

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 6 | September 16 2020

“Black Lives Matter” march on campus

*Students marched for racial justice,
from Hamlin Circle to Elliott tower
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PEACE CONCERT

International Peace Day reaches
campus community through music

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MEDICAL RACISM

Black women experience dangerous
racial bias in healthcare

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BIDEN CAMPAIGN

Joe Biden divides establishment
democrats and progressives

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PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



GRIN AND BEAR IT Student Program Board hosted their first hybrid carnival, handing out DIY stuffed animals and bringing a donut truck to the center of campus.
PHOTO / RYAN PINI

THE OAKLAND POST

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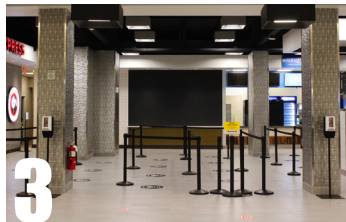
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Photo/Golden Grizzlies

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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT SHOULD REPLACE CHICK-FIL-A IN THE OAKLAND CENTER FOOD COURT?

- A) A COFFEE SHOP
- B) AN ICE CREAM PLACE
- C) POPEYES
- D) WE HAD CHICK-FIL-A?

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WILL YOU BE COMING BACK TO CAMPUS AT ALL THIS FALL?



CAMPUS

Looking back: Substance abuse programs face alcoholism

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

Substance abuse was something Barbara Talbot and Jack Wilson took action against in 1988.

Wilson, a psychologist and associate vice president of student affairs, hoped to educate students about Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA), an organization designed to help those affected by parents who abuse alcohol.

"Parents have a large impact on children," Wilson said. "Everyone in that network is substantially affected."

He explained further that every 1 in 4 families has a substance abuse problem. He gave another statistic — 1 in 8 individuals abuses drugs.

Talbot, a psychologist, worked on educational programs that were meant to increase awareness around Oakland. She received her doctorate in psychology from the University of Detroit and worked in the area of substance abuse for seven years.

"Even though you don't come in contact on a deep level, you will run into it on a work level and with friends," she said.

Talbot planned on speaking to a variety of audiences around Oakland regarding abuse. Talbot's goal was to

talk to student and professional nurses, residence hall students and commuters about substance abuse.

"I want them to recognize abuse problems [in the dorms] — to look for someone at risk and send them to be evaluated," she said.

She said that referrals received from resident assistants (RA) don't mean punishment for the student.

"When people think of referrals, they think they're disciplinary," Talbot said. "The program is not designed as disciplinary."

She spoke more about the intention of her program, saying, "I hope the educational programs will peak people's interest [so they] question their own substance use or that of others. No matter how bright [they are], people still don't know that much about substance abuse. Substance abuse is a progressive process. The sooner one intervenes, the greater chance of success."

The price of therapy with the program was low for students. Moreover, no one was turned away if they didn't have enough money to pay.

Also provided was a 24-hour crisis hotline through the Graham Health Center. After operating hours, a voicemail listed numbers of centers they could call.

Talbot mentioned some staff members were available in case of emergencies.

The National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW) was scheduled for the second week in October. The goal was to emphasize the problem to residence hall students.

The NCAAW started a group called Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students, or BACCHUS. The group advocates student awareness and planned on an event to take place in February for a drug awareness week.

Paul Franklin, coordinator at the Campus Information Programs and Organization (CIPO), commented that it'll offer a program similar to alcohol awareness week to commuter students.

On campus now, the OU counseling center does help with substance abuse prevention. The program aims for prevention through education, presentations and workshops, identification and early intervention with "at risk" subgroups and training and consulting with faculty, staff and university decision-makers.

Their program starts with an assessment that costs \$125 for students. They're able to give students referrals to professionals off-campus and self-help groups.

None of the aforementioned alcohol week awareness or groups take place on campus anymore.

Chick-fil-A removed from the Oakland Center

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

One of the 15 chains in Michigan, Chick-fil-A at Oakland University, may be permanently closed.

Chick-fil-A, an Atlanta-based company and one of the most successful fast-food chicken chains, has become an unlikely battleground in the American culture. When its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dan Cathy made comments about his opposition to gay marriage, the public outraged.

"I am very aware of his homophobic comments as well as other allegations, so because of that, I don't go very often," Bella Mahuad, sophomore at OU, said. "I think having Chick-fil-A on campus provided us different options for food, but it was always so busy that it wasn't convenient."

Mark McCormic, resident district manager for Chartwells at OU, is responsible for all on-campus food services.

"Chick-fil-A is not coming back, we have changed out quite a few concepts in the food court and will continue to do so," McCormic said.

While the Chartwells received a request



PHOTO | RYAN PINI
The spot in the Oakland Center food court where Chick-fil-A used to be.

to look into alternatives for the space during the summer of 2019, the university has not released an official statement on changing the brands. According to McCormic, they may or may not make announcements about upcoming changes for new dining options.

Despite the pandemic encouraging a much lower demand for dining on campus, McCormic and his team members are working hard on a plan to replace

the space. However, students and faculty members are expected to see a delay of the opening, due to this lower demand for dining on campus.

"We will always work to create fantastic dining experiences for the students and guests of Oakland University," McCormic said. "Finding a solution to the opening left by Chick-fil-A is job one, obviously. After that we will look at other requests on campus."

While Chick-fil-A's replacement is in the process, there is good news for everyone on campus who would like to get food from the food courts.

By the end of September, Chartwells at OU is announcing an app called, "Boost."

The app, open to everyone, allows people to skip the lines (order and pay) for their food, eliminating most of the time they would wait in a line. The "Boost" will be available for use at Panda Express, Subway, The Halal Shack, The baristas in Plum Market, The Hive and possibly at Frankie's Café in the library.

"I am excited to announce that very shortly, we will introduce Boost," McCormic said. "It would make it easy to place and order and pick it up very quickly. There will be discounts and rewards tied to the app. I think it will be a big hit."

Chartwells also has a new function coming to the "Dine on Campus" page called, "Shop on Campus," which will allow the housing students to buy beverages and food in larger quantities online. McCormic said both the "Boost" and "Shop on Campus" will serve a big need on campus during this uncertain time.

Student veterans express concern over ROTC

SERGIO MONTANEZ

Photographer

As the fall semester kicks-off at Oakland University, student organizations are eager to become more involved in an altered college life experience.

For students interested in joining the military during college or post college, the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 390, a crosstown agreement with the University of Michigan, is a program designed to prepare students for military service.

The program is designed to give students an opportunity to learn about the different roles cadets have as they gain experience to become Air Force officers while earning a college degree.

Cadets can enroll in either the four-year program or the three-year program, depending on requirements and per permission by the Detachment Commander. Air Force ROTC also offers three types of scholarships that students can compete for.

