

# THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 11 | October 21, 2020

## WXOU's Haunted Halls hits the Oakland Center

*The campus radio station is reworking Haunted Halls to be scary but safe*

*Page 6*



### FRISBEE CHARITY

Ultimate Frisbee 'Outlaws' raise money for American Cancer Society

PAGE 3

### ROOM REASSIGN

Housing offers room change period to promote social distancing

PAGE 5

### SNL SATIRE

Bill Burr's SNL introduction teeters between comedy and bigotry

PAGE 12

PHOTO BY: EMILY MORRIS



# THIS WEEK

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**NEVER EVER LET IT COOL** On Matilda Dodge Wilson’s Birthday Bash celebration, students were welcomed with free gourmet hot chocolate.  
*PHOTO / EMILY MORRIS*

# THE OAKLAND POST

### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Michael Pearce**  
Editor-in-Chief  
mpearce@oakland.edu  
248.370.4266

**Emily Morris**  
Managing Editor  
emorris@oakland.edu  
248.370.2537

### EDITORS

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

**Sophie Hume** Photo Editor  
sophiahume@oakland.edu

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

**Cayla Smith** Campus Editor  
caylasmith@oakland.edu

**Jeff Thomas** Features Editor  
jdthomas2@oakland.edu

### REPORTERS

**Bridget Janis** Staff Reporter

**Lauren Karmo** Staff Reporter

**Autumn Page** Staff Reporter

**Lauren Reid** Staff Reporter

**Rachel Yim** Staff Reporter

### COPY&VISUAL

**Jodi Mitchell** Design Editor

**Meg Speaks** Design Editor

**Sam Summers** Design Editor

**Sergio Montanez** Photographer

**Ryan Pini** Photographer

**Maggie Willard** Photographer

### DISTRIBUTION

**Jaylon Johnson** Distribution Director

jaylonjohnson@oakland.edu

**Kimmy Guy** Distribution Assistant

**Erika Beechie** Distributor

### ADVERTISING

**Kaitlyn Woods** Ads Director  
ads@oaklandpostonline.com  
248.370.4269

### ADVISING

**Garry Gilbert** Editorial Adviser  
ggilber@oakland.edu  
248.370.2105

**Don Ritenburgh** Business Adviser  
ritenbur@oakland.edu  
248.370.2533

**VOTE AND CONNECT AT:**  
[oaklandpostonline.com](http://oaklandpostonline.com)



**4 NEW FACILITY**  
Board of Trustees purchases new facility for SECS research  
*Photo/Oakland University*



**10 BLY MANOR**  
“The Haunting of Bly Manor” launched on Netflix  
*Photo/Netflix*



**13 TOURNAMENT TIME!**  
2024 Men’s Basketball regionals to be hosted by Oakland, Detroit Mercy  
*Photo/Golden Grizzlies*

## POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS YOUR MUST WATCH HALLOWEEN SHOW OR MOVIE?

- A) HOCUS POCUS
- B) THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS
- C) THE HAUNTING OF BLY MANOR
- D) HALLOWEEN TOWN

## LAST ISSUE’S POLL

WHAT SPORT ARE YOU MISSING THE MOST RIGHT NOW?

**27%**  
A) SOCCER

**8%**  
B) CROSS COUNTRY

**15%**  
C) VOLLEYBALL

**50%**  
D) I’VE ALWAYS MISSED FOOTBALL

## CAMPUS

# Oakland Outlaws raise money for breast cancer research

**RACHEL YIM**

*Staff Reporter*

October is breast cancer awareness month. To raise awareness, the Oakland Outlaws Ultimate Frisbee team is hosting its second annual breast cancer fundraiser game.

The team is raising money throughout the month of October by selling Outlaws Against Cancer t-shirts for \$15. The fundraiser will last until Oct. 24, and all profits will go to the American Cancer Society (ACS).

As a Division I travel team, the Oakland Outlaws Ultimate Frisbee team participates in Ultimate Tournaments all over the Midwest.

Ideas for the breast cancer awareness game started out last year by President Jacob Lekki. Lekki said that his grandmothers were the inspiration for his ideas.

“Breast cancer is a very important issue to many members of our team and me personally because three of my grandmothers have had breast cancer and have made it to remission,” Lekki said. “One was diagnosed with stage four metastatic breast cancer and has been fighting for a few years now.”

Through this fundraiser, the team hosted a pink-out game against Kettering University and raised \$2,110 for breast cancer research last year.

Oct. 24 is one of the most important days for Lekki and his teammates.

It is the deadline for their fundraiser, and the team will be playing a scrimmage that day and recording the



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND OUTLAWS GOFUNDME PAGE  
2020 Oakland Outlaws Against Cancer team t-shirt design. The team is raising money selling their t-shirts for \$15.

scrimmage for its fans, friends and family to watch and enjoy.

They will be wearing their team jerseys with splashes of pink for breast cancer for the recording, according to Lekki.

Though COVID-19 resulted in a different way of conducting the fundraiser game, it did not stop the team from spreading awareness for breast cancer. Lekki and his teammates are looking to raise over \$1,000 for breast cancer research, like they did last year.

“What I look forward to the most is getting to play with my team, to grow and learn ... to play alongside them is something I love,” Lekki said. “I am

proud of all the funds we have raised for the American Cancer Society last year and this year.”

