sunday, Feb. 4. Kendrick Nunn led the team in scoring with a game-high 25 points, with Jalen Hayes second on the team, scoring 21.

In a game where Oakland was without Isaiah Brock, Brailen Neely and James Beck due to injury, freshman Stan Scott made his first career start.

"[Scott] was ready for the moment," Nunn said. "We talked to him before the game, loosened him up, took the butterflies out. We just told him to go out there and play, and he did well."

Scott finished the game with seven points, eight rebounds and five assists. Scott played only 48 minutes before the game, but logged 30 minutes in his first start.

"It was a lot of pressure at first but I kind of broke that," Scott said. "I had confidence, and I just did what I had to do. I just found ways to score and get baskets."

The game was close at the start, with the Golden Grizzlies leading by three with 10 minutes gone in the first half. Strong defensive play led to a five minute scoring drought for IUPUI, giving Oakland a 14 point lead with five minutes to go.

At the end of the first half, the score-

board read 49-36. Hayes led the Golden Grizzlies in scoring with 18 points, and Nunn had 13.

The lead began to shrink with ten minutes to go in the second half, with Oakland up 63-50. Hayes fouled out of the game on a technical foul with just over nine minutes remaining in the second half, and the combination of foul trouble and scoring droughts resulted in IUPUI going on a run.

Oakland's lead was then cut to three with almost eight minutes left after a Jaguar 3-pointer and two free throws.

"We were in trouble," Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "We were in real trouble. The momentum had swung the other way when Jalen [Hayes] went out of the game. Everything seemed to be going against us, and the lead shrunk."

The game remained close until the last two minutes of the game. With Oakland up 76-72, Scott blocked an opponent's layup attempt, and out of a time out the team executed a play that resulted in a Martez Walker layup.

"We have lost a bunch of close games, it would have been easy for us to have excuses. We executed, and I believe that execution won the game for us," Kampe said.

Despite being outscored in the second half, Kampe expressed optimism in his team's win.

"I think it's amazing we won," he said. "We're going to have droughts, I think it is amazing we held on. I am so proud of the kids that played and what they did. I'm not usually a guy who smiles and laughs on the sidelines, but I was hugging Nick [Daniels]. This was a good day for us, a really good day."

## The Sporting Blitz

### Track and Field

On Feb. 2 and 3, Oakland's track and field teams traveled to South Bend, Indiana, for the two-day Notre Dame Meyo Invitational.

On the first day of competition, Chanel Gardner and Corey Goodloe broke their own 600m school records. Gardner finished at 1:32.97 and Goodloe at 1:20.91. With a time of 7.63, Kendell Jefferson qualified for the 60m dash finals. In the 200m dash, Jimmie Williams placed 16th at 22.02.

On day two, Jefferson placed fifth in the 60m with a time of 7.62. Maggie Schneider finished 12th at the 9:44.92 mark in the 3K just missing the school record while Gardner finished 24th in the 400m (56.65). For the men, Williams set a new school record for the 400m with his eighth place time 48.01. Goodloe came in 16th in the 400m (49.00) while Zach Stadnika finished 12th overall in the long jump (22 ft., 4.25 in.) In the 3K, Andrew Bowman finished 25th with a time of 8:20.97.

Oakland will be at Grand Valley State University on Feb. 9 and 10 for the GVSU Big Meet.

### WBB vs. Cleveland State

Oakland women's basketball hosted Cleveland State on Saturday, Feb. 3. The Golden Grizzlies fell 86-66.

Taylor Jones led the team with 16

and also had 3 three-pointers and two steals while Taylor Gleason also had 3 three-points. Leah Somerfield had three assists and brought in 12 points with nine rebounds to just miss a double-double. Nikita Telesford put up a season-high 12 points with six rebounds.

The Black and Gold is now 4-7 in the Horizon League with an overall record of 11-11. Oakland hits the road for two games starting on Thursday, Feb. 8 against Northern Kentucky.

### Tennis vs. Utah State

Tennis vs. Utah State: On Saturday, Feb. 4 in East Lansing, Oakland tennis hosted Utah State at the MSU Indoor Tennis Facility. The Golden Grizzlies fell 6-1.

In singles, Samantha Galloway picked up a straight set win (6-4, 7-5) in the No. 6 spot. Alexandra Whall (No. 2), Allison Motea (No. 3) and Darya Maltseva (No. 4) all went three sets but ultimately fell.

With doubles, the No. 1 slot Dasha Artamonova and Sofia Borcuti as well as the No. 3 slot Amanda Nilsson and Galloway came close but could not hold on with a final match score of 6-4 each.

Oakland's next dual match will be Saturday, Feb. 10 in Toledo.

*Compiled by Katie LaDuke*  
Staff Reporter

## JOIN US FOR JOURNALISM DAY

*February 8th // Banquet Room B*

**First Amendment Free Speech Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

◆ Want a free lunch? Sign away your First Amendment rights to get it. Be careful what you say and do, or our dictator may throw you in jail.

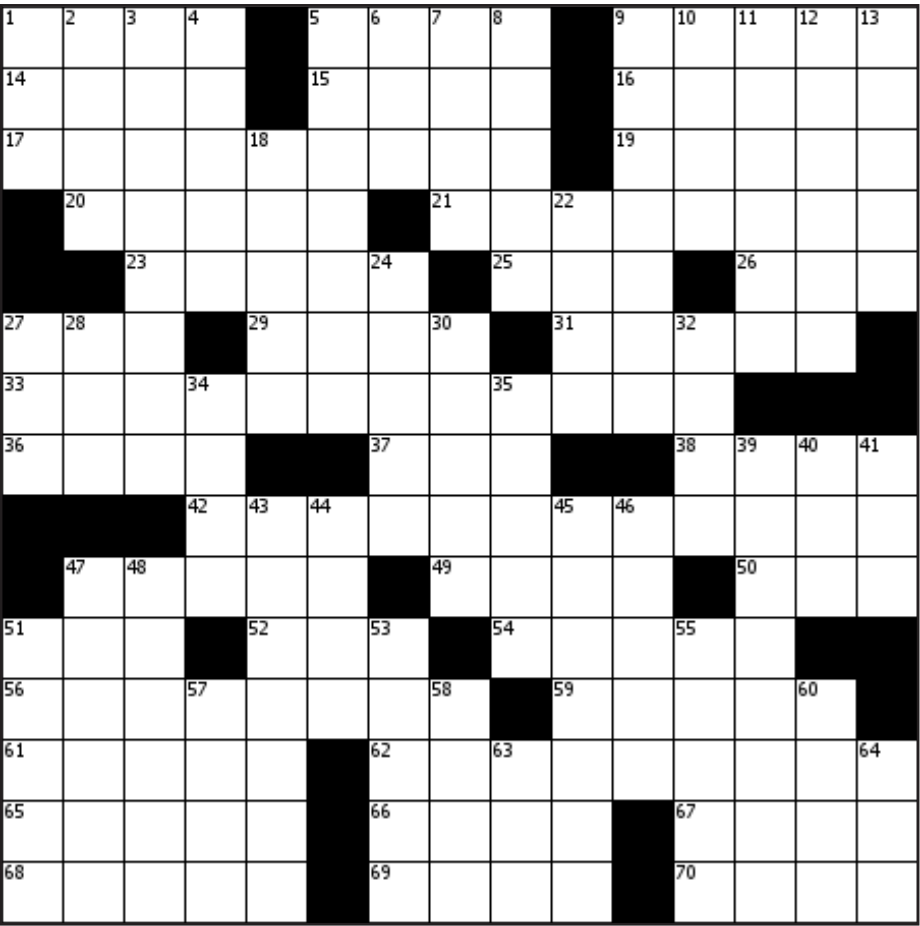
**Portfolio Exhibition: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

◆ Come bring your best work and show off the best of what the journalism department has to offer. Entries are accepted at the door. This isn't a contest- it's a way to show off what our students can do.

**Resume Review and Social: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

◆ Mingle with professors and professionals in a business casual setting. Dinner will be provided. Bring your resume and please come in business-casual attire.

Puzzles



Across

1. Turkish bigwig  
5. Some narcs  
9. Former UN leader U \_\_\_\_  
14. Laugh and a half  
15. "Not a scratch on me"  
16. Home on high  
17. PRESENT  
19. Gallic Euro casualty  
20. Stage whisper  
21. PRESENT  
23. Coin toss option  
25. No-win situation?  
26. Sighs of contentment  
27. Nittany Lions sch.  
29. Web spot  
31. Les \_\_\_\_-Unis  
33. PRESENT  
36. Sporty Italian car, briefly  
37. Vietnam's \_\_\_\_ Dinh Diem  
38. Peglegged whaler  
42. PRESENT  
47. Houston ballplayer  
49. Julie's role in "Doctor Zhivago"  
50. "Citizen Kane" studio  
51. \_\_\_\_-Magnon man  
52. Part of TGIF  
54. Prominent

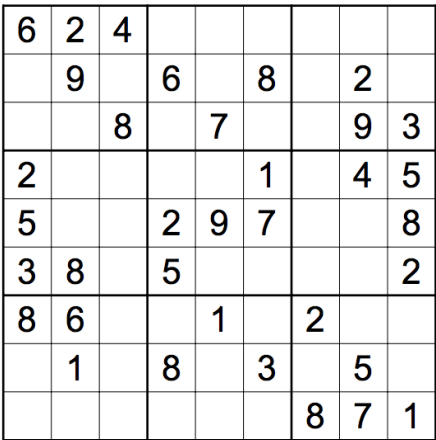
56. PRESENT  
59. Driller's projects  
61. Run \_\_\_\_ of the law  
62. PRESENT  
65. Break down grammatically  
66. Antique autos  
67. City west of Tulsa  
68. Box score numbers  
69. IRS IDs  
70. Workout tallies