While in the program, OU students are able to take classes at the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan, where active duty officers teach classes ranging from aerospace studies to leadership management, as well as national security affairs.

Tyler Hemle, a senior graduating in December, enrolled in the ROTC program half-way through his OU education.

"I've always wanted to be in the military but I was trying to figure out the best route to take at this point because I had already started college and I just wanted to finish and get it over with," Hemle said. "Then I figured out what ROTC was, looked around to see if there were any ROTC opportunities in the area and because OU has a cross-agreement with University of Michigan Air Force ROTC, it worked out really well."

Hemle enrolled in the three-year program as a sophomore, and now as a senior cadet, he's taking aerospace studies in the 400 level.

Whether a student decides to do the four-year program or the three-year option, the education is the same.

Freshmen cadets take 100 level classes all the way to 400, and are required to attend physical and leadership training.

After completing sophomore year, cadets go to field training in the Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

Once field training is complete, cadets will come back to school as Professional Officer Corps (POC's), where their new duties include instructing new cadets in the program. Throughout ROTC, cadets will also get to shadow active duty officers to learn of potential career options.

"Right now, the Air Force is really pushing



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

The student veteran office, located in Vandenberg Hall, is where student veterans can go for various services.

the aviation type career field, and there's four types of them: Pilot, Combat Systems Officers, Air Battle Manager and RPA (Remotely Powered Aircraft), which are basically drone pilots," Hemle said.

Hemle wanted to be a Hive Combat Systems Officer, but instead got chosen to be a Combat Systems Officer.

For now, Hemle is awaiting his top secret security clearance process, but once he gets his answer, he will have to go to Conrad Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where he will have to go through a flight physical.

However, the cross-town agreement between the two universities only acknowledges the ROTC branch of the Air Force - there's no Army or Navy ROTC. Although the program dates back to as far as 2015, OU has done minimal to advertise the program to the student body, as well as not committing to bringing the Air Force ROTC Detachment 390 program to campus.

Mason Turrell, president of Student Veterans of Oakland University, has been advocating for the university to establish an official branch of the Air Force ROTC program on OU's campus, but doesn't feel like the OU is doing enough to do so.

"There's no reason why they can't have

ROTC on campus," Turrell said. "It baffles me why the university doesn't want it."

While other universities around the state take advantage of the program, OU seems to be falling behind. Students wanting to learn about ROTC have to do some deep research within OU's main website to find anything regarding ROTC (under "other academic programs - 2020-2021 undergraduate catalog).

For contrast, Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University have entire pages and subpages solely dedicated to providing information about ROTC.

"If you look around the state of Michigan, at higher education institutions, like WMU for instance, they are largely known for their ROTC programs, and they get a lot of money for it, it's huge there," Turrell said. "In the years that I've been here, since 2016, I've assisted students with over \$8.7 million worth of tuition benefits. Imagine if they had an ROTC program, it would be guaranteed money."

Even at the Ann Arbor campus, advertisements and banners advocating for ROTC are placed all over the University of Michigan, according to Hemle.

"Literally no one here knows that we

have a cross-town agreement with U of M to do ROTC," Hemle said. "I think it would be great if we had a way for students to just know about it."

For Turrell, the program is an option for students who want to do more with their college experience.

"The Air Force ROTC is a great opportunity if you want to go into the Air Force after college," Turrell said. "The primary goal is to get students into the program, keep them in college, graduate them, and then go into the Air Force."

Once Hemle passes his flight physical test, he will graduate, finish his ROTC requirements and then he will commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

"Being a good person, helping people out, and earning that respect, that's essentially what you get when you finish ROTC," Hemle said. "Even if they [students] go into the program and they decide they don't want to continue, there are still professional development qualities that they'll have just for being in the program."

To learn more about Air Force ROTC Detachment 390, visit <https://airforce.rotc.umich.edu/>.



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

COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

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

'International Peace Day concert' returns

BRIDGET JANIS
Staff Reporter

The third annual International Peace Day concert is still happening this year at Oakland University. Students, faculty and staff are welcome to join Oakland University's School of Music on Sept. 20 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. outside at the Varner Hall courtyard.

"We all want peace and need peace in our homes, in our schools, and within our larger society," Mark Stone, associate professor of world music and percussion, said. "We are all citizens of this one planet, and as world citizens, we must work to repair and heal our relationships with one another and with our environment."

International Peace Day was originally founded through a decree by a United Nations resolution in 1981 and now takes part around the world. The day usually takes place on Sept. 21 globally and is meant to symbolize ideals of peace, through a 24 hour non-violence and cease-fire.

Due to COVID-19, the celebration will be held a day earlier compared to past years. By moving it a day earlier, on a Sunday, this provides the opportunity to have the event outside where social distancing can be encouraged.

There will only be a hundred guests allowed for the event, and people attending were required to RSVP. At this point, the event has reached full capacity, but the

department is also providing a livestream on the SMTD webpage for those who still want to watch the event.

The point of this event is to bring the community together to share music and provide a sense of peace, while having a rejuvenating experience. It will also be a "globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace... and to contribute to building a culture of peace."

Stone will be sharing original solo compositions featuring the Array Mbira, an American-made 120 key lamellaphone recently created by Bill Wesley. There also will be appearances by traditional African instruments, such as the Ghanaian gyil and the South African karimba.

"The music I will be playing is inspired by interfaith prayers and international poems of peace," Stone said. "I will also be sharing these inspiring readings between each composition."

The global theme this year is "Shaping Peace Together," since this year has proven time and time again that what happens in one part of the world can affect people everywhere.

The department hopes to continue participating in this event in the upcoming years, and it seems to become more of a tradition with each year.

Attendees with reservations that have any questions can contact Box Office Manager, Megan Herald, at mherald@startickets.com.

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Virtual GrizzFest showcases variety of clubs and organizations

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

The Office for Student Involvement (OSI) hosted a virtual GrizzFest student involvement fair on Thursday, Sept. 10 via GrizzOrgs.

Around 15 Oakland University based clubs and organizations took to Google Meet for the event, including the Feminists of OU, Students for Refugees, Entrepreneurs in Action (EIA), the Pre-Physician Assistant Society, among others.

“Our overall goal for GrizzFest [was] to show OU students that [they] can still get involved even in a pandemic,” said Jen Yetter, programming assistant for student organizations at the OSI via email. “We want everyone to know that our office is still here and our organizations are still running even if [primarily] virtual.”

The OSI also introduced a poster gallery of student organizations this year for students on campus to browse safely. These posters are located on the lower level of the Oakland Center, near the OSI office, and will be up through Sept. 30.