Clarence Round, the advisor for the club, said she is proud of the team for using the spirit of Ultimate Frisbee competition to support important causes.

“I’m looking to see how far the team has grown,” Round said. “To put on a good showing for friends and family that come out to support the game and cause.”

According to Round, she has been making social media posts and posting on several Ultimate Frisbee pages in Michigan in order to spread the word. She hopes to gain as many spectators

as possible for game day and to receive donations and support from them.

“I would like to ask the OU community to help us out and to please donate online or buy a shirt and check out our social media,” Lekki said.

People can participate in the fundraiser by emailing Jacob Lekki at [jlekki@oakland.edu](mailto:jlekki@oakland.edu) or visit their GoFundMe fundraiser which is directly tied to the ACS.

To order an Outlaws Against Cancer team t-shirt, contact any Outlaw members or Club President Jacob Lekki via phone number: (630)-360-0945 or email: [jlekki@oakland.edu](mailto:jlekki@oakland.edu).

## Graphic designer and videographer Jason Willis visits OU

**LAUREN REID**

*Staff Reporter*

Local graphic designer, videographer and photographer Jason Willis visited Oakland University on Thursday, Oct. 14 to share his experiences and offer expertise, touching on storytelling in media design and his branching off to freelance work.

Willis, an OU alumni, began his work at The Oakland Post as a design editor, highlighting the creative freedom he had in his role.

“There’s literally nobody telling you what you can and can’t do,” Willis said. “It allowed me to push into my style.”

During his time at The Oakland Post, Willis also worked with the Detroit News, leading into his work at Grid 4

Communications, where Willis helped revamp brand styles and build a new look for the company and eventually, the OU marketing department.

“We worked on a lot of different sections of the [OU] website, graphics for social media – I had my hand in a lot of the different areas of design for the university, whether it was web, social, campus signage or brochures” Willis said. “Ever since I’ve been working at Oakland, I’ve been going in two different paths between design and video.”

About two years ago, Willis started freelancing, and has since worked with Downtown Detroit Partnership, creating brochures, maps and event support, Romulus Public Schools, Eastern Market, Warrior Sports, among others.

“[You] just have to go with the flow [in

freelance],” Willis said. “You might pick up a client here, lose a client there, and it’s all just part of the process.”

Willis enjoys working with nonprofits but unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, budgets have been cut back.

“I really like the nonprofit worlds – great stories to tell and it’s all for wonderful purposes,” Willis said. “I like when the work I do has an impact. Knowing that what I’m doing has a little meaning to it.”

Willis also touched on what he refers to as the “4 quadrants to [a] project:” client, creativity, profit and wellbeing. As projects come, it’s important to consider these aspects before taking on the endeavour, as mentioned by Willis.

“Managing your time is one of the most important things,” Willis said. “You’re

the guardian of your time, and nobody can really tell you how to spend it. Wrap your head around timeboxing and trying to set time aside for what’s coming up throughout the week.”

To conclude the event, Willis took questions from students, sparking discussions on edits, work/life balance, potential internships and collaboration and creative freedom.

“At the end of the day, what people want is content and the story,” Willis said. “Whether I shoot it on a \$3,000 camera or record it over Zoom (in regard to COVID-19 times), the message is still getting out there. People still need to do that sort of storytelling.”

For more information on Willis – his projects, design and contact – visit [JMW Creative](http://JMW Creative).



# Off-campus research facility to temporarily fix space shortage

**LAUREN KARMO**  
*Staff Reporter*

After receiving a vote of approval from Oakland University’s Board of Trustees (BOT), the university is planning to purchase an off-campus facility located at 2817 Research Dr., Rochester Hills to expand research in the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS). The \$3.715 million facility is located four miles south of campus.

The 2016 Campus Master Plan determined an immediate need for 21,000 square feet in research space with an additional 131,000 square feet in order for the university to achieve their research goals by 2025.

The 50,000-square-foot facility, priced at \$75 per square foot before renovations, will allow for the university to fulfill some of that need.

“I’ve been dealing with space here at the university for quite some time, and it’s been tight for a while, but it’s gotten critical,” Interim Provost Michelle Piskulich said. “Right now, we have faculty that were hired this year that are still waiting on labs, and we also have a faculty that are in the process of being hired for which we have no labs.”

The SECS faculty Piskulich is referring to will occupy the 40 labs at 2871 Research Dr. following a \$10-12 million renovation. They currently reside in Dodge Hall, and their vacancy will be filled by others in departments needing research labs.

“We would then backfill that space [in Dodge Hall] with faculty from the School of Medicine, biology, chemistry and physics, and then bioengineering,” Piskulich said. “So, these are areas where we’re expecting growth, and these labs would be very critical for our ability to continue to provide the space necessary for those faculty.”

The university had a third party company called SmithGroup appraise and create an outline for the renovations needed to 2871 Research Dr., which will increase the total cost-per-square foot to roughly \$600.

“SmithGroup has concluded that with an investment of somewhere around \$10-12 million, we would be able to create 40 labs, a number of offices, restrooms, collaboration space, and do a fair amount of maintenance as well — replacing the roof, securing an emergency backup generator, power upgrades, add HVAC improvements and those sorts of things,” BOT Treasurer John Beaghan said.

Although the BOT voted to approve the



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
2871 Research Dr. is the address of Oakland’s newly purchased research facility.

purchase of the facility itself, they have not voted to approve the renovations necessary to make it functional as a research space.

The funding for this project is coming from the same set of 2019 bonds that are funding renovations to South Foundation Hall and Wilson Hall. Because of this, the 2020 decline in student enrollment and its effect on the university’s finances will not impact this project, according to Beaghan.

The expansion to 2871 Research Dr. will most likely be a temporary one. While the university is experiencing an immediate

need for space, the cost of building on campus is much higher than the \$600 per square foot provided at 2871 Research Dr.

Once the university can foot the bill to build on campus, they will look into long-term solutions for the need for research space.

“In the ideal world, we would build all the research space that we need on our own campus, and ... we would eventually build our research buildings back on the open campus,” President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said.

THE

OP

YOU CAN FIND US ON



VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM



# CAMPUS

## Housing offers room reassignment period to social distance

**MICHAEL PEARCE**

*Editor-In-Chief*



MARY MITCHELL | ARCHIVES

Hamlin Hall is home to OU Housing, which will handle all reassignment requests.

To increase social distancing in the residential halls, Oakland University housing is offering a room reassignment period.

Students who want a more socially distant experience living on campus can request reassignment to a vacant or less occupied room.

“Please note that this process is not intended to be utilized for room change purposes other than enhanced social distancing,” the official Housing email said. “Not all vacancies in University Housing will be offered during this process in order to maintain increased social distancing where possible.”

The room reassignment period runs from Oct. 19-30. Director of University Housing Jim Zentmeyer felt this process was needed to promote equity and proper health precautions.

“Some locations are set where you would have, say, one four-person suite fully occupied, then right next door to it you’d have a four-person suite with one person in it,” Zentmeyer said. “Rather than sitting on the status quo we thought it would be advantageous to offer up that space to our residential population.”

Rooms without anyone in them will be prioritized. If all empty rooms are filled, then four-person suites with one person will be next in line.

Housing had received individual requests to move, so it was decided to open the opportunity to all students who might have COVID-19 concerns. The Graham Health Center and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety have approved this plan.

“We thought it would be most equitable to make an announcement to the entire population so no one would get left out of the party,” Zentmeyer said.

Students must meet the prerequisite requirements to live in a certain building before their reassignment is approved. For instance, a freshman in Hamlin Hall could not be reassigned to the Ann V. Nicholson student apartments.

Students must list their requests on the form, including where and with whom they would like to live with. Each student is only offered one reassignment request each and switching rooms with a peer is not allowed.

If someone is receiving a new roommate, they will receive 24-hour notice before their new roommate picks up their key.

The reassigned student then has the next 24 hours after their roommate is notified to pick up their new key.

According to Zentmeyer, Housing has received pushback regarding this decision. However, he believed the equity is the most important aspect of this decision when dealing with an imbalance of room occupancy.

“Bringing it up to 50% occupancy would be equitable,” he said.

According to Zentmeyer, health and safety studies recently have shown Housing that COVID-19 doesn’t spread as easily on shared surfaces, it spreads more through shared air and close contact.

Because of this, Zentmeyer and Housing believe that if distancing is followed, the reassignment process won’t further the spread of contagions.

If a student is alone in a four-person suite and they receive a new roommate, Housing will put them on the direct opposite side of the suite, to limit close contact.

“There’s got to be a sense of fairness in this as well,” Zentmeyer said. “It does not seem fair to have one person sitting in a four-bedroom apartment when right next door there are four people in a four-bedroom apartment.”

Since Housing has never done a room reassignment period like this before, it has no expectation of how many students wish to be reassigned.

After Oct. 30, all room assignments will be finalized. Once a student is reassigned, the decision is final.

 Information courtesy of the Oakland University Counseling Center

## MENTAL HEALTH TIPS DURING COVID-19



### 1. It's okay to not be okay

Take a break, mental health is just as important

### 2. Be flexible and adaptable

Accepting change makes it easier to deal with

### 3. Know your limits on news consumption

Balance is key, keep your consumption healthy

### 4. Write three things you're excited about each morning

Give yourself something to look forward to

### 5. Write three happy things about your day at night

Even the smallest things count

### 6. Routine is king

Focus on the things you can control

### 7. Connect with others creatively

Social media, video calls, online parties

### 8. Daily self-care

Exercise, relaxation, pet therapy, journaling

### 9. Acknowledge the grief we're experiencing

Loss of loved ones and of our old lives/routines

### 10. Know your resources

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



# Haunted hallways to spook the Oakland Center



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR

WXOU and other organizations will decorate the OC for Haunted Halls on Oct. 29

**EMILY MORRIS**  
*Managing Editor*

Oakland University's usual residential Haunted Halls are replaced with a Haunted Habitat and Hallway hosted by WXOU, OU's student radio station, and door decorating contests in Housing.

In-person events have become few and far between to follow social distancing guidelines, but instead of skipping Halloween, some students are promoting alternatives.

"It's been upsetting for myself as well as some of my residents, but we are doing the best that we can," Resident Assistant Brendan Triola said. "But I am thankful that for the most part, everyone seems to have public health first on their priorities and are willing to sacrifice some of the normal things that we do every year for the sake of others."

WXOU's General Manager Teyler Thompkins proposed that a Haunted Hallway in the Oakland Center could be a socially distant replacement for Housing's traditional Haunted Halls. WXOU is partnering with Student Congress and Student Activities Funding Board introducing a seasonal and safe haunted hall to the Oakland Center (OC) on Oct. 29 from 6-8 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to wear costumes. Although costumes and decorative masks are welcomed, guests must also still wear a medical facial mask.

Guests will enter through the west staircase nearest the front entrance and make their way through the basement of the OC with activities and snacks along the way.

Staff members will be stationed throughout the area to ensure the line is moving and socially distant. This extent of separation wouldn't be possible in the narrow residential hallways.

The hall and windows will be lined with spooky decorations and an occasional scare. Despite social distancing standards, Thompkins managed to balance jump scares and safety by focusing on the windows of the various organizations. Costumed staff will be separated from guests by the glass, making a surprising yet safe scare.

"With the radio station already playing [Halloween music], gearing up, we're gonna have people kind of jump from behind the window and beat on the window, trying to scare people," Thompkins said.

While the Halloween decorations will be a fitting backdrop, students can also take a pit stop at a photo booth. Photos will be printed immediately after, and guests can take home a photo momentum.

After heading back to a residence hall, there is another option to get involved with the students in your hall or building. Door decorating contests will be going on until Oct. 30 at noon.

"We still can't gather all together, but it's been more successful than our virtual programming has been," Triola said.

Anyone interested can email [ourla@oakland.edu](mailto:ourla@oakland.edu) with their door submission, and they'll be notified by Oct. 30 at 5 p.m. if their door was worthy of a prize.

Halloween on campus will look different this year, but WXOU's Haunted Hallway and Door Decorating Contests may offer a similarly spooky substitute.



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

## COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

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



# **VOTE EARLY**

**IN**

# **MICHIGAN**

**HAVE YOU  
MADE A PLAN  
TO VOTE?**

**LEARN HOW AT**

# **IWILLVOTE.COM**

PAID FOR BY THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, DEMOCRATS.ORG. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.



# The Haunting of Meadow Brook Mansion

## Story and Design by Emily Morris

The haunting of Meadow Brook Mansion isn't a suspense-filled series, but a stately manor teetering on the edge of Oakland University's campus.

Built nearly a century ago from 1926 and 1929, the mansion amounted to a history: a home, a museum, a party venue and a possible haunting.

## The present reflecting the past

Matilda Dodge Wilson and her husband, John Dodge, bought a sprawling farm of over 300 acres in Rochester a year after they married, one of nine farms that they eventually called Meadow Brook Farm. This was their countryside getaway, but the couple only enjoyed the property together until 1920 (12 years).



This is a portion of the Meadow Brook Farm. The farm predates the famous Meadow Brook Mansion. (Photo Courtesy of Oakland University Magazine)

2020 is the anniversary of John Dodge's death. Mirroring the present COVID-19 pandemic, the influenza outbreak was the "most severe pandemic in recent history" before COVID-19, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dodge became fatally ill with influenza while on a trip to New York.

Since his death, some think his spirit returned to the farm and resides within the Meadow Brook Mansion. Former Head Maid Beatrice Whitaker has reported disembodied whistling, which another staff member ensured was Dodge's spirit.



Beatrice Whitaker was hired as the Meadow Brook Mansion's first head maid. She worked in the mansion for over 20 years. (Photo Courtesy of the Meadow Brook Mansion)

"One morning after Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had dressed and departed, I was arranging some books near Mrs. Wilson's bedroom," Whitaker said to Oakland University Magazine. "Out of the complete stillness of the house, I heard someone whistling, yet there was no one about. I looked all over, but found no one at the house."

Whitaker was the head maid from the mansion's completion in 1929 to the 1950s. She remembers the household fondly, referring to Mrs.

Wilson as "thoughtful, considerate and kind," in her written record of her time at the mansion.

"Some volunteers have worked here for almost 40 years, and they may say they feel a kindred spirit or connection to Matilda... they dedicated many years to the house," Shannon O'Berski, director of external relations at the Meadow Brook Mansion, said.



The Meadow Brook Mansion is a national historic landmark so the gardens, architecture and layout have been left largely unchanged. (Photo by Emily Morris | Managing Editor)





Emily Morris | Managing Editor

## Haunted halls

Although Dodge never officially returned to the Meadow Brook Farm, the estate did not stall in development. Matilda Dodge Wilson inherited the farm and his share of the Dodge Motor Company, making her one of the wealthiest women in the U.S.

Six years later in 1926, Mrs. Wilson and her second husband, Alfred Wilson began constructing the Meadow Brook Mansion after an inspired honeymoon to England. The mansion was designed as a revitalization of the English Tudor style, complete with extensive dark wood, gothic structure and detailed layout.

The mansion is home to several secret passageways. The narrow passageways extend to children's playrooms, Wilson's game room and a basketball recreation room.

Although the design isn't necessarily meant to add a frightening flare, the intricate layout can be elusive to the untrained eye. Hayley Serr, local historian, noted that she "is not the first visitor to lose their way."



A farmhand feeds a white deer at Meadow Brook Farm. These rare deer have been called "ghost deer" because of their unlikely color. (Photo Courtesy of OU Magazine)

## Buried in the backyard

On the exterior, there are additional personal elements, including a small cemetery. Although the cemetery is as stately as a small plot in a community cemetery, the area is only the final resting place for the Wilson's family pets.

Mrs. Wilson was reported to have a soft spot for animals and wanted their burial to be thoughtful with caskets and some tombstones. In the plot behind the mansion, Belgian horses, hackney ponies, dogs, cats, cows and one zebra have been buried.



This is one of three pet gravestones located behind the Meadow Brook Mansion. The stone reads, "Dinarth Sunbeam, Hackney Pony, Mate to Buckley Anity, Foaled 1923 - Died Sept. 1933." (Photo by Emily Morris | Managing Editor)

Before the mansion was built, the grounds were Matilda Dodge Wilson and John Dodge's farm retreat with various livestock, including "ghost deer," according to the Oakland University Magazine. Contrary to traditional ghosts, these deer were given their supernatural title while alive.

Encounters with the ghost deer were more farm-oriented than frightening. Ghost deer is a term to refer to white or albino deer. White-tailed deer are rarely completely white because white is a recessive gene, but inbreeding introduced a ghost deer to the Wilsons' fenced-in pasture.

Whether the tales of Meadow Brook feel like lore or legacy, the almost century-old mansion is still collecting history. Ghost hunters and historians can sort facts from fable at the Meadow Brook Mansion. Tours are available for registration at [meadowbrookhall.org/dailytours](http://meadowbrookhall.org/dailytours).

"We definitely want to continue to respect and uphold the legacy and keep the integrity of who she (Mrs. Wilson) was, as a human being... in her home," O'Berski said. "In that sense, I think we can all say we feel that sort of kindred spirit with her."



# Netflix's satisfyingly scary 'The Haunting of Bly Manor'

**BRIDGET JANIS**

*Staff Reporter*

With October being the spookiest ghost story time of the year, Netflix has released "The Haunting of Bly Manor." The nine episode mini series is a perfect fit for the month of Halloween. The series creator Mike Flanagan also created 2018's "The Haunting of Hill House."

As a huge horror fan, any ghost story or creepy movies is worth a watch. "Hill House" was attention grabbing, unique and had a great story. It is a must see on Netflix.

When starting "Bly Manor" it was held to a high standard because "Hill House" was so good, and it did not disappoint. While a lot of things don't add up until the end, the series still kept me on the edge of my seat while piecing the story together.

Victoria Pedretti stars as the main character, Danielle "Dani" Clayton. Clayton is a young American that was hired as a nanny for two orphaned children, Flora (Amelie Bea Smith) and Miles (Benjamin Evan Ainsworth).

Pedretti is also appeared in "The Haunting of Hill House," where she played Eleanor "Nell" Crain.

A couple other cast members from "The Haunting of Hill House" that appear in "The Haunting of Bly Manor" are Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Kate Siegel, Henry Thomas and Carla Gugino.

This horror series focuses less on the jump scares and more on the build up of suspenseful horror. Though there are some



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

jump scare scenes surrounding Dani's ex-fiancé Edmund (Roby Attal). He pops up in reflections, haunting Dani with his bright glowing eyes.

The first half of the series focuses on the development of Dani, her background and how she is building a connection with the kids. Other key character developments include Chef Owen (Rahul Kohli), groundskeeper Jamie (Amelia Eve) and housekeeper Mrs. Grose (T'Nia Miller).

There is this idea in the series that a fear within Bly Manor keeps everyone there. At least that appears to be the case for the Lady in the Lake Viola (Kate Siegel), a character that seems to be haunting the lake and dragging people there to meet their doom.

It's not just Viola doing the haunting though. There are other ghosts throughout the story too. To the point that it

might be hard to keep straight who are ghosts and who are actually alive.

Even if you can't keep it all straight, don't worry because everything will make sense in the end. The show did a great job developing the backstory. For example, episode eight specifically was dedicated to explaining the historic background.

Throughout the series there are flashbacks to the kids' old nanny, Miss Jessel (Tahirah Sharif) and Peter Quint (Oliver Jackson-Cohe). The past always overlaps the present in this series.

During the last episode, roller coasters of emotions come out. It was so intense that I almost shed a tear while watching it.

Dani ends up falling in love and leaving. She thinks everything is going to be okay, that she'll have a couple years in love, but her past at Bly Manor might just be playing tricks on her.

While it's true that nothing in this series was as disturbing as the bent-neck lady from "Hill House," the feel of this ghost story definitely had more emotion behind it. There was a deeper emotional connection there for the audience, and it ended up being more than just a ghost story.

With the last episode being such a shock, Netflix's "The Haunting of Bly Manor" is a must-see for Halloween. As Flora would say, it was "perfectly splendid."

**Rating: 4/5 stars**

## TOTALLY GOLD SPENDING ACCOUNT

\$0 minimum balance requirement

\$0 monthly fee

**Free** Grizzly Debit Card

Open your  
account **today!**



**OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY**  
Credit Union



[oucreditunion.org/tgc](https://oucreditunion.org/tgc)

# ADVERTISE WITH US!

**Contact: [ads@oaklandpostonline.com](mailto:ads@oaklandpostonline.com)**

# OPINION

## The Trials and Tribulations of Voting in a Pandemic

### AUTUMN PAGE

Staff Reporter

With the general election only weeks away, many states have begun counting the ballots they have received — and it's a lot.

This election has caused a lot of problems and, President Donald J. Trump and COVID-19 are making it harder for people to send in their absentee ballots or hit the poles.

Over 7 million ballots have been cast as of Oct. 11 — in 36 states alone. In 2016, only 75,000 people voted one month early, according to USA Today.

Usually, general elections have higher numbers compared to other elections, but this year is already setting records.

This year alone, I have seen more advertisements to vote on social media than ever before. Users can even register to vote on platforms like Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook.

I think this could be partially why the increase of voter awareness or voter registration has skyrocketed.

I've heard people breaking down the individual numbers of 7.3 million ballots

and figuring out the ratio between parties, but I'm going to be honest — I don't care.

Though, if you want to know, Democrats are leading over Republicans, according to Fox News.

There are more republicans than democrats? Cool. They are voting. People are getting out and voting.

I think that's the only thing that matters because in the past it was super hard to get people to the polls.

When I worked at a polling station in high school, the turnout was low. Given it was an off-year election, so turnout was expected to be lower, it was still surprising to see.

Though, with everything going on, you'd think the state government would figure out a better system for early in-person voting. Instead, voters in Georgia are waiting six hours to vote.

Six hours is the low end too, 10 hours being the high end.

One Twitter user said, "I cannot think of anything I stood in line for 10 hours to do or even buy. It is very gross that it would take 10 hours to vote. What about eating, going to the restroom, needing to use your phone, having to work, having to



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FOLD

go get your kids, just being on your feet? It's cruel."

Not every state is like this. In Texas, as of Oct. 13, lines only exceeded 40 minutes.

I'm not saying there shouldn't be any lines or wait, that's unrealistic, but the wait time shouldn't be several hours.

I understand that there aren't many volunteers this election season because of COVID-19.

With COVID-19 concerns, it is probably harder to have poll workers and more polling stations. But I also think

that because of this there should be more polling stations open.

More polling stations equal fewer people per location, and this equals less exposure. Compared to fewer stations and greater exposure.

In Michigan, absentee ballots have already been sent out and any voting questions can be answered on the Michigan government website or Vote.org.

To find a polling station near you, go to Vote.org.

## HBO's 'Lovecraft Country' exposes America's demons

### CAYLA SMITH

Campus Editor

HBO's "Lovecraft Country" is an American drama horror series taking place in the 1950s in Jim Crow America, where the viewer has the choice of deciding whether the monsters or racism is scarier.

After Atticus Turner (Jonathan Majors) returns home from the war, he decides that he wants to travel across America in search of his missing father. He brings along his childhood friend Letitia Lewis (Jurnee Smolett) and his Uncle George (Courtney B. Vance).

Throughout the episode there were moments where I wanted to turn away, and it wasn't when the monsters came out.

The first episode is called "Sundown", but it's not what you would particularly think. In Jim Crow America, a sundown town was an all-white town that was segregated, but would often intimidate or even go as far as use violence against black people.

If you have never heard of a sundown town before, the episode hints at what it is before showing you. While driving by

a billboard it read, "N\*\*\*\*ers -- Don't Let The Sun Set On You Here Understand?"

Even goes to talk about historical instances. When they are in a sundown town and discussing why the white house is white. We learn it's because slaves had to paint it white to cover up the burn marks.

The group is following a guide book, which was called "The Green Book." It was a book that was made for and by black people, and it marked where it was safe for black people to stop for food or even drive through.

Director Victoria Mahoney emphasized the time, but not in the way of direct racism. The way the character Atticus "Tic" walked, shoulders back whilst swinging an arm, and how Uncle George walked with a wobble to remind us of his bad knee.

The show was adapted from the 2016 novel, "Lovecraft Country" written by Matt Ruff. Ruff conjoined the monsters from the horror fiction novels written by H.P. Lovecraft and racism in America. The cover of the original book even says, "America's Demons Exposed." It's up to the viewer to decide.

The novel didn't make it on New York



PHOTO COURTESY OF NPR.COM

Times Best Seller List, but that didn't stop Executive Producer Jordan Peele, from showing J.J. Abrams' production company and deciding that it would be a great TV show.

Jordan Peele is known for the 2017 horror movie "Get Out" and J.J. Abrams is known for creating "Lost," a television series that ran for six seasons before ending in 2010.

The show also has a Podcast, "Lovecraft Country Radio," where Ashley C. Ford and "Lovecraft Country" writer

Shannon Houston discuss the writing and the thought processes of the writers in the writer's room to get each scene just right.

In episode one of the podcast, Houston says that even though HBO gave the show a hefty budget to work with, the writers still had to figure out how to tell the story.

"We would forget about all that and imagine that we have no monsters and no budget and we're just trying to tell a family story," Houston said. "What is that story and how can we make that compelling?"



# Defining bigotry in satire: Bill Burr's monologue



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEADLINE.COM

**JEFF THOMAS**  
Features Editor

Veteran stand-up comedian Bill Burr took to the stage at Studio 8H on Oct. 10. In what was his first appearance hosting Saturday Night Live, Burr's performance divided audience opinion and raised important questions about what is and isn't acceptable satire in our evolving social landscape.

The primary source of the weekend controversy was Burr's opening stand-up monologue. The seven-minute comedy set featured scathing commentary on the activism of white feminists and the LGBTQIA+ community and how it has impacted African Americans.

Burr's primary criticism was the attention white women and gay people draw in the public discourse distracts from the fact that African Americans are systemically kept at the bottom of the United States' social ladder. Basically, his belief that there's a lack of understanding about what oppression is and he's tired of loud complaints coming from certain groups.

Some of his harshest comments on white women included his assertions that they co-opted the woke movement to advance themselves, they rolled around with white men in "blood money" for centuries and that they shouldn't compare their experiences to the struggles of African Americans from the comfort of their "new SUV with heated seats."

His material about the LGBTQIA+ community was perhaps less personal, but problematic nonetheless. Burr's jokes centered around pride month — his stance being that it's absurd that gay people get the warm and pleasant month of June to celebrate while Black History month has been relegated to the short and comparatively miserable February.

There was a particularly distasteful comment about gay people never being enslaved. Despite perhaps being technically correct, the statement was of

course egregious considering the historical violence LGBTQIA+ individuals have endured. Hate crimes continue to be a problem, with 2020 being an awful year for violence against transgender women in the U.S.

To a general audience much of this material was shocking to see, but those familiar with Burr's work know that he's no stranger to controversy.

Burr has skyrocketed in popularity in recent years due to his prolific podcast work, acclaimed Netflix stand-up specials, work writing and producing his own animated Netflix series and his various acting roles.

He's made a name for himself with brash comedy that often showcases his willingness to challenge what he perceives as hypocrisy in liberal politics. This stage persona has been incredibly successful, leading to multiple sellout comedy tours across North America and abroad in Europe and Australia.

So with a comedian like Burr, the question becomes — where is the tipping point in which edgy social commentary becomes problematic? Well, it's hard to say.

On the surface level, it's a matter of a taste. Burr's delivery is crass and colorful. He's very much an adult comedian, profanity is a trademark of his performances. The shock that his routines evoke is by design. He challenges audiences, his desired effect is some level of discomfort.

If you're not interested in a middle aged white guy howling expletives for the duration of his set, then Burr probably isn't for you. But does discomfort with his delivery necessarily invalidate messages he inserts into his routines? Well, with an examination of his messages things get more complicated.

For instance, Burr's remarks Saturday about white feminists had truths laced within them. People like Rachel Dolezal and Jessica Krug exist, the phenomenon of white women occupying black spaces for their benefit isn't some fantasy.

Furthermore, the notion that white women have historically upheld the patriarchy and tenants of white supremacy is also accurate. The issue persists to this day, in the last presidential election the majority of white women who voted cast their ballot for Donald Trump. But that's not to say that Burr's take here doesn't require some nuance.

I'm sure scholars on the topic would mention the fact that white women didn't invent the patriarchy, that men did. I'm sure they'd also mention the fact that for much of history women were basically property and in no position to fight for social justice.

But, the thing is — comedians are not scholars. Jokes are not dissertations. Performance art is entertainment. How fair is it to expect stage performers to perfectly flesh out the intricacies of our society in their work?

So, what makes a joke objectively offensive and unacceptable in the public discourse?

Well, in a lot of ways we've already decided those metrics. It wasn't that long ago that comedy blockbusters like "The Hangover" were riddled with homophobic slurs. Over the last decade there has been

progress. The expansion of social media led to increased diversity of voices in our discourse — public opinion swayed in favor of disenfranchised communities.

Jokes where the sole punchline is someone's race or gender or sexual orientation are out. This is a good thing. We want decency in our society.

As we move forward and our views continue evolving, there will be a balancing act with our standards for satire. Audiences want effective social commentary, yet effective social commentary does not go hand and hand with comfort.

The whole point is to disrupt patterns in the public discourse. Comedians like Burr achieve this disruption. Despite how offensive his work can be, I hope people are willing to engage it and recognize when there are valid points being made.

If the problems weren't real they wouldn't be appearing in someone like Burr's routine. We won't be better off insulating ourselves away from topics we're not comfortable discussing. We won't get where we're trying to go if we're not willing to continue having the hard conversations.

## NOW ACCEPTING: CONTRIBUTORS

### WRITE FOR THE OAKLAND POST!

We're looking for contributors from  
**ANY MAJOR  
ANY BACKGROUND**

Contact [emorris@oakland.edu](mailto:emorris@oakland.edu)



# Oakland to co-host 2024 NCAA regionals

**MICHAEL PEARCE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) March Madness Tournament is coming to Detroit in 2024, with Oakland University and the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) co-hosting it.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, OU announced the tournament regional round would be in the Motor City. This came together through the Detroit Sports Commission.

“We are grateful to be selected by the NCAA to host the 2024 Men’s Basketball Regionals,” said Dave Beachnau, Detroit Sports Commission senior vice president, in the official press release. “A special thanks goes out to 313 Presents, Little Caesars Arena, Oakland University and the University of Detroit Mercy who helped land this incredible event.”

For the universities which co-host the event, they would have the responsibilities of running communication.

The students and season ticket holders at each school will also receive priority



PHOTO COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS  
The 2024 Elite Eight and Sweet Sixteen will be co-hosted by Detroit Mercy and Oakland.

with ticket sales, so they can get seats.

“Not only is it a great opportunity for Southeast Michigan to showcase the region and the city, it’s a chance for our staffs both at Oakland and Detroit Mercy to get experience running an NCAA event,” Athletics Director Steve Waterfield said.

The Oakland University logo will also be on display at the tournament.

Little Caesars Arena hasn’t hosted an NCAA Tournament since it opened in 2017. The last time the NCAA Tournament was in Detroit was in 2008.

“We were extremely interested to [host],” Waterfield said. “We got to the bid package, put together the numbers and put it out there as to why [Detroit] would be a good site, and we’re fortunate enough to be selected for 2024.”

The last time OU was in the NCAA Tournament was in 2011, when they defeated Oral Roberts in the Horizon League Tournament to clinch an automatic berth. That season, the Golden Grizzlies went 25-9 overall, with a 17-1 conference record.

The 13-seeded Golden Grizzlies lost in the 2011 first round in a shootout, 85-81 to the Texas Longhorns.

The Horizon League, which Oakland joined in 2013, was represented by the eventual tournament runners-up, Butler University.

Now, the Golden Grizzlies have two chances to compete in an NCAA Tournament game in their backyard.

For Waterfield, this would be “pretty special” to see the Golden Grizzlies compete on a big stage with their logo on display.

“It’d be immeasurable,” he said. “It would be special, the energy it would bring to the entire area. Not just campus, but Oakland County and Southeast Michigan — it would be one of the highlights of my career to date if that would happen.”

## The Oakland Post is looking for *SPORTS REPORTERS*

### Responsibilities

- Write two sports stories per week
- Provide fair coverage to all sports
- Attend weekly virtual budget meetings
- Maintain positive relationship with OU Athletics

### Skills necessary

- Ability to write in journalistic style
- Knowledge of sports
- Knowledge of AP Style
- Good communication skills and punctuality
- Receptive to criticism and motivation to learn

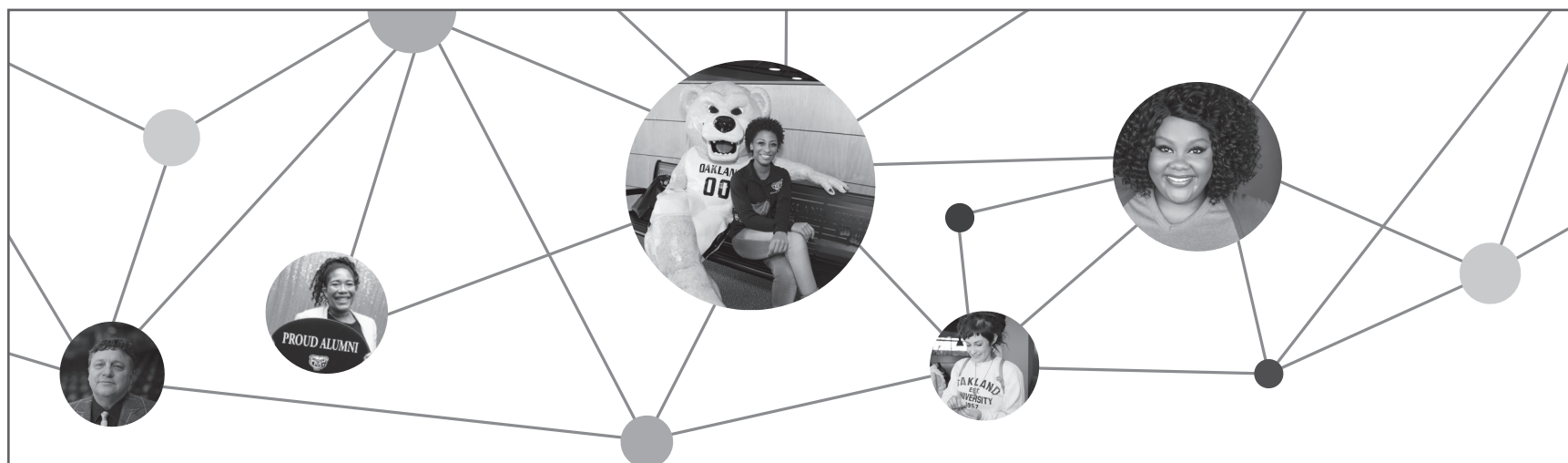
### Contact

[mpearce@oakland.edu](mailto:mpearce@oakland.edu)

Send three writing samples of any kind and a resume







Connect in-person and online during  
**HOMECOMING WEEK**  
October 19–24

*Sponsored by Oakland University Credit Union*

**MONDAY, OCT. 19**

Matilda's Birthday Bash\*

Noon | Elliott Tower

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21**

Student Program Board Hump Day

Noon

Greg Kampe Radio Show

Broadcasting live from RJ's Pub in Rochester Hills.

7 p.m. | Online

**THURSDAY, OCT. 22**

Thursday Night Mainstage featuring Nicole Byer

Enjoy the hilarious Nicole Byer, host of the Emmy nominated Netflix baking series Nailed It! Free virtual show for the OU community.

7 p.m. | Online

**FRIDAY, OCT. 23**

Student Program Board Drive-in Movie *Hocus Pocus*\*

Drive to campus for a community-wide feature film.

Online registration required.

7 p.m. | