

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 44 | Issue 16 | Jan. 23, 2019



## KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

*Jeff Johnson speaks on Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and commitment to justice and equality  
Pages 8 & 9*

### NEW CLASSIFICATION

OU has achieves High Research Activity tier by Carnegie

PAGE 4

### DAY OF SERVICE

OUWB celebrates MLK Jr. by partnering with charities

PAGE 7

### CASINO NIGHT

Students spend "A Night in Italy" to play casino games for prizes

PAGE 10

PHOTO BY NICOLE MORSFIELD



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**A FOR EFFORT** Oakland women's basketball went down fighting, 79-52, against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Friday, Jan. 18. Taylor Jones led the Golden Grizzlies with 15 points, and Kahlajah Dean was close behind with 14 points. . ELYSE GREGORY | PHOTO EDITOR

## THE OAKLAND POST

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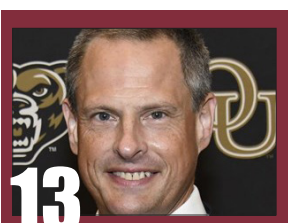
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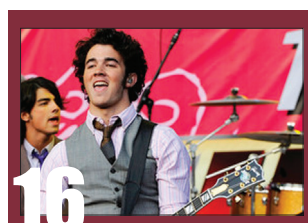
**Angela Gebert** Ads Director



**13 WATERFIELD'S GOALS**  
New AD Steve Waterfield explains what he wants to accomplish.  
Photo | Oakland Athletics



**14 STILL SHUT DOWN**  
Democrats and Republicans remain at a stand still in the middle of the shutdown.  
Photo | Business Insider



**16 SPRING CONCERT DREAMS**  
Here are some other top options for the long awaited spring concert.  
Illustration | Erin O'Neill

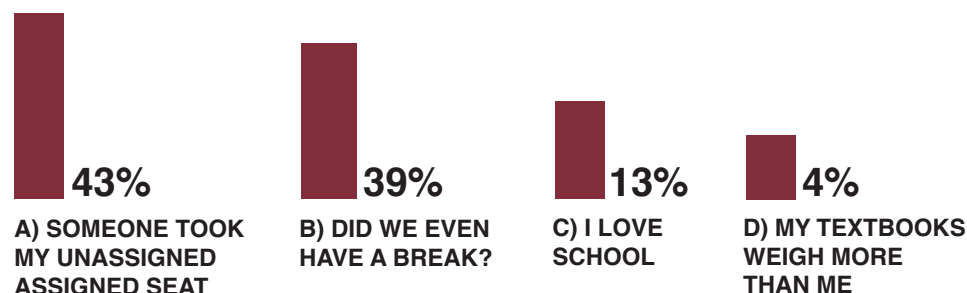
## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO BEAT THE COLD?

- A) LOTS OF HOT CHOCOLATE**
- B) A MILLION BLANKETS**
- C) HEATED SEATS**
- D) NEVER LEAVING THE HOUSE**

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW ARE NEW CLASSES TREATING YOU?



## LOOKING BACK

# First Handicap Awareness Week was held in the 90's

*The week-long event was made to incorporate several days that were already designated to raise awareness for disabilities*

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Staff Reporter*

Some students can take their abilities for granted — the ability to walk easily to class and fully understand the professor is something people never really think about as lucky. In 1991, Oakland University held a week-long event called Handicap Awareness Week, where the community would become more aware about the impaired.

An ad-hoc committee of Student Congress sponsored the program and events throughout the week. The week focused on visual, hearing and mobility handicaps.

Wednesday, March 27, 1991, was Blindness Awareness Day. The OU community had the opportunity to experience what it would be like to be visually impaired with the use of greased glasses and blindfolds.

“What we’re trying to do is stress handicap peoples’ abilities over their disabilities,” said Michelle Mawson, a committee member.

Thursday, March 28, 1991, was Hearing Awareness Day. The participants received ear plugs to wear throughout the day, just enough to muffle the sound of their lectures.

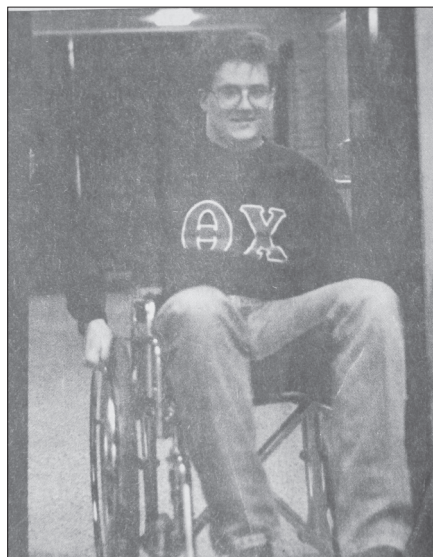
Another way the committee raised awareness was by receiving wheelchair donations from Wright and Phillips and the Physical Therapy Club. This gave students the opportunity to try to move around campus while being confined to wheelchairs. During this process students realized how hard getting around campus can be due to the damaged sidewalks.

The last event that occurred was a march on April 1, 1991 where the OU community came together with wheelchairs and crutches to show how hard it can be for handicapped students to get from one side of campus to the other. The march started from the north side of campus and ended in front of then Oakland President Joseph Champagne’s office.

“We really want to make students on campus aware that they’re not going to catch something from a handicap person,” Mawson said. “They’re human, treat them as such.”

After the week was over, representatives from the committee and a handicap student met with Champagne to discuss difficulties handicap students could encounter. They discussed topics such as sidewalk conditions, snow clearance in the winter and building accessibility.

At the end of the meeting Champagne



The Oakland Post archives  
During the event, participants learn difficulties of using a wheelchair.

asked the Handicap Awareness Committee to create a list of issues that needed attention.

Dawn Aubry, a previous member of that committee, said the President added he “felt strongly that changes will be made, probably not tomorrow, but it will happen.”

Some students used this week as motivation to conduct research on the handicap inequality around campus. Scott Pearsall focused on the new student orientation and how there was a discussion on inequality between races, but no mention of inequality within the handicap community.

Pearsall was hoping his contribution to the project would help OU make the orientation conversation more diverse and make students more aware.

“Instead of drawing attention to the student in class, the professor can invite any student with special needs to meet with them after class,” Pearsall said. “The embarrassment of being singled out experienced by the impaired student is something that the instructor does not intend, but often causes unknowingly.”

Today, Oakland offers some campus accessibility help. There is a snow priority route, that is the first pathway cleared during a snowfall. Also, students in wheelchairs can submit their routes to class to have those pathways cleared. OU has door openers available for more buildings and the “Clickers” can be loaned to students for the time needed.

## CAREER SERVICES



## WINTER CAREER FAIR

**Wednesday, January 30**  
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Oakland Center, Gold Room A

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Oakland Center, Founders Ballroom C

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# School of Education and Human Services' first doctoral graduate

*As associate director of the Oakland Center, the program's first doctoral graduate is a familiar face around campus*

## TAYLOR CRUMLEY

*Staff Reporter*

Now with three degrees from Oakland University, Dr. Anita Hicks was the first doctoral graduate of the School of Education and Human Services with a degree in organizational leadership.

"My drive was to get a better understanding of what an adult student over the age of 24 goes through from a graduate level because they have different responsibilities," Hicks said. "A lot of them are parents or have full-time jobs and have different needs than undergrads."

Her resume also includes a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Master's in Educational Leadership and Administration. Hicks comes from a diverse background, holding management positions in law, aviation, professional sports and higher

education. She has been with OU for many years working as the associate director of the Oakland Center.

"I am really excited to be the first one to complete the program, and I really look forward to where it goes in the future, and anything that I can do to assist with the success of the program and students," Hicks said.

She completed a study on graduate students at the conclusion of her Ph.D. education, which allowed her to take a walk in their shoes and see OU from their perspective. She has been researching adult learners within traditional universities since 2013.

"My experience in working with adult students over 24 years of age, as well as working in student affairs, peaked my interest in gaining a better understanding of how the needs and service utilization in obtaining a graduate degree affects that population,"

Hicks said.

Hicks' job is to make the lives of graduate students easier and to help them have a voice on campus. Her job allows students access to specialized services tailored to them. The study she did paved the way for better access to student services for all graduate students.