At virtual GrizzFest, participants could simply select the club or organization they wanted to visit and be automatically redirected to a Google Meet space where they could join a meeting with club advisors, board members, etc. to ask questions and gather information.

Jae Jang, Ph. D., an associate professor of management and entrepreneurship and the faculty advisor of EIA, mentioned virtual GrizzFest has a special level of connectivity and opportunity.



EMILY MORRIS | PHOTOGRAPHER

WXOU, the campus radio station, hosted a livestreamed radio show to celebrate GrizzFest virtually.

“[We’re getting] used to the virtual setting,” Kang said. “It can be challenging, but it’s also an opportunity. This communication technology allows us to meet many people anywhere in the world.”

WXOU General Manager Teyler Thompkins came up

with an innovative way for her organization to participate in GrizzFest — host a live radio show.

“I personally was not a fan of [virtual GrizzFest] for WXOU because I did not feel like we could truly showcase what we at WXOU can do,” Thompkins said via email. “In response, I decided that hosting a live radio show during GrizzFest would be more beneficial to our organization.”

Thompkins mentioned she thinks it can be hard to understand the atmosphere of an organization virtually, so the radio show was a good fit.

“This way, students could tune into our station and get firsthand information about what WXOU is about, how it started and what they can do to get involved,” Thompkins said via email. “Not to mention students could text in with their questions in real time and we would answer them live on the air.”

As far as continuing to find involvement opportunities, Yetter mentioned student organizations are still hosting primarily virtual events and meetings and encourages students to stay updated on GrizzOrgs.

“There are so many organizations out there holding virtual events and meetings that anyone can get involved with,” Yetter said via email. “Also, keep an eye out for the Student Organization Communication letter. That email displays events, meetings, anything that is happening with the student orgs on campus. When in doubt, if [students] still aren’t sure how to get involved, they always reach out to the OSI and we would be more than happy to help.”

For more information about the OSI and involvement opportunities, visit their homepage.

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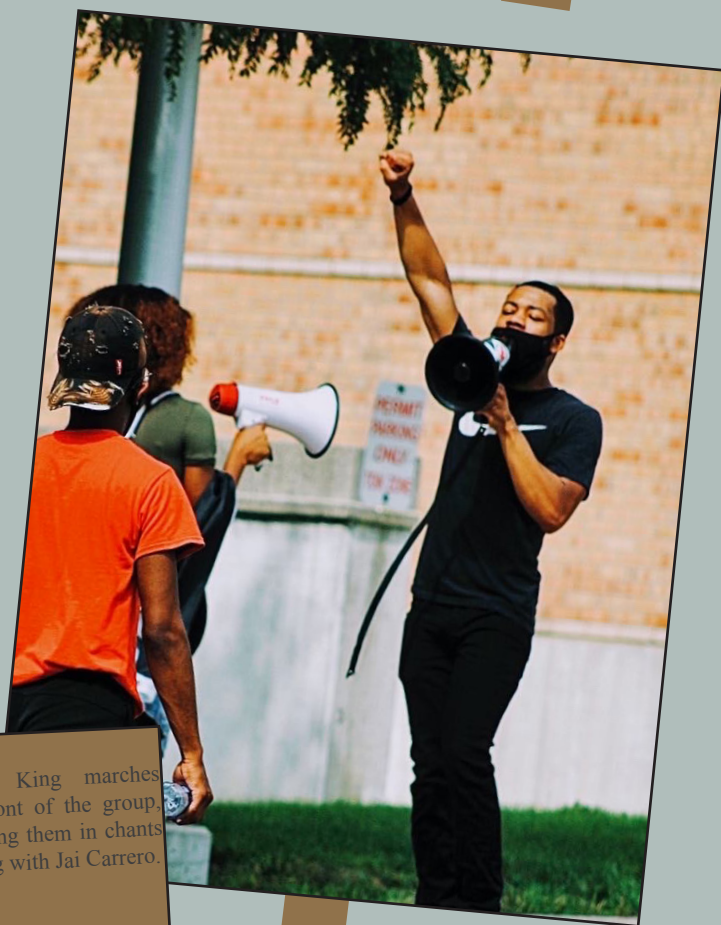
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The BLM protest was Saturday, September 12th. BLM OU and Association of Black Students (ABS) organized and led the protest.



Protesters brought home-made signs with sayings like "Black Lives Matter" and "Not a Moment. A Movement."



Sean King marches in front of the group, leading them in chants along with Jai Carrero.



There was around 100 staff, students and faculty that took part in the march around campus.



Senior Jai Carrero leads the chants at the protest on Saturday as a part of BLM OU.

Students protest racial justice on campus



Senior Jai Carrero raised her megaphone to her masked face screaming, “Say her name!” as she listened for the crowd behind her to respond with “Breonna Taylor.” She had already been marching and chanting for an hour, and she knew the crowd needed her to lead them in their protest across campus. She looked over at fifth year Sean King, who was helping her lead the chants, and together they made their voices heard.

Chants of “Black lives matter” echoed across campus as nearly a hundred students, staff and faculty members marched for justice on Saturday, Sept. 12. Armed with handmade signs and masks, the protesters were led by Black Lives Matter — Oakland University (BLM OU) and the Association of Black Students (ABS). Starting at Hamlin Circle, the crowd marched and ended in the middle of campus at Elliott Tower.

“This protest is our livelihood,” said Carrero, leader of BLM OU. “If we don’t fight for ourselves, who is gonna fight for us? It’s evident that in the eyes of others, we don’t matter, and so we have to stand up for ourselves and say that we do.”

Closing off welcome week, the protest was an opportunity for students to bring attention to the ongoing conversation about police brutality. President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz marched alongside students in solidarity with their mission.

“I’m thrilled to see our students are active in important matters that are critical to them and their community,” she said. “I think that we clearly know there is systemic racism in our society, and there are matters like social justice that are really important. I’m delighted that our students can speak up and do it in a safe and effective manner ... I’m thrilled to be a participant, and I’m very, very proud of Oakland University students.”

Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer Glenn McIntosh shared Pescovitz’s pride in OU students, and believed this march was important in order to create an inclusive and welcoming community.

“Student success and diversity go hand in hand, in that we’re trying to create an environment where all people can come here and be successful, whether it be a faculty member, a staff member and certainly our students,” he said. “And so, when students collaborate on an initiative like this, it’s very important because they realize the environment and campus climate is pivotal to their success.”

Black Lives Matter protests have occurred across the world since the tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless others at the hands of the police. While some have taken place close to home, this protest is one of the first at OU.

