

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 44 | Issue 17 | Jan. 31, 2019



ICE ICE GRIZZLIES

OUCC NEW HIRES

The counseling center adds more staff to decrease wait times

PAGE 4

BIKING THE AMERICAS

Alumnus bikes from top of Alaska to the bottom of Argentina

PAGES 8 & 9

SHALLOW BENCH

Men's basketball enters mid season short on team members

PAGE 14

PHOTO BY ELYSE GREGORY

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A SNOWY MONDAY Oakland's fearless leader, Matilda Dodge Wilson, stands ready with her shovel in the middle of Monday's snowstorm. Before the snow even started falling, OU closed campus on Sunday, Jan. 27 in preparation for the wonderful Michigan weather.
ELYSE GREGORY | PHOTO EDITOR

THE OAKLAND POST

EDITORIAL BOARD

AuJenee Hirsch
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4266

Elyse Gregory
Photo Editor
emgregory@oakland.edu
248.370.4266

Laurel Kraus
Managing Editor
lmkraus@oakland.edu
248.370.2537

Patrick Sullivan
Web Editor
ptsullivan@oakland.edu

EDITORS

Katie Valley Campus Editor
kvalley@oakland.edu

Trevor Tyle Life&Arts Editor
ttyle@oakland.edu

Michael Pearce Sports Editor
mpearce@oakland.edu

Jordan Jewell Engagement Editor
jjewell@oakland.edu

COPY&VISUAL

Katie LaDuke Chief Copy Editor
Mina Fuqua Copy Editor
Jessica Trudeau Copy Editor
Zoe Garden Copy Editor
Erin O'Neill Graphic Designer
Prakhya Chilukuri Graphic Assistant

Ryan Pini Photographer
Nicole Morsfield Photographer
Samuel Summers Photographer
Sergio Montanez Photographer

REPORTERS

Benjamin Hume Staff Reporter
Dean Vaglia Staff Reporter
Jonathan Savich Staff Reporter
Bridget Janis Staff Reporter
Taylor Crumley Staff Reporter
Devin Boatwright Staff Reporter
Alyssa Ochss Staff Reporter

DISTRIBUTION

Kat Malokofsky Distribution Director
Alexander Pham Distributor
Lauren Ramer Distributor

ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105

ADVERTISING

Angela Gebert Ads Director

Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533



5 AN UPDATED FYAC
The First Year Advising Center adds a new academic coach and lab.
Photo | Cory Glover



15 AN OU LEGEND
Hall of Famer Pete Hovland has been coaching for over 40 years.
Photo | Nicole Morsfield



16 DIDN'T GET THE MESSAGE
One oblivious student showed up to classes despite the snow day on Monday.
Illustration | Erin O'Neill

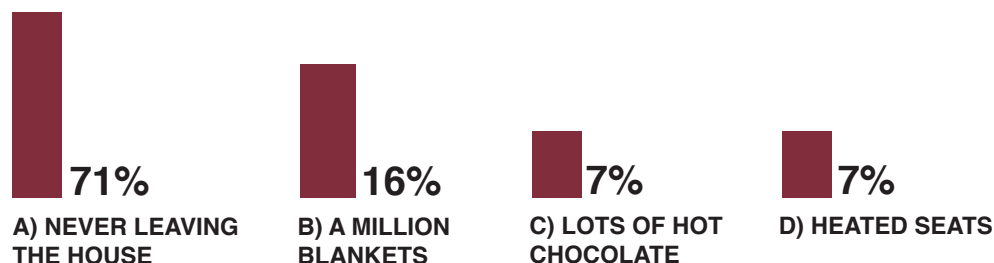
POLL OF THE WEEK

HOW ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS GOING?

- A) THE GYM IS MY NEW BFF
- B) 2019 WHO? 2020 WILL BE MY YEAR
- C) TRIED AND FAILED
- D) I'M STILL TRUCKING ON

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO BEAT THE COLD?



For more content and to vote on this week's poll, head to <https://oaklandpostonline.com>.

LOOKING BACK

Fire at the Student Enterprise Theater

In 1987, the barn was destroyed in a fire that was suspected to be from lightning

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

The barn theater used to be home for many student performances, mostly from the Student Enterprise Theater, until it was burned down in a fire on Aug. 17, 1987. It also was used as a meeting place for multiple university groups including the Coffeehouse monthly entertainment series.

"I would pretend to be a famous movie actress... I almost cried when I found it had burned down," Barb Thorpe, Meadow Brook Hall archives committee said then. "It held a lot of memories for me."

While it seemed the fire in the Barn Theater had an unknown cause, police did report the phone line and alarm system did go down the night before. Kate Royce-Burdick, an orientation coordinator then, reported the barn was hit by lightning on Aug. 16, 1987 at 8:30 p.m.

Chief Richard Leonard was not able to confirm the fact the lightning had anything to do with the fire.

"We have no way to know that lightning struck that building," he said then.

While the fire ruined the barn, it also destroyed several sets for plays that were to be used by the Center for the Arts that year.

The director at the time, Carl Barnes, said it ruined several pieces of furniture, two lighting boards, all mime ensemble equipment, 48 platforms that made up the studio theater stage, one piano and "flats" used for painting scenery.

At the time there was \$10,000 in the Village Project account

with an additional \$2,000 that was expected from the fall registration money.

"I am sure any reasonable person will tear it down... the damage is so extensive if a building is going to be built, it won't be a barn," Paul Franklin, director of the Village Project said then.

In 1895, Franklin stopped the scheduling of events until a decision was made about the future of the barn, whether or not it would still be of student use or become a storage area.

The barn ended up being scheduled for demolition for Nov. 30, 1987 after reviewing the barn's remains.

"The barn is really a mess, it would take hundreds of thousands of dollars to get it back into shape," Franklin said then.

At the time the barn was insured for about \$200,000 but according to Franklin, there was no plan for how much would be received and how it would be spent.

"Whatever money is available I want to see go into student space... The Oakland Center, expansion of Lepley, or a separate facility," Franklin said then.

The barn was used as a theater from 1967-1983. 1984 is when the Studio Theater and recital hall in Varner began putting on the play performances.

The barn eventually underwent renovations between 2014-2015. It included a new foundation, new cedar roof shingles, new cupolas and a bright, fresh coat of "Light Mellow" yellow paint.

It also won an award, the barn was named 2016 Barn of the Year by Michigan Barn Preservation Network in the Non-Profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use category.



Photo source/Paul Franklin
As part of Matilda Wilson's estate, the barn stands from one of its earlier days in the late 1920s (above). Plans for a grand reopening of the barn were destroyed when a fire in mid-August wrecked the second floor.



OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

The Student Enterprise Theater was demolished, and then it was renovated to the yellow barn between 2014 and 2015.



**YOU CAN
FIND US ON**






**VISIT US
ONLINE**

WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM

Counseling Center hires two new part-time therapists

KATIE VALLEY

Campus Editor

After a record-breaking, high demand semester, the Oakland University Counseling Center hired two temporary, part-time therapists to decrease student wait times.

The new staff members, Dr. Mindee Juve and Liza Hinchey, MA, were hired and funded through the university after the Dean of Students office and the counseling center felt there was a need to provide more support to students, and that need would continue through the winter semester, according to Dean of Students Michael Wadsworth.

The student waitlist was becoming so large, OU Counseling Center Director Dr. David Schwartz said the center eventually had to tell students they could not be seen until the start of the winter semester, and patient triage, where the center accesses a student's immediate need, was left at a stand still.

Wadsworth took his position as dean of students at the start of the semester, allowing him to become the new overseer and an advocate for the OU Counseling Center and the Graham Health

Center. He said the students' needs for the center concern retention, and the center has a direct influence on student success at Oakland.

"What [having more therapists] means for students is the counseling center is better able to meet their needs," Wadsworth said. "The more people we have over there that can see students, the quicker students can get in to see somebody."

At its worst point, the waitlist was at over 100 students, according to Schwartz, the average wait time being at 6-8 weeks.

With five full-time therapists, two part-time therapists, plus the two just hired, Schwartz said the center can now strive to reduce its waitlist, continue doing triage and open campus outreach, and establish group therapy sessions.

Schwartz said there was a 30 percent waitlist decrease right after the new part-time employees started. He said his goal is to remove the list entirely, but it's difficult to do so with such an immediate need.

"Certainly, I'm not comfortable with any waitlist," Schwartz said, "but I am also a realist, and I understand that's just

the reality of the situation at all college counseling centers pretty much across the country right now."

“

In terms of students, the wait times are going to be shorter, and it also allows us to do more of the outreach and other things that we really like to do.

DAVID SCHWARTZ
COUNSELING CENTER DIRECTOR

”

The part-time therapists are set to stay through the end of the semester. Wadsworth said the Dean of Students office and the OU Counseling Center will soon look into the need for the coming academic year and see if they need to hire additional therapists.

"I think having the two people and getting that support from the administra-

tion just meant a lot for the staff here," Schwartz said. "In terms of students, the wait times are going to be shorter, and it also allows us to do more of the outreach and other things that we really like to do."

Students who come to the counseling center are allotted six free therapy sessions and then additional sessions are \$12, though Schwartz said the center never turns down students.

For students, Wadsworth said he, Schwartz and the Graham Health Center are working to become more efficient sources for students.

"We are looking at ways to be more effective and efficient in all of our services over there," he said. "Myself, the director of the counseling center and the director of the Graham Health Center, Nancy Jansen, are coming together in meetings to try and find ways that those two areas can work more closely together to better serve students, and hopefully there's some efficiencies that might come out of that."

Students interested in going to the OU Counseling Center can visit the center's website for more information or call (248) 370-3465.

Founding dean of OUWB takes a step down

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine's (OUWB) Dean Dr. Robert Folberg announced Tuesday, Jan. 22, he will be stepping down.

Folberg was the founding dean at OUWB, tasked to grow the 8-year-old medical school from his "office in O'Dowd Hall along with a box of paper clips" to the institution it is today.

"It was not easy to start a new medical school when Michigan became the epicenter of a crushing recession," Folberg said in his letter to the OUWB community. "I remember relating that the biggest challenge to us at the time was convincing Michiganders that something good could happen in this state, and as jobs were leaving the area, we were recruiting top talent to come here because of the vision of OUWB was so compelling."

Before OUWB, Folberg spent 20 years as a researcher funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Prior to joining the OU community, he was at the University of Illinois Cancer Center in Chicago

studying cancers of the eye.

Eye cancer is a personal topic for Folberg, as he underwent a corneal eye transplant because of eye cancer, according to a 2008 Oakland Post article by Lindsey Wojcik.

"I could only see a hand moving in front of my face, I couldn't even count fingers," Folberg said to Wojcik. "The first thing I saw when they took the patch off my eye was the edge of a table coming to a point at the corner. I forgot what it was like to see something like that."

Despite creating a career as a researcher and publishing a field altering paper on cancer biology, Folberg did not hesitate about joining OUWB. From the limited resources that were provided, Folberg and the OUWB research team were able to create a medical school distinct among others, focused on crafting "virtuoso physicians."

"At OUWB, we also ask that each of our students and our graduates tether mastery of knowledge and technique to a generous personal expression of humanity through service to others," Folberg said in his letter.

This distinction Folberg strove for is there, as new OUWB professor Dr. Ramin Homayouni, can attest to.

"[Folberg] was instrumental for me to come here," Homayouni said. "It was part of his vision which I really liked."

Homayouni is building a graduate program in population health informatics, and Folberg wanted to use data from Beaumont clinics to help with the program.

As Folberg gets prepared to leave the OUWB Dean position at the end of June this year, Provost James Lentini is working to install an interim dean. Lentini will also be working with Beaumont Health to establish a committee for a national dean search.

"I think [Folberg] has done an excellent job," assistant professor and Embark Program co-director Dwayne Baxa said. "I worked closely with him on the Embark Program, and I think his vision for the program was very good, and I think it's made quite a benefit to many of our students."

Folberg will remain at OUWB as a professor in foundational medical Studies, pathology and ophthalmology, according to a statement by Lentini.

First Year Advising Center adds new resources

The recent additions include a new academic coach and a staffed computer lab

BRIDGET JANIS

Staff Reporter

In the winter semester, the First Year Advising Center (FYAC) added two new features to help students: an academic coach to assist students with individual needs and a FYAC lab.

The FYAC lab is for students to receive extra help from other students outside the advising center.

"It is a space for first-year students as they're working with their First Year Advising Center adviser," said Sarah Webb, senior director for first year success. Sarah Webb said, "[They] are able to utilize the lab, which is staffed by student leaders we call FYAC assistants."

The FYAC assistants are there to help students navigate through Oakland University systems, helping them understand Moodle, look through GrizzOrgs or fill out a change of major form, to make the process easier. This allows for the meetings with the advisers to be about things only advisers can help with, making the meetings more beneficial for students.

"So an adviser doesn't have to sit with a student and help them register, we can talk about the courses they need and why they need them, and then that student can go to our new lab with a FYAC assistant

and actually register for those courses," Webb said.

“

It really showcases our office well, so students are able to come in and feel comfortable getting help.

SARAH WEBB

SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR FIRST YEAR SUCCESS

”

In the FYAC lab there are seven computers and four FYAC assistants. The lab is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday for extra support outside the advising center. There also is a chatroom available during operating hours, where the FYAC assistants can answer quick questions or schedule an appointment.

From working on individual plans, time management techniques and note-taking skills, the academic coaching aims to help improve students' college experiences.

"Anything related to academic success, I can work with students to kind of help them develop a plan to do well," academic coach Mariana Allushuski said. "The academic advisers are a great resource, and they have a lot of students, so it's nice to have somebody to refer them to."

Allushuski is the only academic coach and his sessions last about 45 minutes and can be made multiple times a semester.

"There was something missing when those students would tell their adviser, 'I'm not doing well in my classes, I don't know how to manage my time, I feel like it's a really big change from high school to college, and I just don't really know how to navigate this,'" Allushuski said.

Another thing academic coaching provides is workshops. There are workshops on studying skills, motivation and preparing for exams. Webb said the center is there to help students and for them to feel welcomed.

"When [the FYAC] is open—the lights are on, the curtains are up—it just looks like this big bright box of support that's really a friendly place and atmosphere," Webb said. "I think it brings a sense of welcoming-ness to North Foundation Hall. It really showcases our office well, so students are able to come in and feel comfortable getting help."

POLICE FILES

Fire alarm fiasco

Two officers from Oakland University Police Dispatch (OUPD) were sent to investigate an active fire alarm on Sunday, Jan. 13 at around 10 p.m. One of the officers was flagged down by a student who stated she set the fire alarm off on accident while she was straightening her friend's hair.

Auburn Hills Fire Department (AHFD) was not contacted for the false alarm. The windows were opened to remove the smoke from the room, the fire alarm was reset and all units cleared without further incident.

Microwave mistake

Dispatch received a smoke alarm from Hamlin Hall on the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 12. Two officers were dispatched to respond. On arrival the officers located the resident outside of Hamlin. He said he was heating up some food in his microwave in his room and forgot about it, causing the smoke alarm to go off. The officers detected no odor or smoke and had AHFD cancelled. Dispatch was able to reset the alarm without issue, and the scene was cleared.

Chick-fil-A food poisoning

OUPD Dispatch received a call from a student stating he would like to request transport to the hospital on Tuesday, Jan. 15. He said he had been throwing up for the past hour.

When officers arrived on scene, the student said he had thrown up five to six times in the past hour and he last ate at Chick-fil-A at around noon. He looked pale and started to feel lightheaded. Auburn Hills EMS arrived on scene. The student continued to throw up on his way to the ambulance and was transported to Crittenton Hospital.

*Compiled by
Ben Hume, Staff Reporter*

Forensic nurses at OU create evidence, tackle domestic issues

ALYSSA OCHSS

Staff Reporter

Sexual assault and rape are a few of the areas forensic nurses cover, but they also handle others such as abuse and the mistreatment of elders and infants.

The practice is still relatively new to Michigan since Oakland University is the only school that has such a program, and it is still only a graduate focus. Kelly Berishaj, an instructor in the School of Nursing, said there is no current move to add it to the main nursing program, but they are moving to add it as an elective in the undergraduate training.

"It trains people who are already working as nurses," Berishaj said. "They come back and receive specialized education and training in the subspecialty of forensic nurses."

Forensic nursing itself came about when nurse Virginia Lynch started the practice when she discovered nurses were not keeping evidence. This new practice allows nurses to conduct a thorough

exam and collect evidence when needed.

Berishaj said forensic nursing is for people who are looking for health care, but the reason they're searching for it is because they are victims of maltreatment, assault or abuse. They keep the evidence safe by a "chain of custody" they use.

"It's by recognizing the evidence, protecting or preserving it, collecting it when necessary, packaging it and storing it," Berishaj said.

But how do students and others get into contact with a forensic nurse in the event of a rape or other types of abuse and assault? Nurses with specific forensic training are not yet threaded into emergency rooms.

"A patient victim would call the crisis line, the hospital will call the line or law enforcement will," Berishaj said. "Sometimes they would go to the hospital or law enforcement, and they will call us at the community-based agency."

Karrie Brown was part of the first graduating class of forensic nurses at

OU, which consisted of 12 people. All together, there are now 25 graduated forensic nurses from the university.

Brown said how they go about treating a patient depends on the situation.

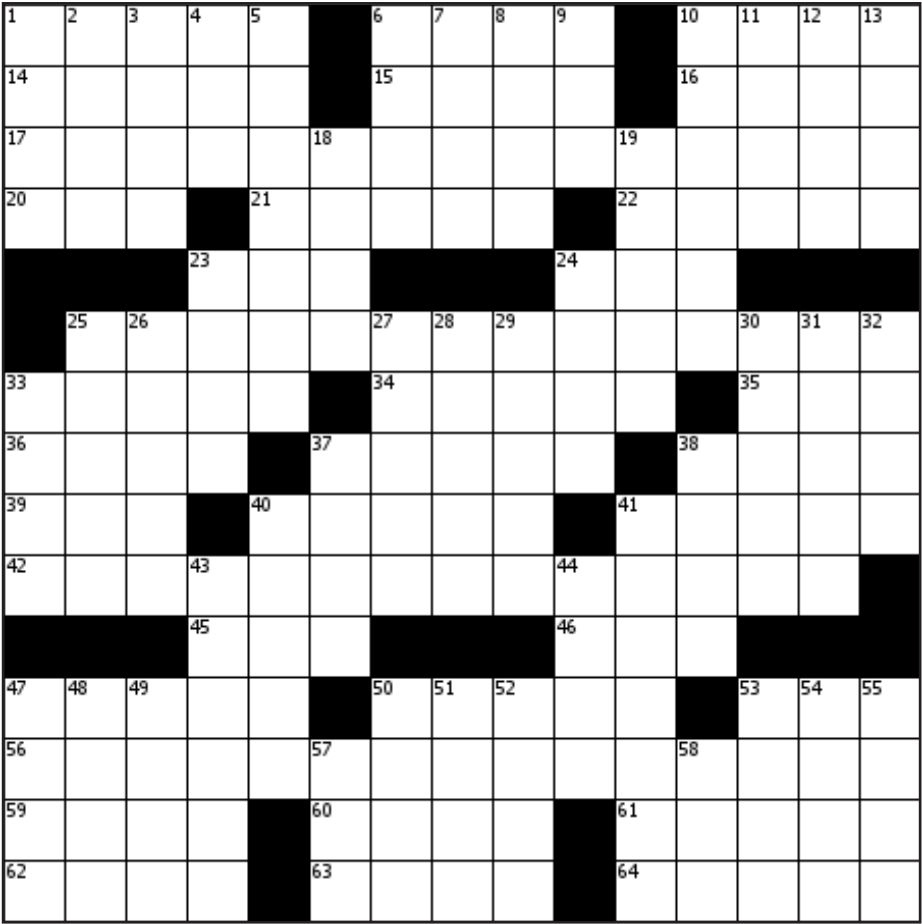
"We try to be open and listen to what they are saying," she said. "We make sure the patient is OK first, and we let them know they are in control because they had taken from them."

Brown also said that the examination itself could take three to six hours, the authorities take it and then it is out of the hands of the doctors.

She said 80-90 percent of perpetrators are known to the victim. You are more likely to get sexually assaulted or abused by someone you know rather than a random stranger on the street.

Brown agrees in the sense it is a big misconception we would get jumped on the street. However, she also said reporting the assault and abuse is the best way to go.

"It's so important to report it because if we don't they could do it again," she said.



Across

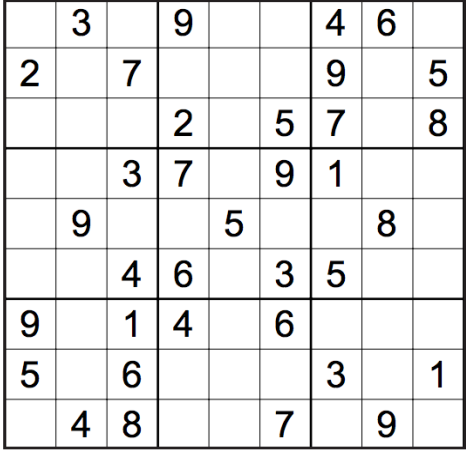
1. Small jazz band
6. Assist larcenously
10. California vineyard valley
14. “Farewell, François!”
15. Attempt computer crimes
16. Father of the Amazons
17. Start of an Abraham Lincoln quote
20. “...I’ll be there ____ long” (Cohan lyric)
21. Dance with a stick
22. Kerchief
23. Loutish fellow
24. Feed one’s face
25. Part 2 of the quote
33. Professional slang
34. Competes in a sulky race
35. Crossed (out)
36. Rational
37. Ben Stiller’s mom Anne
38. 50-Down feature
39. She may get sheared
40. Milquetoasts
41. Cop show sound effect
42. Part 3 of the quote
45. Gangster’s gun
46. “Atlas Shrugged” author Rand
47. Shoelace tip

Down

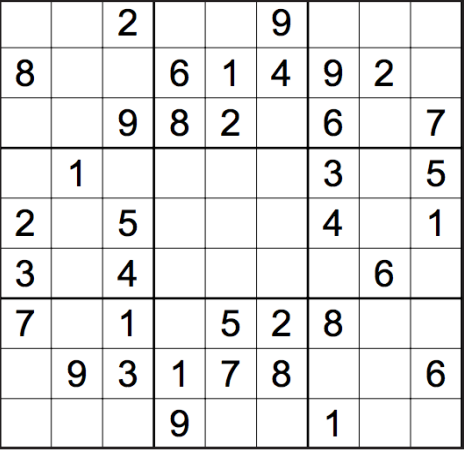
50. Prepare for a long drive
53. Frat name consonant
56. Part 4 of the quote
59. Thrilled
60. Bidding site on the Net
61. Ticked off
62. Budgets make them meet
63. Business letter addressees
64. Gave a hoot

- traffic
26. Newsmaking 1973 resigner
27. Express checkout units
28. Soda flavor
29. Buttermilk, to Dale Evans
30. Outermost community
31. She was Roxie in “Chicago”
32. Genesis paradise
33. Not yet docked
37. Atomizer’s output
38. “Runaround Sue” singer
40. Legendary lawman Earp
41. Kind of pencil that halts bleeding
43. Scully and Mulder, e.g.
44. Kahului’s island
47. Church recess
48. Country crooner Campbell
49. Impart temporarily
50. Asia’s largest desert
51. Way off yonder
52. “The ____ the limit!”
53. Duct product
54. Poker pot input
55. Secondhand
57. “Sure thing!”
58. La-la lead-in

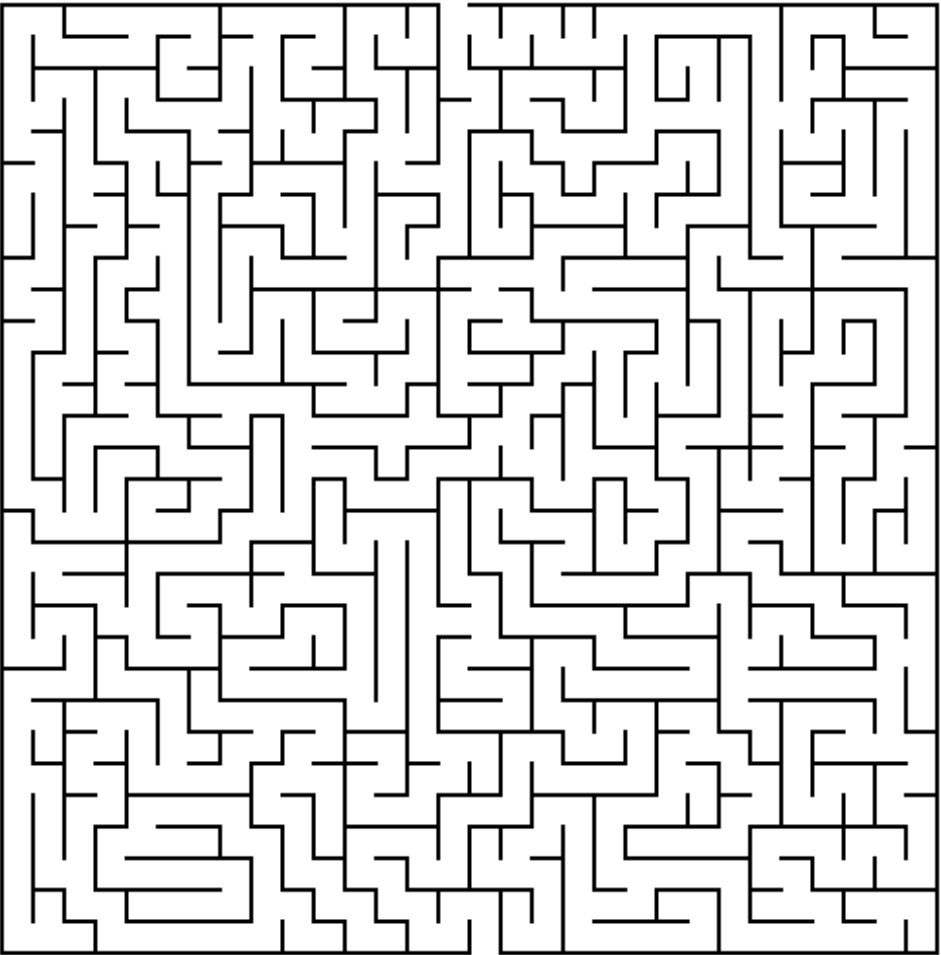
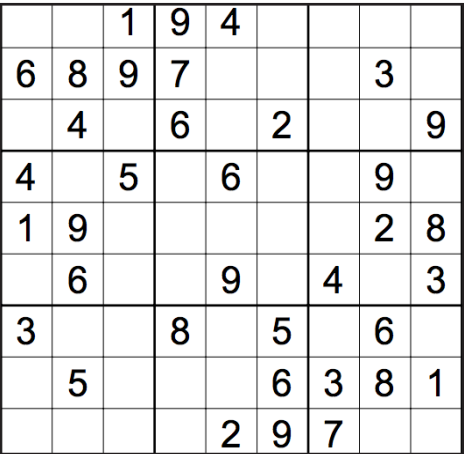
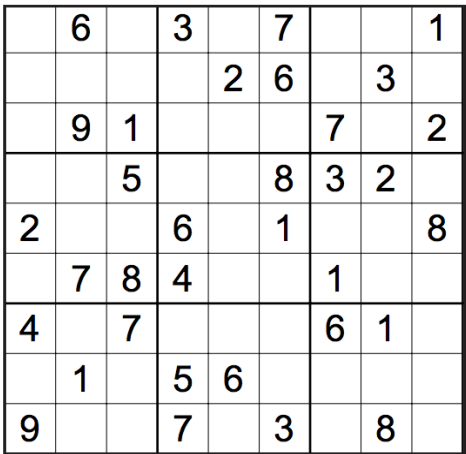
NOVICE



TOUGH



INTERMEDIATE



LIFE&ARTS

Alum's journey through subscription industry

LAUREL KRAUS

Managing Editor

The life of an entrepreneur is no mystery to 2006 Oakland University alumnus Christopher George, who has undergone three successful business endeavors in the subscription industry.

"I get excited on Sunday night because I'm ready for Monday morning," George said. "The society's like vice versa, they're upset that it's Sunday night because they've got to wake up for work Monday morning. I want to change that feeling."

His endeavors began in 2014 when he launched Gentleman's Box as CEO and founder, after noticing subscription boxes were mostly geared toward women such as Birchbox and Ipsy.

"Things were sort of leaning toward the subscription economy, and that's why my co-founder and I... thought this may be an easy way for men to get accessories they need for their attire without having to go shopping, and it would

also allow them to discover new items," George said.

The accessories a subscriber may receive in a box include dress socks, ties, tie clips, cologne, wallets and watches, all delivered to the subscriber's door.

There are two different subscription options, monthly or quarterly, and George reported Gentleman's Box has shipped more than 250,000 boxes so far.

"For Gentleman's Box, our vision is to help make more men gentleman, and so for us a big part of it is helping to create that gentleman lifestyle and help them by looking good, feeling good and being good," he said.

Following the creation of his subscription service, in 2016 George launched SubSummit, the first ever subscription summit.

"What we realized was that in the subscription box space, there wasn't an event for all the subscription boxes to come together and network, and brand build and community build their business," George said.

While SUBsummit achieved 200 attendees in the first year, the annual summit in May 2018 had over 750 attendees, 90 speakers and 70 exhibitors. George reported it is now the largest event in the subscription space.

This success is what led to the creation of the Subscription Trade Association (SUBTA) of which George is co-founder and chairman.

"We want to be able to allow these brands to grow and build outside of once a year at the subscription summit, so we started the trade association," he said.

According to George, SUBTA is now the go-to resource for anyone in the subscription industry, and currently has over 800 members and 100 partners.

"Our vision for SUBTA is to be the leading resource for everything subscription, to be the go-to resource for the direct to consumer subscription economy and host the largest event in the subscription space," he said.

George has been an entrepreneur since he was 21 years old and finds the lifestyle



COURTESY OF GENTLEMEN'S BOX
Chris George encourages potential entrepreneurs to do what they love.

is only for those who have a passion for it, which is his biggest piece of advice for any OU student considering an entrepreneurial career path.

"I think that somebody that wants to be an entrepreneur, they have to love it," George said.

For more information on the above companies, visit gentlemansbox.com, SubSummit.com or SUBTA.com.

Genome mapping used to save endangered parrots

TAYLOR CRUMLEY

Staff Reporter

Species all around the world are going extinct and populations are dramatically decreasing more each day due to destructive human activity.

The Puerto Rican parrot was one of these species. After massive deforestation and a very destructive hurricane hitting Puerto Rico in 1975, the Puerto Rican parrot population went from over one million to just 13.

"With great power comes great responsibility," said Oakland University Professor Taras Oleksyk, Ph.D. "As humans, we are approaching absolute power and we are forgetting the responsibility. We could extinguish any species, but we can also save any species. It's not too late yet."

The critically endangered Puerto Rican parrot was at risk of complete extinction until a technological advancement in 2003 gave scientists a more optimistic outlook. Genome mapping became a possibility to help discover the genetic makeup behind this unique species and how to give them a comeback.

Oleksyk took this new groundbreaking technology to Puerto Rico, where he stayed for 10 years using bioinformatics and genome mapping to help preserve the Puerto Rican parrot from extinction.

"When people came to Puerto Rico, they started cutting down forests," Oleksyk said. "Parrots carry seedlings and plant new trees. So, no forest, no parrots, and no parrots, no forest."

Genome maps are a genetic story about the life of a par-



COURTESY OF TARAS OLEKSYK
Professor Oleksyk believes it is our responsibility to help endangered species heritage.

ticular species. Analyzing and solving these genome maps can allow scientists to understand species and how they evolved. Genome maps explain to us the history of a species, which, in turn, can also predict what the future will look like.

"It's decoding the stories of life," Oleksyk said. "We even-

tually want to know the story, the evolution, of each species."

A diverse gene pool is essential to the survival of a species and the Puerto Rican parrots do not have much genetic variation left. To help resolve this problem, captive breeding must be done to increase population and diversity.

"Each gene in a species is like a different app on your phone," Oleksyk said. "They all do different things."

Dr. Walter Wolfsberger, one of the first graduates from the bioengineering program at OU, accompanied Oleksyk for two years in Puerto Rico, where they studied the parrots with 14 other researchers from around the world.

"The ultimate goal is to figure out the functions of every gene in each species genome," Wolfsberger said. "So much can be predicted by your genetics."

Now, Puerto Rican parrots are being preserved in the Iguaca Aviary in El Yunque National Forest, located in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican parrot population has since risen from 13 to over 500, thanks to protection and genomic studies done by Oleksyk, Wolfsberger and other researchers.

"Genome sequences are like words in a sentence that we don't understand, like reading a different language," Oleksyk said. "What we do in genomics is we figure out that meaning, and the meaning allows you to discover the entire past of the species."

For further information on bioinformatics and genomics, Oleksyk has a TED Talk that further discusses his findings. The full study can be found in the scientific journal, *Genes*.

Alum embarks on two-year bicycle trip through the Americas

Two people, two bikes, 20,000 miles, one journey.

Oakland University alumnus Chris Haag and his wife Soph have embarked on the adventure of a lifetime — traveling from the “top of the world to the bottom,” completely by bicycle.

The Haags departed from Homer, Alaska, on their fully packed bikes on July 3, 2018 and are currently in Salinas, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. They are on their way to their final destination — Ushuaia, Argentina.

“I’ve dreamt about extended travel most of my adult life,” Chris Haag said.

When Chris told his family he and his wife would be living off their bikes for two years on a journey around the world, it didn’t surprise many, considering the “out of the box” lifestyle he has always lived.

“The best answer was from my grandma,” he said. “I told her over the phone and after a bit of a pause, she said, ‘Yeah, do it. It sounds amazing, and I wish I could go with you.’”

Apart from their love of cycling, Chris and Soph want to use their journey to promote cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation.

“In a funny way, I think that bikes are the future,” Chris Haag said. “It sounds corny, but I think the world would be a better place if more people rode bikes.”

When he started, Haag said he was nervous about the extensive journey and the unknown that remained ahead of him.



COURTESY OF CHRIS HAAG

The couple uses their love of cycling to promote it as sustainable transportation.

“The hardest part for me right now is seeing some of the hardships people face,” he said. “In both Mexico and the United States, you pass through some impoverished areas. It makes you realize how privileged or fortunate you are.”

Experiencing the Mexican culture al-

lowed him to see the assumptions some people in the U.S. have about Mexican culture are wrong. He said the people there are very kind and hospitable.

Aside from diving into other cultures, he has also gotten a glimpse of the environmental issues plaguing the planet.

“When you see polluted air and rivers in what would otherwise be a beautiful place, it can be heartbreaking,” Chris Haag said. “We don’t really see in the United States what the result of our consumption is. Many of the environmental impacts from our way of life get swept under the rug into poorer countries.”

Haag and his wife keep their friends and family back home updated on their journey through their social media platforms. As a result, they started gaining followers from thousands of people that were inspired by them and wanted to keep up with their adventure on Instagram.

“Pretty much anybody could do this if they really wanted to,” he said. “You don’t have to be overly smart or fit, and it doesn’t really cost that much compared to what most Americans make.”

He often misses his dog and not having to stress about finding a place to sleep every night. However, places like the Sonora River Valley, where the hilly roads wind into the skyline and hotels are \$15 a night, make it all worth it.

“For people in Michigan, I would encourage them to get out and explore the state on bike,” Chris Haag said. “Even if it is just from your front door to a park, or bed-and-breakfast for a night and back the next day.”

To stay updated on all of the Haags’ cycling adventures as they make their way down into South America, check out their blog at theplacesipee.com



Homer, Alaska

A stylized map of North and South America is shown in light green against a blue background. A dashed black line traces a route from Homer, Alaska, in the northwest, down the west coast of North America, through Mexico, and down the west coast of South America to Ushuaia, Argentina. The route is marked with red dots at the start and middle, and a yellow star at the end. The background features faint, large-scale silhouettes of bicycle wheels and frames.

Salinas, San Luis Potosi, Mexico

Ushuaia, Argentina

*story by Taylor Crumley
design by Katie LaDuke
graphics by Erin O'Neill*

DO YOU WANT YOUR ART FEATURED IN THE OAKLAND CENTER?

THE STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD

&

THE OAKLAND POST

ARE LOOKING FOR A STUDENT TO DESIGN A WALL IN THE HABITAT. THE THEME OF
THE ART IS REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT THE HABITAT MEANS TO YOU.

THE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM

01/25/2019 UNTIL 02/15/2019

THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED

02/25/2019

ALL SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO
SPB@OAKLAND.EDU

THE WINNING DESIGN WILL BE CREATED ON THE UNFINISHED WALL IN THE HABITAT
WITH POTENTIAL OF THE ARTIST BEING ABLE TO ASSIST IF THEY CHOOSE TO.



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

**STUDENT
PROGRAM
BOARD**

Unpaid FBI agents agree to arrest Roger Stone



BEN HUME

Staff Reporter

The advancement of the Robert Mueller investigation made another important leap on Friday, Jan. 25, despite the continued government shutdown. An indictment was issued for Roger Stone,

the longtime adviser to President Donald Trump until 2016, on seven different criminal counts, including five counts of false statements under oath, one count of obstruction of proceedings and another count of witness tampering.

The indictment itself makes no mention of Trump's involvement in the sabotage of the 2016 presidential elections, however Mueller indicated with this indictment that a senior campaign official was indeed directed by an unnamed person to contact Stone about information that would be damaging to the Clinton campaign, according to the court document.

After this document was issued, there came an odd problem — the FBI was not being paid as a result of the partial government shutdown. As a result, the officers that stormed his home at 6 a.m. on Friday morning were volunteers, armed and armored in full ballistic vests.

The impact of the government shutdown is something many have covered and, if the two failed House votes Thursday are anything to go by, will unfortunately probably be covered again. So, I will not spend too much time focusing on

the ridiculousness of the statement “unpaid FBI volunteers arrest former Trump campaign aid.”

I will, however, focus on parts of his crimes that anger me the most. Stone, much like Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Fox News, loves to fly in the face of well-established facts without any sense of intelligence.

A few examples, just from this one event. According to Scott Thuman, chief political correspondent for Sinclair and ABC News, tweeted Roger Stone had not yet even read his own indictments as of Friday afternoon. This was after Stone had already performed a long radio interview and short press conference about the ordeal.

He did all of those interviews without even knowing what he was arrested for, and Stone has the audacity to say there is no way he would bear false witness against the president.

“I look forward to being fully and completely vindicated,” Stone said, without even knowing why he was there.

Sanders was quick to follow suit with the usual White House response, which is

that Stone's arrest has nothing to do with Trump, despite nothing in the indictment actually indicating Trump was in any legal trouble.

It's like a child who obviously broke their mother's priceless china, standing in the other room and repeating that it wasn't their fault and expecting that to make people less suspicious of you.

And finally, the Fox News headline out of left field that reads “FBI's show of force in Roger Stone arrest spurs criticism of Mueller tactics.” The article that focuses on how the FBI were a little too rough with a guy who had a warrant out for his arrest probably doesn't want your attention to be on the fact that someone so close to the Trump campaign just got arrested for obstructing a federal investigation. All of this language from so many sources that frustratingly dance around the real point of this arrest.

And, really, if Fox News is so angry about how the raid was designed to intimidate Stone and other guilty parties, maybe they should remember that all the agents who raided his house did it for free.

Defending the right of the unborn after new abortion bill

TIM KANDOW

Contributor

On the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the New York governor signed into law an abortion bill that allows for a late-term abortion to be done up to the point of birth.

It also removes abortion from the state's criminal code and allows for medical professionals who are not doctors to perform abortion services.

When the bill passed and was signed, the assembly chamber erupted into cheers and applause, and the World Trade Center was lit up pink as a sign of the great success for women's reproductive rights.

Abortion is a medical process, which ends a pregnancy. According to the Center for

Disease Control and Prevention, in 2015 there are approximately 638,169 abortions done in the United States.

Of these, approximately 7 percent were done due to health concerns. The rest of these reasons were simply due to the conveniences of the mother such as “not ready to start a family,” “not enough time for a child” and “I am done having kids.” Only 0.5 percent of reasons were due to rape.

This new legislation brings to light the ongoing debate in the United States ever since the controversial ruling back in 1973 of Roe v. Wade.

When discussing abortion, what must be examined are the purpose or reasoning as well as the principles behind it. Above all, however, what must be questioned is human life.



Taking the life of an innocent person is wrong. Most people understand and know this, and would look down on

anyone who was to do this. Abortion supporters would never admit to killing an innocent life. They call it a “woman's reproductive right.”

Take the reasons for abortion aside and examine the following question: Is it ever justifiable to take an innocent human life? Add to that, a completely innocent life who does have a voice in our world?

If abortion wasn't the termination of life, then why must anything be done to the development of a fetus or tiny human? One doesn't have to kill something that isn't alive. The very act of abortion shows this “right” is in fact termination of human life.

If in fact a zygote, fetus, or “clump of cells” was not a life then there would be no need for an abortion to occur.

Fact: everyone alive today had a mother who chose for their child to continue with the developmental stages of life within the womb. They chose life.

As we move forward in this crucial time in American history it is of the utmost importance we don't confuse a right with the termination of innocent human life.

What occurs in the womb is simply a stage for a human to develop. If abortion is used, that human will never be a beautiful baby or curious toddler. They will never experience their most basic American and human rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Every pro-choice or abortion advocate alive today was born of a mother who chose life.

The views expressed in Opinion do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.

Better transit will save OU parking



ELYSE GREGORY | PHOTO EDITOR

Improving OU's transit system would help all students out of Oakland County.

DEAN VAGLIA

Staff Reporter

There is no beating around the bush-parking at Oakland University is a disaster. And expanding parking risks increasing tuition prices with construction. But what if there was another way to get people to campus without raising tuition?

Turns out there is another way. An idea is to improve local transit, specifically, more — and better — buses.

Buses at OU are not a new concept. In fact, they already exist. The Bear Bus is a service that uses small buses and vans to ferry students around campus and to select off-campus stops, while the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) bus service has a single stop at OU on the Meadowbrook Road roundabout.

But look any deeper and you will find what bus infrastructure there is does not meet the needs of the majority of OU students.

According to OU's fast facts page, 40.5 percent of students come from Oakland County, while 31 percent come from Macomb County. SMART serves both of those counties, and to a decent extent as well. But in north Oakland and the suburbs lining surrounding M-59? Nothing.

According to a 2018 map by SMART, if you live in Utica or Shelby Township and want to get to OU by bus, you need to take one of two routes down to 15-Mile/Maple Road bus, ride that to another bus stop at Somerset Mall, take another bus up to a stop across Squirrel Road from the Chrysler headquarters, and then fi-

nally ride the 756 (the route that terminates at OU) up to Meadow Brook Road.

If you're one of the 6.3 percent of OU students from Wayne County, bus transit is just a little bit easier for you. With the higher density of mass transit you can ride your bus route of choice out to Woodward, hop onto a Woodward FAST bus and connect with 756 in Pontiac. Once you transfer, you'll be stuck in for the whole route, but at least parking is taken care of.

The Utica commuter, in the current state of SMART's bus service, must have a car and must take up parking at OU. But why?

SMART allows for communities to opt-out of the service, denying their citizens of rapid transit and reducing the incentive for busses to run through those communities. While Oakland County has the most opt-outs, two important ones are Rochester and Rochester Hills - the two towns directly between Utica and OU.

While this is easier said than done, efficient bus transit to OU can only start when at least Rochester Hills opts into the SMART system. To do that you'd probably need to convince the people to pay a bit more in taxes, be willing to share the road with buses, get a millage on the ballot and hope that you convinced enough people that buses are a good idea. Or you could wait and see if the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) - which does not include an opt-out option — is passed into existence, but that avenue for change has not been well received.

But until the day efficient bus transit comes to OU, our parking lots will remain full and our tuition costs will keep rising.

KEEP UP WITH THE POST



OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Contact: ads@oaklandpostonline.com

The views expressed in Opinion do not necessarily represent those of The Oakland Post.

Fighting Fyre with Fyre

JORDAN JEWELL

Engagement Editor

Swimming with pigs, Pablo Escobar's private island and Ja Rule. What could possibly go wrong?

The short answer: everything. And that is exactly what happened during the 2017 music festival entitled Fyre Fest.

The festival was promoted for months by social media influencers. Everyone from Kendall Jenner to Ja Rule was posting about the event on social media, promising it was going to be a once in a lifetime experience.

People paid upward of \$10,000 for ticket packages that promised five-star housing, personal chefs and performances by Diplo and GOOD Music. All of this was set to be taking place on a luxury island, allegedly owned by Pablo Escobar.

The guests arrived to a complete disaster. There was no food, no music, and nowhere to stay. How did this modernized heaven turn into a millennial's worst nightmare?

Fyre Festival was a scam. It's prompted conspiracy theories, news broadcasts, podcast episodes and most recently, two competing documentaries.

At the beginning of 2019, Netflix and Hulu released Fyre Festival documentaries within four days of each other.

Hulu's "Fyre Fraud" came out first and features one on one interviews with Billy McFarland, the mastermind behind the festival and countless other scams that target millennials.

When McFarland was in elementary school he would hack the computers and tell students he was the only one who could fix them. He's been scamming since birth.

McFarland takes no blame in his interviews. Despite countless testimonials from Fyre Festival employees that state that McFarland not only knew the festival was going to fail but also committed wire fraud to hide its failure, he insists it was all just a stroke of bad luck.

The Netflix documentary entitled "Fyre" is about five minutes longer than Hulu's, but felt like a lifetime. It was enjoyable at times, but other spots dragged.

Netflix devoted a lot of its time to the social media marketing that went into Fyre Festival. We saw Emily Rata-



COURTESY OF HUFFINGTON POST
The entire event is labeled as a scam.

jkowski and Bella Hadid dancing on a private yacht. And then we saw that same clip about five more times.

I understand wanting to show the impact influencers had on Fyre Festival's ticket sales, but Hulu was able to showcase that same impact through interviews instead of promotional clips.

"Fyre" does share some very important information about the effect the festival had on the island. Maryann Rolle, a local hotel owner, ended up paying over 100 of McFarland's employees' wages with her own money after McFarland left town.

Both films gave us plenty of interesting characters.

"Fyre Fraud" introduces Delray Jackson, a hilarious bartender who spends most of the film throwing shade at McFarland, and Anastasia Eremenko, McFarland's gorgeous Russian girlfriend who seems like even she might not know the full story.

"Fyre" introduces us to Andy, one of Fyre's advisers who I spent most of the film thinking was McFarland's father. This man will really do anything for the scammer... and I mean anything.

Both documentaries are informative in their own way. If you're looking to learn a little bit about Billy McFarland's insane scamming ways and how the idea for Fyre Fest came about, check out "Fyre Fraud." If you're more interested in the happenings at the festival itself, I'd recommend "Fyre."

New Gillette ad pushes men to become better

Popular razor brand puts a spin on "toxic masculinity"

ALYSSA OCHSS

Staff Reporter

"Boys will be boys." It's a phrase that has been around for a long time, and it has been said by many. Parents have said it. Other family members have said it. People we don't even know have said it as well.

However, it's not a phrase that has gone unchallenged. With a rise to movements such as the #metoo movement, and many victims of sexual assault and rape coming forward to tell their stories, more people have felt it's time for a change.

One of the most recent challenges to this phrase and other cases of "toxic masculinity" is an ad by Gillette, a well-known shaving company. Gillette took the phrase, as well as others like it, and have turned it on its head in an ad it recently released.

The ad starts by asking, "Is this the best a man can get?" It then goes on to show various scenarios in which men were acting in a way that was demeaning toward women, others and themselves. By the end of the commercial, they show ways men can stop the violence and sexual assault along with the next Gillette generation "the best that men can get."

This ad received criticism from people who thought the ad went "too far." Breitbart called attention to the video when it made its way into the top disliked videos on YouTube, and Fox News went as far as calling it "idiotic" and a way to "berate and belittle men."

But do I think the ad was harsh and unfair?

No. Not at all.

The ad shows everyone the errors in these sayings and actions that have been engraved

in society for a long time. It showed that saying things like "boys will be boys" and letting other men get away with sexually assaulting or being inappropriate toward women shouldn't be the norm. Also hearing these sort of backlashes against "toxic masculinity" coming from a company that caters mainly to men was very refreshing.

The ad made me feel like women's words and pleas for help haven't been ignored or thrown in the trash.

I feel it's something more companies should do by putting their feet down against images depicting acts of sexual assault. With this generation, it's no longer about "boys being boys," but about violence against women and toward each other. This ad does a great job at depicting how these phrases and mannerisms are passed down through generations. It also does a great job at depicting how they can be stopped.

They've showed that a single person is all it takes for another's person's life to change and to show the next generation it's no longer OK to beat each other up or catcall a woman who is walking down the street.

With ads like these in the history books, I have hope that maybe the next generation will not be as tolerant of acts of sexual assault and acts of violence.

I love this ad, and I think more companies who have a male-centered audience should partake in this sort of advertising. I hope that they make more in the future.

Now, I have one question for all of you: Will you be that single person who stops the violence, as shown in the ad?



OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES

With so few players, coach Kampe says any injuries would really hurt the team.

Men's basketball enters middle of season with shallow bench

MICHAEL PEARCE
Sports Editor

Having only 10 active players wasn't something Head Coach Greg Kampe ever expected for the men's basketball team, but it's the problem he currently faces.

The initial roster was slim before the departures of Jordan Nobles and Brailen Neely. With four seniors graduating and three players transferring to Division II schools, the initial roster had 12 players. Kenny Pittman and Babatunde Sowunmi were supposed to be redshirted, but Kampe couldn't have an eight man roster.

Nobles left the team for academic reasons, while Neely left the team for undisclosed reasons, but Tony Paul of The Detroit News reported it was due to playing time concerns.

Practicing with 10 players means no lines in practice for shooting, so everyone can practice at the same time. When Stan Scott missed time with an ankle injury, Kampe brought in Oakland legend Travis Bader to practice with the team.

"With only 10 guys on the roster, all 10 have to be ready," Kampe said. "It makes practice more competitive. We also have to pace ourselves in practice because there's only 10. No one gets a break."

Despite a roster that has no seniors starting, the team has won five of their first eight Horizon League games, including two wins against teams that sat atop the Horizon League at the time of the game (Northern Kentucky and Detroit Mercy).

Having a shallow roster has led to increased minutes for freshmen Braden Norris and Tray Maddox. Norris is sixth in the Horizon League in total minutes played, averaging 34 minutes per game,

and Maddox scored a career-high 21 points against the Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis Jaguars on Thursday, Jan. 24.

With a young team led by freshmen and juniors, Kampe has had to adjust his coaching style. Usually using an in-your-face style of coaching, this season he has dialed it back and been more calm on the sidelines.

"I'm not sure if my past behavior with how I interact with them (players) during games may be the best for this team," Kampe said in Oakland All Access episode two. "I really have tried to adapt to them. I don't want to not be who I am, but I also have to understand who my audience is."

Having only 10 players that can potentially come back and gaining Neely's scholarship back has altered the recruiting plan for Kampe and his staff.

"We're fighting through this part, and it really opens up recruiting for us," Kampe said. "We aren't shifting our focus to next year, but with 10 guys we're trying to determine what will help us for next year. We can look forward while assuming we'll have all 10 guys back."

Lack of depth is something Kampe and the Golden Grizzlies are used to. Last season, five players went down with season-ending injuries. Neely, Martez Walker, Jaevin Cumberland and Brad Brechting all were absent in the Horizon League tournament due to injury.

"Injuries would really hurt us, but we're just hoping it won't happen in multiple years," Kampe said. "I've had to adjust my coaching style because no one can be hurt. There will be nicks and scratches always, but we just have to hope for the best."

Grizz Gang hosts watch party for Men's Basketball road game

JONATHAN SAVICH
Staff Reporter

The men's basketball team had a game at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24 against Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) on the road. 11 a.m. is a strange time for a basketball game, especially considering it's a Thursday, but this made for a perfect opportunity for a viewing party to be put on in The Habitat.

The Habitat was inhabited by Oakland students looking to watch an Oakland win on the big screen while grabbing free bites of chicken tenders, quesadillas and mac 'n' cheese. This was the first time Oakland has done anything like this and it was an experience that would be worth putting on again.

"We had to talk to the O.S.I. to get this booked for today," Grizz Gang President Brandon Scoppa said. "So a time like this is rare for an 11 a.m. start, most of the games start at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights, and we're definitely going to going to plan more this year."

The atmosphere was really open and relaxing at first, but by halftime, the students flooded in while turning up the stadium-like energy.

"I got here after class at about noon," Grizz Gang Secretary Christopher Cousineau said. "It's a great tradition we can start here at Oakland... I enjoy watching all the away games, and I think the more students we can get to watch the away games now that we have The Habitat with the big screen, the more fire we can get for Oakland basketball."

As for the actual game, Oakland played

a decent enough first half to have a lead of six points, but the second half was where things got away from the boys. The final score was 73-71, a closer looking score than the actual game was. Nonetheless, Oakland really did make a strong push at the end with two huge steals by guard Tray Maddox Jr. that were immediately converted into baskets helping them start their comeback from a 12-point hole with only a few minutes left. Maddox finished with 21 points, a career high.

Oakland played the foul game throughout the end of the game, and it kept working because IUPUI could not make their free throws.

Guard Jaevin Cumberland had a tough game as he went for 7-20 from the field, and suffered a minor knee sprain when he slipped on the floor, bending his knee completely backwards. Guard Braden Norris also had a down game, he went 2-7 from three where he typically shoots over 50 percent.

Seeing The Habitat starting to get some real world usage is reassuring the space has better use other than looking magnificent and being a place for students to sit on the giant steps. The massive screen and high quality audio system made the whole experience feel immersive as if you were at the game.

The event gathered a high turn-out, whether the students were in between their classes or found their way there. For the bigger games coming up in the season like the Horizon League tournament games and more tough regular season interconference matches, it will be really exciting to see how hyped The Habitat can get.



RYAN PINI | PHOTOGRAPHER

A crowd of students flocked to the Habitat to watch Men's Basketball take on IUPUI.

Swim and dive coach is a Michigan Hall of Famer



NICOLE MORSFIELD | PHOTOGRAPHER

Hovland is in the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame with 41 years as a swim coach.

DEVIN BOATWRIGHT

Staff Intern

Pete Hovland is undeniably one of the greatest coaches of all time. His accolades and accomplishments are a testament to his hard work and commitment toward the university and its swim program.

Hovland got his start at Oakland in August of 1979 as an assistant coach, where he oversaw the then small women's team. His job was to help build and shape the women's swim team into a powerhouse much like the men's team.

"At that point in time there wasn't an NCAA for women's sports," Hovland said. "This league was known as the AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) for the first couple of years. When the NCAA finally got into women's athletics the program took off at a much faster rate than the men's because there were so many opportunities and scholarships to be had now."

The women's program had tons of success, they got to the national championship even before the men's team did again, winning it in '90-'95 before the men were back in the national championship picture in '94-'97.

Moving into the late 1990s the swimming program finally moved into Division I, around that time the school just finished building the O'Rena that still stands today. There were tough times, but Hovland describes it as the start of a "renaissance" for the school and the swimming program alike.

"After '97 that two year probationary period was a very trying time for all of us," Hovland said. "We were using outhouses and storage sheds for locker rooms, it was unbelievable. But for the greater good to see this facility being made and at the same time making the jump into Division I it was the renaissance of, 'okay this is how it works and this is where

we're going."

Hovland has been coaching for 41 years now. Over time he's learned and has made changes in himself which has helped garner the success of the swimming program.

"I definitely think I have grown and matured over the years," said Hovland. "As a young coach sometimes you're set in your ways, pretty demanding and tough. I feel more tolerant and understanding now. I think I'm more engaging with my athletes now than was before. I've learned that it's a partnership and to get the best out of your athletes you need to know what's going on in their heads, and how they're feeling and what they're thinking. It really correlates with whether or not they're going to be successful near the end of the season."

Hovland, along with his several national and conference titles has been inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, the Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Fame, and the City of Chico Sports Hall of Fame in Chico, Calif. He believes being inducted was the pinnacle of his long career.

"That recognition was a very humbling experience for me," said Hovland, "A college swim team and coach being recognized alongside professional team like the (Detroit) Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons and Lions was amazing. My mom, who is 93, was able to come and see me get inducted along with some friends from California. I think it's just a testament to the athletes we've had, the administration, and the university."

With a winning record of 245-99, 39 consecutive conference championships, four NCAA Division II National Championships, 54 individual national champions, 38 relay national champions, 24 conference coaches of the year awards and 23 straight conference titles, he and the swimming program exemplify excellence. Only time will tell how much more Hovland achieves in his legendary tenure.

Track and field coach reflects on what brought her to campus

This year will be a learning experience as Brumfield begins her first season at Oakland

JONATHAN SAVICH

Staff Reporter

Katrina Brumfield went from a collegiate track athlete at Mansfield University, to assistant coach at Youngstown State, and now she is in the midst of her first year as a head coach here at Oakland University.

Brumfield was born in Akron, Ohio, the hometown of LeBron James. But this is not where she spent most of her time growing up.

She grew up in Chester Springs, PA with her four brothers as the middle child. Her family has always been a sports family, with her dad and uncles all playing college football and spending some time at the professional level.

"You couldn't help but be around sports in my family," Brumfield said.

Brumfield grew loving basketball as much as track- if not more than track. When she was at Mansfield University, she originally planned on playing both basketball and track, but shortly after beginning her first semester, she decided doing only track was best for her.

When she was looking for a career, she wanted to pursue something in the communication field since she had earned a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication. She eventually received a job in the communication field and gave it a try at a TV station, but after a year, was unsatisfied with her position.

All along, her colleagues, especially her old head coach and family, thought coaching would be best for her. Brumfield was unsure at first, but she has now been doing it for the better part of a decade.

Through her first year as a head coach at OU, her life is already a lot different than it was a year ago. Last year at this time she was still an assistant coach at Youngstown State. She stated it's a bit of a change but that she embraces her new responsibilities.



GOLDENGRIZZLIES.COM

Brumfield is from Chester Springs, Pa., which is 600 miles from Oakland.

"It's a good change, I have ideas and I actually can put them to work," Brumfield said. "I still remember my assistant days because they're still fresh. I hope I keep that in touch as I progress as a head coach so that I respect my assistants, I listen to them, and I take some of their ideas and incorporate them."

Brumfield is taking this year as a learning experience. She is continuing to get a better feel as a head coach, and she hopes to take the program up another notch by next season. She believes being younger and highly energetic, she can bring something to the table that other coaches don't in the Horizon League.

"I'm excited to be here and I think the program has always been successful and I think we're going to take it to the next level," Brumfield said. "I love working at Oakland, this is the first institute that it doesn't matter what sport you're in, everybody is so supportive of what you're doing."

Brumfield and the team look forward to closing out the indoor track season strong and moving into the outdoor events.

Oakland student went to school on Monday

PATRICK SULLIVAN

Web Editor

Monday was a good bit of time off for students at Oakland due to the bad weather, except for one student who didn't know school had been cancelled.

Bill Townshend, a second year mechanical engineering major here at OU, came to school for his Monday classes only to find out there was no one else on campus.

"It was really strange," Townshend said the following day. "It's like everyone called in sick or something. I got a good parking spot at least, so that was pretty cool."

A commuter from Port Huron, Townshend drove four hours in order to get to school on Monday.

When he showed up to his first class at 8 a.m., the initial confusion began to give way to worry. As he sat in the classroom and no one else showed up, he started to call his other classmates.

"There wasn't a single person that I called that picked up the phone," Townshend said. "It was like they were all still asleep or something."

In reality, most students were asleep, having received the news the school had indeed been cancelled the day



ERIN O'NEILL | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Bill Townshend, the only student who appeared in class on a snow day. At least he has perfect attendance.

before because of the incoming snowstorm.

"None of us have really had the heart to tell him that there wasn't school yet," said Marcus Finnegan, a third year student and one of Townshend's close friends. "I think we might never tell him. It would destroy him if he knew."

As the day continued and Townshend went from class to class, the weather got worse and worse. Snow fell at

an increasing pace, but nothing was going to stop him from getting to his next class.

"I haven't missed a class yet this semester, and I wasn't planning to yesterday," Townshend said. "Even if no one else shows up."

While a majority of his classes were in the Engineering Center, he did have one class in HBB, forcing him to have to make the trek across campus.

"In the end, I only got a little bit of frostbite," he said. "It wasn't even that bad."

Townshend went on through his day, which consisted of classes from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., as though it were a regular school day. His classmates, on the other hand, did the opposite.

"Yeah, I just kind of slept the whole day," said Jane ScotOt, a student in one of his classes. "It was really nice, I think everyone needed the break."

When questioning Townshend's classmates and friends, every single one of them said that they were not going to tell Bill about the cancelled school day.

"We all figured we would just spare him from knowing," Scott said. "If I came to school and found out it was a snow day, I'd be ridiculously peeved about it."

As of this publication date, Townshend still did not figure out there was a snow day on Monday.

New Year,
New Reasons
to Save

Start the new year right by keeping those resolutions and your money where it belongs — with you. Transfer the balances from your high-rate credit cards to your OU Credit Union Visa and receive:

0% BALANCE TRANSFERS
APR UNTIL JUNE 30, 2019

Start saving today!

Transfer balances online, through the mobile app, or contact OU Credit Union to request special balance transfer checks.



oucreditunion.org • 248-364-4708 • Visit a branch



Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 0% on balance transfers is valid on balance transfers made between 1/1/19 and 2/28/19 and applies only to transfers from another financial institution's credit card to your OU Credit Union Visa Credit Card. The 0% APR is valid until 6/30/19. After 6/30/19, the balance transfer rate will revert to your standard rate, between 8.9% and 17.9%. Visit oucreditunion.org for full terms and conditions. Federally insured by NCUA.

Classifieds

63 Oakland Center
312 Meadow Brook Road
Rochester, MI 48309

Rates:
\$0.35 per word (\$7 min.)
Unlimited Frequency
STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Call or email us and place your ad today! ads@oaklandpostonline.com | 248.370.4269

HELP WANTED: VALET PARKING

Valet parking attendants, must be 21 or older, must know how to drive a stick-shift, make up to \$30/hour
(248) 740-0900 or apply online at <http://firstclassvalet.com/valet-parking/employment-application>

HELP WANTED: SALES REPRESENTATIVE

HELP WANTED: Make \$100 per sale plus earn \$500 yearly bonus selling music and fashion memberships.
www.abccumbyenterprize.com.
Call (586) 360-0383. Leave message. Work from home.

ADVERTISE ANYTHING*

Need something?
Want something
Want to provide something?

Books
Cars
Garage Sales
Rent

Babysitting
Help Wanted
Carpools
Misc., etc.