Down

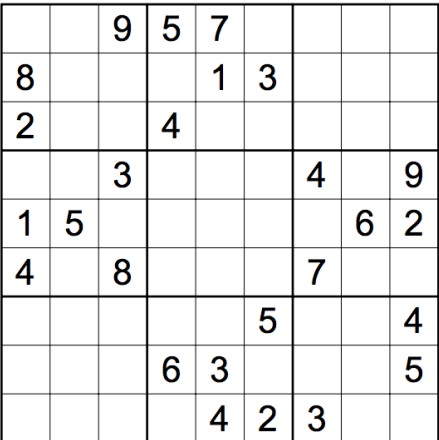
1. Bush spokesman  
Fleischer  
2. Actress Lollobrigida  
3. Quite the rage  
4. Skylit courts  
5. Beethoven opera  
6. Big bird down under  
7. Medicos  
8. Sport with clay pigeons  
9. Dressy fabric  
10. Lifesaver  
11. Biblical landfall  
12. Final frames for the Phillies  
13. PC supporters  
18. Pindar, for one  
22. Wedding cake layer

24. Daring film feat  
27. Tiger's org.  
28. Part of RSVP  
30. Georgia of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"  
32. On \_\_\_\_ with (equal to)  
34. Mediator's asset  
35. John Lennon hit  
39. Unwilling to bend  
40. "Raiders of the Lost \_\_\_\_"  
41. "Liquor not provided" letters  
43. Colorful birds  
44. Kid's punishment, perhaps  
45. Superior skill  
46. Like Cheerios  
47. Palestinian chief Yasir  
48. Northwest Mexican state  
51. Fellas  
53. JCPenney rival  
55. Church leader  
57. Exemplar of dryness  
58. Motorist's choices (abbr.)  
60. Scissors sound  
63. Heavy weight  
64. Mdse.

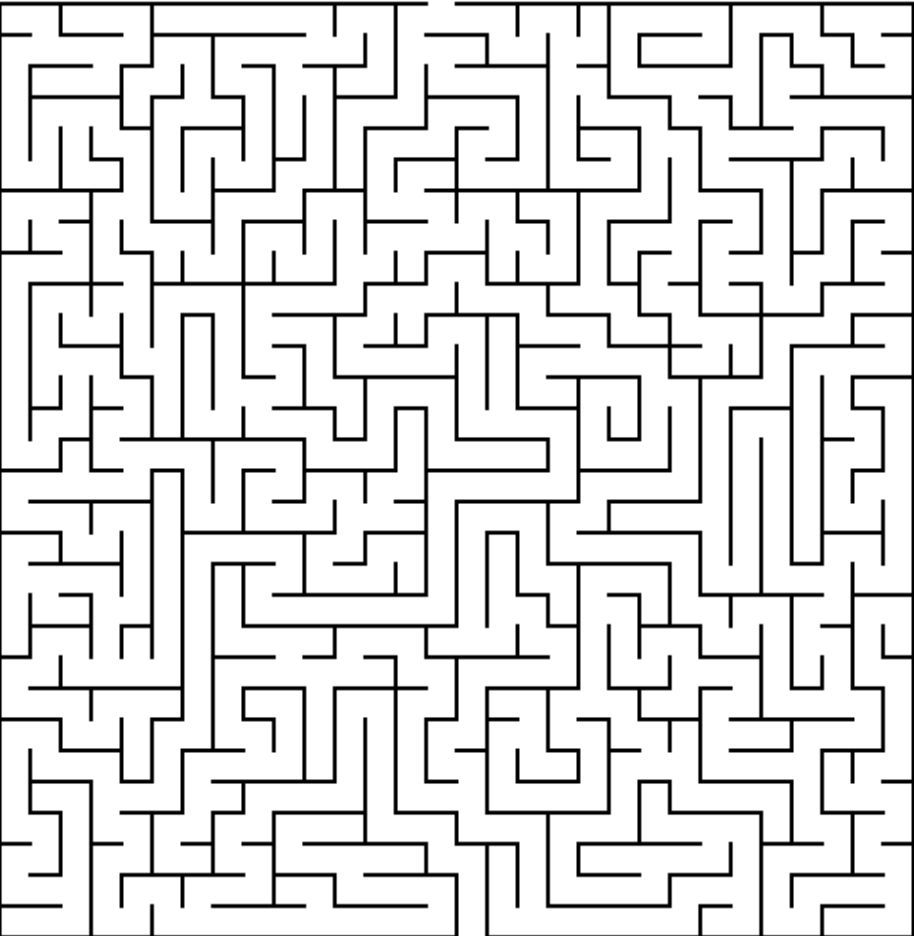
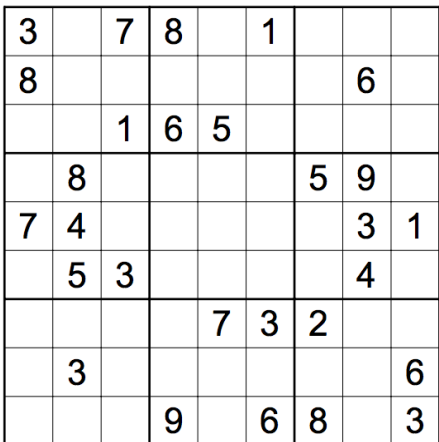
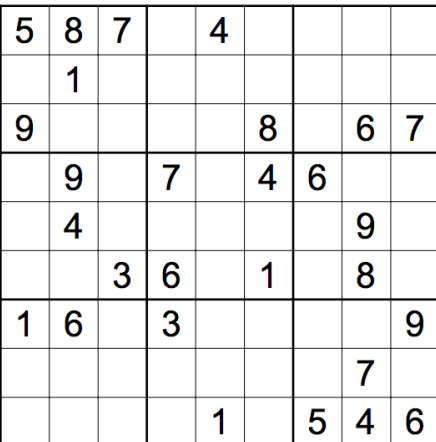
NOVICE



TOUGH



INTERMEDIATE







Elyse Gregory / The Oakland Post

Attendees get to play "bombbowling," an activity where they throw a football at bowling pins.

## Enter the *HUB*

*Beer, football, axe throwing, what could be better?*

**Cheyenne Kramer**  
Managing Editor

Nestled just behind the Wendy's and Tim Hortons right off the Bear Bus route is an interesting place. The HUB Stadium may be hard to interpret at first—it looks almost like a hunting lodge from the outside.

Once you walk in, you're greeted with a coat check and a bar. Interesting enough. Venture further into the establishment and you see people to your right throwing axes at a wooden target, and further into the building you see people throwing footballs at bowling pins.

Welcome to The HUB Stadium.

The HUB opened just over a year ago, and this past fall it unveiled its newest entertainment option: axe throwing. Pay \$80 for a reserved lane, per lane per hour, or pay \$18 to join in free play all day, and have one of the coaches teach you the proper technique to throw an axe at a wooden target.

Yes, there's coaches. I desperately needed one, as I completely sucked at it.

According to the staff at The HUB, these wooden targets need to be changed once about every five days.

There's also "bombbowling," which apparently has official rules listed on the bars near the actual lanes. However, when my friends and I played, we just decided to make up our own rules. It was fun either way. It's a little chaotic, but if you can throw a football, it's a lot of fun.

Though the \$80 price tag may seem daunting to some, the cost isn't that high if you go with a group. This price remains for any groups up to 10 people, so technically, you and all 9 of your best friends can rent a lane for \$8 each per hour, which isn't too bad.

There's two different bars, one in the front of the establishment, and one in the back, with bartenders on the ready to make you a favorite mixed drink to go along with your axe throwing session.

Keep in mind though—intoxication is not allowed. And if the coaches suspect you may be a danger to other players, they will ask you to leave.

There's also two different party rooms in the back of the building, one which can seat up to 60, the other can seat up to 150, making it an ideal place for a night out with friends.

Michaelena Vassallo with sales and development at The HUB said the Auburn Hills location is the first place in Michigan to offer axe throwing.

"We want more engagement with Oakland," she said.

Currently, The HUB is featured on the Oakland University website for its 15 percent off food and beverage discount offered to OU students all day, every day.

The HUB is also the host of an Oakland University fundraiser on Feb. 10. The Bear Bus will be bringing students to The HUB that evening, according to Vassallo.

For more information on pricing and food options, check out The Hub Stadium at their website.

## CAREER SERVICES



### Speed Networking

Tuesday, February 13

1 - 3 p.m.

Oakland Center,  
Banquet Room A

It's all about who you know, and when it comes to opening doors to opportunity and self-discovery, the professionals in your network can be your strongest advocates.

**Don't miss out on connections.**

### Get Prepped

#### Prep Sessions

Get hands-on tips on how to prepare for the event!

Thursday, February 8 | Noon-1  
Oakland Center, Gold Room B

Monday, February 12 | Noon-1  
Oakland Center, Gold Room B

Need to prep but can't make it to a session?  
Schedule an appointment or view preparation resources at [oakland.joinhandshake.com](http://oakland.joinhandshake.com) under the Career Center tab.  
Or, drop-in to the Career Studio Monday-Thursday  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Professional dress is required.

Bring your GrizzCard and copies of your resume.  
Visit the event page in Handshake to see a list of employers attending.

[www.oakland.edu/careerservices](http://www.oakland.edu/careerservices)  
[careers@oakland.edu](mailto:careers@oakland.edu) | 248-370-3250 | 154 North Foundation Hall

# Get involved: Giving Challenge against UDM



Sadie Layher / The Oakland Post

The Annual Giving Department encourages people to donate through a friendly rivalry between Oakland and University of Detroit Mercy, with high stakes for the losing team.

**Sadie Layher**  
Staff Reporter

For the third year in a row, Oakland University hopes to defeat University of Detroit Mercy, not only the court, but in the annual Giving Challenge as well.

The Giving Challenge started three years ago as a way to bridge the rivalry between the two schools and make it productive. The idea spurred from Oakland joining the Horizon League five years ago and deciding to bring fans and donors into the rivalry.

Each team, OU and UDM, have a win under their belt in the challenge from the last two years. The donation time frame is Monday, Feb. 5 at midnight to Friday, Feb. 9 at 5:00 p.m.

To win the challenge, a school must have the most individual donors. It is not based on monetary amounts, but on how many people donate. Donors can give money to any branch of OU such as the Communications Department, University Athletics or amidst construction in the Oakland Center.

There will be tables, led by the Grizz Gang, inside the OC where potential donors can fill out forms and donate money to certain parts of OU. However, there will be tables in various other areas around campus as well.

"Every gift matters," said Kelly Brault, director of annual giving.

Each team has won once on the other team's home court. UDM won at Oakland and OU won at Detroit Mercy.

"It's an opportunity for OU supporters and Detroit Mercy supporters to show their pride for respective schools and go head-to-head and win by number of donors," stated Tara Bergeron, assistant director of annual giving.

The win would mean pride for the community, university and students, and makes it mean more than just an athletic rivalry. Whichever team loses the challenge, their mascot must wear the winning team's jersey during the game. So, UDM might have to wear OU's jersey or vice versa.

The Annual Giving Department is hoping to get the student food pantry off the ground with the donations from this event.

"It hurts students academically when they are worried about where their next meal is coming from and not getting the nutrients they need," Bergeron said.

If there are enough donations, the department will ask for students or donors to give non-perishables so students will not have to go hungry and stress about where their meal is coming from, especially during exams. Eastern Michigan University has a program like this in place already and OU is hoping to follow in the university's footsteps.

However, the Giving Challenge proceeds by individual students can go to any program on campus whether it be the student's major's department or the potential future student food pantry.

## 2018 GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



**MARCH 9, 2018 | 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**OAKLAND CENTER**

**[oakland.edu/grad/events](http://oakland.edu/grad/events)**



# From prison to farming

Alumni creates empire of paying it forward



Photo Courtesy of RecoveryPark

RecoveryPark staff with President and CEO Gary Wozniak (on far right).

**Laurel Kraus**  
Life Editor

The year was 1976 and Gary Wozniak had just graduated from Oakland University with a degree in psychology. The world was at his fingertips. After a series of decisions landed him in the business world, he found himself working as a successful stockbroker and soon afterward, entering the party lifestyle.

Looking back, Wozniak notes that addiction runs in his family, and so, cocaine became his Achilles' heel. He began using clients' money to support his lifestyle, and ultimately ended up in federal prison for three and a half years.

"When I got out in 1991, I went to apply for a job at a place called Enterprise Car Rentals and they told me no because I had just gotten out of prison," Wozniak recalled. "I was in my early 30's and I told myself I would never let anybody tell me no again."

Yet Wozniak's passion does not lie in his own success, but rather in helping the community around him reach its full potential.

Out of this passion, RecoveryPark was incorporated in 2010. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization was established on Detroit's east side with the purpose of incubating for-profit businesses that could employ those who are struggling as Wozniak, the presi-

"Our mission is to create jobs for people with barriers to employment...people spiraling poverty with chronic homelessness, which represents about 70 percent of Detroit's unemployed or underemployed population."

Gary Wozniak  
President & CEO of RecoveryPark

dent and CEO, himself once did.

"Our mission is to create jobs for people with barriers to employment," he said. "So people coming out of prison, people struggling with addiction [and] people spiraling poverty with chronic homelessness, which represents about 70 percent of Detroit's unemployed or underemployed population."

The businesses, all focused on the food industry, currently include RecoveryPark Farms and RecoveryPark Aquaculture, which raises fish.

RecoveryPark Farms has been growing food for three years and is the most developed business under the non-profit organization. Currently, the three acres under production provide specialty produce to 133 restaurants.

"It's a great example of community engagement and partnership and how one person, who thinks outside of the box, can really have a big impact," said Suzanne Rossi, MPA program coordinator who hosted Wozniak at OU for a speech on social entrepreneurship Monday night.

Wozniak is also working on launching a value-added production business called RecoveryPark Foods, which would make different foods out of what RecoveryPark Farms grows, such as pre-packaged salads.

These businesses provide an Associate Support Platform which starts employees off at \$11 an hour, offers 100 percent healthcare coverage after 90 days and allows accumulation of time off and raises. Wozniak additionally ensures employees have the means to be successful.

"We make sure that any barrier that they have, if they need housing, transportation, clothing, if they need their food pantry stocked at home so they can eat, we make sure that all of that's taken care of for up to three years so that they become very, very stable," he said.

After there are enough trained people within the business, Wozniak plans to transfer 90 percent of the business ownership to the employees. Other future goals include creating a box or labeling business, bringing the community's food hyperlocal, which is within a 100 mile radius of where it's being eaten, and repurposing vacant land in the city.

The organization accepts volunteers in the warm months to aid in neighborhood clean-up, tend a community garden, build bus stops along major routes in the area and work on an anti-dumping campaign.

Donations can also be made through the RecoveryPark website.

"Over the last 30 years, I've worked with a lot of people doing prisoner reentry, addiction recovery and really just helping people to understand that you have to take control of your own lives, you need to make better decisions [and] you need to help other people do the same thing," Wozniak said.

## The Dangers of 'Easy Mac'

Emily Morris  
Staff Intern

Beep! Beep! A robotic sound signifies mealtime for countless college students across campus—often a delectable bowl of streaming noodles and neon orange sauce awaits in microwaves.

Despite its simplistic appearance of just a handful of ingredients, "Easy Mac" is actually home to some potentially harmful chemicals and unusual ingredients. However, many companies are able to bypass evolving regulations because of the wonderful convenience of microwave macaroni.

In fact, Kraft started producing instant macaroni as soon as 1937, in the midst of the Great Depression. The affordable meal appealed to many struggling families, selling 8 million boxes for 19 cents each per year, according to The Smithsonian Institute.

Similarly, many college students rely on this meal's convenience while juggling the cost and time commitment of classes. The price of instant macaroni and cheese has remained reasonable to many, only surpassing a dollar by several cents. Compared to the average price of a restaurant meal, \$12.75, or an average single home cooked meal, \$4.00, instant macaroni and cheese has the potential to appeal to many, according to The Simple Dollar.

"I usually have three [instant macaroni and cheese meals] a week," said Brendan Billbury, Oakland University student and manager of the men's basketball team. "I need something fast that doesn't cost much. It's key to my schedule, otherwise a lot of days I might run out of time to eat."

Although convenience suggests an obvious decision, consumers are just

beginning to be exposed to the products that compose instant macaroni. Even so, some students have veered away from the almost-too-good-to-be-true convenience from day one.

"I've just always thought it tasted artificial," OU student Phoenix Bell said. "I'd rather know all the ingredients in my mac'n'cheese."

According to a 2014 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Report, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is aware of high concentration of phthalates, a chemical that dangerously disrupts hormones, in this common grocery item but has yet to acknowledge the risks in foods. Because phthalates are not intentionally added to food and are only an accidental fray of plastic material used in packaging, the FDA is still examining repercussions before taking action, according to an FDA spokeswoman corresponding with The New York Times.

Phthalates have been banned from children's toys and teething objects, but consumers are still ingesting this destructive chemical through the powdered cheese that adorns almost all instant macaroni and cheese. A recent study from Klean Up Kraft found that phthalates were a part of 29 out of 30 samples of different powdered cheese in instant macaroni. Hence, Europe has placed a ban on any phthalates that come in contact with food because of possible consequences.

As understanding grows, will consumers differ from the product without a formal ban? Health risks seem to be mounting, but instant macaroni is also a necessity for some to stay full and focused during hectic schedules. Without formal stipulations, instant macaroni could remain an opinion between individuals.

# Man's best friend: The best kind of stress reliever

## *Why service animals help students have happier lives*

Patrick Sullivan  
Contributor

Having a pet on campus is something every resident living at a university dreams about. Whether it's a dog, cat or rabbit, having a furry companion with you would make the college experience even better.

Of course, having an animal on campus aside from fish is against the rules of Oakland University Housing with the exception of service animals. Service animals are pets that are trained to help someone to live with either a physical disability or, in the case of emotional support animals (ESA), a mental illness.

"Service animals are not just pets. It's a lot more than having a pet here," said Hannah Brzezinski, a junior biology major. "The

difference between an ESA and a pet is that an ESA is here to do a job."

Brzezinski, until recently, had an ESA with her on campus in the form of a three-year-old cat named Misfit. As her ESA, Misfit helped Brzezinski deal with anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. Brzezinski said having an animal around is a lot better than having a person around in these cases.

"Being able to pet an animal helps recenter you," she said. "Misfit being around helps ground and calm me down."

You may hear this and think all you need to do to have your family pet on campus is claim you have anxiety and then bring Molly to your room; however, there is a lot of steps in being able to have a service animal on campus.

First, the student needs to get permission from a psychiatrist or therapist saying he or she needs a service animal. After that, the student needs to apply through the Disability Support Services office and go through an interview with a representative there. From there, the student will go through Housing and the residence director of his or her building for the final approval.

Lynn Hartman, who also has an ESA on campus, went through this process last year with her dog Shenzi.

"I got her originally to help with transitional anxiety from grade school to high school," Hartman said regarding her border collie companion. "She was already sort of in the ranks to behave in a service dog way."



Samuel Summers / The Oakland Post

Service animals help students with their physical and mental disabilities.

Shenzi helps Hartman deal with her anxiety and day to day Shenzi helps her with depression.

"She forces me to get out of bed and go outside and exercise," Hartman said. "It makes me smile because she's a super funny dog."

These service animals

and emotional support animals that are on campus are doing important work. While it may be sad that we all can't have our favorite companions with us in the residence halls, we should salute the hard working animals that help make our friends lives easier.

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or visit us online at [oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)

# THE OAKLAND POST





Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

Students could smash the broken down car for \$3 for 15 seconds and \$5 for 30 seconds.

## Tau Kappa Epsilon's event was truly a *smashing* time

Ariel Themm  
Staff Reporter

**H**ave you ever wanted to vandalize a car, or maybe smash in a window or two?

The Oakland University chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon held a car smashing event in lot P-16 on Friday, Feb. 2 at Winterfest. All the cash donations were given to St. Jude Children's Research.

Danny Thomas, an American comedian, singer, actor, producer and founder of St. Jude's, used to be a part of TKE and first began raising money for St. Jude's in August 1978. Various chapters of TKE events called "TKE Keg Rolls," where the fraternities would roll kegs a certain distance to raise money. Public disapproval of the event eventually led to its permanent cancellation.

OU's TKE Chapter came up with the idea for holding a car smashing when the Center for Student Activities gave the group the P-16 lot. The event was one of several throughout the year to help achieve the chapter's goal of raising \$10,000 for St. Jude's hospital this year.

"All of the money raised from this event will go directly to St. Jude," Cameron Renny, a senior and the chairman of TKE's Philanthropic Committee, said. "Families never receive a bill from St. Jude Children's Hospital for housing, treatment, travel or food. The hospital costs \$2.7 million a day to operate and they need as much help as possible. Also, starting in 2016, TKE committed \$2.6 million by 2021 for a new proton therapy project and has currently raised over \$1 million already."

After signing a waiver and being given

a pair of safety goggles and gloves for \$1, students were given the ability to give the car one good hit with a provided sledgehammer. For \$3, the students were allowed to hit it for 15 seconds, and for \$5, they could smash for 30 seconds.

"We raise the money ourselves through our own events and our rep supplies us with materials, information and support for our activities," Renny said.

The Winterfest BYOB Tailgate was also being offered in the same spot, as OU students prepare for a fun night of basketball, hot chocolate and other activities.

"The car smash as it is is a simple but fun thing to do before a basketball game," Max Behl, a freshman and member of Student Philanthropy Committee, said. "We hope to get it to catch on, so that we can have this in future years as a staple of TKE on campus here."

TKE was originally founded in January 1899 at Illinois Wesleyan University. Over 275,000 men have been a part of this fraternity and TKE has about 244 active chapters across the nation. They never had any cause to exclude others from joining their fraternity, because they supported each other and saw the value in Greek life.

"Greek life, such as TKE, is worth joining because it truly transforms what college can be," Behl said. "The connections and friends I've made will without a doubt last a lifetime, and I know that I always have a support system of 50 guys behind me no matter what I need or when I need it. It means the world to me, and it means the world to all the brothers because that's our bond. It's deeper than just a frat—it's a fraternity, and it's lifelong."

## Faculty Profile: Alan Epstein

*Meet the director of religious studies*

Jessica Leydet  
Staff Intern

**A**lan Epstein grew up on the southwest side of Flint in a mixed working class-middle class neighborhood, and he earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan, Flint. Now, Epstein is a professor of political science and the director of the Religious Studies program at Oakland University.

"Given the extraordinary degree of diversity in southeast Michigan, having a measure of basic religious literacy is both a sound career move and, arguably, a prerequisite for successfully navigating an increasingly diverse society," he said.

In pursuing his passion, Epstein credits his college experience for inspiring him.

"My experience as an undergraduate was transformative," he said. "I was exposed to such matters as international political, economy, colonialism, absurdist literature and contemporary Chinese political history. The world suddenly grew far more complex, interesting and fathomable."

Epstein said understanding how information is both selectively transmitted and marginalized was a revelation for him. It also stimulated his interest in becoming a university teacher.

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**"If I have a philosophy of teaching, it is nothing out of the ordinary. I simply try to engage students in ways that are relevant to their interests and concerns and by providing perspectives on aspects of reality they may not have considered."**

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Alan Epstein  
Director of Religious Studies

He earned his Ph.D. from Cornell, where he majored in Comparative Government with a focus on China.

"After soon arriving, the person I intended to study with left to become the head of Coca Cola China," he said. "As an immediate consequence, I became a research assistant for the then-unofficial dean of Southeast Asian Studies in the U.S., George McT. Kahin. Under his guidance, I learned to read declassi-

fied U.S. government documents, mainly about U.S. intervention in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and assisted in his second major study on the conflict."

Eventually he returned to focusing on China, and he would spend some seven years living in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the mainland, polishing his language skills and researching his doctoral dissertation.

His initial time in China was during the early stages of its reform and opening program and at a time when Americans were held in unqualified high regard by ordinary people. He said this has changed, and so has China.

"My expectations about the country, based on what I had been studying, clashed with on-the-ground realities that greeted me, but knowing some Mandarin opened passageways into the culture I hadn't been previously exposed to and revealed sharper edges and a host of grievances and aspirations among the people I encountered," he said. "It was a sobering experience that made me appreciate the importance of field work."

He travels less regularly now, but has enjoyed taking several contingents of OU students as part of the Beijing in Spring program, which he recommends to anyone with an interest in China.

Epstein also shared his teaching philosophy—there are many ways to teach, and an equal number of ways to learn.

"If I have a philosophy of teaching, it is nothing out of the ordinary. I simply try to engage students in ways that are relevant to their interests and concerns and by providing perspectives on aspects of reality they may not have considered," he said.

He said looking at the animating, and often lightly explored, premises of conventional wisdom is also a favored approach of his.

"I very much feel at home in the endeavor to stimulate critical thinking among students and to enable them to be informed formulators of knowledge not just indiscriminate, passive recipients of it," he said.

As for his hopes for the world in regards to today's political climate, Epstein remains optimistic.

"One is that there will be a rekindling of sustained compassion for the other, without which little can consciously be done to address the dehumanizing burdens shouldered by too many," he said. "Among the other ambitions, is the related hope that people will eventually learn the necessity of demanding forms of economic democracy, without which genuine political democracy remains but an aspiration."

## Because you a\*\*holes keep asking for horoscopes

Stephen Armica  
Satirist

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18):** You are the natural leader of the pack. You are the innovator. You can do anything. You also don't understand when someone is being condescending and facetious just to make you feel better about yourself.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – Mar. 20):** You are creative. Anything and everything is possible in your pursuit to artistic perfection. You like music, paintings, literature and naively thinking that private art school student loans will be paid off in no time.

**Aries (March 21 – April 19):** You are the courageous one. The one who is willing to put themselves in any sort of danger and somehow come out unscathed. Whereas, I still have flashbacks about the time a friend's house cat scratched me.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20):** You are patient, reliable, devoted and easily misled into becoming a pawn in the machinations of an entity that doesn't care for human life. Let's face

it, when you watch spy movies, you wish that evil henchman was on the high school career placement test.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20):** You are agreeable, quick to learn, quick to see the other's perspective and generally the most easily misled. You frequently walk away from conversations feeling like you agreed to something terrible like red-lining just to seem nice to the other person.

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22):** You are completely in touch with your emotions. When you watch a movie where a puppy dies, the tissue box is the first thing you reach for. Just knowing that someone had a bad day is too much for you to handle. But, the last time you read an article about human rights abuses in another country, you didn't really care much.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22):** You are generous, warm hearted and welcoming. If someone you don't know steps through your door, the first thing you do is offer them a glass of water. You really need to feel like you're welcoming because your ego is very fragile at the moment.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sep. 22):** You are analytical, hardworking and practical. Basically, you're the most likely to get rich and miserable. There's nothing you can do about that, so maybe it's best just to get used to this whole wealth, power and absolute emptiness feeling.

**Libra (Sep. 23 – Oct. 22):** You are the fair one. You can see both sides and you can make sure everyone's happy. However, you need to be careful. If you give one side too much fairness, you can end up giving some screwed up sociopath the confidence to run for U.S. President.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21):** You are passionate, resourceful and everyone's best friend. You are also most likely to have bought \$2,000 worth of fidget spinners at production cost because you thought you would get rich selling them. Wow, did you screw that one up.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21):** You'd do anything just to be able to tell yourself that you are totally free. Like, you've actually done some really screwed up crap just to be able to know that nothing can hold you back. There's a warrant for your arrest that you don't even know about.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19):** You are disciplined, ordered and in control. And that's why people don't like you. You have told a lot of Sagittarius that their dreams are stupid in order to let them know how in control you are.



Photo illustration by Erin O'Neill / The Oakland Post  
Do you know your sign? Well, keep it to yourself because I don't want to hear about it.

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