

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

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TITANS FALL

Golden Grizzlies women
dominate in game
against Detroit Mercy.

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spot in the Horizon League

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PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

THIS WEEK

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Jeff Thomas
Editor-in-Chief
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

Lauren Reid
Content Editor
lrreid@oakland.edu

Bridget Janis
Managing Editor
bridgetjanis@oakland.edu

EDITORS

Sophie Hume Photo Editor
sophiahume@oakland.edu

Matthew Scheidel Sports Editor
mscheidel@oakland.edu

Gabrielle Abdelmessih Campus Editor
gabdelmessih@oakland.edu

Sarah Gudenau Features Editor
sgudenau@oakland.edu

COPY & VISUAL

Noora Neiroukh Photographer
Maggie Willard Photographer

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Christian Tate Sports Reporter
Reece Taylor Sports Reporter
Brock Heilig Sports Reporter

DISTRIBUTION

Sam Poudal Distribution Director
spoudal@oakland.edu

ADVERTISING

Tori Coker Marketing Director
toricoker@oakland.edu

ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

Michelle Kaljaj Ads Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4269

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533

Leticia Santos Ads Assistant

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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT PART OF RETURNING TO CAMPUS ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?

- A) SEEING FRIENDS
- B) IN-PERSON CLASSES
- C) CAMPUS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
- D) I'M NOT EXCITED

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION GOING?



University responds to accusations of bad-faith bargaining

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

The university's bargaining team has responded to last week's accusations of bad-faith bargaining during 2021's faculty contract negotiations, in which faculty provided evidence that they say proves information about healthcare costs were withheld from them during bargaining, with the following statement:

"Oakland University negotiated in good faith with the AAUP at all times during the 2021 collective bargaining process, as it does in all negotiations with every bargaining unit on campus.

Neither the University nor any member of its bargaining team withheld any information that the AAUP had requested. The 2022 health insurance rates were not finalized until September 10, 2021 – six days after the University and the AAUP had reached a tentative agreement. The AAUP's claim that it specifically requested preliminary 2022 health insurance rate information from the University in August and September of 2021, and that the University refused to provide that information, is simply not true.

The University provides health insurance rate information every year to all faculty and staff through the open enrollment process and would not have had any reason to withhold that information if the AAUP had requested it.

The administration's goal is to work productively and collaboratively with the faculty to maximize student success and faculty excellence."

While this statement was not signed individually by anyone, the university's 2021 bargaining team consisted of Vice President of Human Resources Joi Cunningham, Assistant Vice President Peggy Cooke, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration James Hargett, Dean of the School

of Nursing Judy Didion and outside legal counsel from law firm Dykema Robert Boonin.

This statement comes in response to the letter sent to President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz and the Board of Trustees (BOT) last Monday from President of Oakland University's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) Karen Miller in which the AAUP outlined how the results of recent FOIA requests indicate that the university's bargaining team withheld pertinent information about healthcare costs from faculty during 2021's contract negotiations.

The evidence the OU AAUP provides in their letter consists of email correspondence between insurance providers and Hargett during bargaining. The extent of that evidence is outlined in italics below.

"On August 18th, 2021, Alan de la Vega, representing Marsh & McLennan Agency, the agency tasked with negotiating health insurance rates with carriers on Oakland's behalf, emailed an attachment of the 2022 Renewal Report to Oakland administrators including Eric Herppich, Corey Brittingham and Monica Haines. Preliminary Priority Health rates were included in that report among many other pieces of information regarding 2022 rates. A meeting between MMA and Oakland took place on August 19th, 2021 in order to review the report.

On August 18th, 2021, James Hargett emailed Eric Herppich the following, "Where are we with the new health insurance rates for 2022? We usually have something by now even if it is not final rates". Mr. Herppich's response on the same day states: "Priority's prelim rates are 7%, still waiting on BC".

On August 20th, 2021, Mr. Herppich shared the following message with Mr. Hargett, including an attachment titled "081921 2021-2022 Rates and Contributions for OU".

The email states: "Here are current and prelim 2022 rates. MMA will continue to negotiate rates... Priority, which is the benchmark, is at a 6.9% bump as of today". Mr. Hargett's response on that same day indicates his receipt of the information and shows he had knowledge of both BCBS/BCN and Priority Health preliminary rates. His response reads, in part, "BCN up 15.4%, if that holds, They will not keep too many folks in that plan".

On August 31st, 2021, Eric Herppich sent an email to Michele Knox and James Hargett that reads: "Rates for 2022 as of now, Priority will not be reducing their rates for 2022 any further. Still waiting to hear from BCBS." Attached to the email is a spreadsheet named: "081921 2021-2022 Rates and Contributions for OU" which contains specifics on insurance rates. On that same day, James Hargett confirmed receipt of the information in an email to Eric Herppich that stated: "Thanks for the update".



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

A view of OU AAUP supporters picketing during the job action that disrupted the start of the fall semester. Last summer's heated contract negotiations continue to have an impact on the university, as the faculty union now accuses the university of bad-faith bargaining.

The issue of healthcare costs was a main point of contention during 2021's heated contract negotiations, with the university bargaining team initially pushing for faculty to reach a 20% contribution towards costs by year three of the agreement.

While the faculty have been forthright in asserting their discontent with the university's behavior during bargaining since negotiations finished, this letter indicated a new point of tension. Miller specifically called for accountability, including an investigation and reassessment of the employment status of multiple administrators.

"These actions constitute bad faith bargaining, violating the Faculty Agreement as well as both the National Labor Relations Act and the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act," Miller said. "In an ethical and transparent organization, this type of behavior would result in employee termination. James Hargett, whose role in these actions has been clearly demonstrated, and any others found complicit, should not be allowed to continue in any capacity at Oakland University."

Faculty morale and the relationship between OU AAUP and the university were significantly strained throughout the course of last summer's negotiations. After sending the letter last Monday, union leadership waited a few days for a response from the university. When that response didn't come, all OU AAUP members were made aware of the letter outlining bad-faith bargaining via an email early last Friday.

Responses from faculty to the accusation of bad-faith bargaining on behalf of the university thus far have ranged from disappointment and disgust to outrage. With unions representing other on-campus staff set to negotiate new contracts with the university this summer, it is unclear how these accusations from OU AAUP could impact those bargaining sessions.

The Post will continue following this story.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The university's bargaining team has responded to AAUP accusations of bad-faith bargaining during 2021's contract negotiations.

Career Services and student orgs host ‘Portfolio Palooza’

D’JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

On Jan. 18, Career Services hosted a Portfolio Palooza event for students in graphic design, communication, public relations and photography. The virtual event consisted of presentation from Career Services on tips for making portfolios, a series of portfolio presentations by students, alumni and faculty and examples of helpful resources.

Career Services collaborated with multiple student organizations, the Association for Women in Communications (AWC), the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), Graphix OU and the Oakland Post.

AWC encourages students to advance leadership skills and PRSSA is an organization for students interested in public relations and communication. Graphix OU is the university’s graphic design club that talks about all of the visual arts.

Students from all four organizations discussed their opportunities for students. Kelly Dorner from the Career Services team gave a slideshow presentation on portfolio tips.

“A good portfolio can even serve as an extension of your work and creative identity, allowing you to shape the story you tell from start to finish,” Dorner said.

Some tips were about getting organized in terms of students’ resume, work samples, contact information, social media links and events. There were links on the slideshow that sent students resources for guides and

templates for their resumes, and also how to schedule appointments with consultants on Handshake.

Students were asked to consider their options for what they want to include in their portfolio: a single landing page showcasing their designs or multiple pages that each highlight different skills; their name, their business or both; contact information or a full contract page complete with contact form; a full “About Me” page with their design philosophy or a simple photo and bio.

Tips to assemble your portfolio were: “include the kind of work you want more of,” “showcase your personality, focus on the process and not just the finished work,” “think about formats, check your spelling, ask for critiques and practice talking through your portfolio,” and “it doesn’t have to just be client work.”

Dorner said, “Who is your intended audience with your portfolio? Always keep in mind your intended audience.”

According to Dorner, there are all sorts of resources that are on the Handshake site to help with building portfolios. Some people add unique shading and pops of color or icons to their resumes.

Many students showcased their portfolios for students to see the variety of portfolios and how the possibilities are endless when it comes to creating them.

Maggie Willard took students through her photography website. She uses a page to talk about herself — her contact page — emphasizing how personality is a huge part of one’s business.

Graphix OU President Kariann DeGhetto told students about the website behance. Behance is a site



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREER SERVICES
Career Services and four student organizations hosted a virtual event for students in graphic design, communication, public relations and photography on Jan. 18.

for sharing art, and she showed some of her projects — she posts her projects from her time at OU that she wants employers to see.

Graphic Design junior Larissa Neely presented her website on Squarespace. She told students about the importance of including your work on your first page, making it direct and intuitive for employers. Additionally, Neely said internship experience is vital.

Oakland alumnus Bria Brown presented her own website that she created. She creates digital essentials for all platforms. Brown introduced students to EPKs — electric press kits — and how she markets to entrepreneurs.

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'Into the Classroom' event gives insight into teacher experience

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

On Jan. 19, OU's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, an American honors society for undergraduate and graduate students as well as professors studying history, hosted an event giving students insight into the classrooms of middle school and high school teachers. Aimed at students aspiring to become educators, the event offered the opportunity to hear directly from people in the field.

"Well, most history students plan on being history teachers eventually," Jonah Kubicek, vice president of the chapter, also known as the National

History Honor Society, said. "So this was a career-focused event. In the past, when we've had career panels, we've brought in people from the education department, which is valuable."

Current high school and middle school teachers were brought in to participate in this event (rather than OU professors) because the organization thought it would be more beneficial for students to hear from teachers currently in school settings.