“I feel like it’s very appropriate [to have this protest] because for so long we haven’t done this,” Carrero said. “For so

long we haven’t drawn attention to something that’s been in our faces this whole time, and so the fact that [the university] allowed us to go ahead and do this just lets me know we are moving in the right direction.”

After the march, the crowd gathered around Elliott Tower to listen to Black voices from the campus community. Carrero and King, who is the president of the Association of Black Students, spoke about what this movement meant to them, as well as Omar Brown-El, senior director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives. Brown-El reminded students that “today’s message is we are powerful and not powerless.”

King recognized that all minority groups need support and thanked everyone for their support of Black lives during this moment.

“A lot of what 2020 has been, it’s tough,” King said. “We’ve lost a lot of good people, too many to count, but still nonetheless, we prevailed — we’re still here, we’re still breathing, we’re still fighting, and we’re not going to stop. It’s never going to stop, and it comes on us to be leaders and be better.”

Brown-El called upon the crowd to take a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives. OU community members bowed their heads in respect and remembrance, and took a moment to reflect. Despite hoarse voices from chanting and tired legs from marching, the crowd stayed to honor each other and the movement they came to support.

After several minutes of silence, Brown-El spoke about his experience fighting against systemic racism when he was an OU student, and what it meant to him to see that legacy be continued.

“It was almost 25 years ago when I stood here, almost in this same spot, as an Oakland University undergraduate student for justice and for peace as the president of the Association of Black Students,” he said. “At the same time, the things that are happening today were occurring then. I was experiencing, as a young man, injustice ... There are those who want to create disharmony, and we recognize that, but our power is stronger, it has always been stronger. Love is always the winner, and we stand here today united for that fact.”

Brown-El wanted to leave students with the reminder that it is their time to fight for what’s right, and to keep goals of love, peace and justice at the forefront of their activism.

“We will always struggle, and we will always persist for peace,” Brown-El said. “We will always struggle, and we will always persist for justice in any form. We recognize that all of us have an opportunity for success when we work together, when we’re unified and when we recognize we are stronger together than we are divided.”



Story by Lauren Karmo
Photos by Sophie Hume
Design by Meg Speaks

Black women experience dangerous racial bias in healthcare

EMILY MORRIS
Managing Editor

Dr. Tolulope Ifabiyi walked into a medical room clad with feelings of apprehensiveness coming from a Black mother and her child. Initially, a hospital room rarely fills its patients with ease because customarily people only find themselves in the simple polished rooms if they're sick, but those feelings can often heighten more for Black women. Racism among healthcare professionals puts Black women's lives at risk everyday.

However — in this case — just Ifabiyi's presence was an immediate comfort. Ifabiyi is a Black woman as well, which made the mother's face "fold-up" with joy, according to Ifabiyi. The mother claimed being cared for by someone that looked like her and her son was a "privilege" — the appointment was full of further "admiration" too.

Not every patient has treated Ifabiyi with the same reaction though.

"I think a lot of people are taken back when they see a Black female physician," she said. "I myself have been

commonly mistaken for a custodian [or] the nurse, even when I would introduce myself as Dr. Ifabiyi."

The same person that appeared unqualified to one person is a beacon of hope and representation to another.

The reactions to Ifabiyi are dynamically different to different patients — that contrast is stemmed from a racial bias.

Since graduating from Oakland University, Ifabiyi has stayed connected with the community to mentor other Black women entering a medical field.

Jazalyn Williams, diagnostic science senior, has faced many

"unsupportive" people on her way to becoming a doctor, including teachers and counselors that encouraged her to pursue "something easier."

"Honestly, meeting her [Ifabiyi] has been such a blessing," Williams said. "She has been there and really helped me through some stressful times."

Black women account for roughly 2 percent of doctors in the United States. To put that in perspective, there's a similar likelihood (1 percent) that someone has finished a marathon in the U.S. — the most obese country in the world — to a doctor to be a Black woman.

"It's very rare that I see a doctor that looks like me... my primary physician is a woman of color, but it's very rare for me to see that in a situation where I have an emergency," Williams said.

Because of this discrepancy, some women will experience stereotypes that affect their health. For instance, there is a stereotype that "Black women don't feel pain" the same way, according to Williams.

Williams went to the hospital via ambulance because of a pelvic fracture. Then she wasn't seen for a long time, and once she was given attention her caretaker moved her injury in a way that made it more severe.

Throughout this initial time at the hospital, she was given no pain medication as well.

Speaking out in these moments is often unappealing too because of another stereotype about Black women. AuJenee Hirsch, journalism senior and expecting mother, didn't want to be labeled as "the angry Black woman" when she noticed inconsistencies in previous medical appointments.

Hirsch was experiencing sensitivity in her teeth after her wisdom teeth came in during late high school. After three visits to the dentist within two months, Hirsch suggested there may be cavities because she'd had trouble flossing since the addition of her wisdom teeth. The dentist performed x-rays and, once again, assured her she simply had sensitive teeth.

"There isn't any way to respond without being labeled as the 'angry Black woman,'" Hirsch said. "Once you are labeled as that, you are treated differently. Since this deals with my health, I'd rather not make any medical professionals upset."

While her medical bill had continued to escalate and she had no resolution, Hirsch decided to see another dentist. Her second dentist looked at her previous x-rays and noticed she had 11 cavities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUJENEE HIRSCH
AuJenee Hirsch is expecting her son this month, September. She is also an OU journalism senior.

Although Hirsch is concerned about the health of her teeth, she also has slew of prenatal medical appointments right now that are taking her priority.

"Being a Black woman who is expecting my first child any day now is pretty scary... there's still that fear that I may lose my life while bringing my son into the world," Hirsch said. "I don't want to end up as just another statistic before I've even had the chance to meet my son."

Black mothers are three to four times more likely to have deadly pregnancy complications than white women. Roughly half of these complications are "preventable," according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, the CDC denoted racial bias as the only reason for these complications.

"Because patients know themselves, they know their bodies. They have been the ones dealing with the illnesses [and] the experiences... I think it's very important for us [physicians] to believe them and take them seriously when they are expressing concern," Ifabiyi said.

Listening is the most important characteristic of a doctor, according to Ifabiyi. Valuing what Black women have to say is directly connected to valuing Black women's lives.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOLULOPE IFABIYI
Tolulope Ifabiyi M.D. is a resident doctor at Case University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio. She has a dual specialization in medicine and pediatric healthcare.

DESERVE

unbiased	equal
thoughtful	accessible
thorough	quality
consistent	reliable
modern	attentive
reasonable	prompt
accurate	skilled
fair	professional

GRAPHIC | EMILY MORRIS

Virtually welcoming international students to OU

Events are shifting online to follow campus safety guidelines.

RACHEL YIM

Staff Reporter

The welcome week for international students at Oakland University this fall was different than any other year with increased virtual events.

There were a variety of events and activities that student organizations hosted during the welcome week. The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO), Office for Student Involvement (OSI) and Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) hosted a welcome event specifically for the international students on Wednesday, Sept. 9 via Google Meet.

"We provide these international students different opportunities such as leadership opportunities, service opportunities and programs we do on campus that they can attend," Jean Ann Miller, senior director of OSI, said.

Though it was a virtual meeting, it didn't stop student organizations from trying to provide opportunities for

the international students.

According to Miller, at least 20 to 25 international students joined the virtual meeting, and there could have been even more as the meeting was live-streamed for everyone interested to watch.

The meeting consisted of various informative presentations, prepared by each organization. Miller explained that a two-way communication was the hardest part of this meeting to achieve, due to it being a virtual meeting.

"It was more ... one-way than two-way," she said. "Because we are giving them great information, but we weren't able to get the responses back from them. Not having an in-person interaction was definitely the biggest difference from last year's event."

The difficulties the international students and the members of these organizations are facing is not only in communication but also in taking usual trips to explore Southeastern Michigan. Miller expressed her frustration about not being able to take off-campus trips with the

international students as they often take advantage of this exploration.

Despite the difficulties, Miller and other members of student diversity organizations are not giving up on providing the international students opportunities.

As the communication with the international students is more strained during this pandemic, Miller encourages these students to register on GrizzOrgs to be in touch with what is happening on campus and to be involved in a variety of student organizations.

"All of us [members of organizations] are collaborating together to make it happen and provide them the Oakland University experiences and [the] American culture experiences they deserve," Miller said. "We just have to find an innovative, creative way to be able to connect."

Students can fill out an interest sheet on OSI website for the chance to join student organizations or to get involved in campus.

'Take Root Dance Company' holds PD classes

AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The outdoors of Oakland University has turned into the new home of "Take Root Dance," a group helping people affected by Parkinson's Disease (PD).

The "Take Root Dance Company" is a nonprofit that teaches classes at OU, Henry Ford Detroit, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and The Older Persons' Commission in Rochester.

The company started in 2014 and Ali Woerner, an associate professor of dance at OU, created their PD program a year after.

"I started the dance for Parkinson's Disease program because my parents' best friend is living with PD and he had taken a dance class and loved it," Woerner said.

Woerner went to Brooklyn, New York to prepare and train for the classes. After she completed her training, the PD dance program started at OU with classes once a month.

"Take Root" has three trained faculty on their team, four interns at Oakland and many volunteer emails.

"It's quite a force that has become this program and I think it must be because it makes everybody feel so good," she said.

"Take Roots" is a resident at OU so it's easier for any students to volunteer and help with the classes.

"We've had students from all over different disciplines throughout Oakland come in and volunteer. We've had dance majors, psychology majors, physical therapy majors, nursing — you name it," Woerner said.

The classes run four times a week all year and they are an hour long. No one has to be a good dancer to take these classes.

The PD classes are joyful and fun — a safe space where everyone's boundaries can be down, according to Woerner.

The participants with PD range from any stage — some people show little symptoms and move well and some confined to a wheelchair.

The volunteers are first directed to the Take Roots

website for further information, and on class day they meet with Woerner to get more information on who they're working with before the class starts. An important thing that volunteers are told is to never assume someone needs help.

"They've been living with this disease for awhile, they know what they need [help with] and what they don't," she said.

The classes will work up a sweat for everyone since it's a full workout.

"Even the volunteers that come are like 'oh this is not what I thought — I'm actually sweating,'" Woerner said.

The program classes were moved outside onto campus and virtual because of COVID-19. They now take place once a month, and get sent to their mailing lists and hospitals that "Take Root" works at.

"Now we're on video but we send out a new class every month and then they [people with PD] can use it throughout the month and by the time they're ready for a new class, we're sending out a new one," she said.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer when classes resume in person or knows someone that might be interested in taking the classes can find more information on their website.

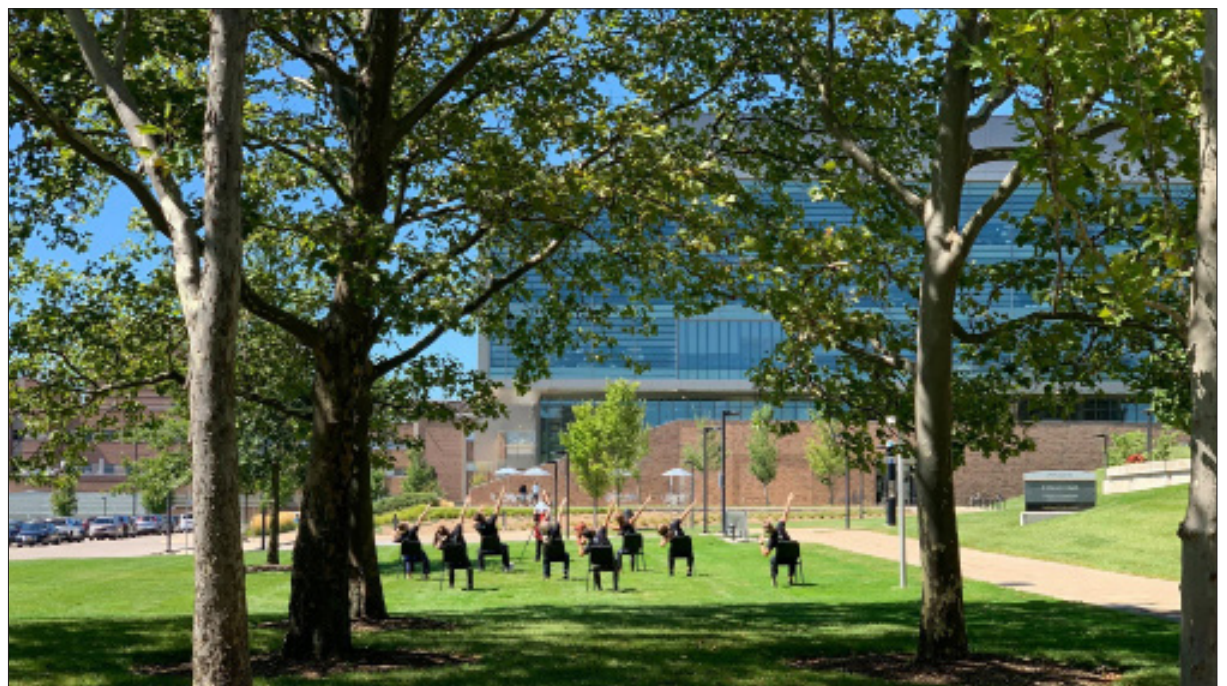


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATER AND DANCE

The "Take Root Dance Company" conducts their classes for Parkinson's Disease on the lawn by Kresge Library.

