

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 45 | Issue 17 | Jan. 29, 2020

## LOVE REIGNS

*Chris Singleton shares his story of love over hate in the wake of the Charleston church shooting*

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Oakland and U of D to raise money for student health needs

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Remembering basketball star Kobe Bryant and daughter Gianna

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PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES** Grizzlies like Edwin Taylor showcased their karaoke skills at Thursday Night Mainstage on Jan. 23 in The Habitat. PHOTO / SOPHIE HUME

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### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Trevor Tyle**  
Editor-in-Chief  
editor@oaklandpostonline.com  
248.370.4266

**Katie LaDuke**  
Managing Editor  
katelynladuke@oakland.edu  
248.370.2537

**Katie Valley**  
Content Editor  
kvalley@oakland.edu  
248.370.4268

### EDITORS

**Nicole Morsfield** Photo Editor  
nmorsfield@oakland.edu

**Ben Hume** Web Editor  
bhume@oakland.edu

**Lauren Karmo** Campus Editor  
laurenkarmo@oakland.edu

**Rachel Basela** Life&Arts Editor  
rachelbasela@oakland.edu

**Michael Pearce** Sports Editor  
mpearce@oakland.edu

**Liz Kovac** Engagement Editor  
ekovac@oakland.edu

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### ADVISING

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gggilber@oakland.edu

248.370.2105

**Don Ritenburgh** Business Adviser  
ritenbur@oakland.edu

248.370.2533

### ADVERTISING

**Ethan Pierce** Ads Director  
ads@oaklandpostonline.com  
248.370.4269

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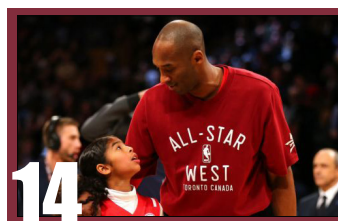
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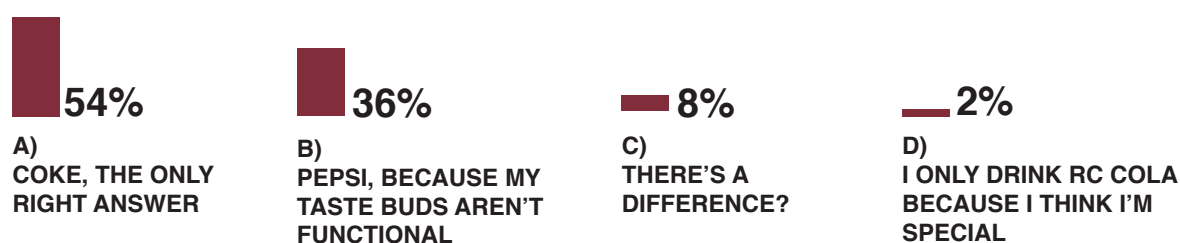
## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHO DOMINATED THE GRAMMY AWARDS THIS PAST SUNDAY?

- A) BILLIE EILISH
- B) LIZZO
- C) TYLER, THE CREATOR
- D) DEMI LOVATO

## LAST ISSUE'S POLL

LET'S SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL. WHICH IS BETTER: COKE OR PEPSI?



## LOOKING BACK

### 2007 African American Celebration Month featured art and culture

#### AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

In January 2007, the Association of Black Students (ABS) commemorated African American Celebration Month at Oakland University with “Heart of a People,” an art exhibit that featured the work of Jamar Lochart, Alonzo Edwards and Personal Preference Art Network (PPAN).

“We chose Jamar Lochart because he’s an OU alumni, Alonzo Edwards because he’s only beginning to take the first steps as a professional artist and Personal Preference Art Work because they are comprised of established professional artists,” Angelica Prophet, the event’s coordinator, said. “The choice to feature these artists gave us the opportunity to demonstrate that art has value in terms of the cultural contribution at any stage in an artist’s career.”

In the 2007 exhibit, Lochart featured pieces from his clothing line, Jamar Artistic Designs, which launched in 2003. Within his clothing line, his father’s musical influence in his art is evident.

Edwards said his spiritual acrylic paintings merge tensions of life and the word of God.

“My goal is to be a professional artist, painting spiritual scenes,” he said.

His paintings throughout time represented his progression, from portraying ranges of emotion, like in his painting “Essence of Anger,” to interpreting scriptural references, as in “2 Samuel 13.”

PPAN offered varieties of paintings that were symbolic of the rich cultural heritage celebrated at the event. Their group motto is, “Beautifying the world

one home at a time.”

“We offer to personalize homes with art by doing an in-home art show, featuring 25 paintings that correspond with a client’s taste,” said Margaret Dennis, a member of PPAN. “Art visually depicts the warmth, emotion and beauty of all cultures. It lets us know that within all nationalities there is talent, strength and pride. It allows everyone to see the difference, in each culture, while respecting it by bringing this world into our homes through art.”

With the wide-range of music and food, the “Heart of a People” exhibit encouraged a good atmosphere and the incentive for the event was achieved. “Through the strength of my ancestry, still I rise” — the theme of African American Celebration Month — brought people together to bond over the shared history and art.

“Art plays an important role in human life, period. It’s exciting to know that every culture has its own art,” Lochart said. “This is representative of an inherent cross-cultural ink. Even though they might seem incompatible and opposite, they’re really not at all.”

ABS, which still meets today, put this exhibit together to inspire and celebrate the culture and people of African American Celebration Month.

“Art touches everyone,” ABS President Mia Evans said. “It shows the African American heart — exposed, but immune to discrimination because of the absence of the physical presence.”

2020’s celebration started last week with the Keeper of the Dream event on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The celebrations occur until Thursday, Feb. 20.



THE OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

Alonzo Edwards poses beside his painting “2 Samuel 13” in 2007 at Oakland University.

## CAREER SERVICES

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# Human trafficking panel informs campus community

**RACHEL BASELA**

*Life&Arts Editor*

Human trafficking is not only happening across the globe, it's not just happening in low income areas and it's not just happening to women.

Oakland University's Center for Civic Engagement partnered with Sanctum House on Monday, Jan. 27 in an event titled "Human Trafficking: Myth vs. Reality." Sanctum House, a sanctuary for women survivors of human trafficking, brought panelists from multiple areas of expertise to answer questions about "one of the fastest growing illegal enterprises in the world," according to Karen Moore, the executive director of the organization.

The panel included six women — Karen Moore; Paige Stocchi-Forgette, survivor of human trafficking; Michigan Senator Ruth Johnson, 14th district; Michigan Representative Christine Greig, 37th district; Dr. Jodi Flanders, CEO, Medical Missions and Imaging PC and medical director, Sanctum House; and Sarah E. Pettey, U.S. Department of Homeland Security special agent. These women answered questions prepared by David Dulio, director of the Center for Civic Engagement.

Prompted by Dulio and the audience, the women answered questions from many points on view of the trafficking epidemic. The main focus of the evening was on Sanctum House. Moore spoke about how the trafficking industry is growing.

"It happens in every neighborhood, and it's one of the fastest growing illegal enterprises in the world because it's so profitable," Moore said. "Drug dealers are getting out of selling drugs to selling people. If you have drugs — heroin, crack — you can only sell them once. If you have a cute girl or boy, you have a renewable commodity. So, it's all about the profit motive, the greed."

Moore also discussed how people may be susceptible to



RACHEL BASELA | LIFE&ARTS EDITOR  
David Dulio moderated the event with questions for the panel.

being pulled into this lifestyle. As trafficking is an all-inclusive industry, one common theme between most victims and survivors is vulnerability.

"If you don't get your emotional needs met, if you're vulnerable at a young age, if they aren't being met at home, you'll find a different way," Moore said. "There are people out there, ready to fill those needs, knowing that once they get you into their world, then they have the power over you."

Paige Stocchi-Forgette, a survivor of human trafficking and a resident of Sanctum House, shared her story to the

audience of the panel.

"I came from a broken system," Stocchi-Forgette said. "I was in several different foster homes. I was raped in most of them. Me and another girl ran away, and I know now that her family sold me and put me on a bus and sent me to New York. My first trafficker was waiting at the bus station. I was nine years old. I was with him until I was 12. Then, he sold me off to my second trafficker, and I was there until I was 16. I escaped and came back to Michigan."

Stocchi-Forgette discussed how her life truly derailed once she began using drugs at 19 years old. She used them for 30 years until her first overdose served as her wake-up call.

Needing recovery, she set out to find help. She was untrusting, underfunctioning and lost. However, she was referred to Sanctum House two years ago, and she's been working toward her goal of recovering ever since.

"People believed in me when I didn't believe in myself," Stocchi-Forgette said. "I was trusting people with my life to lead me in a direction that I've never even attempted to go before. I've been there for two years now, and I'm getting ready to graduate. These are my angels that changed my life, and I am so grateful for it."

After Dulio asked his questions, the floor was open for the audience to ask theirs. The event continued on as parents shared their stories, panelists advocated for change and students inquired about educating their peers.

One man shared his story of his daughter's survival of trafficking, and Stocchi-Forgette noticed the young woman in the audience and left the stage.

While the remaining panelists continued to speak, Stocchi-Forgette sat with the survivor and embraced her. She asked her, "Are you safe?" and, when receiving a quick nod, Stocchi-Forgette headed back to her seat with a heavy heart.

"We don't save anybody, we give them the tools to save themselves," Moore said about Sanctum House.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is 1 (888) 373-7888.

## OU partners with Ohio Universities for Great Lakes Poll

**DEAN VAGLIA**

*Staff Reporter*

In an effort to monitor the contentious midwestern electorate, Oakland University is partnering with Ohio Northern University and Baldwin Wallace University to conduct Baldwin's 2020 Great Lakes Poll.

Unlike most of the polls highlighted on the campaign trail that focus on a single state, the Great Lakes Poll surveys self-selected registered voters in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

"We started [running polls] in 2016," said Lauren Copeland, associate director of Baldwin Wallace's Community Research Institute and Great Lakes Poll project leader. "I was interested

in whether Ohio was still a battleground state or swing state."

According to Copeland, Ohio elected almost only Republican politicians in 2018, and Donald Trump won the state by eight points in 2016. This looked as though Ohio was moving in a more partisan direction than it had been in the past.

A further look at the region showed that Ohio was not the only state to take a partisan turn. Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania all voted for Barack Obama in 2012, and then for Trump in 2016, though the Republican's win was by less than a point.

"That led me to having two research questions, which was [first], 'Is Ohio still a battleground or swing state?' and

second, 'Do Democrats have a chance of flipping these states back to the Democratic Column in 2020?'" Copeland said.

The poll will be sent out to respondents four times, the first of which has already been completed and the results published. The next three times will be further into the primaries, before the party conventions and before the November election.

The results of the first poll have come in, and political scientists are already breaking them down.

"We see a very interesting switch to what we saw in 2016," said Terri Towner, OU political science professor and one of the people involved in the survey. "One of the questions we asked was, 'Are you certain you would

vote against Donald Trump no matter whom the Democrats nominate for president?' and almost 50% of Michignaders say, 'Yes, I am almost certain to vote against Donald Trump.'"

However, this desire to vote for Democratic candidates is divided upon the lines of sex. 53% of Michigan women plan to vote for a Democrat, while only about 40% of Michigan men say they will do the same. About 27% of Michigan women and 41.5% of men say they will vote for the incumbent Trump, while 20.1% of women and 18.9% of men remain undecided.

"I also thought it was interesting ... that Michael Bloomberg is one of the top fivers," Towner said. "He is breaking fourth among Democrats across the

Great Lakes states, which we think is wild. Here is a candidate that has not been on the debate stage, who came into the race late and is polling well."

The former New York City mayor is fourth in Michigan's first choice poll at 9.1%. Elizabeth Warren takes third at 13.6%, Bernie Sanders comes in second at 21.6% and former Vice President Joe Biden is first at 27%. The percentage of undecided voters is 10.6%, technically the fourth most supported "candidate."

"The ultimate [question] is, 'Are Democrats going to take the White House in 2020?'" Copeland said. "We believe that if they are going to do it ... it will be by bringing these states back into the Democratic column."

# CETL Learning Tips: Emailing a professor

**CHRISTINA QUIRK**

*CETL Media and Marketing Assistant*

This week, you get to hear from a fellow undergraduate student. When she's not in communication classes, Christina Quirk works at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. She provides helpful things to keep in mind when emailing a professor.

Emailing a professor with the appropriate language, content and structure can be tricky until you get the hang of it, but it is key to your academic success. It can lead to helpful paper feedback, letters of recommendation, networking connections and many opportunities you aren't aware of yet.

There are many ways to compose more effective and appropriate emails to your professors, but here are a few good ways to start.

**Use an informative subject header.** Include a subject that informs the professor what the email is about before they read through it more closely. Keep your professor's time in mind when composing an email, as you don't want them to have to search for what you are asking them. A proper subject line takes away the mystery.

**Address with titles and greetings.** Start off with a friendly salutation and use your professor's appropriate title. Oftentimes, professors will establish how to address them either on the first day of class, on the syllabus or in their email signatures or Moodle announcements. It's always a good idea to err on the side of formal rather than informal if you are unsure, and check the syllabus for their degree — for example, if they have a Ph.D. and M.D., refer to them as Dr.

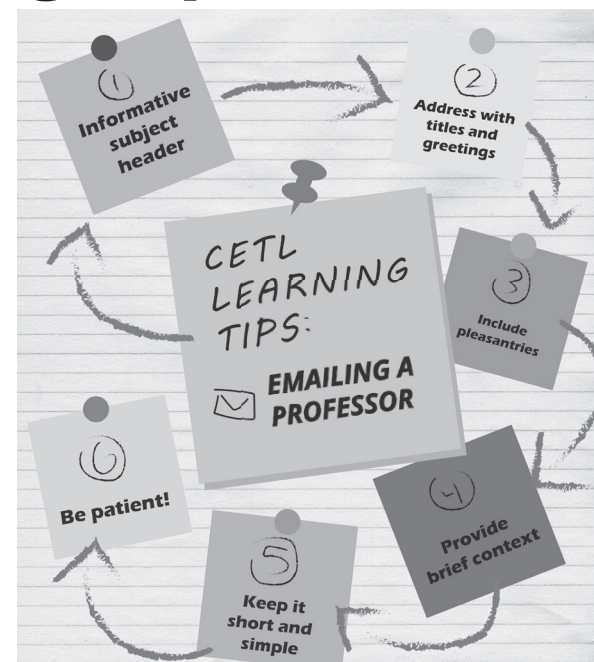
**It never hurts to include pleasantries.** Including a line that wishes your professor well or creates a sense of common humanity is a good way to start your message on a positive note. A simple, "I hope you're enjoying your weekend" or "I hope you're having a good start to the semester" are both good ways to establish commonality and set the tone of your message. Similarly, when concluding your email, it's appropriate to close with a salutation expressing some form of gratitude, well wishes or kind regards in order to provide a professional conclusion before signing your name below.

**Provide brief context.** Identify who you are and your relation to your professor right at the beginning. Giving context can be helpful for your professor when they are answering a question or helping with an issue. Keep in mind that emails to your professor should provide context to make it easier for them to help you.

**Keep it short and simple.** While writing your email, keep in mind that your professors have many past and present students, and possibly several sections of the same course. Create a simple and concise message that gets your point across effectively so your professor doesn't have to hunt for the purpose.

**Be patient when waiting for a response.** Professors are busy people with full schedules, many job responsibilities beyond teaching and lives outside of the university, just like you. Allow 24 hours at the very least for them to respond before considering sending a follow-up "nudge" email, as these can come across negatively if sent too quickly. This means it is essential to be prepared — don't wait until the last minute to ask for help.

Additionally, be sure to look through the syllabus or



JIMMY WILLIAMS | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

These few tips can really help you when emailing a professor.

any class notes for the answer to your question before you email your professor.

Many of these points are inspired by Laura Portwood-Stacer's article on this topic, where she offers a template to visualize how an email to a professor might look.

*Christina Quirk is a communication major at OU. Find more Learning Tips at [oakland.edu/teachingtips](http://oakland.edu/teachingtips).*

## OU competes with U of D in annual Giving Challenge

**LIZ KOVAC**

*Engagement Editor*

The University of Detroit Mercy and Oakland University are competing in their annual giving challenge from Jan. 27-31.

The challenge has been held once a year for the past four years and is a chance for both universities to raise a large amount of money in a small amount of time.

"We compete with the University of Detroit Mercy to raise money from the most number of donors in a single week," said Adrian Benedict, assistant director of the Department of Annual Giving at OU.

Last year, OU won the giving challenge, raising nearly \$50,000, which brought both schools to a tie of 2-2.

Anybody can participate by donating a minimum of \$5, however, OU stu-

dents can participate by donating only \$1. The losing school's mascot has to wear the winning school's jersey at OU's men's basketball game against U of D on Jan. 31 at Calihan Hall.

This year, the majority of funds raised will go toward the Health Emergency Fund, an initiative created to provide financial support for student health needs.

"It's a great fund to give to because it eases the financial burden on our students and allows them to focus on getting well," said Christine Moss, phonathon manager in the Department of Annual Giving.

Though facilitators of the giving challenge are promoting the Health Emergency fund this year to support both mental and physical health on campus, donors have the option to choose from a diverse list of OU funds they'd like to support.

The Oakland University Credit Union is one of several groups on campus that has already contributed

to the challenge.

"We're excited to announce that this year, the Oakland University Credit Union has pledged to donate \$50,000 during the giving challenge," Benedict said.

With the support of the OU Credit Union, Benedict's goal is to raise over \$100,000 within the one-week period of the challenge.

However, Benedict said, the fundraisers responsible for numbers like these are none other than OU students, some of whom are employed as advancement ambassadors at the on-campus Telefund. These students call alumni and friends of OU across the nation and invite them to support the university through monetary gifts.

"We have about 50 students on our team," Moss said, "and they know first-hand the direct impact making a gift to OU has on our students and campus community."

This year will not only be the

tie-breaker for OU and U of D, but also the final year of the challenge itself. OU may be saying goodbye to the giving challenge, but, according to Benedict, the Department of Annual Giving has other plans in store.

"We've evolved and are ready to move to something bigger," she said.

Though Benedict couldn't disclose what lies on the horizon, she portrayed excitement for the opportunities that are on their way.

The Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Recreation Center and all on-campus Chartwells locations are accepting donations through the duration of the challenge. Those who donate at one of these locations will have the opportunity to write their name on a card, which will be hung at the location.

"We want to see Tommy Titan in the black and gold on his own turf," Moss said.

For more information, visit [oakland.edu/givingchallenge](http://oakland.edu/givingchallenge).

## Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society



*Dr. Nancy Tuana discusses*

# RACIAL CLIMATES

**March 5, 2020**

**7–9 p.m.**

Oakland Center, Banquet Room A

Environmental and climate justice efforts have focused on disproportionate impacts of anthropogenic climate change on communities impacted by racist prejudices and on low-income communities. Such a focus on injustices concerning current impacts of climate change and other environmental harms obscures the underlying legacies of oppression that are woven into our shared climate. What is needed is recognition of racial climates. Targeting the lineages of the values, concepts, and practices that ground current climate regimes, in this case those animated by (though never exclusively by) racism, provides an understanding of the ways lineages of oppression and environmental exploitation are interwoven.

Join us for this thought-provoking lecture.

**Admission is FREE, but reservations are requested.**

To reserve your space, call (248) 370-3390 or email [zimmerm2@oakland.edu](mailto:zimmerm2@oakland.edu).



Designed to tackle some of today's compelling issues — from war to religion to sexual ethics — the Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society sparks serious, thought-provoking discussions between scholars, students and the community.

## LIFE&amp;ARTS

# Chris Singleton: 'Love is stronger than hate'

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

After an unthinkable tragedy, a former professional baseball player decided to share his story to teach people to see others by the content of their character instead of by the color of their skin.

Chris Singleton, former outfielder for the Chicago Cubs' minor league team, lost his mother, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, on June 17, 2015 during a racially motivated mass shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

According to CNN, Dylann Roof, the white supremacist who committed the shooting, confessed he had wanted to start a race war. His actions had the opposite effect.

Just 24 hours after the shooting, Singleton shocked the nation by forgiving the man who took his mother's life.

"Love is always stronger than hate," he said on the day after the shooting. "If we just love the way my mom would, then the hate won't be nearly as strong as the love is."

Now, Singleton travels around the nation telling his story, spreading the message that love is stronger than hate. He has presented at 54 organizations in the year 2019 alone and has been featured on ESPN's E60, Sports Illustrated Magazine, CNN and the Today Show. On Monday, Jan. 27, he brought his story to Oakland University.

Singleton started his speech by stating the five numbers for why he is so passionate and motivated to travel and bring his story around the nation — 1, 70, 50, 9, 1.

"One person that didn't look like me was misinformed and misled to hate people that look like me. So, what he did was he walked in my church and fired 70+ bullets," he said. "50+ of those bullets entered bodies in my church while people were holding hands and praying. He took nine lives. One of those lives was my mom, Sharonda Ann Coleman Singleton."

According to Singleton, in order to drive out the hatred, people have to teach others with love.

He told everyone in attendance to stand up, find someone in the room who looks different from themselves and give them a hug and say they love them. He did this for two reasons — someone in the room may need a hug, and to hear people who look different say they love each other.

Singleton said, though the hug may seem dumb to some people, it could potentially save a life. He recalled how the first white person who ever told him they loved him



MAGGIE WILLARD | PHOTO INTERN  
Singleton discussed racism and love.

was his high school basketball coach. He said he wants others to hear those words from someone who doesn't look like them.

"I'm crazy enough to think that, maybe if I would have been his friend, then he wouldn't have done what he did to my mom and eight other people," he said.

Singleton used a Charles R. Swindoll quote during his speech: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." He said there are things in life people can't choose or control, like certain events, their parents and hometowns. That's the 10% in someone's life. The 90% is how they move forward, despite the things they may have happened to them.

"My 10 is my mom being murdered because she was black," he said. "Somebody was misinformed to hate my mom so much that he took her life. My 90 is reminding everybody that nobody chooses their skin color. I would never hate you for yours and you should never hate me for mine."

Berenice Carrillo Rodriguez said her favorite part of the event was simply hearing Singleton's story.

"Hearing his story and just how he went through this life event and still managed to stay so positive and still be able to keep on going, even though the odds were stacked against him," she said. "It was crazy."

Three years ago, Singleton created the "Love Your Neighbor" brand to continue spreading his message of love and unity even when he wasn't able to give his speeches.

Singleton said if people want to contact him about visiting their city, they can visit his website.

## HOST program helps OUWB students save on traveling

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Traveling for residency interviews can be one of the most expensive barriers to getting a medical degree. One Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) program helps make the experience a little bit cheaper.

The OUWB Help Our Students Travel (HOST) program connects students traveling for residency interviews across the country with OUWB alumni who live in the area to offer the students a place to stay.

"The M4 students are interviewing at multiple locations, which can be extraordinarily expensive, especially if they are interviewing in key areas like California," said Pamela Holtz, OUWB parent program coordinator. "HOST volunteers also sometimes provide transportation to and from the airport, meals, tours of the area and most importantly — especially from our alumni hosts — they provide valuable insight and networking opportunities."

"This is a journey they have gone through recently," Holtz said, "so it is a really excellent opportunity to keep our alumni engaged with our OUWB students and for our students to have the opportunity to ask real questions about what to expect next."

The OUWB HOST program started in 2017. Modeled after hosting programs found at other medical schools,

the first year featured a small number of hosts and a low number of connections.

"Our first graduating class was in 2015," Holtz said. "We did not have too many matches in the first two years that we utilized this program."

However, the number of OUWB students matched with hosts shot up in the past year.

"We have seen an explosion in growth," Holtz said. "We were able to match over 60 students with hosts all across the country. Although 60 may not sound extraordinary, when we go from just 10 matches the year prior that is very impressive, and we were seeing upward of 80 requests each weekend because students are looking for these opportunities for engagement and for cost savings."

Nathan Loudon, OUWB M4 student, used the HOST program during his residency search throughout the fall 2019 semester and stayed with at least five hosts.

"It was awesome," Loudon said about his time in the program. "I did not have a single bad experience. Mostly it was people who were alumni or relatives of alumni, and everybody was extremely friendly and welcoming. There was definitely a strong sense of community among the alumni."

Becoming a HOST volunteer is simple. OUWB graduates or alumni can submit a form to OUWB containing information such as who they are, what they can provide, what kind of living space and sleeping accommodations they have, and what training opportunities are in the area. A frequently asked questions page can be found on OUWB's website.

For Holtz, the future only looks brighter for the HOST program.

"I anticipate seeing more requests coming in this year," Holtz said. "I am also expecting, because this year of of M4 students were so involved in making these requests and had such wonderful experiences, I very much anticipate seeing them paying it forward to the following class."

Paying it forward is exactly what Loudon plans to do.

"I would be happy to host," he said. "If we have the space for it, I plan on hosting."

“

It was awesome. I did not have a single bad experience. Mostly it was people who were alumni or relatives of alumni, and everybody was extremely friendly and welcoming. There was definitely a strong sense of community among the alumni.

PAMELA HOLTZ  
OUWB PARENT  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

”

# Questions and voices heard at first Student Concerns Forum

by Katie LaDuke | design by Erin O'Neill | graphics by Jimmy Williams | photos by Sergio Montanez

Students have a voice that matters.

Members of the student body were encouraged to speak to administrative, faculty and staff representatives on how to improve campus experiences during the first Student Concerns Forum on Thursday, Jan. 23 from 12-1:30 p.m. in The Habitat.

Representatives from 15 departments, including the Oakland University Police Department, Student Financial Services, Housing, e-Learning and Academic Affairs, were in attendance to answer questions and follow-up with students on their experiences on campus.

Students submitted their questions electronically and were given the opportunity to elaborate in front of the panel. Anonymous questions were allowed.

Senior Julio Lee began the question portion with his concern of not having adequate tutoring resources for students in higher level courses. Although he sees the Tutoring Center as a helpful resource, he feels 3000 and 4000 level students do not always get the help they need for their classes besides professors' office hours.

Anna Maria Spagnuolo, chair of mathematics and statistics, explained that, while some resources are not highly marketed, it is there.

"[Our department] has set up a room within our building very close to where all faculty offices are, and we set up times where all students can come in to meet with other faculty," Spagnuolo said. "We're moving toward having that room full-time."

In acknowledgement of the plans to renovate South Foundation Hall, which will displace classes, fifth-year student April Peera questioned how this would specifically affect Spanish and other foreign language classes. She felt since in-person classes help enforce correct speaking and learning techniques of a foreign language, fully online classes would not be a good route for these programs.

Mary Hartson, interim chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, assured Peera and students with similar concerns that most foreign language classes, especially higher level courses, would not be fully online.

"All of our beginning classes, the first two years, are still going to be the same

number of contact hours and face-to-face," Hartson said. "We went with a hybrid format [for some classes], which will be 50% class time and 50% online or outside of class learning."

While questions covered a range of areas and departments, the majority of the concerns were directed at University Housing, Student Financial Services and the Graham Health Center.

With regard to housing, an issue was discussed about the status of the ongoing maintenance and renovations of the Ann V. Nicholson apartments. It was explained that maintenance workers have appeared outside bedroom windows with little warning and during early morning hours, disrupting residents' privacy.

James Zentemeyer, director of University Housing, said the project to renovate these apartments was to be completed July 31, 2019. Due to contractor errors and faulty materials, the project was pushed into late summer and past when residents moved in for the fall semester.

"This project did not go as plan or as contracted," Zentemeyer said. "For the most part, we have been able to get notifications out to residents that there is significant work being done. But I think on a case-by-case basis where we had a spot here, a spot there, we have dropped the ball on getting notification to you."

Another issue involving housing covered how dining hall hours do not adequately accommodate students' schedules when there is a three-hour break between lunch and dinner, leaving students to use more declining points to purchase meals. Since the cost of food at other locations on campus, such as Plum Market and the Pioneer Food Court, is on average more than \$5, students quickly run out of declining points and have to use their own cash and credit cards.

"We can certainly look at extending the lunch hour during the regular week," Zentemeyer said. "We would also have to look at what the cost differential would be like."

With Student Financial Services, a concern was covered regarding seeing different financial advisers when the same issue is trying to be resolved on a tuition bill. It

was argued that not every adviser gives the same explanation when viewing a complex tuition package.

Nancy Fetzter, associate director of Student Financial Services, explained that advisers each have their own style on how they communicate.

"We have definitely looked at different models for handling the caseload," Fetzter said. "Listening to your concerns, maybe we need more training or job shadowing to make sure everyone is giving out consistent information ... They're getting the same message out, but they might say it in a different way."

The OU Counseling Center, which is housed in the Graham Health Center, was at the center of multiple questions. Students raised concern with the Counseling Center being understaffed.

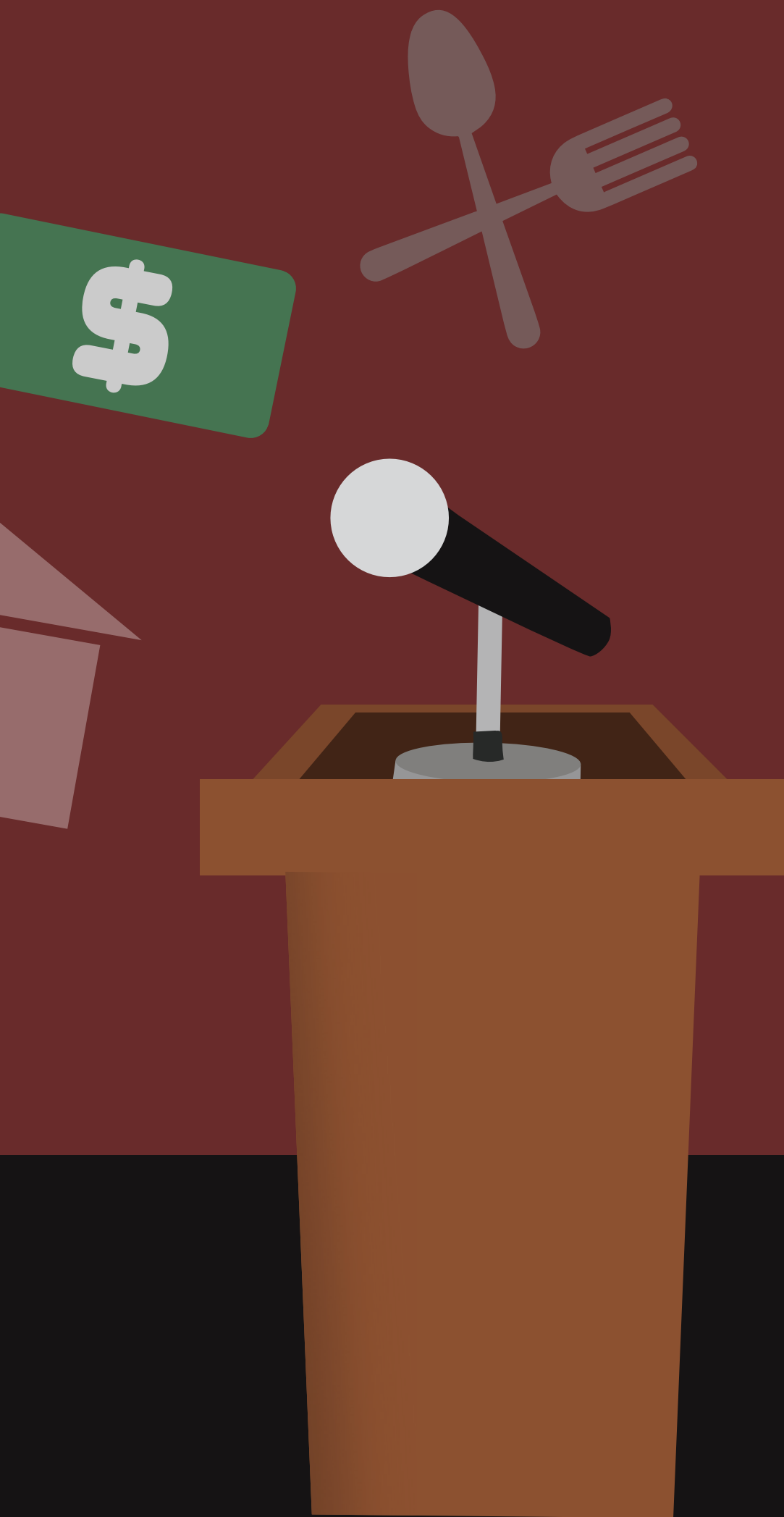
Dr. David Schwartz, director of the center, assured that solutions are being implemented to handle the problem. This includes hiring additional staff members and shifting the treatment model.

"We are getting the budget to hire another full-time counselor for the rest of this year to help with the overwhelming demand," Schwartz said. "We are looking at shifting our model to what is called the step-care model of treatment, which offers more of a variety of services for students, so it's not always one-one-one counseling."

The issue with the long wait times to be seen at the center was also addressed. Schwartz explained that wait time is improving, but the demand of students seeking counseling increases each year. To help as many students as possible, the Counseling Center utilizes a triage process analyzing situations that need attention immediately and also is available for walk-in emergencies.

"I expect that with the addition of another full-time position, we can get those wait times even lower," Schwartz said. "We were averaging six hours a day of emergencies in the fall semester."

Aside from these issues, the panel also touched on concerns regarding the current grading scale, sexual harassment training for police officers, curriculum and diversity on campus. Throughout the event, 20 student questions were answered.



# Professors weigh in on Australian bushfires

**ALYSSA OCHSS**

*Contributor*

The Australian bushfires have been burning throughout the start of the new year and could be the result of severe drought as well as climate change, according to the BBC. But, what are people doing to stop the fires, and what can we do to prevent further tragedies from happening?

Dr. Graeme Harper, dean of the Honors College, said via email he remembered helping put out small bushfires in Australia as a child, but nothing of this magnitude.

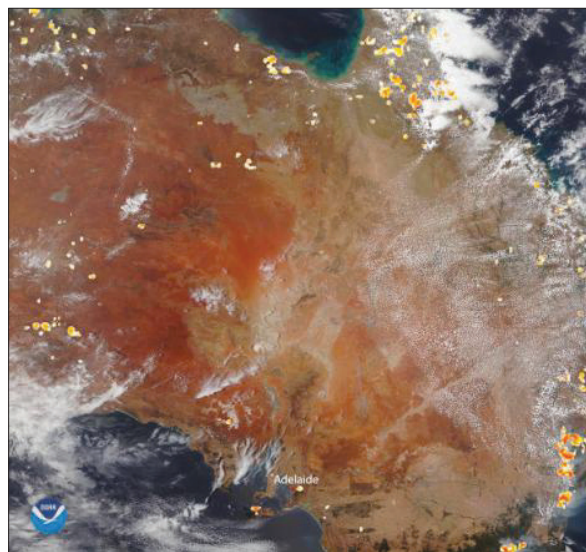
"Sometimes we'd get together to go out and try and assist when bushfires broke out," Harper said. "This is very different. This is far, far worse. We've heard little about those who have been killed and injured."

Harper has not been personally affected by the fires, but he has been keeping in touch with his friends and family in Australia. Harper witnessed a bushfire burning down a schoolhouse when he was 21.

"I remember the smell of a bushfire, after it was over," he said. "The way the black charred ground would crunch. You can't ever forget that smell and the sound. It is not like a living thing at all. Totally the opposite."

Recent rains have brought some relief to the people affected by the fires. However, there still are blazes everywhere in Australia. According to the BBC, fires are still burning in New South Wales — the state most affected overall — and Victoria.

People are doing all they can to support the people in Australia. Fundraisers are popping up all across the world



COURTESY OF CNN

An aerial view shows damage from fires on Dec. 26, 2019.

and artists are drawing for donations to Australian charities. A 10-year-old Australian girl named Briella auctioned off her artwork, along with countless others on Twitter who held drawing events to gain support.

A girl on Instagram went as far as selling her own nudes for donations. According to The Guardian, Katelyn Ward made over \$700,000 selling pictures.

Celebrities such as The Wiggles have reunited to fundraise and give a push to the people of Australia and to sub-

due the fires.

Dr. Scott Tiegs, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, said we need to focus more on how to prevent such tragedies from occurring.

"We need to be proactive to prevent them from happening again," Tiegs said.

One of the options Tiegs talked about was alternative energy sources rather than using fossil fuels.

According to the National Resources Defense or NRDC, fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas can lead to big consequences. Land degradation, pollution of waterways and emissions of harmful chemicals such as mercury are just a few.

"We need to get off fossil fuels, and embrace solar," Tiegs said in an email. "This is our best bet to minimize unwanted effects of climate change such as intensified droughts and wildfire across the planet."

According to Tiegs, politicians in most countries are on board with climate change. The United States is an exception. He said education is important when it comes to the "evidence based decision-making" in countries' governments.

The support of so many people, big and small, can give Australian people hope and let them know that humanity's natural instinct is to help each other, something Harper can attest to.

"We sometimes have been shown how it's easy to turn people against other people, for whatever reason," Harper said. "But when you see how people come together naturally with things like this, you know that the natural condition of humankind is to support each other."

## The Gryphon Trio showcases all-Beethoven program

**RACHEL YIM**

*Staff Reporter*

One of the most preeminent piano trios showcased its performance on Sunday, Jan. 26 in Varner Recital Hall at Oakland University to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth.

The Gryphon Trio performed a series of three concerts called the "all-Beethoven" program this past weekend in three different venues throughout the Detroit area, presented by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit (CMSD).

Each program consisted of performances of Beethoven's trios, and the Gryphon Trio's third and final program in this series was presented at Varner Hall. This performance included the "Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 3," the "Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 70, No. 2" and the "Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11," played with OU faculty member and clarinetist George Stoffan.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the artistry of one of Oakland's faculty members in consort with these other world class musicians," said Gregory Cun-

ningham, professor of music and music director of the Oakland Symphony.

The "Piano Trio in E-flat major" was performed by Stoffan and two of the trio members — cellist Roman Borys and pianist Jamie Parker. Also known as "Gasenhauer Trio," the piece is consisted of a melody of a popular tune, "Pria ch'io l'impegno," meaning "Before I go to work" in English.

"In addition to this happy and catchy tune heard in the third movement, I think listeners will find in each of these movements the fountain of youth, energy, drive, wit and charm of a young Beethoven," Stoffan said.

For over 25 years, the trio — Annalee Patipatanakoon, Roman Borys and Jaime Parker — has been redefining chamber music of the 21st century with a broad range of repertoire. With its dynamic and memorable performances during the tours, the trio has impressed its audience from across the world, according to Stoffan.

While Varner Hall has established itself as an important venue for chamber music in the Detroit area through this series, OU's collaboration with CMSD has provided a unique opportunity not only to the faculty



SOPHIE HUME | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Gryphon Trio performs its "all-Beethoven" program Sunday, Jan. 26 in Varner Recital Hall.

but also to the students and the community, according to Stoffan.

Through this opportunity, students and the community could experience music written by different musicians and performances by world class en-

sembles or trios.

"It has also allowed our students and community to experience significant chamber works performed by outstanding ensembles from throughout the world," Stoffan said.

## OPINION

# 'The Circle': Social media meets reality TV

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Contributor*

Online, anybody can be anybody and the fake personalities really come out and shine. For the new Netflix reality tv show "The Circle," the contestants are no stranger to this concept.

This popularity contest revolves around making the other players in "The Circle" enjoy their personalities and admire their profile pictures. With a social-media-type twist, the players have to form opinions of others through the screen while never meeting face-to-face.

Over the course of 12 episodes, contestants work hard on their fake catfish personalities or try to show how real they can truly be in order to gain popularity among the group.

The host, stand-up comedian Michelle Buteau, asks at the beginning of the first episode, "How far would you go to be popular on social media if there were \$100,000 at stake?" and the answer for some contestants is: pretty far.

Some come in with a mindset of catfishing their way to the top — one man even decides to use his girlfriend's pic-



COURTESY OF IMDB

Netfli's "The Circle" is a reality show where contestants interact over social media. tures, that way he could flirt with all the boys in "The Circle" to work his way to the top. He was dedicated to get to where he wanted to be.

The players have to play friendly games and chat with each other, but the catch is they can only communicate through "The Circle." They can make private chats, group chats and update their profiles on the program, but they never know if everyone is playing their genuine selves — but the audience

knows all the secrets.

They play games with each other like who can draw the best portrait and cake decorating, but some games stir the pot a little, like "most likely to" and "ask me anything."

At the end of each day, each player has to vote on most to least popular among them. The results deem the top two players "influencers" with huge advantages against the others, making all the other players at risk of being "blocked" from "The Circle."

While the show was not the best developed, as it was just eight players sitting in their apartments alone speaking to a screen, it became a light and joyful thing to watch with friends, as everyone can cheer on their favorite contestant and laugh about the cringey text messages.

But even with its cringey atmosphere, "The Circle" is a great show to watch with a group of friends. All the personalities in the show offer something for everyone to enjoy.

The most intense part of the show was after a player is blocked from "The Circle," they have the option to visit one other player in a face-to-face reveal. This opportunity is either to finally meet with someone they felt a connection with, go

tell someone off whom they disliked or meet the romantic interest they've been flirting with the whole game.

With some of the contestants being catfish, if the blocked player went to visit them, it became a big shock that they weren't expecting. This part always had me anxious, even though I already knew they were fake.

I was entertained watching the fake personalities on the show try to act like something they're not — some struggled to keep their cool. Contestants begin to call each other out for being fake and others are optimistically hoping everyone is being their true, genuine self.

The show has been described as "'Big Brother' meets 'Catfish,'" and I couldn't agree more. The fun twists that came with the show really kept me on my toes, and the awkward and uncomfortable flirting through messages had me laughing all night.

"The Circle" is great for anyone who isn't looking for a serious watch or for a group of friends that need some background entertainment.

**Rating: 4/5 likes**

## 'Sex Education' offers genuine and gritty lessons to learn

**EMILY MORRIS**

*WXOU News Director*

A second glance is almost unavoidable when a series is as openly bold as "Sex Education." The Netflix series premiered last January, and now has two binge-worthy seasons with a heart-wrenching cliffhanger that left the characters' storylines suspended in my mind.

Otis Milburn (Asa Butterfield) has bypassed some of the usual confuddled ideas about love as a teenager because his single mother, Dr. Jean F. Milburn (Gillian Anderson), is a devoted sex therapist. However, his mother's sexual expertise and Otis' unease about her profession do not always meld together — in fact, her openness often contributes to Otis' awkward persona.

Dr. Milburn holds a matter-of-fact view about anything regarding intimacy and sex, even conducting therapy sessions and classes within her home. This leads to Otis, at least momentarily, appreciating the advice he's absentmindedly tuned into for years when he starts his own business of sorts.

Along with noted bad girl Maeve Wiley (Emma Mackey), Otis begins giving sex advice to his fellow uncertain teenagers, all while still muddling through his own sexual endeavors. Through haphazard therapy sessions, several adjacent storylines are created that

address LGBTQIA+ relationships, understanding your own sexuality, reacting to sexual harassment, combating patriarchy and, of course, the daily personal struggles associated with censoring taboo conversations.

The show's creator, Laurie Nunn, relates the honesty of the series to the people involved in the writing process. Plot points have evolved from real life experiences and ideas, making "Sex Education" wildly honest and relatable.

"The writers room, last year in particular, was a very queer space," Nunn told The Hollywood Reporter. "So, it was a very open, free-flowing conversation with a lot of people speaking from experience."

Not only was realness a major factor in the show's creation, but Nunn also emphasized balance for uplifting and playful moments. To do this, Nunn incorporated a nod to the root of the show in the writing process: formal sexual education.

"I think, for me, the most important person that we worked with is that we have a sex educator that feeds back on the script, making sure that the right information is in there and that we're not putting anything in the show that could be potentially harmful," she said in the aforementioned interview with The Hollywood Reporter. "So, yeah, just making sure that we're getting across the right information and doing our research and then making sure it's funny and human as well."



COURTESY OF IMDB

The second season of "Sex Education" is now on Netflix.

"Sex Education" has left some loose wires regarding the series' development — Dr. Milburn finding a place in youth education, Otis' readiness for his own relationship and the growth of closeted characters. This may just be alluding to a third season coming next January, although Netflix has not formally announced the creation of another season.

In the meantime, both available seasons of "Sex Education" can offer viewers of any age a glance into human intimacy. The trendy series is incredibly entertaining with dynamic interactions and unbarred discussion of taboo topics, and anyone could learn a thing or two.

**Rating: 4/5 stars**

# House passes war powers resolution to control Trump

*The resolution would require congressional approval before military-led drone strikes*

## AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

The House voted to limit Trump's military actions against Iran, finally, and Congress took its latest stab at re-affirming its constitutional authority to declare war.

According to CNN, the House of Representatives voted to approve a resolution to restrain the president's ability to use military action against Iran without congressional approval, amid the rising tensions.

The resolution would require the president to seek congressional approval before another military-led strike against Iran.

The attempt to pass a war powers resolution has become a tool that allows Congress to criticize a president's actions without taking a difficult vote themselves, according to Columbia University law professor Matthew Waxman, a former national security official in the George W. Bush administration, in an article with the Los Angeles Times.

Representatives Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., Thomas Massie, R-Ky., and Francis Rooney, R-Fla., crossed party lines to vote in favor.

Democratic Representatives Max Rose, N.Y.; Ben McAdams, Utah; Anthony Brindisi, N.Y.; Joe Cunningham, S.C.; Elaine Luria, Va.; Josh Gottheimer, N.J.; Kendra Horn, Okla.; and Stephanie Murphy, Fla., voted against the resolution.

In the end, the vote was 224-194. Tea!

Eventually, the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives approved the War Powers Act, directing President Trump to seek consent from Congress before taking new military action against Iran.

However, that resolution was non-binding, which pisses me off, and since it passed through the House, like everything else, it has to go through Senate. There isn't a guarantee that it will pass, though, because of the Republican-led body.

Or, hear me out, it can pass because the president is psychotic and needs to be restrained.

House Democrats argue that concurrent resolutions under the War Powers



Act are a special case, and they are legally binding. Republicans, however, say the resolution is not binding.

Can y'all agree on something for once, please?

There's speculation that the War Powers Act won't be binding, even if it passes through the Senate.

Not once since the 1973 law was adopted has Congress successfully used it to block a president's military actions, including some rather large-scale and long-term operations, such as President Reagan committing nearly 2,000 troops in Grenada in 1983 and President Clinton committing thousands of troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995.

This is only a little bit worrying.

More recently, Congress demonstrated unity in exerting its war powers authority, but again failed. Last year both the House and Senate passed a joint resolution seeking to end U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen, following the killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi Arabia. Despite this, the measure was vetoed by Trump, and neither chamber had the votes to override it.

This particular situation is extra confusing to me, because we all see what Trump is doing, right? We know he didn't get approval for a strike against Iran ... and the purpose of Congress to declare war, not the president.

So do we honestly want the president to continue to use the military without congressional approval?

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# Golden Grizzlies fall to IUPUI in the O'rena

**BRITTANY WELCH**

*Staff Reporter*

The men's basketball team returned to the blacktop for a second straight home game Saturday, Jan. 25 after being on the road for two weeks straight.

The Golden Grizzlies took on the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Jaguars for another conference game, their ninth of the season.

Oakland was off to a slow start as they trailed behind throughout the first half, but were able to catch up by tying the game as the first half ended, 33-33.

The game was a thriller, going into overtime tied at 74-74. The Golden Grizzlies came into the second set with fire.

"We had more of an urgency to stop their scoring and finish the play with a rebound," senior Xavier Hill-Mais said. I think it was a matter of getting stops and a little more effort."

With both teams' positions in the conference on the line, the pressure was there. Only one team can come out on top, and the odds weren't in the Golden Grizzlies' favor, as the Jaguars won with a final score of 89-85.

"I thought when Rashad's [Williams] ball banked in and they called a foul and we got the game tied, I thought we got lucky, we got a break," Head Coach Greg Kampe said.

It wasn't long until the 78-78 tie in overtime was soon lost, and the Griz-

zlies trailed behind the rest of the game.

"We have not won a close game or one possession game all year, this might be the seventh or eighth one we have had," Kampe said. "I thought maybe we can get it, I think we got a really good shot to take the lead with 10 or 12 seconds to go."

The shot to win the game was off, and the Jaguars got a chance to win it themselves, but Jaylen Minnett's shot was also off.

"We then got a stop, and the great thing about the stop was that we checked out and rebounded and everyone got a body on everybody," Kampe said.

IUPUI recorded their second conference win, tying them with Oakland for last in the Horizon League.

"Those two kids were unbelievable today, and sometimes it isn't meant to be and today is one of those days," Kampe said.

Those "two kids" from the Jaguars, Marcus Burk and Minnett, together scored a total of 69 points for the team.

"I thought we guarded them, and for 45 minutes I thought we were in their hip pocket," Kampe said. "We did different things to them, we changed it by putting different people on them, and we got through them."

The Golden Grizzlies currently stand 2-7 in conference with just nine games left before the Horizon League Tournament. The Golden Grizzlies are back on the road as they take on Detroit Mercy on Friday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.



SAM SUMMERS | PHOTOGRAPHER

Men's basketball played their ninth conference game of the season against IUPUI.



SERGIO MONTANEZ | PHOTOGRAPHER

Men's basketball falls to University of Illinois-Chicago 80-50 on Thursday, Jan. 23.

## Men's basketball loses 80-50 to UIC

**GRANT RICHARDS**

*Staff Reporter*

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the Golden Grizzlies faced off against the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames in the O'rena. In this game, the Flames started the game by scoring seven straight points and would not look back.

The Flames were led by Tarkus Ferguson's 19-point, eight assist, and seven rebound performance. Ferguson had a career day, leading the Flames in points, assists, rebounds, blocks and tying for the team lead in steals.

Stopping Ferguson was just the tip of the iceberg for Oakland, as it felt like no one could miss against them. UIC would shoot 12-21 (57%) from 3-point range. This would not be the first time this season the away team has shot unbelievably well behind the arc in the O'rena.

Physically, the Golden Grizzlies' defense has not been remotely close to as much of a liability as it appears. The defense is typically closing out on the shooter in a timely manner, but the shots just happen to fall, time and time again, as evidence by the UIC game.

Offensively, the team looks to find an identity. Through the first 35 minutes, only four Golden Grizzlies (Hill-Mais,

Brechtling, Williams and Lampman) scored a point. Scoring 50 points against a Horizon League team at home is never ideal, as Head Coach Greg Kampe noted.

"Obviously, this is a really, really, really low point," Kampe recalled, "To lose for a second time at home by 30 points in league play ... we just handed (UIC) the ball."

The game was not a complete blowout, however, as Oakland was able to bring the game to within eight coming back from halftime. The Grizzlies tried to claw back in the game, but it did not take much for the Flames to get their shots back on track to run away with the game for good.

In his first game in the O'rena as a Golden Grizzly, Rashad Williams recorded 12 points and three steals. Coach Kampe was impressed with his performance enough to bring him into the interview room after the game.

With new players comes new rotations, and the Golden Grizzlies may still be looking to find a solution.

Williams made a point when addressing what the team must do going forward.

"We just need to come together," Williams said. "In practice, we need to compete a little harder ... and communicate better."

Next up, the Golden Grizzlies travel to Calihan Hall to take on their rival University of Detroit Mercy Titans on Friday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.



COURTESY OF YAHOO SPORTS

Kobe and Gigi Bryant at the 2016 All-Star game in Toronto. This was the last All-Star game of his career.

## Celebrating Kobe and Gigi Bryant

**MICHAEL PEARCE**

*Sports Editor*

The sports world was rocked on Sunday, Jan. 26 with the news of basketball superstar Kobe Bryant and eight other people dying in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California. On the helicopter was Bryant's daughter, Gianna (Gigi) Marie-Onore, as well as another parent and player on Gigi's youth team, which Kobe coached. No one survived the crash.

Kobe was more than a five-time champion and 18-time all star. He was a basketball pioneer and a fantastic man. In a day and age where many take to social media to mock women's basketball and the WNBA, Kobe was a supporter of all things women's basketball. He also mentored up-and-coming NBA stars as well, working with players like Donovan Mitchell and Jayson Tatum.

The supportive attitude Kobe showed to women's basketball and any young athlete is a testament to how much he cared about people and the game of basketball. This showed in how many people loved Kobe and his legacy.

I'm a Celtics fan — I watched my new favorite team in 2010 lose to Kobe in game seven and I never forgave him for that as a player. But I respected him, and I will always respect him as a player and as a man. Kobe Bryant stands for everything that I want to be as a professional.

Well-spoken, kind, articulate, intelligent and respectful are the words that make me think of Kobe as a man. Every interview I see with him reminds me of what kind of a person we lost on Sunday, what kind of a role model and inspiration we lost in that helicopter crash. It's sickening to think the team he coached has lost their coach, mentor and teammate.

That teammate, Gigi, was an up-and-coming force in the game of basketball as well. Kobe said on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" that when people came up to him and said he "needed a boy" to carry on his legacy, Gigi would interrupt and say, "Oh no, I've got this." She was on track to be one of the next greats in the women's game, and everyone needs to keep the Bryant family in their thoughts during this difficult time. As much as the basketball world is hurting, Kobe's wife Vanessa and their other children are hurting even deeper.

Not all legends in the sports world live to be 85 like Bill Russell. Not all legends in any industry live to be 75+ and die of old age. Sometimes, we must lose our legends at a young age. That is the cruelty of life, that not everyone gets to live until they're ready to go. As cruel as the world is — as deep as it hurts and stings to lose someone like Kobe — we must celebrate his life as we mourn it.

What I will always remember about Kobe are — of course — the on-court achievements: 81 points against Toronto, the buzzer-beaters and hitting two free throws with a ruptured achilles tendon will live on in highlight reels forever. However, what needs to live on in our minds and our hearts forever is who the man was. He was a father, a coach, a mentor and a leader. That is what I will always remember about Kobe Bean Bryant.

As I sit here, mourning this man's death, reflecting on what life is all about, I think about how every day is precious. I think about how just Saturday we were talking about Kobe's scoring records, and today, he's gone.

Tell the people you love that you love them because not every day is guaranteed for us.

Rest in peace, Mamba and Gigi.

## Beatty makes big impact in first season

**BRITTANY WELCH**

*Staff Reporter*

Ohio native Breanne Beatty has been an immediate impact for the Golden Grizzlies. The freshman guard has played in 18 games, scoring a total of 95 points.

"I am from Worthington, Ohio, and it is a very supportive community, very diverse, great academics, and most of my long lasting friends live there," she said. "Everyone in Worthington wants to see you succeed, for sure."

That supportive community helped Beatty be recognized during her high school career for her 1,000 points scored, having the most scored points in a season her senior year.

It was not only the supportive community that helped her, but her parents as well.

"My parents got me into basketball — mainly my father — they put me in a couple different sports and that was the one that stuck," Beatty said.

Playing college basketball was not always her top choice, as she was involved with other sports and activities.

"I didn't want to always play college basketball, I went to a really good basketball camp and they asked if anyone was interested in playing college basketball, I was hesitant to raise my hand," she said. "I was playing soccer and running track at the time which made me unsure of what I wanted to pursue, but after my sophomore year, I knew I wanted to play Division I basketball."

Oakland caught the eye of Beatty while she was playing at an AAU tournament.

"Oakland was my first and only offer that I had gotten, but I'm glad I had made it," Beatty said. "There was no need to wait for any other offers because Oakland had followed me for a couple years."

Beatty knew Oakland would be her second home when she accepted her offer. She was going to make her mark here.

"The campus was beautiful, diverse, I liked the team atmosphere, and of course the black top," she said.

In Beatty's eyes, the team is

like another family to her away from home, and that is what she looked for most while in the recruiting process.

"I've built a great bond with my team, especially through hardships," she said. "This is my family. They get on my nerves, but I love them to death. I'd definitely go to bat for any and everyone of them."

Beatty and the Golden Grizzlies have been getting down to hard work as they are in the middle of conference, and trying to pursue her personal and team goals.

"I want to become more consistent in an offensive sense like being more of a threat from the 3-point line," she said. "I also want to be dependent in a defensive sense where my team is able to depend on me and know I will be a lock-down defender. Our team goal will always be to win the conference championship and punch our ticket to the NCAA tournament."

The Golden Grizzlies return home Saturday, Feb. 1 at 3 p.m. as they take on Detroit Mercy. They continue their weekend home Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. as they take on the University of Illinois-Chicago.



COURTESY OF OAKLAND ATHLETICS  
Freshman Breanne Beatty handles the ball against the Milwaukee Panthers.

# #FreeRashad comes to an end as Horizon League play continues

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
Sports Editor

Before the start of the 2019-2020 men's basketball season, most around the Horizon League were wondering if transfer point guard Rashad Williams would be suiting up for the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies or forced to sit out. When the season started, it seemed like he would be making his debut in 2020, but no one expected it to be in the beginning of the new year.

"I was going through a lot of stuff in Cleveland and I felt like I needed to be around my family to have that support," he said.

After his transfer waiver was denied, the hashtag #FreeRashad became a common phrase fans would use. An hour before tip-off Thursday, Jan. 16, Williams was announced as eligible to play for the first time. He made the start at point guard against the Green Bay Phoenix, ending #FreeRashad.

Williams and the men's team learned of the decision to clear him a few days before the game against Green Bay.

"I told coach if I was ready to play, I wanted to play," Williams said. "Me being a competitor, I was hoping I'd get cleared so I could help the team reach our goals."

In a 73-69 loss against the Phoenix, Williams recorded 16 points, two assists and four rebounds. Head Coach Greg Kampe wasted no time getting him point guard minutes, as Williams played for 36 of 40 minutes.

The drama surrounding the junior transfer was based on Cleveland State refusing to grant him immediate eligibility, so Williams had to apply for a waiver from the National Collegiate

Athletics Association (NCAA) to play. On Nov. 1, 2019, Williams was officially denied, as reported by Jon Rothstein. He appealed, and was denied again.

"[Being denied] was heartbreaking," he said. "Basketball has always been near and dear to me. No matter what I've been going through in life, I've always had basketball — almost as a safe haven. To not have that ... it hurt."

Williams was not the only player affected by this. Rasheem Dunn, who left Cleveland State for St. John's, received a waiver 12 days after Williams was initially denied.

On Thursday, Jan. 24, he made his home debut against the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames. In 33 minutes, he scored 12 points in the 80-50 home loss. Playing in front of loved ones, which Williams can now do at Oakland, has always been a goal of his.

"Growing up in Detroit, I always saw Oakland and the blacktop and wanted to play there," Williams said. "It was great to play in front of my family and friends, which was the main reason I came here."

The men's basketball team is currently on a three-game road trip, with games against the University of Detroit Mercy, Northern Kentucky University and Wright State University, the latter two being top two teams in the conference.

Despite a turbulent beginning of the season for the team, Williams still believes the Golden Grizzlies can reach their ultimate goal: the NCAA tournament.

"This team — this year — we have a great chance of winning the Horizon League tournament and reaching the NCAA tournament, which is something I've always wanted to do," he said.



COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Transfer point guard Rashad Williams was announced as eligible to play Thursday, Jan. 16.

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# I can't get JB's yummy yum out of my mind

**LAUREN KARMO**

*Campus Editor*

Our man Justin Bieber has done some wack shit, but now I really don't know what this dude is on. When he released "Yummy" on Jan. 3, my guy really thought he was dropping a banger. He was wrong.

Where do I even begin with this song? First, let's talk about the lyrics. This song is three-and-a-half minutes long, and there are only 10 unique lines in it. Not even good, just different. The rest is just the same set of eight lines repeated over and over and yummy yum and yummy yum and yummy yum until I get the sweet release of death.

The Biebz really sat down with four other professional writers and between their five little brains, the best they could come up with was this? Embarrassing.

Speaking of embarrassing, let's talk about Hailey Baldwin — excuse me, Mrs. Bieber, like every other preteen on Instagram circa 2013. She thought she was really winning big when she tied the knot with tattooed underwear model and part-time singer JB, but then he went and made "Yummy" about her. Maybe consider filing for a divorce?

Why didn't anyone tell him this song was bad? He has millions of people surrounding him daily to help him "create art," but instead of making "Baby" 2.0, he made this disaster.

What I'm absolutely lost on is Justin doesn't make bad music. "Baby"? Undeniably a banger. "Beauty and a Beat"?

Juuuustinnnn killed me. "Love Yourself"? Iconic. When he made song of the summer "Despacito"? Don't even get me started on "Eenie Meenie"!

My point is that he knows what is and isn't a good song. He collaborates with other big artists and makes good songs with them like "Juke Jam" with Chance the Rapper and "Deja Vu" with Post Malone. He knows what it takes to get a song to No. 1, and then he made this piece of hot garbage.

Speaking of No. 1, why is he so desperate for it? Alright, you didn't make a hit. Give up and move on. Don't beg your fans to stream it on silent so it'll get more views. Yes, he really said that. He knew the song was so bad people wouldn't even want to listen to it of their own free will, so he said, "Stream it on silent." Ridiculous.

On his Instagram, there are at least 41 posts in the last month about this song alone. That means he posted about "Yummy" and begged fans to listen to it more than once every day. Talk about desperate.

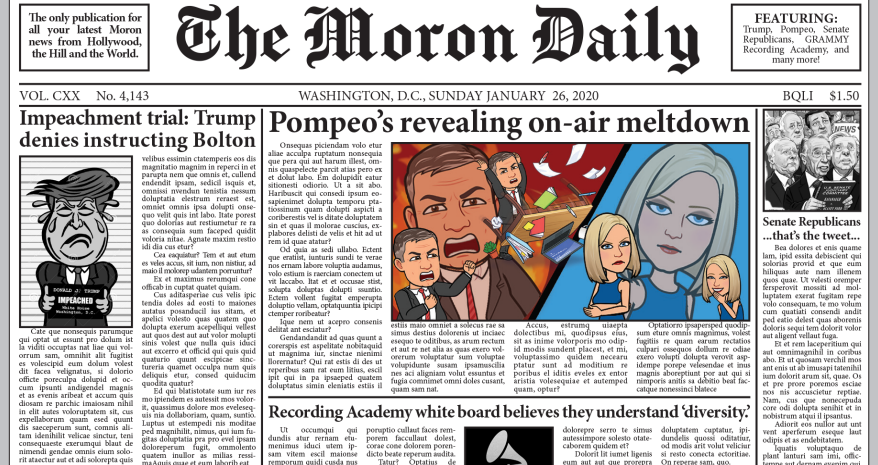
I just hope that Justin realizes the error in his ways. Hailey should've told him that it was bad. If I was writing a song about my wife and the best I could say about her is that she's yummy, I would deserve the couch. What is this, middle school? I am disappointed.

My man better pump out something amazing to erase this from my brain right now. In the meantime, the only thing running through my head is "yummy yum yummy yum yummy yum."



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Hailey Bieber is in talks with a divorce attorney after her husband released the flop that is "Yummy."



ASHLEY AVERILL | DESIGN EDITOR

Mike Pompeo's meltdown was prominently featured in this week's issue of "Moron Daily."

## Mike Pompeo defends sexist attack by urinating out window

**BEN HUME**

*Web Editor*

Mike Pompeo was called out early last weekend for verbally assaulting veteran reporter and resident badass Marie Louise Kelly. Kelly was reporting for NPR on Iran and Ukraine and did a nine-minute interview with the Secretary of State, the person in the United States government who is supposed to be an expert on important things that happen in the world.

Pompeo got angry at Kelly for surprising him with questions he was not prepared for on minor topics like international assassinations by the U.S. government and publicly denouncing an American ambassador who was ... hold on, let me check the transcripts ... doing her job? That sounds about right.

He was also mad at Kelly for being smart, as he attempted to mansplain where Ukraine was to a person who had been reporting on the Ukraine scandal since it broke. When he brought out a blank map and asked her to point to Ukraine, he was surprised to see a woman make him look like a fool as she correctly identified the location of Ukraine.

The fact that Pompeo made a mockery of himself for not being prepared for topics he was told about the day before lead to a follow-up interview with the publication Moron Daily. He defended his outburst by telling the reporter that he yelled at Kelly because he could. He, being a big white man, had the right to tell her that she can't do her job correctly because she made him feel stupid.

"I honestly can't believe that she thinks she is allowed to know more than me. I am the secretary of state, and I will not be bullied

by a woman," Pompeo said. "My position is really great, and I am legally not allowed to be made a fool of. It's in my contract."

Pompeo claimed that his job requires only the strongest of character, which is why the Trump administration chose him for the job. He told the Moron that a person of his position could get away with anything because they are made of such moral fiber.

"Watch, I could piss out this window and no one would challenge me," Pompeo said as he opened the room's only window. "Even the people down below won't bat an eyelash at me when I do it, just watch."

As he relieved himself onto the sidewalk below to the irritation of the crowd below, Pompeo became irritated with the Moron reporter for attempting to bring up a possible apology to Kelly, as his verbal abuse was universally agreed to be uncalled for. Pompeo began shouting at the reporter for suggesting he could possibly owe anyone an apology.

"It is shameful that this reporter chose to violate the basic rules of journalism and decency," he yelled at the sky. "This is another example of how unhinged the media has become in its quest to hurt President Trump and this administration. It is no wonder that the American people distrust many in the media when they so consistently demonstrate their agenda and their absence of integrity."

Pompeo failed to provide any evidence for these claims of libel and slander, and instead decided to hang from the ceiling fan and scream. The reporter decided that this qualified as an "off the record" session from Pompeo, and not wishing to suffer his sexist wrath, they decided to end the interview there and leave him to relieve himself out the window a second time.