"We have to keep in mind that Oakland professors have not been in a high school or middle school classroom in 10 years for most of them," Kubicek said. "For this panel, we brought in current teachers at the high school and middle school level to give us insight into what being in a classroom looks like as opposed to the administrative part."

Hosted online in a "Jeopardy!" panel format, teachers were invited to select a category and share their experiences based on what they had selected. These categories included: classroom management, lesson planning, historical fun facts, teaching philosophy, interview advice and coworker interactions.

Teachers were also encouraged to share any insight they may have as to creating a conducive environment

for student success. Some common ideas that teachers mentioned were being vulnerable, listening to students, empowering students to have a voice within the classroom, expressing understanding, having an open-door policy and creating a safe environment where students want to come to class.

"It was obviously a very informative event," Tessa Janish, president of the National History Honor Society, said. "Our goal was to ask questions that students maybe didn't feel comfortable asking their professors. I think we got a lot of useful information about the not-so-professional side of things."

Teaching is an important field, and this event emphasizes just how much by highlighting concepts that go beyond the basics.

"We got a lot of information about how to deal with students who are not grasping the material or how to deal with coworkers with whom you might not get along with," Janish said. "[It's also important to remember], teaching is an important field. And I think this event really highlighted how important it is, especially in the time that we're in right now."

Classroom management was an important aspect of the discussion at

this event. Disciplining and handling students happens in various ways. Eighth-grade middle school teacher at Success Academy Charter Schools, Anthony DeMaggio, discussed how he enacts disciplining or handling classroom management.

"If your class is fun, that shouldn't be an issue," DeMaggio said. "I have found that well, first of all, any new teacher wants to be popular, they want to be the most liked, most sought after teacher, and you will learn very fast that that does not work."

DeMaggio highlighted the significance of consistency with students, and how it has assisted him in classroom management situations.

"You have to be consistent, and you have to be their teacher," DeMaggio said. "You are not those kids' friends, and it's very hard to realize that at first because I think I'm an amiable person, so dealing with that. If you are consistent, it will eventually level out to a point where it is like one-off situations but consistency — that's how I would say it."

Students interested in joining the National History Honor Society or attending future events should visit Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
The event on GrizzOrgs. "Into the Classroom" allowed attendees a glimpse into teachers' experience in the field.

OU ISSO hosts international student conference

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

It is with no doubt that the past two years were one of the most stressful and hard times for many people.

Despite these challenges, the international students at Oakland University stayed highly engaged in campus events as well as building new relationships with their classmates at OU, according to Petra Knoche, international advisor for the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO).

"They have done an amazing job working through these difficulties, having virtual classes and appointments with our office," Knoche said.

The ISSO offers a variety of opportunities to international students for their better college life experience. In the upcoming month, it is hosting the International Student Conference — Rebuilding and Resilience: Strategies for post-pandemic success via Zoom.

This online conference will focus on international students who are, and have been, studying in the U.S.. Attendees will be provided tools, techniques and ideas to reimagine and prepare for the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead.

Divided into two sessions — morning

and afternoon, the conference will focus on different topics each session. The morning session will focus on the past and lessons learned. Students will analyze their personal observations and experiences these past two years, and develop an action plan for their future. The afternoon session will focus on helping students imagine their future. Students may choose to attend presentations on leadership, employment opportunities, cultural adjustments, and work-life balance.

"This conference will focus on providing tools and support for students living through this unprecedented moment of disruption so that they may take charge of their future goals and dreams," Knoche said.

One of the sessions will include presentations by Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, leading immigration attorney Scott Cooper, political science department chair Dr. Peter Trumbore, interdisciplinary health sciences special lecturer Jim Boniface, etc.

These keynote speakers will focus on issues of current concern both to students and to the local international population and will also address the needs of the international community more broadly in an effort to create dialogue to broaden and champion diversity on the campus as well as creating visibility for OU as a

leader in this field.

Cezara Siotean is one of the international students from Romania. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and management from Albion College, and later came to OU to continue to pursue her master's degree in business administration with hopes to work in healthcare administration in the future.

"I was very lucky to meet incredible people along the way," Siotean said. "From my mentors to my professors and my supervisors/colleagues, they all hold a special place in my heart. I had a wonderful college experience which continued into my Master's program. Don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone and be open-minded to opportunities that might not manifest themselves exactly how you planned or expected."

Although Siotean completed most of her graduate courses online, she emphasized the importance of having a strong support system for the international students who are living and studying in a country far away from home. The ISSO office provided the support she needed, according to her.

"The ISSO office does a great job at communicating and supporting International Students," Siotean said. "They offer a wonderful support system for OU students and I encourage

everybody to use their services and come to their events. I am so grateful for my experience in both undergrad and grad school and for the way in which it shaped me and I consider coming to study in the US one of the best decisions I've made."

"Throughout the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to network and share with others, as they learn more about themselves," Knoche said. "We want to keep engaging them and getting them out of their comfort zones, learning new skills, improving their English language, finding employment opportunities as well as sharing their culture, traditions with the OU community. We are hoping to resume in-person events soon."

Knoche also emphasized that the conference will bring together international students and scholars from OU and local community colleges who care about international real-world issues and the advancement of internationalization in the U.S., as well as having a desire to grow in their leadership roles.

The conference will be held via Zoom on Friday, Feb. 18 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Students can register by completing the registration form. For more information about the conference or other events hosted by the ISSO, visit its website or contact Petra Knoche at ppankova@oakland.edu.

Pawley Lean Institute partners with Lean Learning Center

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

On Jan. 12, the Pawley Lean Institute announced a collaboration with the Lean Learning Center fostering a new agreement regarding the Lean Learning Lab on campus.

The partnership between Pawley Lean Institute and Lean Learning Center includes pledged funding from the Lean Learning Center in order to increase educational opportunities within the Lean Lab. These opportunities include the use of equipment as well as instructional offerings.

The Pawley Lean Institute was established in 2002 by OU alumni and former executive vice president of manufacturing for Chrysler Corporation, Dennis Pawley. While Pawley was working for Chrysler, he changed the manufacturing process into a more efficient, waste-reducing method that also improved product quality.

Robert Van Til, Pawley professor of lean studies and chair of the Industrial and Systems Engineering program, noted that one of the reasons behind the founding of the Pawley Lean Institute was Dennis Pawley's notice of employees lacking lean training or knowledge.

"Part of why Denny Pawley originally, back when, funded the Pawley Lean Institute on campus and has continued to support our programs is because when he was executive VP at Chrysler, he was finding people graduating out of a university really didn't know a lot about [lean]," Van Til said.

"They were needing to send, even new people, into

this training and spend a lot of money and taking time and he thought these things were a lot of important concepts that they needed to learn earlier."

As stated on the institute's webpage, the Pawley Lean Institute offers an interdisciplinary approach to lean learning within OU's Schools of Education and Human Services, Business, and Engineering and Computer Science. The programs take an in-depth approach focusing on theory and academic preparation.

Dennis Wade, director of Pawley Lean Institute, states that, in his mind, the institute is responsible for three things: academic support, assisting in lean projects on campus both with students and faculty, and student engagements.

The Lean Learning Lab, located in the engineering center, serves the purpose of supplementing coursework for the different schools incorporating lean principles as well as a room for activities related to lean learning such as workshops or a means to connect students with industry professionals.

Pawley Lean Institute and the Lean Learning Center have been in collaboration for the past several years to provide educational opportunities for students at OU. The Pawley Lean Institute has been able to send students to lean training courses being conducted by the Lean Learning Center at no cost.

Additionally, Pawley Lean Institute has been able to offer students the opportunity to receive a green belt certification from the Lean Learning Center after completing undergraduate or graduate coursework, again, at no cost.

Both Van Til and Wade acknowledge that learning lean principles while at OU provides a leg-up for

students as they enter the workforce. In a competitive market, having the ability to include lean education on a resume sets students apart from the rest.

"I think a deeper understanding [of lean principles] really makes them much more marketable. Our graduates have done extremely well in the workforce and, in part, this is one of the reasons," Van Til said.

Wade says that the agreement between the Pawley Lean Institute and Lean Learning Center is promising for the future of lean education and training for students at OU.

"I think it's got unlimited potential. We've certainly got enough things to kickstart it and I think we're seeing tremendous opportunities within the institute to create these opportunities."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT VAN TIL
Students engaging in lean projects within OU's engineering center.

Health and Medicine organization seeks to inform students

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

Students looking to stay informed on current medical news can now join the new Current Events in Health and Medicine Student Organization. The organization holds discussions on current events pertaining to health and medicine aiming to spread awareness and understanding.

The organization's president, Gabrielle Gappy, a pre-med student at OU, created the organization to get involved in the campus community.

"So I first came up with the idea [for the organization] at the beginning of the semester around September," Gappy said. "I had thought of different things that I could do in the summer, but ultimately this is what I chose to go with. I've always wanted to be involved with student organizations and create one, so I really wanted to think about what mattered the most to me — this is what ended up happening. It became official around the end of October."

Another reason for the club's formation was the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Gappy cited the constant coverage of the pandemic and confusion surrounding it as another factor that helped her choose which organization idea of hers to fulfill.

At meetings, the members discuss the latest medical news, such as the Astroworld Tragedy and how to deal with a crowd surge, or how certain



PHOTO BY SARAH GUDENAU
The walls outside the OSI have posters with QR codes for various student organizations. The OSI helps students get involved on campus.

people might be more susceptible to losing their taste when infected with COVID-19. The group also plans on inviting speakers from the medical field to hold talks at meetings. One speaker the

organization is going to invite is their advisor Dr. Florence Dallow, an epidemiologist.

According to Gappy, their next meeting is the perfect time for new members to join.

"We're planning on having a meeting very soon. This will just be an introductory meeting where we talk about plans for the semester. We're going to start with Zoom, and then if things get better [COVID-19 wise], we can hopefully transition to in-person," Gappy said.

While the organization is geared toward those planning to enter the medical field, anyone is invited to join.

"I feel as if people who want to enter health care fields would be drawn to this club, but it's really for anyone who's interested in current events in health," Gappy said. "We're pretty low on members right now. It's been hard, I haven't been on campus in a very long time. I wanted to go to GrizzFest this winter but it was sadly canceled. [Things like that happen] —where we plan on going out and advertising, and then COVID-19 [or other things] get in the way"

If you would like to join the Current Events in Health and Medicine organization, you can find out more information about the club and contact Gappy through their GrizzOrgs page for information regarding future meetings.

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Society of Women Engineers are closing the gender gap

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

Engineering is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States. However, studies have shown that women are underrepresented in many areas of the field.

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at Oakland University is trying to change this landscape. The goal of this service organization is “to empower women to succeed and advance in the field of engineering and to be recognized for their life-changing contributions as engineers and leaders.”

“Obviously females in STEM are a minority,” Treasurer Allison Shaw says. “[SWE] allows you to get to know people that are in the same field as you and see how they deal with the struggles of being a woman in a male-dominated industry.”

Data from Pew Research reveals that “the share of women has been roughly stable in other STEM job clusters. In engineering, women’s shares have inched up only slightly, from 12% in 1990 to 15% today. And the share of women in computer occupations went down over this period. In 1990, 32% of workers in computer occupations were women; today, women make up 25%, unchanged since 2016.”

Advocacy for women’s representation is a critical step to change the trajectory of the

engineering field.

“I think there’s just not that much advocacy around girls studying engineering,” Vice President Janel Asmar says. “One thing that probably inspired me to go into engineering was having a female CEO at GM. That was like, ‘oh cool, if she can do that, then I can do that too.’”

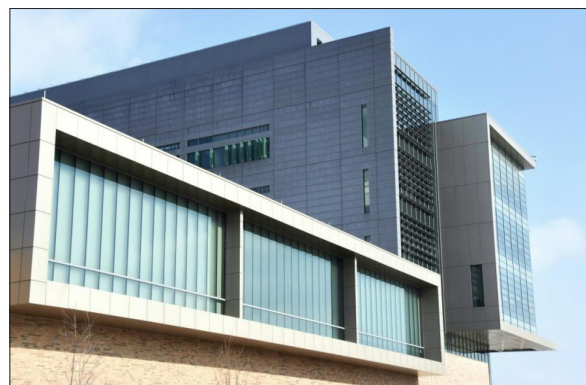


PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH

Studies show that women are underrepresented in many areas of the engineering. The Society of Women Engineers at OU seeks to change that.

Attempting to change the culture in the profession has been slow-moving, but a high priority to SWE members.

“Men and women think differently. I think having those different perspectives is important,” Secretary Marisa Wade says. “It’s a male-dominated field — I think it’s new for everybody to have a woman come in, take over, and have their thoughts put into things.”

Helping to reform ideas about the industry is another goal of SWE as well. “There’s a wide range to what an engineer does. It’s not just one little narrow role,” Asmar says. “There’s definitely a lot of other opportunities that I don’t think a lot of females are aware of, or even men are aware of that don’t deal with just building things,” Shaw says.

Additionally, the student organization provides other helpful opportunities for members. SWE is a national organization that partners with many U.S. companies for a variety of events each year.

“SWE at any college or the national organization [does] a lot of events with these employers and they do a lot of events with [the] big three (GM, Ford, Chrysler) here in Michigan,” Asmar says. “When employers see you’re a part of the club, it helps to get the job.”

The struggle for women’s representation in the engineering workforce will continue, but the members of SWE at OU are leading the way for a more inclusive generation of engineers.

For more information about SWE or for those looking to join the organization, you can find them on Instagram, GroupMe or via Campus Labs.

Oath Keepers charged in connection with Jan. 6 insurrection

TANNER TRAFELET

Contributor

As reported by the Associated Press, 11 members of the Oath Keepers paramilitary extremist group have been charged with seditious conspiracy in connection to the Jan. 6, 2020 attack on the U.S. Capitol building. These indictments are a marked departure from the more than 700 other people that have been charged with federal crimes in connection with Jan. 6, as they allege that the Oath Keepers attempted to overthrow the U.S. government, or stop the execution of U.S. law.

Dr. Peter Trumbore, Ph.D., professor of political science at Oakland University, explained that the legal charges brought against the 11 Oath Keepers — including the group’s founder and leader, Stewart Rhodes — center around the Justice Department’s ability to prove the accused conspirators were planning at least halt the certification process for the 2020 elections results.

“Seditious conspiracy is hard to prove, generally speaking,” Dr. Trumbore said. “A charge of seditious conspiracy would assume that [the Justice Department] can prove and show evidence that conspirators were working together and planning to either overthrow the government or delay the execution of U.S. law [certification of the 2020 U.S. presidential election results].”

This civil-war era statute has rarely been used in cases of politically motivated violence in the U.S., but federal prosecutors deemed the charges levied appropriate due to the level of alleged planning, training and organization that the Oath Keepers engaged in leading up to Jan. 6. Dr. Trumbore

further explained that the group purchased and stashed weapons in the areas surrounding Washington D.C., as well as creating armed “Quick Reaction Forces” to be mobilized following group leadership authorization.

Of further relevance to both the indictments brought against the 11 Oath Keepers — and analysis of the Oath Keepers’ actions as instances of domestic terrorism, Dr. Trumbore posits — is the potential role that individuals connected to the Trump administration played in inciting the mob and riot at the Capitol building. As well as the role that some members may have played in collaborating with members of the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys in the days leading up to the insurrection.

“What is included in some of these documents that the Jan. 6 commission wants to see are visitor logs, phone records and notes that were being taken by the Chief of Staff by Meadows and others,” Dr. Trumbore said. “In this tranche of documents may be material that directly connects the president, his chief of staff and others in the president’s inner circle in the White House to the group that was in the ‘War Room’ in the Willard Hotel,” Dr. Trumbore said. “This would further connect the dots between the [Trump] lieutenants at the Willard Hotel and people such as Roger Stone and others who we know had connections to both the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys.”

Dr. Trumbore repeatedly emphasized the importance of distinguishing between the large number of people charged with lesser federal crimes — but who still knowingly engaged in mob violence and rioting — and those such as the Oath Keepers who trained, organized and acted in order to stop the certification of the 2020 election

results. He explained that the Oath Keepers should be considered domestic terrorists, and this form of politically motivated violence is distinct.

“I think these charges of [seditious conspiracy] against this group of individuals are based on what we know, are justified and appropriate,” Dr. Trumbore said. “However, that doesn’t mean the government can prove the case. But based on what is included in the indictments, I think they are absolutely appropriate. Further, I believe that it is most appropriate that these are the individuals who have been charged with this as opposed to the 700 or so others who have been so far charged in connections with the events on Jan. 6.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF POLITICO

Members of the Oath Keepers at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

OU students showcase talent at Kennedy Center Festival

JOE ZERILLI
Senior Reporter

Students from the Department of Theatre represented Oakland University with their work at the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF).

Plays are a big part of the festival, and two students — Sarita Alvarado and Antonio Vettraino — were chosen to direct plays in the 10-minute play competition. OU also had five students who were cast in the plays: Cassius Merriweather, Haley Lucas, Mason Gaida, Noah Canales and Princess Jones.

Alvarado was awarded with the KCACTF National Playwriting Program 10-minute Play Director’s Award for “The Plot Beneath My Feet.” The play — written by a senior at University of Michigan — is about gentrification within a primarily BIPOC neighborhood.

“I haven’t seen gentrification take over neighborhoods that I care deeply for firsthand — I know my father and grandparents have,” Alvarado said. “I have always wanted to make a difference within the world of theatre. I think that winning this award has shown me that my vision is important and that I did it in a way that was understood.”

OU also saw several students named to the festival’s Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition: Jalen Wilson-Nelem, Kaye Hoffmeyer, Kennedy Vernengo, Kyle Kiesler, Rachel Sarles and Stanley Misevich.

Three of them moved on to the semi-final round with their partners: Kiesler with partner Wilson-Nelem, Hoffmeyer with Travis Darghali and Vernengo with Sarles. Kiesler ended up being a finalist for the competition.

OU had a representative for the Musical Theatre Intensive (MTI) competition, Cayla Stus, who was selected as one of the 15 finalists. This was Stus’ second year attending KCACTF but the first year being selected as a finalist for MTI.

“It felt like a testament to the work I’ve been doing since I got to Oakland, and it was such a great feeling to know that my work was being recognized by professionals outside of OU,” Stus said. “By the time I was seven, I knew that I wanted to sing for the rest of my life. I couldn’t



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS
Liv Kunkle won the S.P.A.M. Props Award for her design of the parrot for “How I Became a Pirate.”

imagine my life without performing, and I’m so grateful to be studying musical theatre.”

The theatrical design competitions featured three OU students, who are Abigail Elliot (sound), Colin Franz (costumes) and Liv Kunkle (costumes and props).

Kunkle was named a finalist for three Design/Technology/Management awards — Allied Design Competition, National Costume Design Competition and Regional Costume Design Competition. She went on to be named an honorable mention for her costume design for “Passage” and won the S.P.A.M. Props Award for her design of the parrot for “How I Became a Pirate.”

“While I am very proud of Petey the Parrot, I am actually most proud of my unrealized design of ‘The Wiz’ as I was really able to express my artistic vision without any outside input,” Kunkle said. “COVID struck and I had lost my love of art in general so I didn’t compete last year. I decided that this year I would make up for lost time and not only compete but present everything I had designed.”

Along with competitions, OU also had students featured in the student council for Region III. Leah Wilson — student council president — organized 13 open and student-only events for the festival this year. Wilson was elected vice chair last year and moved to chair of the student board this year.

“Representing OU is a huge honor because I feel like our program could always use the representation, but also I get a chance to talk with my peers to get input in what they’d like to see,” Wilson said. “I loved being able to provide a creative and nonjudgmental space for students to express themselves. It’s something that is very special to me.”

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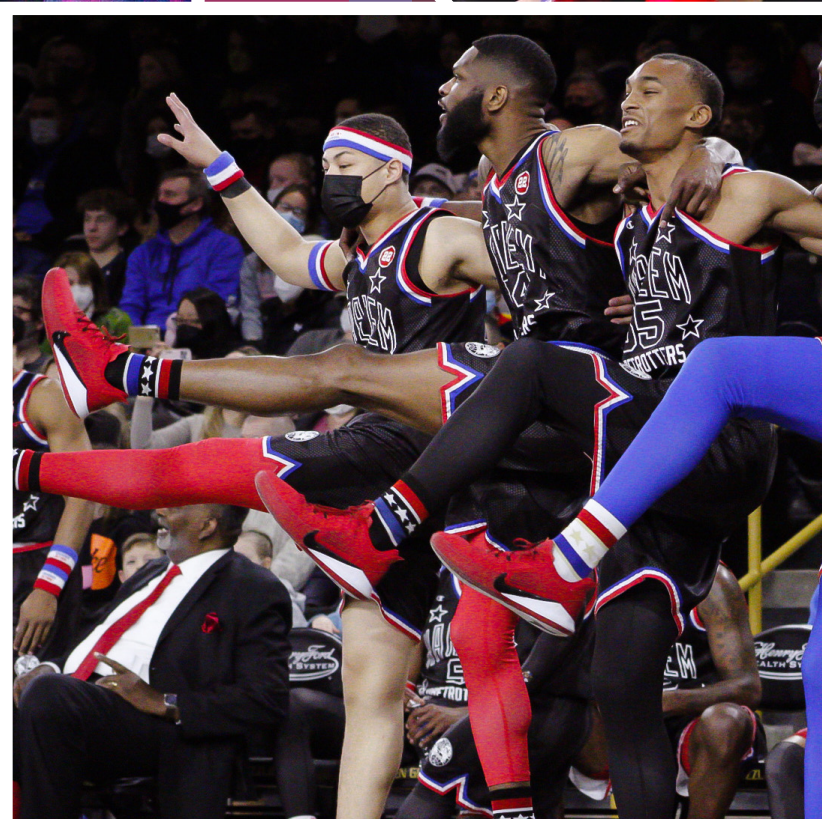
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World-renowned Harlem Glo



Globetrotters perform at O'rena

The Harlem Globetrotters came to Oakland University for two performances on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. as part of the Spread Game Tour. With a nearly full O'rena for both shows, the Globetrotters amazed the crowd with their slam dunks, trick shots and lots of dancing.

The Globetrotters have been around since 1926, mixing athleticism and basketball skills with family-friendly theatre and comedic entertainment. They really are worldwide icons, and they're set to go on an international tour following the North America tour throughout 2022.

"This [the Spread Game Tour] is about bringing love, joy and peace — not only on the floor but off the floor ... We want to represent one of our fallen pioneers Mr. Frederick 'Curly' Neal who played with us for 22 years — he was number 22 — and he spread the game all over this country," player Too Tall Winston told Fox 2 News.

The 7 p.m. game at OU kicked off with a not-so-grand entrance by the Globetrotters' all-time rivals, the Washington Generals. Their walk out song blaring "here comes the general" from the musical "Hamilton's" "Right Hand Man" was drowned out by the

crowd's overwhelming boos.

That sad walk out was followed by the exciting Globetrotters' introduction. Each player got a chance to show off their ball handling skills, spinning the basketball on their fingers and behind their backs.

Granny impressed the crowd with her skills on the court. (Maggie Willard)

Only three minutes into the game, the score was 21-19, and between each quarter there were skits from the team and its supporting characters. One crowd favorite was Granny — the Globetrotter's biggest fan who just couldn't stay seated during the game — who later impressed the audience with her basketball skills in a one-on-one against a General.

Mascot Globie made an appearance, sliding across the floor early on in the performance. The audience later saw his bigger brother run, and repeatedly fall, onto the court.

Half court shots as well as rewind and slow motion playing were some game highlights. One player even scored by laying on top of the backboard, catching the ball and dropping it into the net — not without being scolded by the referee.

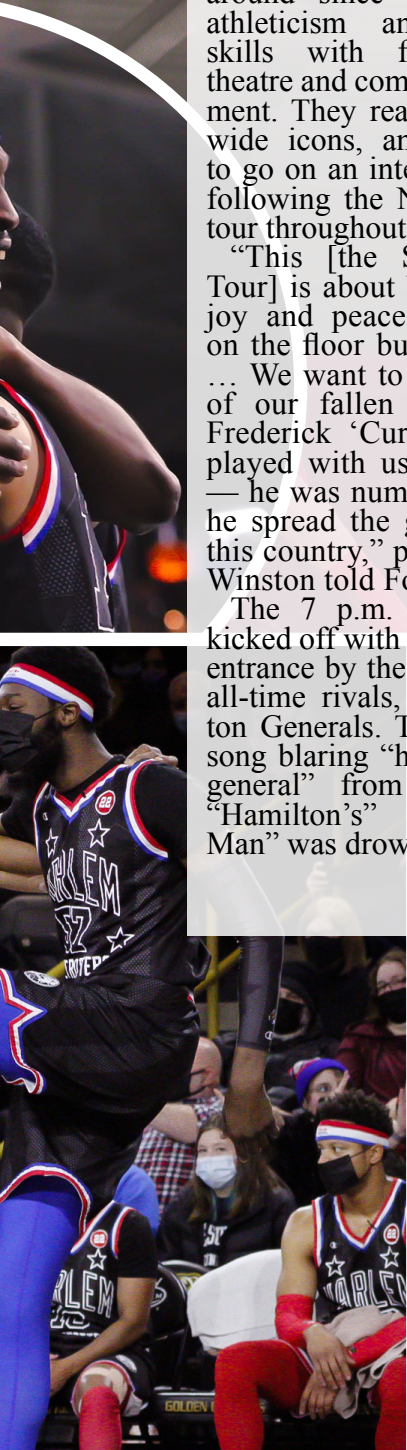
The Globetrotters received

one foul when the team's only female star on the team, Torch George, jumped onto a General's back. The Generals did not receive any fouls. The game ended in a win for the Globetrotters with a final score of 111-102.

Globetrotters merchandise including basketballs and jerseys were for sale in the lobby. After the game, families and fans rushed to the court to meet the team and get their basketballs signed by the players.

Andrea Doa — graduate assistant of marketing, fan engagement and gameday experience — was working in the media booth during both performances with her team to control sound, lights and video boards.

"Both shows were pretty packed, which is awesome," Doa said. "And it's really nice to be able to bring new people out to the arena, people that wouldn't normally come to campus and get exposed to our facilities, so it's a really cool opportunity for athletics and Oakland as a whole." zzzlies finish in the Horizon League.



Pontiac clinic provides free healthcare to people in need

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

In 2020, the National Center for Health Statistics reported in an interview-survey that 31.6 million people in the U.S. were uninsured.

With inaccessibility to affordable health care coverage, several issues arise including inability to afford medication, doctor visits, or essential procedures. Additionally, many could be forced to ignore medical issues that have the potential to be detrimental.

In a 2021 survey conducted by Med City News, 44% of respondents reported they needed to cut expenses in a different aspect of their life in order to afford health care — including food expenses, utility bills or forgoing certain medications in order to afford others.

Throughout the country, there are several medical facilities that hope to change this inaccessibility to health insurance or provide health care to individuals who are not able to receive care otherwise. One of these facilities being the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic.

The Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic (GBCHC) is a Pontiac-based clinic that provides services for those who do not have access to health insurance or medical care. The clinic was started after the passing of Dr. Gary Burnstein in 2003 by his friends, family and community in order to provide medical care for people in need at no cost.

During his lifetime, Dr. Burnstein began offering medical care at homeless shelters in Pontiac, Michigan. Currently, the clinic offers care to Michigan residents who are uninsured and fall at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.

GBCHC provides patients with

care from several medical specialties including cardiology, dental, gynecology, optometry, etc. in addition to offering services such as x-rays, MRI's and prescription medications.

Gerard Knittel, a fourth-year health sciences major at OU, has been a volunteer for the clinic since 2019. Knittel works in the clinic's pharmacy as a pharmacy technician, filling prescriptions, talking with patients and aiding the pharmacists.

While Knittel has volunteered at the clinic, he has been happy about the opportunity to help people gain access to the health care they need. He stated that volunteering at GBCHC has offered him a new perspective into the impact financial struggles have on acquiring quality care and that the work being done by the clinic is essential.

"Everyone should have a right to

health. I know there's a business aspect of it, especially higher up as you go in the levels of health and healthcare. I think it's just essential and everyone's life is just as equal as someone else's," Knittel said.

"There's a struggle in health because there's the aspect of access to healthcare, the quality of healthcare and also the cost of healthcare and each of them kind of play tug-of-war with each other. It's really hard to get all three to work out and I think access to healthcare is the first step in getting adequate care."

As a pre-med student aspiring to enter the world of healthcare, Knittel feels volunteering has given him the opportunity to help the community around him by reflecting the essence of healthcare.

"At the end of the day, you're just helping out your fellow human

being," he said.

Alexis Van Tien, a Loyola University Chicago alumni who majored in exercise physiology, also volunteers in the pharmacy at GBCHC. She says that the clinic fosters an incredible environment where everyone is there to serve the community.

"As healthcare workers our goal is to promote the health of the entire community. Our patients at the clinic are seeking help to maintain their health and wellness," Van Tien said. "Without this clinic, a specific portion of the community would be left without medical care and counsel."

In the pharmacy, Van Tien says that she discusses the purpose of medication, potential risk factors and when to take medication, noting the importance of patients being active participants in their health. She also mentions the counseling aspect of care that the clinic provides to patients is significant to this active participation.

"The counsel the clinic provides allows patients the opportunity to make more health-conscious decisions in their daily lives. Healthier decisions in individuals leads to a healthier community for all."

Health insurance coverage has been an ongoing issue in the country even with government programs like Medicare, Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act. With almost 14 million people in the U.S. currently seeking health insurance coverage, facilities such as the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic have become important components of communities by ensuring the health and well-being of the people in need within those communities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GARYBURNSTEINCLINIC.ORG
The Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic (GBCHC) is a Pontiac-based clinic that provides services for those who do not have access to health insurance or medical care.

Police Files: 1/26/22, Assault and Battery

TORI COKER

Marketing Director

Assault/ Battery/Simple (Incl. Domestic and Police Officer)

Around 11:42 pm on October 10, 2021, the Oakland University Police Department (OUPD) received a call from a woman saying that she had just been punched in the face and was missing part of a tooth, necessitating medical attention. Two

officers arrived on the scene to speak with said caller, who was found to be covering the lower half of her face with her hand, with blood identified on both her hand and the area around her mouth. A better look at her face revealed a swollen upper lip and bleeding nose, injuries she claimed to have sustained out of the blue after being approached on a bench and punched in the face by another woman she had no prior history with.

The suspect was hard to reach — the only contact information provided by witnesses was a

first name and a Twitter handle.

Upon finally being reached for contact nearly two months later, the suspect claimed to have been acting in self-defense, after the victim made a failed attempt to strike her following an initial exchange of words.

The victim refrained from any further correspondence with the OUPD following the event, seemingly not wishing to pursue prosecution.

Enbridge Line 5 pipeline, a threat below the surface

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

Any Michigander knows the greatest asset to the state is the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes generate more than 1.3 million jobs and \$82 billion in annual wages. The draw to the Great Lakes also accounts for Michigan's \$17.7 billion tourism industry. To summarize, Michigan's fresh water is directly linked to continued economic prosperity for the state.

However, there is a threat lurking 100 feet below the surface of the straits of Mackinac that could endanger Michigan's most valuable resource.

This threat is from Canadian company Enbridge Energy and their dual pipeline. This pipeline, known as Line 5, became operational in 1953 and carries up to 22.7 million gallons of crude oil, synthetic crude and natural gas liquids per day.

Unfortunately for Michigan, Enbridge has a history of irresponsibility. On July 26, 2010 Enbridge reported a break in an oil pipeline in Calhoun County. The break resulted in more than one million gallons of oil to spill into Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River — the worst inland oil spill in U.S. history.

More recently, Enbridge failed to report to Michigan officials that a boat anchor had caused damage to one of the pipes which was severe enough to cause a temporary shutdown of Line 5.

It is evident Enbridge Energy cannot be trusted to sufficiently oversee pipeline operation in the straits of Mackinac or anywhere else within the state. If Enbridge's carelessness caused a Line 5 rupture, it would result in an unmitigated health, economic and environmental crisis unlike Michigan has ever seen.

A breach in this line would devastate 700 miles of Great Lake shoreline and take years to clean. In the past 50 years, Line 5 has already spilled 1.1 million

gallons of oil due to leaks in the pipeline. Michigan does not deserve one more drop of oil in its lakes due to Enbridge's incompetence.

There is also a huge risk to the health of residents if this pipeline is not shut down. The straits of Mackinac connect Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. A spill from Line 5 would compromise the drinking water for more than 35 million people who depend on the lakes for their water supply.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Enbridge reported a break of their oil pipeline near the city of Marshall in Calhoun County, Michigan on July 26, 2010.

Additionally, a spill would cause an ecological disaster for the plant and animal species in the region. A study from Michigan Technological

University researchers found that "a spill would release 32,000 to 58,000 barrels of crude oil into the Great Lakes and put 47 wildlife species and 60,000 acres of habitat at risk."

Despite the clear dangers of keeping Line 5 in operation, some have argued that a shutdown would cause a hike in gas prices.

According to News Review, "The report commissioned by the National Wildlife Federation and C.S. Mott Foundation, found that rail transportation could effectively replace the energy supplied by Line 5 while increasing the price only by about 5 cents per gallon."

Isn't preservation of Michigan's greatest asset worth a nickel?

In November 2020, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered that Line 5 be shut down. Since then, the state has been met with ensuing battles from Enbridge and the Canadian government. The dispute even reached the White House with the Biden administration announcing its unwise decision to not support the closure of Line 5.

The White House did announce the "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting an environmental assessment on Enbridge's plans to encase the underwater portion of the twin pipeline in a deep, fortified underground tunnel."

Today, the battle to shut down Line 5 is nowhere near a conclusion. As of Jan. 18, the Michigan government and Enbridge are in court arguing if the case should be heard by a federal judge or at the state court level.

Each day that passes with no outcome is another day that Michigan's Great Lakes remain at risk. For those who have not been paying attention, you do not want to wake up one day and smell the oil. Shut down Line 5.

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‘Shadow and Bone’ season two casting announcement

D’JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

Calling all Grishers! It’s the moment we’ve (especially me) all been waiting for: the casting announcement for season two! Since the announcement for a second season of the show mid last year, fans have been waiting to see who will be cast in the roles of their favorite characters. Now, they’re here and the fandom has very different opinions on who was casted and who should have been casted.

With the Netflix adaptation blending Leigh Bardugo’s two series “Shadow and Bone” and “Six of Crows,” fans have been eagerly waiting for the news of who would play the characters introduced in both series, Wylan Van Eck from “Six of Crows,” and Tolya Yul-Bataar, Tamar Kir-Bataar and Nikolai Lantsov from “Shadow and Bone.”

Wylan Van Eck has to have what’s one of the most heartbreaking, rip-your-heart-out backstories in the entirety of the seven book series (which really says a lot considering Bardugo’s obsession with making her readers sob). Our little merchling is the last addition to the Crows, and actor Jack Wolfe will play the role of everyone’s favorite flutist and demolitions expert. Wolfe literally looks and acts like he was taken straight out of the book — his casting is perfect.

Twins Tolya Yul-Bataar and Tamar Kir-Bataar are introduced along with Nikolai in “Siege and Storm,” the second book in the “Shadow and Bone” series. Tolya will be portrayed by Mortal Kombat actor Lewis Tan and Tamar will be portrayed by Anna Leong Brophy.

Our twins have a very interesting backstory



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX
Jack Wolfe, Anna Leong Brophy, Patrick Gibson and Lewis Tan are cast in season two of “Shadow and Bone.”

as well. Throughout the course of the story, we learn more about them as individuals. Their bond is amazing and I can’t wait for them to get a bigger role as the show goes on. I’m so

excited to see Brophy with her axes. From Tan’s social media posts, something tells me his fight scenes are going to have fans swooning (even more than we already are).

The fandom has erupted since the casting of what has to be one of the most popular characters, Nikolai Lantsov, from “Siege and Storm.” Our favorite privateer has finally been casted — the OA actor Patrick Gibson has been selected for the role. Although there is a divide among fans, I believe he’s going to kill it.

For months, fans have speculated who would be in the role, often fancasting Robert Wilde to the point where he had to announce that he wasn’t in the role after Twitter erupted. It was revealed that he did in fact audition for the role, which divided the fandom even more.

There are the people who are confident in the casting decision as they’ve seen Gibson act before in previous shows, and those who are upset because he doesn’t “look” like what they thought he should. I’m personally excited to see him in the role and think he exudes Nikolai energy.

Since the casting announcement dropped, it has been made clear that the cast is back together filming in Budapest. Over the past week, we’ve been getting more and more content from cast members, and I’m wondering when filming will wrap so we can get the next season!

Ring the ‘Belle’: Studio Chizu delivers animated classic

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

Studio Chizu creates another rendition of the classic fairy tale Beauty and the Beast, but does so through the world of high school and virtual reality.

“Belle” is in theaters in both English and Japanese — with subtitles — but this review will talk about the Japanese version as I feel it was a more enjoyable experience.

“Belle” begins by introducing you to the world of “U,” an enormous virtual world where people can escape through a unique online persona. Here we meet Bell, a celebrity in “U” who is known for her gorgeous appearance and beautiful singing voice.

Bell is controlled by Suzu — both voiced by Kaho Nakamura — an everyday high school student who tends to blend into the crowd and doesn’t like to stand out. Suzu has a love for singing, but since her mom died, she lost the joy she once had for it.

One touch I did like is since her mom was in a small choir group, Suzu remained attached to the group despite not sharing her singing with the public world. She never lost that connection to music and singing, but in her eyes she lost the ability.

Once Bell — called Belle by the citizens of “U” due to it translating to “beautiful” in French — garnered billions of followers, she started performing concerts to the public. During one concert, a dragon that goes by quite literally “The

Dragon” (Takeru Satoh) comes in being chased by a group of vigilantes controlled by Justian (Toshiyuki Morikawa).

Bell and The Dragon begin to form a friendship/relationship — insert Beauty and the Beast angle — while in the real world Suzu begins to struggle with her personal relationship with childhood friend and crush Shinobu (Ryô Narita). Suzu’s friends Ruka (Tina Tamashiro) and Kamishin (Shôta Sometani) share their feelings for each other at the same time.

The scene where they confess their feelings is probably one of the best scenes of the movie — such a simple, yet weirdly long scene filled with embarrassment on both sides and hilarious facial and body expressions.

Suzu reveals her true identity in “U” so that Kei/Ryû — the human in control of The Dragon — can trust her to save them. Kei and his brother Tomo (Hana) are currently living with their abusive father and seek help.

This part of the movie caught me incredibly off guard, it seemed weirdly out of place and was a very dark turn. The director — Mamoru Hosoda — does provide a new dynamic to the original tale by not having Suzu be a victim or get kidnapped, and delves into the side of cyberbullying and how those affected can lash out.

The movie ends with Suzu confronting the father and seemingly saving them, I guess. She returns home and rekindles her relationship with her father and is now ready to share her singing with the real world.

I truly did enjoy this movie, even with some of it feeling like it was just missing parts. There’s a

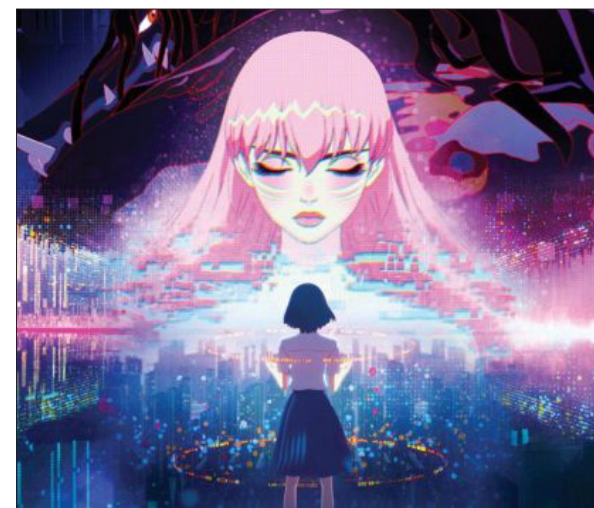


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANIMATION WORLD NETWORK
Studio Chizu released “Belle,” a rendition of the classic fairy tale Beauty and the Beast on Jan. 14. The movie is out in theaters now in both English and Japanese.

scene where Suzu is running while putting in the device that connects her to “U” but the app literally redirects your eyesight so she can live in “U”.

Besides that, I found the movie to be very entertaining and fun to watch. The roughly two-hour film definitely had some interesting choices, but all in all I would still recommend it to anyone who wants an enjoyable movie experience.

Rating: 3.8/5 stars

'The Tragedy of Macbeth:' Joel Coen's Shakespearean nightmare

ALEXANDER GUSTANSKI

Senior Reporter

Unless you've been living under a film-free rock, the writer-director duo, the Coen brothers, should sound familiar. Joel and Ethan Coen are responsible for writing and directing some of the most iconic films of all time, such as "The Big Lebowski," "O Brother Where Art Thou," and "No Country for Old Men." All three of these films, along with the rest of their filmography, have one thing in common — both brothers were involved in the development of the film.

In an unprecedented move, Joel Coen recently made his solo directorial debut with "The Tragedy of Macbeth," a beautiful adaptation of the classic Shakespeare play "Macbeth."

The Coen Brothers are no strangers to borrowing from classic stories. The aforementioned film, "O Brother Where Art Thou," is a loose adaptation of Homer's "The Odyssey." However, they have never directly adapted a classic tale for the big screen before, which is a shame considering how good this film is. Joel perfectly interprets the Shakespearean legend into a surreal black and white nightmare.

"The Tragedy of Macbeth" has an incredibly interesting visual style. Upon starting the film, most viewers will notice the boxy 4:3 aspect ratio, purposefully chosen to accentuate the claustrophobic nature of Macbeth's story and

make the film feel more like a stage play.

The theatrical elements of this film are a result of both the aspect ratio and the stellar performances from the entire cast. "The Equalizer" and "Training Day" star Denzel Washington expertly plays Macbeth in his tragic journey to become a king. Washington has a wonderful voice and such



PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLE TV+
"The Tragedy of Macbeth" was added to Apple TV+ on Jan. 14.

a powerful and noble presence in the role. His monologues are the highlight of the movie by far. Starring alongside Washington is another veteran actress, Frances McDormand as Lady Macbeth. McDormand also has an incredibly powerful presence onscreen that perfectly captures the character's massive ambitions for her husband.

The film's greatest achievement is in its set design and lighting. Macbeth's castle feels like a dingy surreal void, where the environment transforms to match the mood of the characters that inhabit them. The effort used to create the scenes is represented by the film's painstaking cinematography and beautiful visuals.

My only complaint is the film is at times hard to follow. This is my first exposure to the legend of Macbeth, and I probably should have read the original play first. The actors talk quickly in old English which, while a perfect interpretation of how Shakespeare plays are meant to be performed, is hard to understand without very close listening. The film's surreal staging and cinematography definitely does not help either. There is very little in this film for the average viewer to latch onto, and I appreciate how alien it feels.

I strongly recommend "The Tragedy of Macbeth" for any fans of the Coen Brothers, surreal movies, or people like myself who like to follow what A24 releases. The film is still available in some theaters and was added to Apple TV+ on January 14.

10 movie releases that I'm looking forward to in 2022

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

With a new year comes a new slew of movie releases. As an avid film buff, I've compiled the top 10 movies — in order of release date — that I'm most looking forward to in 2022.

1) "Scream" — Released Jan. 14

The fifth film of one of my top five horror franchises of all time, "Scream," was released on Jan. 14. It's crazy to think how long this franchise has lasted. I remember watching the first "Scream" (1996) while staying home from school with a cold in the eighth grade back in 2013. Once the closing credits rolled, I was hooked and ended up watching the rest of the films that day. Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell) and Dewey Riley (David Arquette) were always my favorite characters.

2) "Moonfall" — Feb. 4

When the moon is displaced from its orbit, dire consequences lie ahead. Space movies have always fascinated me ever since watching films like "Gravity" (2013), "Interstellar" (2014) and "Apollo 13" (1995). However, I am especially excited for "Moonfall," which is expected to add a new perspective to the science-fiction genre. Some cast members include Halle Berry, Patrick Wilson, and the hilarious Michael Pena.

3) "Jackass Forever" — Feb. 4

The first time I watched a "Jackass" movie, I was in disbelief at the lengths these guys went through to

perform their stunts. The pain and suffering they put themselves through for entertainment is a shocking to consider. Despite the original movie being released in theaters nearly twenty years ago, I expect to see the same old tomfoolery in the latest installment, especially with Johnny Knoxville, Steve-O and Chris Pontius making their return to the franchise.

4) "The Batman" — March 4

Growing up, Batman was my all-time favorite superhero. I have seen all of the Batman movies, and Christian Bale is (so far) the best defender of Gotham. The newest version stars Robert Pattinson as Batman. I'm interested in seeing where director Matt Reeves takes this film and how he separates himself from Christopher Nolan's masterpiece.

5) "X" — March 18

A film crew arrives at a secluded house in hopes of creating an adult film — but, unbeknownst to them, the old couple whose house they are using to film has some unpleasant secrets, and things begin to take a sinister turn. This movie gives me the same vibe as "The Visit" (2015) or "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning" (2006). The cast includes Brittany Snow and Kid Cudi.

6) "The Northman" — April 22

This movie follows a style comparable to "Game of Thrones" (2011), "Vikings" (2013) and "The Witcher" (2019). I find films that involve anything related to vikings or medieval times to have great storytelling and significant visual aspects for audiences. The main cast includes Alexander Skarsgard, "The Queen's Gambit" star Anya Taylor-

Joy and Willem Dafoe.

7) "Top Gun: Maverick" — May 27

The long-awaited new "Top Gun" movie will hit theaters in May after multiple delays. My parents are enormous "Top Gun" (1986) fans, and I in turn became a fan as well. Tom Cruise is back as Maverick, Miles Teller as Bradley Rooster Bradshaw and even the great Val Kilmer as the legendary Iceman.

8) "The Black Phone" — June 24

Horror movies are my favorite genre, so I'm always down to see another horror flick. This film follows a boy who is abducted by a serial killer that starts to receive guidance from the killers' former victims. Ethan Hawke will star.

9) "Nope" — July 22

Director Jordan Peele has a knack for creating great horror movies with relevant undertones. This will be the third film Peele has directed. The plot for this film is unknown at this time, but judging by his past two films, "Get Out" (2017) and "Us" (2019), I'm sure it will be another box office hit. Actor Daniel Kaluuya stars.

10) "Halloween Ends" — Oct. 14

The final movie of the latest "Halloween" trilogy is expected to be released fittingly in October 2022. I thoroughly enjoyed the first two films of this franchise, "Halloween" (2018) and "Halloween Kills" (2021) — I was frightened numerous times by the intense violent scenes. The final battle between Laurie Strode (Jamie Lee Curtis) and Michael Myers (James Jude Courtney) is one to look forward to.

Netflix's new stop-motion film 'The House' is trending

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

Stop motion is the most underrated type of film, as they are usually so artfully done and worth watching. Netflix's new film "The House" has gone viral for the off-putting stop motion and unsettling messages. This three part film gripped everyone online with its idea of three different timelines and short films all in one.

Usually whenever a "creepy" or horror movie goes viral, I know they are going to be bad. While "The House" wasn't terrible, it definitely didn't live up to the hype I saw online.

The stop motion in this film is so seamlessly done, beautifully pieced together and naturally flowing. Throughout the whole film all I could think about was how big items used in the animation actually were. They had to be small if they were stop motion. The details were just amazing to look at, especially the fire.

While the film looked nice, I did have some issues. The movie's description reads "as they try to make the strange building into a permanent home." There was something misleading about this description. I thought I would be watching three generations of people experience the same unsettling curse, but all three segments of the movie were completely different and disconnected from each other other than being the same house.

The first segment followed a poor family as they conveniently upgraded to a better house. With the move the parent's instincts were compromised and they stopped taking care of their children, instead becoming obsessed with the idea of furniture. This short film was my favorite of the three as it felt the most creepy and made the most sense.

In the second part we see a rat that had recently renovated the inside of the house but is struggling to sell

as potential buyers hate it. Then there ended up being a bug problem, that made the rat go crazy. He developed weird habits within himself and sees everything a little differently, especially the two people who do want to buy the house. This short film was a little confusing if you didn't think about it hard enough. There were a lot of hidden details that went into fully understanding it, but it had the best ending.

The third short film took place in a flooded city where the house served as an apartment complex. This film revolved around cats as the characters. In the story it's time for them to move on, but the landlord had other ideas for the house.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX
Netflix's new stop-motion film depicts three unsettling stories taking place in the same house.

This one was the most aesthetically pleasing scene but the worst out of all three for the plot.

Each part of the film was directed by a different director so each felt unique and you could tell the different takes they all took within this one location. It's interesting to think about what each director brought to the screen.

Overall, I wish there was more of a connection between each story. Going into this I kind of expected an "American Horror Story" season one vibe — where there's different families experiencing the same traumatizing actions and the story shows how they deal with it.

I am a huge fan of stop motion and this film is one of the best ones I've ever seen. Everything looked textured like fabric, unlike some other stop motion films that are more clay based. I definitely got some "Fantastic Mr. Fox" vibes from this film.

With the whole movie being an hour and 37 minutes, and each short film being about 30 minutes, there is enough going on that I couldn't look away from the screen. As a viewing experience, being split up into three parts was better. If this was just one long story, it wouldn't have been for me.

Everyone should watch this for the beautiful stop-motion, though I don't know how well you'll remember it afterwards. Rotten tomatoes and IMDb rated the film high, I would like to think that's it's because it was so well done, not because of the stories.

While all the messages got across — the first film giving the feeling of obsession, the second film depicting a destruction of oneself and the feeling people don't care and the last film with the lesson of forgiveness and letting go — the deeper meanings took a while to understand.

It's definitely not a casual watch, but with each film only being about 30 minutes it was easy to get through and will give you plenty to think about.

3 out of 5

Here's how Oakland men's basketball can win the Horizon League

REECE TAYLOR

Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team is currently tied for first in the Horizon League record-wise. At 14-5, including 8-1 in conference play, this Oakland team has proven to be a juggernaut in the conference. Among the top in points per game, points allowed, steals, and point differential, the Golden Grizzlies have the look and making of a champion.

The Golden Grizzlies team leads the Horizon League in scoring with 75.2 ppg. A combination of Oakland's size, speed, and athleticism gets to the line and stay aggressive in the paint. Oakland season long has led the Horizon League in free throws and consistently takes care of the basketball as they average the fewest turnovers in the conference. With all of these pluses, their path to the first Horizon League championship since 2017 is far from automatic.

Though Oakland has the physical makeup, their losses are often a product of two flaws: the three-point shot and rebounding. Oakland is 10th in the conference in terms of three-point shooting percentages, though they're fourth in attempts. Oakland, shown most recently in their loss to Milwaukee, was outrebounded by eight. In wins and losses, these two things have plagued what is a highly talented Oakland team with higher aspirations. So, with these factors in mind, how

will Oakland win the Horizon League for the first time in five years?

Easy. Play to your strengths and focus on the transition and interior. Oakland is fast and they have the size to play the passing lanes, as they're second in the conference in steals. Though rebounding must be improved moving forward, they have the personnel



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Oakland men's basketball team in a huddle during a timeout against Milwaukee on Jan. 9.

that can force turnovers that allows for fast break points. It's one thing to try to guard Oakland in the half court, it's another to compete with an athletic team in what's essentially a foot race. In a half court setting, Oakland is aggressive and gets to the paint. As they force their way inside, they draw fouls and get to the free-throw line, where they lead the Horizon League in free throw percentage.

Does Oakland need to improve shooting and rebounding? Of course they do. Consistent open shooting allows the driving lanes to open and more one on one matchups that they can exploit. Controlling boards leads to more possessions and more scoring opportunities. That said, Oakland should not force its identity to modernize or take shots that the players aren't used to. Consistent shooting will always be necessary to win, but trying to play out of rhythm will cause more problems than it would fix.

Oakland's team is at its best when they're forcing turnovers, running in transition, and scoring inside. Oakland's mentality is to push the ball inside and keep the pace quick. As much as Oakland has to improve shooting, they make up for their shortcomings with one of the most relentless attack offenses in the conference.

Oakland looks to lock in its standing to close out the season, and all but one of its opponents are Horizon League rivals. The Golden Grizzlies are ready to represent their namesake.

Women's basketball battles back to sweep Metro Series

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

After trailing the Detroit Mercy Titans going into the fourth quarter of a very close game, the Golden Grizzlies won a hard fought basketball game 66-62 to get above .500 on the season on Saturday.

Despite this, the game was close all the way until the very last buzzer, evidenced by the multiple scoreboard ties in this game. The first quarter ended on a last second three-pointer from the Golden Grizzlies' Sydney Gouard to send the game into the second quarter tied 16-16.

The game remained just as close in the second quarter, as both teams continued to trade shot after shot and bucket after bucket. The Grizzlies left this quarter with a slight lead, at a score of 32-30 before halftime.

The next quarter gave much of the same battle, as both teams came out of the locker room swinging at full strength. The Titans slightly edged out the Grizzlies by the end of the quarter, leading 51-50 going into the fourth.

In the fourth and final quarter, the Titans began to pull away with a slight lead to start. This lead would quickly be erased by a flurry of points from the Grizzlies, who refused to let such a hard-fought game slip away. The Grizzlies would eventually tie the game at 57, then take the lead on the back of a Breanne Beatty three-point shot.

This momentum carried the Golden Grizzlies

all the way out to the final buzzer, as they never relinquished possession of the lead. The game concluded with a score of 66-62 — a win for the Golden Grizzlies.

Against a still-winless Detroit-Mercy team, the Golden Grizzlies outperformed the Titans in nearly every single statistical category aside from field goal percentage [the Golden Grizzlies shot 39% from the field versus 54% for the Titans].

The Grizzlies shot 44% from the three-point line, beating out the Titans percentage by 4%. The Titans were outrebounded [especially on the offensive glass where they collected eight offensive boards versus 17 for the Golden Grizzlies], out-assisted, committed more turnovers and committed more fouls than the Grizzlies in an all-out abysmal performance.

With this win, the Golden Grizzlies improve to 9-8 [7-3 in conference play] on the season, and have now won four of their last five games and will complete the season series sweep against the Titans with a record of 2-0. On the other side of the spectrum, the Titans' record continues to spiral downward as they lose their 18th straight game this season, making their current record 0-16 [0-11 in conference play] as they rest at the bottom of the Horizon League standings.

Following this win, the Golden Grizzlies are now sitting three games back behind the first seeded Youngstown State Penguins [16-2 on the season] in the Horizon League. The Golden Grizzlies will prepare for their second matchup of the season

against the Robert Morris Colonials on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. in Moon Township, Pennsylvania.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Golden Grizzlies out shot their opponent during their game against Detroit Mercy on Jan. 20.

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Kendrick Nunn to be honored by men's basketball program

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL
Sports Editor

The Oakland University men's basketball program will be honoring former player and current NBA star Kendrick Nunn by raising a banner bearing his name in the O'rena on Feb. 18 before their game against Wright State.

Nunn will be in attendance according to Oakland University Athletic Director, Steve Waterfield.

"I talked to Coach Kampe, and we decided it was appropriate to honor Kendrick for his contributions at OU," Waterfield said. "As we looked at it, it just lined up well where there's actually a break in the NBA schedule for the All-Star break [where we can] get him here and do that."

Nunn will be the fifth former men's basketball player to be honored at the O'rena, joining Keith Benson, Travis Bader, Rawle Marshall and Scott Bittinger.

"Kendrick has made us all proud with how he has excelled in the NBA and in life," men's basketball Head Coach Greg Kampe said. "I can't wait to see his banner hanging in the O'rena."

Oakland does not retire jersey numbers per say, rather they hang a banner with the player's name on it. Kampe has a policy where a player must graduate in order to be honored.

Waterfield said he was happy that Nunn will have the opportunity to be honored for his accomplishments at Oakland.

"It's obviously a tremendous accomplishment for Kendrick and one that though I wasn't here when he played — I wish I was — I've

heard a lot of great things about him and what he did on and off the court while he was at Oakland University," Waterfield said.

Nunn started his college career at the University of Illinois, where he was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team in 2012-13. He averaged 10.6 points and 3.3 rebounds per game over three seasons and scored over 1,000 points in 96 games played, becoming the 48th Illini to score over 1,000 points.

He transferred to Oakland in June 2016, redshirting the following season. In 2017-18, he was the Horizon League Player of the Year, scoring 30 points or more in 11 games that season, which led the country.

He ranks inside the Oakland single-season top 10 in several categories, including field goals made (262; fifth), field goal attempts (602; second), three-point field goals made (134; fourth) and three-point field goal attempts (340; second).

Nunn went undrafted in the 2018 NBA draft. He floated around the G-league for a year before signing with the Miami Heat in 2019, where he finally broke out, winning multiple Rookie of the Month awards.

He was named to the 2019-20 NBA All-Rookie first team and finished second in Rookie of the Year voting to Ja Morant of the Memphis Grizzlies.

Nunn played in the 2020 NBA Finals with the Heat, scoring 18 points in Game 1 of the series. The Heat would ultimately lose the series in six games to the Los Angeles Lakers, the team that Nunn currently plays for.

The Post reached out to Nunn for comment, but did not get a response.

Swimming and Diving wins 23 golds in route of Wayne State

REECE TAYLOR
Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies Men and Women's Swim Teams combine for 23 gold medals to beat the Wayne State University Warriors in a 350-205 blowout on the road in Detroit on Saturday.

In their first meet back since the break, Oakland looked to build on their fall success. Oakland was originally booked to face Youngstown University on Jan. 15, but the meet was a late cancellation. The Golden Grizzlies, who are in their final weeks of the regular season, are looking to secure their place on the way to a ninth straight Horizon League Championship.

The men's team faced a feisty Wayne State team, but were able to fend off the Warriors, beating them in totals on Gold medals 10-5, Silver medals 9-7, and Bronze medals 8-6 to win in scores 171-109. This matchup featured seven Oakland swimmers taking gold, including junior Marko Khotynetskyi, who earned two to lead the men. The Warriors were able to keep pressure on the defending Horizon League champions as Wayne State's Luka Cvetko scored a pair of his own. Although the Warriors gave a good fight, Oakland's experience and speed propelled them to a decisive victory.

The Golden Grizzlies women's team showcased their talents to a dismantling of the Warriors in totals and scores, leading in Gold Medals 13-

2, Silver medals 9-6, and though they fell behind in Bronze 10-5, they won out in totals and took scores 179-96. Oakland dominated the meet, which saw seven women take gold, four of whom won multiple. Among the multiples, sophomore Mia Kernanen led the Golden Grizzlies with three golds. Wayne State responded with a strong showing from Barbara Munoz, who was the only solo gold medalist for her school. Oakland was able to control the meet and won in a dominant fashion.

The Oakland Golden Grizzlies are in the final stretch of the regular season, beginning with their final Horizon League matchup at Cleveland State University, and finishing the season with the Oakland Invitational on Feb. 11-13. After the regular season wraps up, Oakland will defend it's Horizon League Championship in Indianapolis to go for their ninth consecutive title. Following this, Oakland will have a chance to compete for an NCAA championship.

In a season that has seen COVID cancellations, stiff competition from Horizon League rivals, and some of the toughest matchups in recent memory, Oakland looks to finish strong with one of the deepest teams in the conference. Receiving numerous swimmer and coach of the week honors, Oakland has the core and the mental toughness to earn another title.

Although the Oakland Golden Grizzlies think about their goal, all eyes are on their Sunday rematch with Wayne State. No great champion was built by looking ahead, but one step at a time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Former Oakland men's basketball star Kendrick Nunn will have his jersey raised at the O'rena on Feb. 18.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Oakland dominated Wayne State on Saturday, headlined by 23 gold medals.

Men's basketball suffers first conference loss to Milwaukee

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies' dominant six-game winning streak came to an end on Thursday, as the Milwaukee Panthers handed them a hard-to-swallow loss, 88-78.

The Golden Grizzlies started the game off in a slump, trailing by six points after the first few minutes had elapsed. They picked things up and gained a fleeting lead before the Panthers stormed back, making this first half a back and forth competitive affair.

Both teams continued to trade buckets until the Panthers started to pull away and establish a major lead, eventually holding on to a sizable 14-point lead by the end of the first half. Oakland came out of the second half and immediately started mounting their comeback with a shot from three.

The Grizzlies got incredibly close to tying the game up, but the Panthers started to string together offensive buckets and pull away yet again. The Golden Grizzlies were not be able to catch up until the very end of the game, with the highest lead during the barrage of offense climbing up to 16 points.

The game ended with a score of 88-78, as the Grizzlies tried to rally offense together and push the lead far too late. The Panthers simply outperformed the Grizzlies in nearly every aspect of the game during the win. The only stats they lost to the Grizzlies were turnovers and fouls, but the overwhelming difference in every other stat would lead to the win.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
The Oakland men's basketball team suffered their first conference loss of the season on Thursday.

The Panthers trounced the Grizzlies in both field goal and three-point shooting percentage [the Panthers shot 54% from the field versus the Grizzlies 31%, and 41% from three-point range versus the Grizzlies 25%]. The Panthers shot 100% from the free throw line, compared to 80% for the Grizzlies.

The Golden Grizzlies were also be outrebounded, collecting only 35 boards against the Panthers 43 rebounds. They lost the battle of assists, as well, only collecting 13 assists all game versus the Panthers 20 assists. The two statistical positives for the Grizzlies, however, were that they only turned the ball over 10 times and forced 17 turnovers from the Panthers. The Grizzlies also had 15 fouls in comparison to the 21 fouls committed by the Panthers.

This win evens the season series against the Golden Grizzlies for the Panthers, gaining a measure of payback against the Grizzlies for the loss they suffered on Jan. 9.

Head Coach Greg Kampe took most of the blame. "Yeah, it's all my fault," Kampe said. "The game plan was really bad. I outsmarted myself, I outsmarted everyone, and our players suffered because of that. So, I feel really bad that I thought I was so smart that I could change our game plan, and what we did didn't work. It made us lethargic, we stood around, and we were just so bad offensively during the first half...but I'm so proud of the way they battled back, so proud of how we came out in the second half."

The Golden Grizzlies will take on the IUPUI Jaguars on Thursday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. at the O'rena.

Oakland defeats Green Bay, back in first place in Horizon League

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The Oakland Golden Grizzlies men's basketball team claimed a valiant victory over the Green Bay Phoenix on Saturday by a score of 68-61.

Despite the first Horizon League loss of the season to Milwaukee earlier in the week, Oakland rebounded in nice fashion, making the win over Green Bay its third win of the four-game road trip.

Oakland fell behind early, much in part due to a stellar shooting performance from the Phoenix to open the game. The Phoenix shot 8-10 in the game's first eight minutes, which established a comfortable 17-10 lead for the home team.

Although Green Bay jumped out to an early lead, Trey Townsend kept Oakland within striking distance early on in the first half with six points on 3-3 shooting.

Oakland continued to trail, and was unable to get any offensive momentum as it tried to match the high-paced scoring of the Phoenix.

Trialing 22-16 about midway through the first half, the Grizzlies went on a tear, scoring 18 consecutive points to blow the game open, taking a commanding 12-point lead with just minutes remaining in the first half.

After claiming the lead, Oakland never looked back, and took a 12-point lead into the locker room. Townsend led the way for the Grizzlies with 13 first half points, and Jamal Cain added 12 of his own.

The Phoenix did not go away easy in the second half, however. Green Bay cut the lead to seven

multiple times early in the half, but heroic efforts from Townsend and Cain helped keep a comfortable lead for the Grizzlies.

The teams would trade baskets and turnovers, but ultimately the Grizzlies would not give up any ground. Green Bay tried to give itself a shot at the end by fouling, but Oakland put the game on ice with some clutch free throws from Jamal Cain.

As a team, the Grizzlies shot an astounding 27-30 from the free throw line, making 20 more free throws than the Phoenix.

Cain and Townsend could not be stopped in the second half, scoring almost at will against an inferior Green Bay defense. The two stars combined to score 49 of the team's 68 points.

Cain finished with 26 points and 21 rebounds, marking his first game of 20 or more points and rebounds this season.

Townsend also had a monster game, finishing with 23 points on 9-12 shooting. The sophomore forward played all 40 minutes for the 10th time this season.

Oakland, now 8-1 in the Horizon League, is now back in first place in the Horizon League, holding the tiebreaker with Cleveland State.

Looking ahead, each of the Grizzlies' next three opponents sits below .500 on the season, while Oakland boasts a 14-5 overall record.

The Grizzlies return home from the four-game road trip with games against the University of Michigan-Dearborn, IUPUI and UIC to close out the month of January. Oakland will look to

continue its momentum against UM-Dearborn on Monday, Jan. 24 at the O'rena.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Jamal Cain had 26 points and 21 rebounds in Oakland's win over Green Bay.

Women's basketball back in the win column against Detroit Mercy

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The Oakland Golden Grizzlies women's basketball team handled the Detroit Mercy Titans rather easily on Thursday night by a score of 80-50.

The Grizzlies have now won four of its last five games, and are back in the win column after dropping a hard-fought game to Northern Kentucky last week.

Oakland grabbed an early lead over the Titans and never looked back. The Grizzlies led 17-7 after the first quarter behind strong performances from C'Erra Maholmes [6 points], Alona Blackwell [5 points] and Kayla Luchenbach [4 points].

Oakland continued its dominance in the second quarter, outscoring the Titans 23-10. The Grizzlies took a 23-point lead into halftime, as it was well on its way to its eighth victory of the season.

Blackwell and Maholmes led the way for the Grizzlies in the first half, with 11 and 10 points respectively. Blackwell had an impressive half shooting, as she notched 4-7 from the floor and 3-5 from behind the arc.

The Grizzlies connected on five of 11 3-point shots in the first half, while the Titans failed to connect on one. Oakland also had a very efficient half with the basketball, only turning it over five times.

Oakland played the rest of the game on cruise control, holding off any momentum that Detroit tried to muster. Interim Head Coach Ke'Sha



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

The Oakland bench celebrates as the team rolls to an easy victory over arch rival Detroit Mercy.

Blanton was able to play some more inexperienced players in the second half, and freshman Miriam Ibezim scored her first career points as a Grizzly with a pair of free throws.

Overall, Blanton was impressed with what she

saw from the freshmen in the final minutes of the game.

"Miriam had five rebounds in seven minutes which was really good to see," Blanton said. "It's always good to see the freshmen and just get a look at them outside of practice, and I was really impressed with what they were able to do."

Scoring was evenly distributed for Oakland, who finished with four players [Aaliyah McQueen, Blackwell, Luchenbach, Maholmes] in double-figures. Kennedie Montue and Sydney Gouard added nine and seven points, respectively.

"I just loved the way we moved the ball," said Blanton. "We really just look for each other. We don't take forced shots and we really look for open shooters."

The Grizzlies improve to 8-8 on the season, and 6-3 in the Horizon League. Oakland now faces a daunting stretch of the season as it stares down a five-game road stretch. The Grizzlies will travel to Detroit to take on the Titans once again on Saturday, followed by tough tests at Robert Morris and at Youngstown State the following week. The Grizzlies will finish the road trip with games at IUPUI and at UIC.

Now, nearly halfway through Horizon League play, Oakland is just half a game back from being tied for second place. It trails Cleveland State, Northern Kentucky and IUPUI by half a game, and Youngstown State by three games.

The Grizzlies are set to take on Robert Morris on Thursday, Jan. 28 at the UPMC Events Center in Pennsylvania.

WINTER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S WINTER PAYMENT DUE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021.

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