The path of most resistance

JEFF THOMAS
Life & Arts Editor

Joe Biden's campaign strategy has been and continues to be a remarkable political case study.

In what is likely the most pivotal election in the history of American democracy, the Democrats can't help but gamble the future of the country so they can undermine the left. In brazen displays of hubris, Biden's campaign has been equally as obsessed with casting the left out of American politics as it has been with defeating Donald Trump. The party has gone out of its way to make itself palatable to everyone except their allies on the left.

One of the ways this has manifested itself is in the Democratic party's constant courting of Republicans. For years now party voters have had to endure moments like Nancy Pelosi heralding Ronald Reagan because of the Democrats' obsession with right wing moderates. This tendency has reared its head frequently in the run up to the election.

During last month's convention, Democrats used their largest platform to give Republican John Kasich a featured speaking slot while orchestrating a media hit job on young progressive voice Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Since then, the Biden campaign has touted endorsements from over 100 right-wingers, including former Governor of Michigan Rick Snyder.

Now it defies logic that Democrats would publicize the endorsement of Rick Snyder, a despised former Governor who poisoned the water supply of one of the largest cities in a critical battleground state. Still, some would argue that endorsements are largely just symbolic gestures. More concerning to leftists is that the party is taking steps outside of symbolic political posturing.

During the 2020 election season, Democratic Party donors exerted considerable resources to primary popular progressive house legislators Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Ocasio-Cortez. This party courtesy was extended to long time Democratic Senator Ed Markey, as Joe Kennedy acquired endorsements from Democratic establishment sweethearts Pelosi and Beto O'Rourke in his quest to fulfill his Kennedy birthright by unseating Markey. In all instances, the progressive incumbents handily defeated their primary challengers.

These openly hostile primaries were another strategic misstep. Again, the Democrats were willing to risk alienating voters they'll need in the general election to try and oust progressive incumbents.

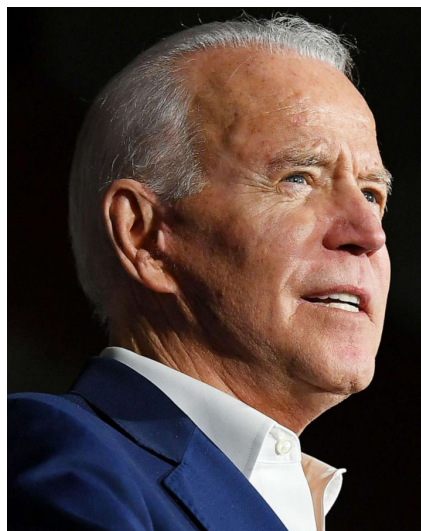


PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

Ultimately, these fruitless primary contests reinforced the feeling among leftists that the party is not only out of step with, but in direct opposition to their vision for the future of the country.

The Biden campaign's unwillingness to incorporate popular policies like universal healthcare and the Green New Deal into his campaign platform lend credence to this belief. As proven by Markey's recent primary victory, it would be easy and effective for Biden to embrace policies that are popular with young progressives, yet the campaign refuses to do so.

In lieu of extending a policy olive branch to young progressive voters, the Biden campaign strategy appears to be shaming voters into action. The assertion from his campaign surrogates being that it is selfish and naïve for voters to not support the man opposing Trump, even if that man represents almost none of their political beliefs. Time will tell what impact this strategy will have on voter turnout for the general election.

Polls indicate that the Democrats are likely to retake the White House in November, though it is hard to imagine what the ramifications of the party's scorched earth campaign against the left will mean going forward.

The Biden campaign's duality of purpose, choosing to fight would be supporters with as much vigor as the Republican party, has set the stage for more party division. Despite party efforts, voices on the left continue to get louder. The stakes are too high for their voices not to be heard.

The posturing of the Biden campaign ensures that the battle for the soul of the Democratic party will continue regardless of who wins the general election.

 Information courtesy of the Oakland University Counseling Center

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5. Write three happy things about your day at night

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8. Daily self-care

Exercise, relaxation, pet therapy, journaling

9. Acknowledge the grief we're experiencing

Loss of loved ones and of our old lives/routines

10. Know your resources

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

Madden 21: A flawed game with few bright spots

The football game shows the same pattern of negligence with new release

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-In-Chief

Sports video games franchises are among some of the most money-hungry corporations in the modern economy.

Many sports video game fans are fed up with the current cycle that companies follow: update rosters, change the design a tiny bit and sell millions.

EA Sports released Madden 21 as the National Football League (NFL) season kicks off this fall, ushering in a new iteration of the storied football video game franchise.

This year, EA Sports' big selling point for Madden is "The Yard," along with the typical game modes like "Franchise," "Career," "Ultimate Team" and "Superstar KO."

The Yard is a six vs. six "schoolyard" style of football game, where players play both sides of the ball and can use customized characters to play with friends or alone. This game mode provides a fresh, new style of football that fans can play, and the addition of co-op mode is a definite plus for those who are looking to enjoy time with their friends remotely.

What EA Sports has not changed in their annual game is the focus on "Ultimate Team." "Ultimate Team" brings them money through the purchasing of packs to get rare cards in their card-collecting game mode that has dominated the sports gaming industry.

"Franchise" mode and "Career" mode are virtually the same, except for "Career" mode having a small storyline tweak. But what will be different every year is "Ultimate Team."

New cards, new programs and new packs to make



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLUTCHPOINTS
Madden 21 has a new game mode, but still struggles.

even more money, "Ultimate Team." is the focal point of Madden year-after-year. That did not change with Madden 21.

Despite the success of "The Yard," Madden once again fails to provide a fresh, new product. The problem with releasing a game yearly is the quick turnaround that they must make. Making big strides in the mechanics, game modes and appearance of the game is made difficult with a quick deadline.

That doesn't excuse the explicit money-grab that Madden has become though. One good new game mode does not excuse negligence to others.

The strength of previous Madden games was the "Franchise" mode. There were many features within

the game mode that made the consumer feel like a real general manager or coach of an NFL team. Now, the game mode is a shell of itself, with very barebones features that provide an enjoyable playthrough on only the first play.

After the first franchise file, each subsequent playthrough becomes less and less exciting. The consumer knows how to play the game the way it wants to be played and can manipulate the algorithms with ease. The simulation realism is skewed, with role players and below-average players winning "Most Valuable Player" or leading the league in a statistical category.

The "Franchise" mode has clear, distinct flaws, but "Franchise" doesn't have downloadable content. It doesn't encourage kids to pick up their mom's credit card and buy a pack, so they spend their time improving those money-making game modes. On one hand, it's hard to blame EA for this. But on the other hand, it's deplorable to continue to annually release a half-complete game for more money.

With the newest installment of Madden, EA Sports had some positives. The user interface and presentation are great, as always, and "The Yard" is a fresh, fun and new game mode. But the negatives are still there. The same negatives that have been there for the past five or six years.

To make complete, quality games, EA either needs to stop the yearly release schedule or focus on the aspects of their game that they have neglected for half of a decade. For half of a complete game, this addition to the franchise gets a half score.

Rating: 2.5/5 stars

Satisfaction not guaranteed by 'Love, Guaranteed'

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

The newest Netflix original rom-com, "Love, Guaranteed" was released on Sept. 3, and it just turned out to be another disappointment of the year. Initially, the movie looked like an uplifting love story with Hallmark movie vibes, but really it was just another stale plot line.

While a cheesy movie is not always a bad thing, this one seems to almost be too cheesy — there's the typical love story ending that everyone could see coming.

Susan Whitaker (Rachel Leigh Cook) is a pro bono lawyer at a small law firm that is going downhill. Just as she's hitting rock bottom, Nick Evans (Damon Wayans Jr.) comes in with a "winnable case." Nick wants to sue a dating website, "Love, Guaranteed" for false advertising, after attending a thousand dates and still ending up without love.

Nick offers Susan a lot of money to take on the case, and with her current situation, she couldn't refuse. Susan had to take on the case against the owner of "Love, Guaranteed," billionaire Tamara Taylor (played by Heather Graham), a high powered individual.

For the case's research, Susan ends up joining "Love,

Guaranteed," since shes never tried online dating. She goes on her fair share of bad dates, but who hasn't? She has the one that doesn't show up, the typical one that doesn't look like their profile picture and a couple more toxic dates.

To know if they won the case or not, you'd have to see the movie, but to be honest, it's not even worth your time to find out.

Throughout the movie, there seems to be no dramatic emotional build up between the characters. It felt like the plot line was going nowhere the whole movie.

The main character had a very bland personality, and it's hard, for me as a viewer, to believe that Nick couldn't find a more interesting girl after a thousand dates. Susan had no spark within her, and she seemed like a drag throughout the film.

A couple of the dates Nick went on testified in court for him, claiming how much of a gentleman he was and how he was a great conversationalist. Even though all these women had so many great opinions on Nick, he never could get a second date — interesting.

"Love, Guaranteed" is so predictable: it's the typical man meets woman, and they fall in love. But with this movie, it was so boring to watch.

The chemistry between Nick and Susan seemed

extremely forced, and the dialogue between them was unbearable.

Some jokes throughout the film were way over used, like Susan's car door handle falling off. It wasn't funny a single time. For the movie being a rom-com, I couldn't really find any funny parts. I don't recommend this movie. There are so many more rom-coms that are worth your time and will actually leave with you a feel-good feeling. "Love, Guaranteed" left me feeling nothing at the end.

I mean, even "The Kissing Booth" had a plot at least.

Rating: 1.5/5 stars

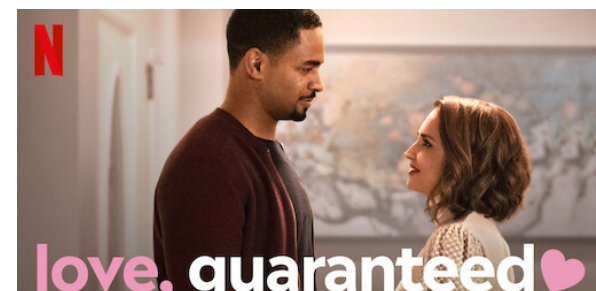


PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX
"Love Guaranteed" was a struggle of a movie to get through.

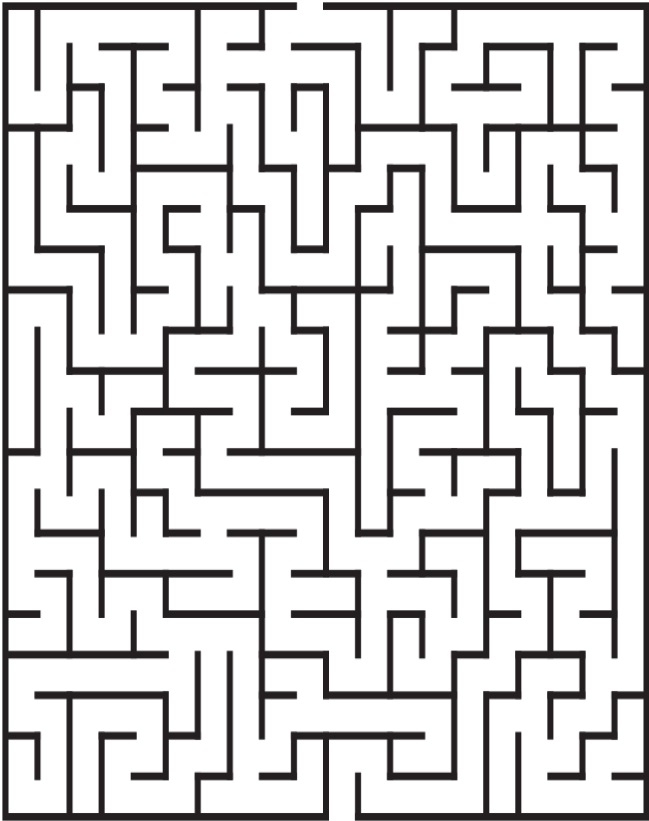
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Famous HBCU Students

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K U M A R T I N L U T H E R K I N G K W D W S Z
C Y D O B D L U P I K D F C V R K Y Z C X I K Y

- Keshia Knight-Pulliam
- Taraji P Henson
- Spike Lee
- Oprah Winfrey
- Tom Joyner
- Yolanda Adams
- Lance Gross
- Thurgood Marshall
- Wanda Sykes
- Sean Combs
- Common
- Alice Walker
- Samuel Jackson
- Keenan Ivory Wayans
- Wendy Robinson
- Terrence J
- Jerry Rice
- Martin Luther King



Back on the Blacktop: Jeff Tungate returns

Women's basketball coach finally feels like himself again

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

Ten years ago, on gameday, Women's Basketball Head Coach Jeff Tungate woke up unable to get out of bed. At the time, he was an assistant coach for Greg Kampe and the men's basketball team.



PHOTO | OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Tungate coaching his team in the huddle during a 2016 game.

For Tungate, this will be the first season back after years of complications that arose after a botched surgery in 2010.

After an hour of trying to get out of bed, he finally regained feeling in his legs and made his way to the O'Rena. When he got to Kampe's office, Kampe told him to go to the emergency room immediately.

The doctors told Tungate he would need surgery on his collapsing spinal disks within the week. What they didn't tell him is that the surgery would make the next 10 years of his life incredibly difficult.

While spending his 40th birthday in the hospital, Tungate knew something was wrong.

"It was supposed to be a two-and-a-half-hour surgery, and it took over five hours," Tungate said. "I was in the hospital for four or five days, and when I got home, I literally had to be carried into my house. I knew something wasn't right."

For the next two years, Tungate's ankles would swell "like balloons" and he would have no energy by the end of the day. He visited multiple back specialists, who all said his spinal fusion surgery was one of the worst they had ever seen.

"I had to get it fixed, and I had a guy for the second [surgery] do a really good job," he said. "I could feel my legs again, and I felt really good. I actually walked into my house when I got back — I was in the hospital for maybe two days."

There was a catch, however. The surgeon told Tungate that he would have to have a second surgery in approximately 10 years.

"Sure enough, eight years later, I needed that one more," Tungate said.

Last season, Tungate was forced to sit out almost half of the season after his final surgery.

In his absence, associate head coach Ke'Sha Blanton took over as acting head coach.

The Golden Grizzlies finished 6-12 in the Horizon League and lost in the first round of the Horizon League tournament to the Milwaukee Panthers.

While it was tough for Tungate to watch his team from a TV screen, he expressed gratitude for his coaching staff for the way they handled the unexpected absence.

"Our staff and Ke'Sha specifically did a phenomenal job," he said. "When they signed on board to come be a part of the program, that wasn't part of the plan. They did a really good job. It made recovery a lot easier knowing the team was in good hands."

An added wrinkle to the recovery Tungate needed was the COVID-19 pandemic hitting.

His surgery was Feb. 10, almost a month before the world went into lockdown.

"COVID[-19] came and I couldn't go get rehab because all of the rehab centers were closed," Tungate said. "I had to be creative and call some friends and come up with my own rehab program."

After trial and error, Tungate figured out a program that worked for him and got him back to normal.

"This is the best I've felt since that second surgery," he said. "I lost 31 pounds, I've been exercising — I got my energy back. I feel really good. I told my players I'd been feeling like this for three years, so for our seniors this is the first time they'll have ever seen me like this."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT BOLTZ

Tungate talking to Elena Popkey during a game against Valparaiso in 2016. Tungate has dealt with back complications since 2010.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

Tungate coaching on the sideline, clapping in support of his players. In 2019, he was forced to sit out and let associate head coach Ke'Sha Blanton take over as acting head coach.

Throughout his rehab, his family and friends helped him get back to normal. He had to have friends carry him into his house and upstairs, and for two weeks after his surgeries he could not go downstairs.

His wife, Kelley, then had to do everything around the house. His two sons, Jordan and Cooper, had to watch their dad go through a lot of physical pain.

"They've been so supportive during the entire time," Tungate said. "For my boys, it's tough to see your dad go through something like that. Just having them around was a big thing for me."

For 10 years, Tungate was uncomfortable. A mantra his staff tells the players is "learn to be comfortable being uncomfortable." Because of his back, Tungate's staff had to learn to live by that mantra as well.

"I think it was a great experience for our staff," he said. "It was a chance for them to do some great things and get some great experience."

Despite the positives of his absence, though, Tungate is looking forward to not having crippling pain and balloon-sized ankles.

Unlike the second surgery eight years ago, this most recent one does not come with a 10-year expiration.

"I've got four rods and eight screws back there," he said. "I'm good, the entire back is all set and there won't be another issue again. That's why I'm so excited to have this behind me."

In addition to increased physical health and higher energy levels, Tungate has also gained a sense of humor about the metal in his back.

"I joke with my son — he wants me to come visit. I tell him 'just put a magnet outside his window and I'll be there in a second,'" he said.

 Information courtesy of the Oakland
University Counseling Center

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Arts students' upgrades in Elliott Tower



BEN HUME | WEB EDITOR

Elliott Tower is getting a new use and will be used as a music hall to replace Varner.

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

Crumbling Varner Hall has at last been replaced by a facility that keeps up with the times and has high-class instruments for music, theater and dance students. After tirelessly requesting, students in the arts can climb out of their dungeon of the 1970s and begin performing in Elliott — the Elliott Bell Tower, that is.

Elliott Tower boasts features such as a cartoony spiral staircase, the most timely instruments on campus and concerts every 15 minutes.

This transition also allows the campus community to continue to refer to Varner Hall as “classic and nostalgic” to further avoid renovation. In fact, to celebrate Varner Hall’s 50th anniversary without renovation, the dilapidated wood details that line the hallways are now being rephrased as “cozy repurposed barn wood” by many campus Karens.

Despite its flaws, Varner Hall does offer some tools that may be missed at Elliott Tower. The maze of dusty haunted hallways saved students and faculty from decorating during Halloween.

Additionally, students are now forced to resume using their cell phones in replacement of possibly the last pay phones on Earth that the building still sports.

“Some people call the building creepy, but I think the dark crevices and corners feel homey,” said resident actor Vlad Dracula. “That could just be because I’ve been here since the ground breaking though, and after the past 50 years, I’ve almost figured out where each hallway goes.”

Even with some growing pains, some

students are looking forward to the updated facilities that Elliott Tower offers. After all, Elliott Tower has the most adapted training components for students looking for experience in bell keeping.

“I’ve actually always thought I was a Bell Tower kind of guy,” senior actor Quasimodo Hunchback said, “Elliott Tower doesn’t compare to my time Notre Dame, but everyone knows Disney movies are a peak for most actors.”

As mentioned by Hunchback, Elliott Tower will allow the wide array of students interested in bell or tower based music to truly flourish. On the other hand, art students pursuing careers in acting that doesn’t involve a tower or literally any other instrument may have to be creative. Of course, music, theater and dance is all about creativity though so having minimal options is actually ideal.

Students won’t just be connected by creativity either. Elliott Tower will soon be the equivalent of Pillsbury biscuit tube prematurely exploding when hundreds of music, theater and dance students begin rehearsal there. Although this may seem dangerously cozy, the corkscrew stairwell and the mosh pit of students vertically strung throughout is the ultimate artistic environment. After all, break a leg!

Arts enthusiasts can support the program by viewing upcoming performances of “Rapunzel,” “Shrek (the first one),” a stationary take on “Apollo 13,” and really any plot that involves a large cylinder. The department is also waiting on a storyline from the Pringles company.

All in all, the music, theater and dance department’s facilities and tools are finally able to move up in Elliott Tower — 151 feet to be exact.