"I don't think students realize they really need these services until they get into a program on campus," she said. "Because a lot of times they are focused on the rigor of the program and it isn't until they are enrolled they think about the services offered."

Hicks is often observing and communicating with graduate students through face-to-face conversations as well as surveys. She strives to learn new ways on how she can help make their lives on campus easier.

"A lot of graduate students are on the outside looking in trying



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTOGRAPHER

Anita Hicks is excited to be the first to complete the program.

to communicate with faculty and staff and have their questions answered while still juggling everything else," Hicks said.

Hicks sees herself remaining in this field of work for a long time, as she has a passion and drive for helping graduate students be successful at OU.

"My future plan is to remain involved in student affairs and

also work alongside with graduate studies to be a voice for these graduate students and to also help the university recruit and retain them and, at the end, graduate them," Hicks said.

For more information on the Ed.D in Organizational Leadership program, visit the Department of Organizational Leadership website.

## Carnegie research classification places OU in second highest tier

### ALYSSA OCHSS

*Staff Intern*

Oakland University has recently reached a new level of classification when it comes to funded research and development.

The university has achieved the Doctoral University: High Research Activity (R2) classification and the second highest tier in funded research, according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

The R2 classification, according to the Carnegie website, means OU has "awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year and also institutions with below 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees that awarded at least 30 professional practice doctoral degrees in at least 2 programs."

These degrees and scholarships include mostly funded research.

Dr. David Stone, chief research officer and a professor in the Department of Philosophy, said OU had been aiming to reach R2 classification for many years.

According to Stone and the website of Carnegie classifications, there are over 130 schools in the classification OU is in. Other Michigan schools in this ranking include Michigan Tech, Eastern Michigan University and Marquette University.

Dr. Kevin Corcoran, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said not every college pushes to reach the High Research Activity classification OU achieved.

"It's not something you apply for, it's something that they evaluate about the institution," Corcoran said. "So in a certain respect you can say our entire time as an insti-

tution we've been working on it."

He also reported that the research being conducted is by both faculty and staff.

Among the students, both graduates and undergraduates can get involved in the research and be awarded for it.

There are many things done with the research. The research itself could help send a student off to graduate school whether it be at OU or somewhere else.

"Medical schools look favorably upon undergraduate students who have been involved in research programs and doing research," Corcoran said. "They do everything a professional would do except they do it under the supervision of a professor or a professional."

"We sit in this middle space where we are big enough that we have people who are getting grants, but we are small enough

that we focus enough on undergraduate education where they can get directly involved."

According to Stone, the next plan for the university and its classification is to grow stronger and widen the areas that need more attention.

"We want to strengthen the areas that need to be strengthened and broaden the areas that need to be broadened," he said.

Some of the stronger research subjects, according to Corcoran, include physics and, specifically, medical physics. Other areas include biology, chemistry and math.

The subjects that need to be broadened — but are still strong in their own right — are areas such as psychology. Corcoran said faculty, students and higher-ranking individuals want to conduct more funded research in delving into the "darker sides of personality" and "the way animals think."



# Biology professor studies global river ecology

**Taylor Crumley**  
Staff Reporter

One of Oakland University's own was the leader of a recently published global study of river ecology in the journal, *Science Advances*.

In the study, Dr. Scott Tiegs, associate professor of biology at OU, observed and analyzed the decomposition of organic matter in rivers across 40 countries. This study took place in every continent and in different ecosystems, with help from 152 other researchers.

Mark Isken, associate professor of management information systems for the School of Business; Dave Szlag, associate professor of environmental science; and undergraduate student Diana Ethaiya also contributed to the study.

"Rivers play key roles in our global carbon cycle and help regulate our climate," Tiegs said. "One of the ways this is done is through the decomposition of organic matter as it is transported downstream."

“**Rivers play key roles in our global carbon cycle and help regulate our climate...One of the ways this is done is through the decomposition of organic matter as it is transported downstream.**”

DR. SCOTT TIEGS  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

According to National Geographic, rivers are a crucial part of our water cycle and help transport groundwater and precipitation down to oceans where the water then evaporates and create clouds to repeat the cycle. Although rivers are vital to societies, humans have only a basic knowledge of them.

"Despite the central importance of

decomposition in rivers, we have only a rudimentary understanding of how their capacity to decompose organic matter varies from river to river," Tiegs said.

Tiegs' study aimed to gather information on how decomposition in rivers varies across the world in different ecosystems. The speed and severity of rivers decaying across the world can tell a lot about the environment.

"By having field sites distributed on each continent, we were able to understand how rivers function across Earth's major climatic zones such as deserts and rainforests," Tiegs said.

About 500 rivers were examined in the global study Tiegs led. The rivers studied are known as reference streams, or streams that are not heavily impacted by humans. The methods used in each site were standardized from river to river, which made this study unique and more useful than others that have been done previous to it.

"Some of my field sites were in Ecuador, one of my favorite places to do research," Tiegs said. "It was a treat for me to get to

take OU students there last month during a tropical field ecology class."

In the future, Tiegs plans to use the same assessment used in this study, but on rivers that experience human activity in ways of agriculture and industrialization. This will allow for a comparison between rivers that are relatively untouched by humans and those that are impacted.

"This will enable us to quantify how these two land uses impact the role of rivers in our global carbon cycle," Tiegs said.

These findings will lead to discovering more on how humans have an impact on our ecosystems and our environment. Temperature and moisture, which were both evaluated by this study, are climatic variables that are increasingly impacted by humans.

The data collected in the study will allow researchers to know how these factors can affect the world in the long-run.

The full research article can be found on the *Science Advances* website.

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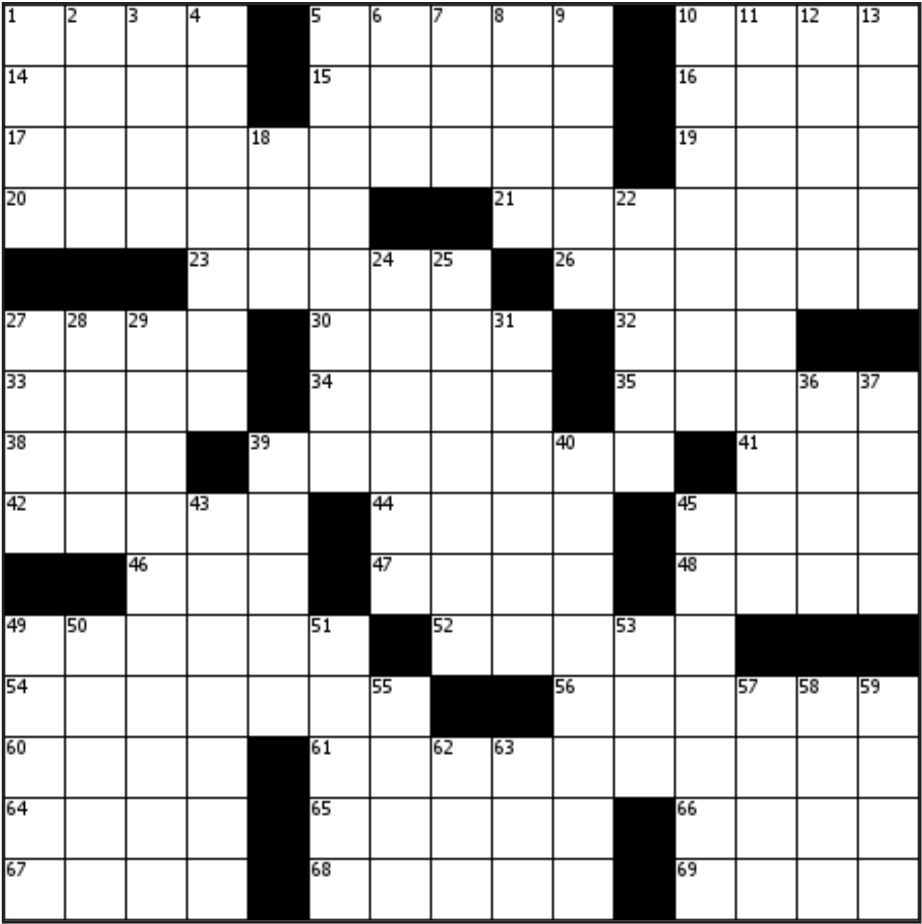
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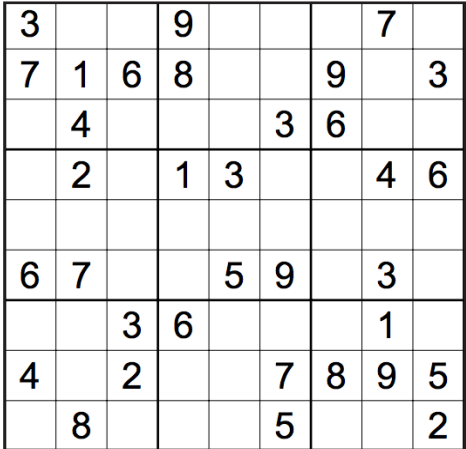
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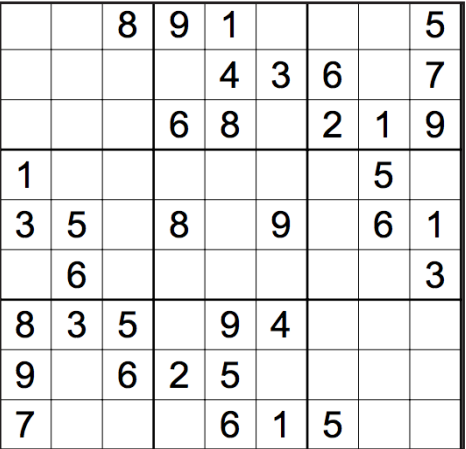


- Across**
- 1. College Park student, briefly
  - 5. Sand containers
  - 10. Role for Shirley
  - 14. Not to the wind
  - 15. Circle around
  - 16. Afternoon parties
  - 17. Where a Dell may go
  - 19. It's in the Bible
  - 20. Leachman of "The Last Picture Show"
  - 21. Treat, as in therapy
  - 23. Middle name of Lenin or Tchaikovsky
  - 26. Swimsuit material, perhaps
  - 27. Carpaccio base
  - 30. Cheep joint?
  - 32. Maglie or Mineo
  - 33. A deadly sin
  - 34. Doozy
  - 35. Low bridge bid, informally
  - 38. Yeoman's yes
  - 39. "Silent Movie" actor
  - 41. Loudness unit
  - 42. "Inferno" poet
  - 44. Reps' rivals
  - 45. Million add-on
  - 46. The Lord, as introduced to Moses
  - 47. War deity
  - 48. Take apart
  - 49. Disperse
  - 52. Colorful talk
  - 54. Heavy metal band?
  - 56. Words with "my sunshine"
  - 60. Metropolitan areas, for short
  - 61. Where an Oriole may go
  - 64. Achievement
  - 65. Old operating room substance
  - 66. Fill-in at the office, briefly
  - 67. Obscures
  - 68. Title documents
  - 69. Dog dish filler, perhaps
- Down**
- 1. Powder base
  - 2. Lod Airport carrier
  - 3. Defaulter's auto, often
  - 4. Scare and then some
  - 5. Frozen treat brand
  - 6. Bow shape
  - 7. Famous roundball coach
  - 8. One of the Presleys
  - 9. Surgeon's insert, perhaps
  - 10. Bellini or Fellini, e.g.
  - 11. Where deletions may go
  - 12. Passover staple
  - 13. Beauty, brawn or brains, e.g.
  - 18. Standard product?
  - 22. Heated crime?
  - 24. Woulda partner
  - 25. Theme of this puzzle
  - 27. Sweat unit
  - 28. "A Day Without Rain" singer
  - 29. Where mascara may go
  - 31. Thrash
  - 36. Egghead sort
  - 37. Cooking staple
  - 39. Leg bone
  - 40. Lode analysts
  - 43. Wu-wei adherents
  - 45. Masters locale
  - 49. Material of no consequence
  - 50. Correo \_\_\_\_ (Spanish airmail)
  - 51. Words with go or off
  - 53. "\_\_\_\_ gloom of night ..."
  - 55. Tiny Archibald
  - 57. Second son
  - 58. Cakewalk
  - 59. National before 2005
  - 62. Across-board link
  - 63. Rocker Nugent

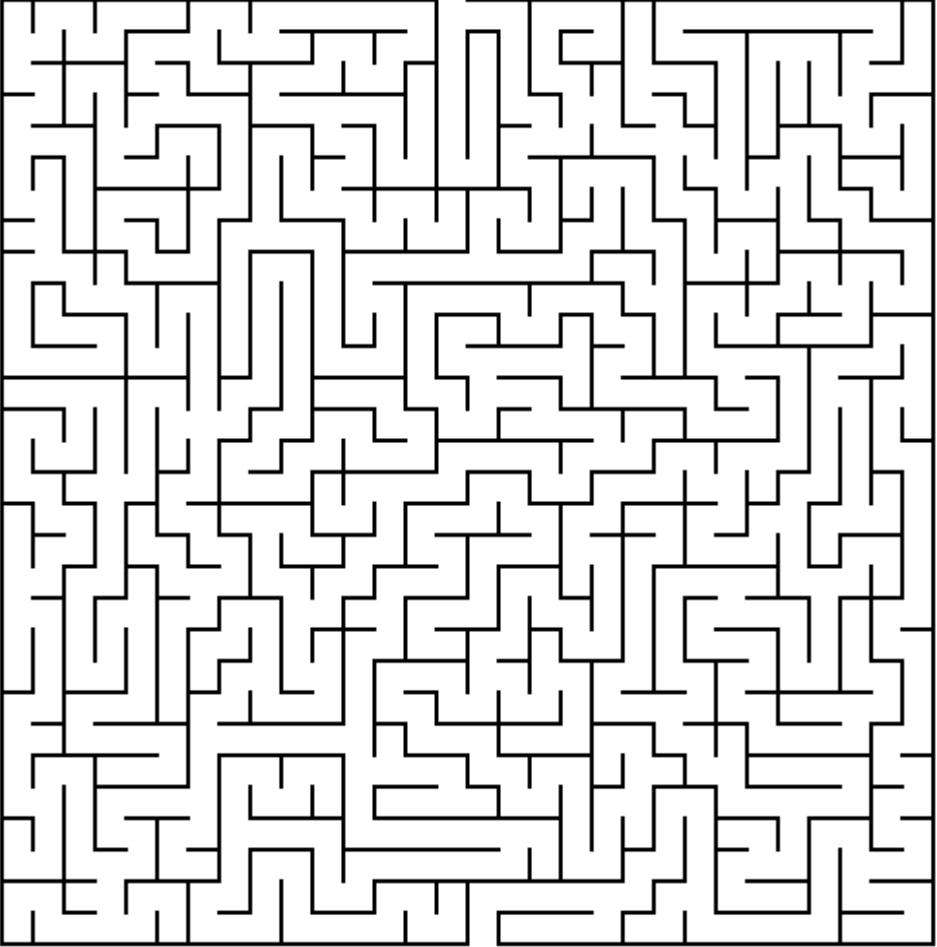
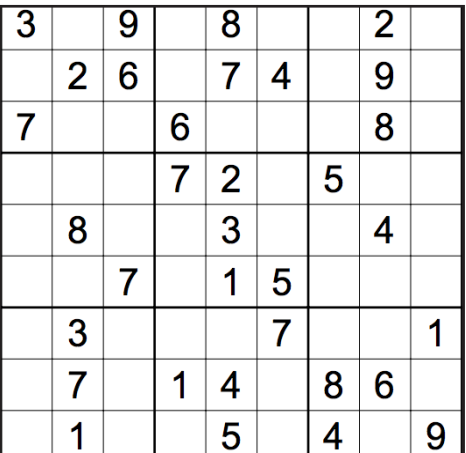
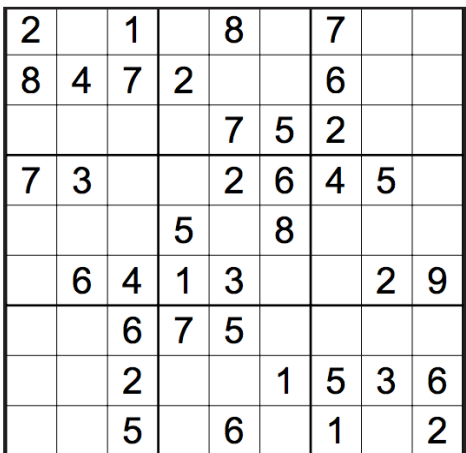
NOVICE



TOUGH



INTERMEDIATE





## CAMPUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

Several volunteer opportunities were offered for students and alumni to participate in.

## OUWB celebrates MLK Jr. Day

**JORDAN JEWELL**

*Engagement Editor*

The Office for Student Involvement's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service was canceled due to inclement weather this past weekend. The event, originally scheduled for January 19, has been rescheduled for March 9.

The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) proceeded to hold their day of service on Monday, January 21. The day of service is inspired by the Corporation for National Community and Service's call to make MLK a "Day ON, not a day OFF."

Various organizations in the Auburn Hills/Rochester community took Jan. 21 as a chance to make a difference in their community.

OUWB offered five service opportunities for OU students, faculty and alumni.

"We had volunteers at the Baldwin Center in Pontiac, Grace Centers of Hope, The Older Persons Commission and Hope Warming Center," Jean Szura, director of Service Learning at OUWB, said.

The Baldwin Center works to feed, clothe and educate members of the Pontiac community. Grace Centers of Hope and Hope Warming Center are both homeless shelters. The Older Persons Commission prepares and delivers meals.

Students and faculty worked to prepare and serve breakfast at shelters, deliver meals with Meals on Wheels and facilitated bingo games.

In addition to these locations, students and faculty were able to work at OUWB and make no-sew fleece blankets for World Medical Relief in South-

field, Mich. as part of their blanket distribution program.

Leading up to MLK Jr. Day, OUWB's Diversity and Inclusion program hosted their fourth annual Reach Out and Read book collection and read aloud event.

"This event lets us bring in books that really highlight diversity and inclusion," Dr. Caryn Reed, director of Diversity and Inclusion, said. "It's an easy way to introduce the concept that we can all bring different characteristics and strengths to the table."

Student volunteers have the opportunity to read to children in the Beaumont Children's Hospital.

"Our students act as 'special guest' readers at the hospital and the children always look forward to hearing the stories," Reed said. "The donated books have helped Beaumont grow a significantly sized library."

After a snowstorm hit campus, OSI chose to postpone their Day of Service. The day was going to consist of volunteer opportunities that will now take place on March 9.

A new sign up sheet will be posted on GrizzOrgs for students and faculty to choose what volunteer work they would like to take part in.

"There's a lot of different places to volunteer including First and Main of Auburn Hills and CARE House of Oakland County," Daryl Blackburn, a graduate assistant for Leadership and Service Learning, said.

For more information about OSI's Day of Service, contact Daryl Blackburn at [dablackb@oakland.edu](mailto:dablackb@oakland.edu) or visit the OSI GrizzOrg page.

## POLICE FILES

### Rooftop welfare check

Oakland University Dispatch received a call from a student worried that another student was making suicidal statements on top of the Math and Science Center roof on Oct. 24, 2018. All units were dispatched to locate the student.

The officers received a text updating them the student in question was now in Hillcrest Hall, near the elevator. They were able to locate the student, and asked him if he was feeling OK. He stated he was on a call with his mom. The officer said that several people were worried about his welfare, to which he said he was OK. He said he was having problems dealing with his sexuality and the roof is his safe place, and he had been on top of the roof before.

When asked, he said he was not currently having suicidal or self-harming thoughts. The officer then asked if he would be willing to go talk to a professional at a hospital that night. The student said he already had an appointment with his counselor at Graham Health Center. The officer gave him his business card and told him to contact him by phone or email if he ever felt the need to talk.

Later that night, the officer that was in contact with the student called him and told him to notify OUPD when he arrived to GHC for his appointment. He agreed to call them when he arrived.

After some communications and further concerns with Oakland University Housing, the officer went back to the student early in the morning and offered to drive him to GHC when their offices opened at 8 a.m. The officer transported the student at the determined time, and in a follow-up interview with the student he said his family and coach were very supportive and he is doing better. The officer informed him he could call or email to talk with him in the future if needed.

*Compiled by  
Ben Hume, Staff Reporter*

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# KEEPER *of the* DREAM

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CELEBRATION

*story by Katie Valley | design by Katie LaDuke | photos by Nicole Morsfield | cutouts by Erin O'Neill*

Nine students were awarded on MLK Jr. Day for their leadership roles and commitment to their academics and careers at the 27th annual Keeper of the Dream Scholarship Awards Celebration.

The event marks the start of African American Celebration Month. The Keeper of the Dream award, which was first given to students in 1993, goes to students who exhibit the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy through their leadership, academic achievement and devotion to diversity.

Award-winning journalist and communication specialist Jeff Johnson was the event's keynote speaker and spoke about the significance of MLK Jr. Day and how King's reputation is bigger than his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Johnson has worked in communication, influencing a private, public, and entertainment clientele. He also regularly contributes to the Rickey Smiley Morning Show, and he has interviewed former President Barack Obama and Secretary Hillary Clinton for BET News. He co-wrote Steve Harvey's book, "Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success."

While delivering the keynote address, Johnson defined "dream" as an acronym: "Delivering Revolutionary Equity And Mastery." He said it's important for universities to have a dedication to community and equity.

"Community and equity should be beyond diversity and inclusion," Johnson said. "Because when you create community, not only are you inserting people into various levels of your infrastructure when you create community, you're creating a place where all of those people feel comfortable being different."

The Keeper of the Dream award recognizes



Johnson spoke about Dr. King Jr.'s famous speech and the differences between diversity and inclusion. students that fight to establish community standards that acknowledge differences.

The nine students who received the award this year also were awarded \$5,000 scholarships. Sponsors for the event were Flagstar Bank, the KeyBank Foundation, Autoliv, Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland, Beaumont Health, the Lynne and Lia McIntosh Scholarship, the Marshall Family Scholar Foundation, the Oakland University Credit Union and the Oakland University Alumni Association. Willis Towers Watson was the Keeper of the Dream vision sponsor.

Johnson addressed current nationwide issues, saying King truly became a threat to officials once he pushed his focus to a larger scale, and his endeavor to help overcome struggles with poverty is more than his "I Have a Dream" legacy of a united country.

"How dare we, in the name of celebrating a man, celebrate who he's not, in the name of making us feel comfortable about what we don't do?..." Johnson said. "And how many of us as leaders sometimes feel stuck because the things we have been saying often put us in a box with other people, and we don't often feel like we can evolve. I want these young leaders to know you can evolve tomorrow from what you said yesterday."

Omar Brown-El, senior director for the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI), said the CMI team is happy to see so many students being awarded for their hard work.

"Students are being recognized as leaders here on our campus, in terms of diversity, equity and inclusion," he said. "The students are in line with trying to keep Dr. King's dream alive. We are very happy for our student recipients this year, as we always are."

Johnson said in an academic environment, King's commitment to justice lives on through the things students do to find excellence.

"I think King's legacy transcends no matter where you are," he said. "I think he was very clear about making sure you have a standard of excellence and a commitment to justice, so you don't have to have any formal education to do that. Doing that at a campus hopefully is about learning the level of mastery in a certain area that you can carry not only that mastery, but a sense of justice with you."

The 2019 Keeper of the Dream award recipients are: Julia Alexander, Flavio Di Stefano, Ernesto Duran-Gutierrez, Ghazi Ghazi, Gicentroy Henry III, Benjamin Lane, Dezirae Robinson, Destinee Rule and Chukwuebuka Unobagha.



WHAT DOES KEEPER OF THE DREAM MEAN TO YOU?



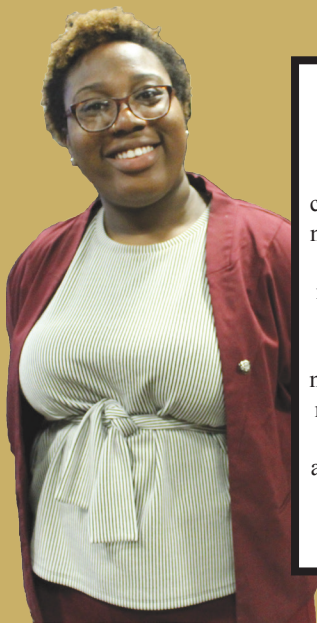
Benjamin Lane

“It means the work that I’ve done on campus in terms of trying to create a more equal environment, trying to make it more inclusive for my campus community, it’s kind of validating I’m doing something correct.”



Chukwuebuka Unobagha

“Winning the Keeper of the Dream means striving toward equality and creating civil rights for every single person. Doing that in the form of support and love for one another, no matter who the person is... It’s continuous work.”



Destinee Rule

“Winning Keeper of the Dream means to me, I may stay up crying and sobbing all night when something doesn’t sit well with me, and I’ll go to the rallies, and I’ll go to the marches, and I’ll make sure that I speak my mind in class and let everyone know and call everyone out, and check my own privileges as well.”



Dezirae Robinson

“I can be a visual representative for people of color, people going into the PT field or anyone that wants to apply for the scholarship.... One of the things I think still stands as those kind of racial barriers that we have is people who are of color feel they don’t see anyone in their field, so they can’t do that... and I want to change that.”



Ernesto Duran-Gutierrez

“As an artist, I feel like it’s important for me to get this award because it helps get those other artists’ voices out there and allows us to be part of that discussion as well because we are contributing to this legacy.”



Flavio Di Stefano

“[The award] symbolizes that I am working for underrepresented groups on campus and that I am making sure that their voices are heard and that we are acting upon their stories and that we’re moving toward a more inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone because that’s how I felt when I came to Oakland.”



Ghazi Ghazi

“Seeing what students have done on campus can only inspire other students to do the same.... It’s not just a scholarship, it’s not just an award, it’s more of an inspiration that can go on year after year.”



Gicentroy Henry III

“Getting the Keeper award means to continue a legacy of achievement for me.... It’s just great because I feel like I’m doing the right thing, as far as my path goes. I feel like I’m where I need to be.”



Julia Alexander

“I feel like my main way that I uphold that legacy is standing up for the rights of others. I’m really interested in political engagement work. Whenever I see an issue, I always look right into the challenge.”





RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Poker enthusiast Alex enjoys one of the many poker tables at casino night.



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Students enjoyed an evening full of faux gambling and mocktails at Casino Night.



## Casino Night brings back a popular event with new twists

**AUJENEE HIRSCH**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The first snowstorm to hit Rochester this year could not stop students from having a fun filled night of “gambling.” Student Program Board (SPB) hosted their annual Casino Night on Saturday, Jan. 19.

The theme this year was “A Night in Italy” in which students played traditional casino games such as black-jack and poker, in order to win tickets to be entered in a prize drawing. At the end of the night, SPB announced they would be bringing Blackbear and KYLE to campus for the annual SPB Spring Concert.

SPB spent months planning the event.

Most of the planning was done by Annual Events Director Guiseppe Giammalva and Main Stage Director Starr Brown. Giammalva and Brown both thought it would be a good idea to bring a hypnotist and a magician to Casino Night.

“Eric the hypnotist and Joseph the magician that were both there, we found them both at a conference we went to, and we were both really impressed by them and were like let’s bring them to Casino Night,” Brown said.

At the event, students were able to create light up keychains with their faces on them, drink coasters with their names engraved on them, get hypnotized and win one of 27 prizes. A few of the prizes consisted of a Nintendo Switch, Michael Kors purse, PlayStation 4, 40” TV, and a chance to meet Blackbear and KYLE at

the spring concert.

After hosting Casino Night last year, SPB decided to do a bit of reformatting for the event in order to make it worthwhile for both the students and performers. Some of the biggest changes consisted of bringing two acts to the event, and when they announced the prize winners.

“Since it’s an annual event it’s always trying to change it up so people are still interested in it,” Brown said. “...But we kind of reformatted it where we had the two performers instead of one and the one was always at the end of the night after all the prizes were announced and a lot of students weren’t sticking around for that so that...was probably the biggest change.”

For many students on campus, Casi-

no Night gives them a chance to take a break away from their studies and work to unwind.

“Casino Night is one of my favorite events on campus,” student Anthony Alu said. “It’s a lot of fun to get together with friends and play games.”

“I hope students take away that there’s always something to do on campus and that they don’t have to go home every weekend,” Brown said. “Student Program Board and a lot of other organizations on campus work hard to plan and promote events that students will like and enjoy, and have fun attending.”

The next SPB event will be Coffee-house with live music from The Icarus Account at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24 in The Habitat.



## SPORTS

# Chris Handy is far from home, but living his dream

*He traveled over 3,000 miles to compete*

**DEVIN BOATWRIGHT**

*Staff Intern*

Spring is slowly coming upon us, which means golf is following its coattails. The first match up for the men's golf team starts in February and Chris Handy, a junior here at Oakland University, is ready to swing away.

"I'm just excited to get back out there," Handy said. "It's been a cold winter in Michigan so we've had to practice indoors and what not. So it'll be nice to be on the golf course again and actually hit off grass."

Handy, originally from the United Kingdom, has always dreamed of playing golf at the collegiate level. Since he was young, he's had a passion for the game and many of the people that inspire that passion of his play professional golf.

"It's always been a dream of mine," Handy said. "Being from the UK, a lot of the guys I look up to came over to the U.S. to play and pursued a career in it, going pro and what not. I think for golf, especially if you go to college, is a great step to take to go professional afterwards."

It may be hard to fathom someone moving to a different country to go to school and play a sport, but for Chris Handy the decision was not difficult. Choosing to attend Oak-

land University was even easier.

"It was mainly all the facilities around that brought me here," Handy said. "We have two great courses here on campus so that was a big thing for me as well. Top schools that recruited me said I had to drive to the courses 10, sometimes 15 minutes away from campus. Also our coach is just great. He's one of the best guys I know in all honesty."

Multitasking and being in different student organizations, groups, teams or clubs in college while taking classes is not for the faint of heart. Playing and being a part of your alma mater's team adds a few more challenges to the mix as well. Handy feels time management is very important in maintaining grades as well as being a beast on the course and over time, he's grown accustomed to that way of life.

"Yeah it comes with its challenges," Handy said. "You have to time manage a ton. Especially in golf where tournaments are held in 12-hour stretches if you play 36 holes, you have to do your schoolwork beforehand or on the bus. It's a juggling act, but I feel like I have a lot of experience with that now and I'm way more comfortable than I was at the start of the year."

The men's golf team and Handy will be back on fresh ground starting Monday, Feb. 18 at the Weston Hills Country Club in Weston, Fla.

# Myles Zilinsky prepares for upcoming season

*The season begins in mid February*

**JONATHAN SAVICH**

*Staff Reporter*

Myles Zilinsky is the left fielder for the Oakland baseball team and he looks to close his baseball career with a bang this season, as he also prepares for a life outside of baseball and college.

He is from West Chicago, which may be mistaken as the west side of Chicago, but it's actually a city about 45 minutes from downtown Chicago. Oakland, having a relatively similar proximity to Detroit is something that reminded Zilinsky of home, and it was a factor that helped him choose OU.

Growing up a Cubs fan and an overall Chicago sports fan, he has seen his hardships but he also has experienced triumphs. By the time Zilinsky had gotten to high school, he knew every other sport was a side gig compared to baseball.

Zilinsky will be graduating this semester with a double major in accounting and finance. In 2018 he was named to the 2018 Horizon League All-Academic Team. He recently accepted a position at Stout, a global finance firm and will be working back in Chicago as an investment banking analyst.

There are several players who are also from the Chicago metro area and they can watch the games together like the recent Cody Parkey fiasco, which was a devastating blow for all Chicago sports fans. Before the games, the team likes to play a game called two ball in order to relax and get ready for the match-up.

"Being on a sports team is like being in a family at Oakland," Zilinsky said about being a part of the team, "You basically come to campus with

35 friends made for you... it's one of the nice things about being a student-athlete at Oakland. Everyone is really welcoming and everyone wants to get to know each other."

As a competitor on the field, he doesn't see himself as a vocal leader. Zilinsky decides to lead by example, it's what he has always done and will continue to do. As a hitter, he can be entered anywhere in the line up whether he's leading off, batting third or rounding the back end of the hitting order at seven or eight. Zilinsky said the team's goal is to win the Horizon League Championship, and they always want to gun to be first or second seed in the Horizon League tournament in order to get the bye week. As a senior, he will be looked up to as a team leader and will set the bar with his competitive style.

"There's about 11 or 12 seniors on the team and we are ultimately all leaders," Zilinsky said. "...There's not one or the other above each other, underclassmen can come to any senior and it'd be the same."

He has enjoyed volunteering with the team at various events he wouldn't have got to attend otherwise. Being a part of the baseball team has helped him in aspects of life outside of the sport like communication and leadership development. As Zilinsky and the boys gear up for springtime, they will have their hands full.

The season kicks off on Feb. 15 against Western Carolina in North Carolina. The Golden Grizzlies don't return home until March 29, so it will be some time before they're playing on their home turf. Zilinsky will look to build off an impressive campaign where he had a .313 batting average and hit three home runs.



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Handy moved far from the United Kingdom to Michigan to play on the golf team.

# New Athletic Director, new focus for Oakland

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
Sports Editor

In the last five months, Athletic Director Steve Waterfield has had a busy first semester. He has met with every staff member of the Athletic Department and attended many sporting events in an attempt to immerse himself in the culture of Oakland's athletics.

"It was a good semester, it was a lot of learning, listening and observing," Waterfield said.

His three main focuses for 2019 and beyond are continuing the Lepley Center project, fixing the baseball/softball field and trying to improve golf facilities.

The Lepley Center project is a project focused on improving workout facilities, introducing space for student-athletes to study and improve academically as well as film rooms and other utilities that are essential for preparation.

"In November the university started a capital campaign for the university," Waterfield said. "The athletics part is the Lepley

Center, baseball and softball facilities, and the indoor golf facilities. It's moving, I'm waiting for the final case statement materials and have had some general conversations with donors. That will become more and more frequent as we move along."

“

**As we start to build toward that and make more progress I feel we'll make more strides. There's a lot of work to be done here, but there's a lot of work to be done at every Division I school.**

**STEVE WATERFIELD**  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

”

Facilities have been a major issue for coaches and student-athletes, as many have compared Oakland's facilities to that of a Division II school rather than

Division I, which Oakland has been for 20 years. Renovation has been a topic of discussion for years.

"The plans have been in place for a while but for whatever reason we haven't had a lot of traction," Waterfield said. "I think the key is to get those main gifts, and get to an amount of money that allows us to get started on all three projects."

A big point of contention for Waterfield was the state of the baseball and softball stadium. Most years, the teams don't have a home game until the end of exams due to weather. The field is located downhill, which gets flooded most of the time.

"We need to dramatically improve our baseball stadium and our softball stadium," Waterfield said. "Right now we can't host Horizon League tournaments at either facility. Getting the baseball stadium and softball stadium improved is one of the main goals."

Oakland has been a Division I school since 1999, but has as-

pects that are sub par compared to other Division I schools in the state and nation.

"I think there are things structurally in Athletics that have prevented us from truly being Division I in certain areas," Waterfield said. "As we start to build toward that and make more progress I feel we'll make more strides. There's a lot of work to be done here, but there's a lot of work to be done at every Division I school."

Despite needing work in some



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Improving the baseball stadium is one of Waterfield's main goals.

## Men's basketball beat rival UDM Titans

*Members who played a substantial role in the win by scoring major points were Davis, Hill-Mais, Cumberland and Brechting*

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
Sports Editor

Chants of "this is our house" rained down from the upper bowl of Calihan Hall, as the Grizz Gang made their mark on the Metro Series rivalry game. The players made their mark as well, winning 79-73 and improving to 5-2 in Horizon League play.

"This was a step in the right direction for us to win the Horizon League Championship," Xavier Hill-Mais said.

Despite being 8-2 against Detroit Mercy since they joined the Horizon League, the Golden Grizzlies came into the game as the underdogs. Detroit boasted a 5-1 in-conference record, good enough to be No. 1 in the conference.

"We had a week to prepare for them, and I think that was huge," Kampe said. "I can't tell you how pleased I am with our players for executing the game plan."

Head Coach Greg Kampe and the Golden Grizzlies had to stop Antoine Davis, the freshman scoring the most

points in the NCAA with 27.7 a game.

"We guarded their three guys who could score and played a two-man zone," Kampe said. "Any time Davis got the ball we ran and doubled him."

For the most part in the first half, Davis remained in check, as he didn't score a point for 11 minutes. Oakland had the lead for almost the entire first half, as both Hill-Mais and Jaevin Cumberland had 11 points, and Oakland shot 50 percent from the floor.

Brad Brechting played a key role in Oakland's success in the first half, scoring eight points and grabbing seven rebounds. As a Cumberland shot bounced off the rim, Oakland went into halftime up 39-33.

Detroit came out of halftime strong, bringing the game within two points, and Davis was hitting more shots. Both teams struggled to separate themselves from the other for 10 minutes. With eight minutes remaining, Oakland flipped a switch.

Cumberland began to hit everything he took, including three straight free throws after getting fouled on a cor-

ner 3-pointer. He hit his sixth 3-pointer with a man in his face, stretching the lead to 72-55. The Golden Grizzlies scored 10 unanswered points in two minutes, holding a 17-point lead with six minutes left.

"They were doubling X (Hill-Mais) a lot," Cumberland said. "So, I just went to the open spots and found the right shots."

Detroit would not go down without a fight though. Willy Isiani hit three 3-pointers and the game was beginning to flip. The UDM defense began to stifle the Golden Grizzly offense, forcing turnovers and easy layups. Davis hit a 3-pointer, and Kampe had to call a timeout with the lead down to seven points.

The game remained tight until the end, as Davis kept getting to the free throw line, making all four of his attempts. Despite getting more points in the second half, Davis was visibly upset with the referees and the pressure of Oakland's defense.

Detroit had a chance to bring the game to within one point, but the hottest shooter in the gym, Isiani, missed

back-to-back threes and Maddox came down with the rebound. The game was over, and Oakland exited Calihan Hall with victory.

Oakland continues their road trip against their next opponent, the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Jaguars on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 11 a.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UDM ATHLETICS  
Oakland advances to 5-2 in league play.



## OPINION

# Government shutdown: One month, no end in sight



**PATRICK SULLIVAN**  
*Web Editor*

"I am proud to shutdown the government for border security... I will be the one to shut [the government] down."

This is what President Donald Trump had to say on Dec. 11 in a meeting with the current Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer regarding a government shutdown. Now, one month after the partial shutdown on Dec. 22, 2018, we still don't appear to have an end in sight.

This was the second shutdown in 2018, the first shutdown happening over an immigration argument and DACA funding, and it is the longest shutdown in United States history.

The reason for the shutdown? \$5.7 billion dollars for a wall on the southern border. Any spending plan that goes through Congress must contain funding for the border wall, and both Republicans and Democrats are not budging on either side.

This shutdown had cost the U.S. around \$3.6 billion as of Friday, Jan. 11. Not only is there the monetary loss

that the U.S. has felt, but the shutdown has also affected a number of employees of the federal government.

800,000 federal employees have been affected by the shutdown. 800,000 missed paychecks, 800,000 people that for the past month have had to learn how to live without having financial security.

While there are some government agencies with separate funding that have continued to run, the length of the shutdown has started to dig into others. The EPA, FDA, part of the IRS, museums and some national parks are closed with employees furloughed due to the government shutdown.

A variety of other government services are limping along, with TSA officials working without pay and the USDA functioning with limited funding.

Other agencies and operations are running, but they may soon run out of funding if the shutdown continues.

The services that are still available are cut off at the knees, causing problems for normal citizens. Small businesses being unable to take out federally-assisted loans, and farmers being unable to get supplies without help from the USDA are some examples of regular people being affected. There are videos floating around the internet of extraordinarily long lines at TSA checkpoints, causing passengers to miss flights.

Both sides are continuing to negotiate, but neither party appears to be budging.

Pelosi has suggested in a letter to Trump he reschedule the State of the Union address due to the shutdown causing safety concerns. The address has not been rescheduled since Reagan was in office, where the State of the Union was scheduled on the same day as the Challenger disaster.

The president's office is still preparing for the address despite Pelosi's letter.

So, what steps have been taken to rectify this shutdown? This week, the House is voting on a spending bill that will have money for border security, but will not contain the money for Trump's border wall.

Odds are, this bill will die in the Senate without the funding for the wall included.

# The anti-abortion stance and Ben Shapiro's comments on baby Hitler

**BEN HUME**  
*Staff Reporter*

Anti-abortion supporters marched on the United States Supreme Court last Friday, Jan. 18 as a part of the March for Life movement. With the recent confirmation and swearing-in of new Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, this year's rally holds more hope for those who are against women's right to choose.

The march has existed ever since the 1974 Roe v. Wade decision. This year, Vice President Mike Pence even made a surprise guest appearance. But this was not the real highlight of the march for me. That came when infamous conservative "intellectual" Ben Shapiro commented on how someone who is anti-choice would treat baby Hitler.

"The argument I guess here is that, would you kill baby Hitler, and the truth is that no pro-life person on Earth would kill baby Hitler," Shapiro asserted.

This one comment is just one among the many other reasons I believe the anti-abortion group acts in bad faith. At the very least, this comment should shed some light on the many flaws in the anti-choice debate.

The first problem with this anecdote is the age-old flaw in this movement's arguments, that abortions are inhumane because they kill nearly born or already born infants. This is simply almost never the case. According to the Guttmacher Institute, two-thirds of abortions occur at eight weeks of pregnancy or earlier, and 89 percent occur in the first 12 weeks. When people like Shapiro make these strange anecdotes, saying that no one would kill baby Hitler — an already stupid argument made in bad faith — they spread false information and associate all abortions as late-stage abortions that are done out of malice or due to not caring about the fetus.

This is before considering the fact that Shapiro's comments are putting all of the emphasis on the baby and taking agency away from the woman who is carrying the baby. When you take a stance as extreme as "well,



would you kill baby Hitler?" you take away the more important aspect of the argument — the woman's choice. The argument should not center around the baby that does not yet exist, the argument should center around the health and choice of the pregnant woman and fetus.

And that's one of the worst parts about Shapiro's comment — the rhetoric involved. When you call something that is not yet born a baby rather than a fetus, you give it more autonomy and value and therefore appeal more to people's sense of empathy. This is dangerous because it makes a fetus that cannot even survive on its own seem more important than an already existing woman.

This headline might look at first like a stupid extension of anti-abortion comments with no real intellectual weight behind it. You would be partially correct in saying even when wannabe conservative intellectuals want to think they are making arguments in good faith, they are most definitely not. Their rhetoric is dangerous, and if you want to have a real discussion or debate about this topic, make sure the person you are speaking with is not using manipulative language.

And definitely make sure they don't lead their argument with "would you kill baby Hitler?"

# ‘The Masked Singer’ is full of second-guesses

*Celebrity guests entertain the audience with songs leaving them to take a guess at the identity beneath the mask*

**ALYSSA OCHSS**

*Staff Intern*

Mystery celebrities decked out in gorgeous costumes and masks competing in a singing competition? Sign me up!

“The Masked Singer” is a new show on Fox that hit TV only four weeks ago, and it’s been a great hit for families everywhere. Every week I am left second-guessing my decisions about who could be under the masks these celebrities wear.

In the show, masked celebrities enter the stage and present videos containing clues for the celebrity judges (Robin Thicke, Jenny McCarthy Wahlberg, Ken Jeong and Nicole Scherzinger) and the studio audience to figure out their identities. They then sing, and audience members vote for who they think was best.

Last week, Jan. 14, the masked singers were split into groups for their second face-off. The group containing the lion, peacock, deer, monster and unicorn sang. Each had a new video to show the judges, giving them precious clues that would lead to unveiling who is under each mask.

Once the group of mystery celebrities was fully introduced, they performed one-by-one and the judges gave their guesses for who they could be. Audiences at home could play along in guessing the celebrity.

The intense suspense was enough to leave me biting at my fingernails and consulting Google to see if the clues lined up with the celebrities I had in mind. The deer, I thought, could be Peyton Manning or Shaq, while I was left stumped when I no longer thought the lion could be Lady Gaga. The unicorn had me doing flips



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Judge Nicole Scherzinger speculated the Deer performer is not a professional singer as these clues help to narrow down the identity.

when I guessed they were a famous gymnast, the peacock faintly sounded like Brendon Urie, and the monster could be anyone.

One of the best things about this show is the celebrities under the masks aren’t all just singers. Actors, athletes and people who are famous in their own right could be under the masks, giving audiences and the judges endless possibilities for who each performer is. The judges have even guessed politicians could be under the masks.

As shown in the first three episodes, it is ultimately up to the audience present at the time of the performances to choose who stays and who goes. Some of the decisions have left the judges questioning the intentions of the audience when their favorites were in the bottom three or got voted off the show.

The voting mechanism is a

great way to get the audience involved – and a way to make sure it’s out of judges’ hands. The judges have almost no say in who is in the bottom or, in last week’s case, who gets voted off completely. The judges might not vote in a way that is representative of the audience. It could also go the other way around, as seen in previous weeks.

At the end of each episode of the show, the celebrity with the least amount of votes on their side is unmasked and the judges are given a final chance to say who they think is under the mask. This week, the deer was voted off and I was left guessing at who it was until the mask was finally off.

Overall, the show is interesting and it leaves viewers guessing until the very last minute.

It serves its purpose of getting the whole family involved and the performances are enthusiastic and moving.

# Founders’ ‘PC Pils’ stands above the rest

**SERGIO MONTANEZ**

*Photographer*

Founders is perhaps the biggest brewery in Michigan, if not, at least the most famous in the state. And with Founders always adding new beers to its repertoire, it’s to no surprise they’re on top.

However, not everyone is a fan of their beer, but the fact is Founders has made some impressive and tasteful beers. Truth is, I’m not a huge fan of their beers, and I only really like maybe four or five in their selection.

“PC Pils,” an American hopped pilsner, is Founders’ original take on the classic pilsner style. It breaks away from Founders’ traditional recipe, making it a pleasant and well-made pilsner and one of the few beers I truly like and enjoy that is brewed by them.

“PC Pils” is the only pilsner style beer listed under Founders’ selection and is under limited or seasonal availability. You will most likely only be able to get your hands on this beer between April and July, according to Founders’ website. But liquor stores may have it in store past its seasonal availability.

At 5.5 percent ABV, this beer comes in cans and can be purchased in either a six-pack or a 15-pack. With only a two color palette, gold and brown, the design of the can is rather interesting. “PC Pils” is written big and bold within a square at the middle of both sides of the can with unique line patterns throughout the rest of the can.

When poured, it has a distinct aroma of grass and dry lemon. Aside from that, it gives off the typical citrusy, hoppy and piney smell most pilsners have.

“PC Pils” has particular taste that reminds me of Miller Lite, my go to cheap and all around beer. To me, Miller Lite is the classic pilsner and “PC Pils” emulates that same taste but it does it in a different way – the Founders way.



SERG MONTANEZ | PHOTOGRAPHER  
A beer everyone can enjoy.

According to Founders’ website, “PC Pils” uses Piney Chinook, Cascade and Centennial hops, which are a different variety of hops that are typically used in pilsners. What this means is they gave the beer a more hoppy taste than normal.

Rightly so, unlike most pilsners, “PC Pils” is a bit hoppy than say Miller Lite. At first sip, the mouthfeel is carbonated and malty but crisp and light. It has a distinct sweet, grainy citrus flavor with some odd grassy and floral overtones.

While having a small amount of a bitter taste in the beginning, it does have a dry, smooth finish. You will also notice it has a piney aftertaste too, but it doesn’t affect the overall taste of it.

The name “PC Pils” is more than just a name; it’s a description of Founders’ take on what the traditional pilsner should be.

While the beer is characterized as a classic take on the pilsner, it actually moves away from the “classic” take on it and makes its own original and unique style of the beer.

Overall, I would rate this pilsner a 3.8 out of 5 stars. Founders is always trying to enhance the craft beer experience by adding new things to simple and original recipes. “PC Pils” is a refreshing and delicious beer that can be enjoyed by anyone and everyone.



# Season two of 'The Punisher' does not pull its punches

**LAUREL KRAUS**

*Managing Editor*

**Spoiler alert! This review contains plot spoilers.**

Jon Bernthal's third appearance as Frank Castle was released on Netflix last Friday in the form of "The Punisher" season two and is everything fans would not expect, in the very best way.

Castle, an anti-hero within the Marvel Cinematic Universe, is an exceptionally trained war veteran whose wife and young children were gruesomely murdered in front of him, leading to a one-man war against those who pulled his life apart.

Bernthal's acting is the catalyst of the show's success, offering performances that are so emotionally raw or so explosively rage-filled, I'm convinced no one else could pull it off quite the same.

With season one having found a fairly strong resolution, which included the main antagonist's face and shards of a broken mirror, there was no clear direction for the newest addition, leaving much anticipation, which was far surpassed.

If season one was about vengeance, then season two is about dealing with one's own demons, taking the show's themes layers deeper and leaving no character exempt from the question, "Who am I at my core?"

The most fascinating character development goes to Billy Russo (Ben Barnes), Castle's best friend turned greatest adversary, who enters the season with a crippling case of memory loss as a result of the mirror incident.

Barnes gets a chance to prove his acting chops as fans are introduced to a character they spent last season despising, but who no longer remembers what he has done or understands why all his friends are trying to kill him. This transformation from a supervillain to a frightened little boy is everything we didn't know we needed.



Photo Courtesy of IMDb  
Frank Castle faces old and new challenges alike this season including with his own identity.

Castle, on the other hand, suddenly finds himself saddled up with a 16-year-old girl running for her life, and the relationship dynamic between the

two characters who initially seem like polar opposites adds a rare beacon of light to the immensely dark series.

In the end however, of the supporting roles, it is Karen Page (Deborah Ann Woll) who steals the show despite only appearing in a single episode due to scheduling conflicts.

There is a clear turning point in this season, a point where my jaw quite literally dropped, a moment where viewers realize Castle actually did have something left to lose... and he had just lost it.

As the character attempts to deal with this point of no return, in enters Woll, whose palpable onscreen chemistry with Bernthal provides the perfect bouncing board for a monologue, reminiscent of his cemetery scene in "Daredevil" where he bares his soul about the moment Frank Castle became The Punisher. The camera angle zeroes in on his face, and Bernthal delivers a performance that rivals any Oscar-worthy film.

The action sequences are as stellar and gritty as they ever were, but when viewers wipe away all the blood and gore on the surface, they will find a story of a man who does bad to do good, a story of how love, even familial, really does grow in the strangest of places, and a story that explores the darkest sides of humanity while illuminating the brightest sides as well.

The hope for a third season is small with Marvel shows on Netflix currently caught in the crossfire of the streaming giant's rivalry with Disney's new streaming service, but one thing's for sure, with "Jessica Jones" and "The Punisher" currently the last remaining shows of this unfairly stunted empire, it really is no surprise that Frank Castle is the last man standing.

**Rating: 5/5 stars**

# 'On the Basis of Sex' is a feminist masterpiece

**TREVOR TYLE**

*Life Editor*

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a total badass.

So it goes without saying that, if you're going to make a movie about her, it would be wise on your part to not fuck it up. Thankfully, director Mimi Leder understands that.

Leder's new film, "On the Basis of Sex," is a superhero origin story of sorts. But this isn't some "Wonder Woman" knockoff or anything like that — this is the real deal.

The film depicts Ginsburg's formative years as a law student, professor and lawyer. Played by the remarkable Felicity Jones ("Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"), the now 85-year-old Supreme Court Justice is proven to be just as feisty in her youth as ever.

When we meet Ruth in the film, she's an eager first-year Harvard Law School student — one of nine women in a class of approximately 500 men. After her husband Martin (Armie Hammer) falls ill with testicular cancer, Ruth must care for the couple's young daughter Jane (Cailee Spaeny) and attend her own classes, as well as Martin's.

After Martin recovers and finds a job

in New York, Ruth transfers to Columbia Law School to finish her degree and eventually acquires a job as a professor at Rutgers Law School.

Initially unsatisfied with the position after being denied countless jobs as a lawyer due to her gender, the opportunity finally presents itself for her to prove herself.

Ruth comes across the case of Charles Moritz (Chris Mulkey), an unmarried man who hired a nurse to help care for his ailing mother and was denied a tax deduction for such care. In short, tax law at the time limited this deduction to women, perpetuating the stereotype women are confined to a traditional caretaker role.

But, as I'm sure you guessed, this is a film about the notorious RGB, and if you thought she was going to stand for that, you were very, very wrong. She decides to take the case in hopes of setting a precedent against the discrimination of men and women in the law.

By the time the end credits roll, one thing is clear — "On the Basis of Sex" excels in nearly every way. The film is incredibly important, if for nothing else, because it's female-fronted. Considering what a feminist icon the

real-life Ginsburg is, it's only fitting the film about her was directed by a woman, particularly in a world where female film directors are still few and far between.

The film's narrative is equally notable for its relevance in today's current political climate, particularly driven home by the repetition of a quote from scholar Paul Freund throughout — "the Court should never be influenced by the weather of the day, but inevitably they will be influenced by the climate of the era."

Though perhaps slightly less effective than, "BlacKkKlansman," "On the Basis of the Sex" is released in the vein of such a film in that it triumphantly uses historical homages to address the issues that continue to plague our society today.

But "On the Basis of Sex" is nothing without Jones' nearly flawless acting chops. Hailing from Britain, Jones noticeably struggles to successfully nail Ginsburg's distinct Brooklyn accent throughout the film, but it's a small detail that can easily be overlooked. Her supporting cast is equally impeccable, including the likes of Hammer, Justin Theroux and Kathy Bates, the latter



Photo Courtesy of IMDb  
Felicity Jones shines in the origin story of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

of whose role is small but significant. The final moments of "On the Basis of Sex" even include one incredible — and surprisingly emotional — cameo from Ginsburg herself.

"On the Basis of Sex" is an empowering testament to Ginsburg's small-but-mighty stature in the fight for gender equality. Though it's largely gone unrecognized throughout awards season, "On the Basis of Sex" is arguably one of the most powerful cinematic attempts at understanding the issue of gender disparity in the United States in years.

**Rating: 4.5/5 stars**

# Who SPB SHOULD have gotten for the spring concert

*"Hey now, you're an all star. Get your game on."*

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
Sports Editor

KYLE and Blackbear? That's dope as hell. But me being the negative Nelly I am, I gotta think it could have been better. Because I'm the all-knowing satire writer at The Oakland Post, I'm going to provide you all with four artists who would have been better for the spring concert, even though KYLE and Blackbear are great.

## 1. Kevin Jonas

What's better than Nick Jonas? Well, everyone. But ESPECIALLY his brother, Kevin. Kevin is MY MAN and has always been the best Jonas Brother. Joe is close, but no one tops Kevin. Nick is whack but I guess he makes good music. I just want a Jonas Brother to perform so that I can mention their height. Also, I think with Kevin we could get better special effects because he doesn't require high heels to make him feel more powerful. All I'm saying is that I'd be burning up for Kevin Jonas. He'd blow his brother's performance out of the water. I need Kevin.

## 2. Mason Ramsey

You may know him as the yodeling kid from Walmart, but we cultured folks know him as the boy responsible for one of the greatest love songs of our generation, Famous. "If I'm gonna be famous for something, I'm gonna be famous for loving you." Beautiful poetry from my man Mason. I know he might be expensive due to all of his YouTube and Coachella fame, but he is worth every single penny. It would be similar to the vigil for Lil' Sebastian in Parks and Recreation, everyone would be on their feet, lighters in hand, crying profusely with eyes wide in pure shock of how beautiful this performance.

## 3. Blue Ivy

I mean, come ON guys. She's the daughter of Beyoncé and Jay Z, she has the singing, dancing and rapping talents on lock down. With her performing, we also get to have Beyoncé and Jay Z in the crowd because she

needs parental supervision. She's seven years old, but Mason Ramsey is 12 years old, so maybe we could get a duet going on here. They both could co-headline to satisfy the country music crowd, and the hip-hop and pop loving crowds. It's genius. Also, if the performance goes well, Blue Ivy might come to Oakland in 11 years. It's about the long game people. Checkers, not chess.

## 4. Smash Mouth

Imagine the Meadowbrook Amphitheater rocking with All Star. Holy crap. I'd practically cry. Smash Mouth is a revolutionary band that has changed the future with their ballad being included in "Shrek." They have forever changed my life and many others' lives with their music, and Student Program Board would be smart to bring in such a powerful meme.



ERIN O'NEILL | GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Many would faint at the site of Kevin Jonas.



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Submit 2019-2020 requirements to Student Financial Services. Continue to check MySail until all requirements are marked *Satisfied*.

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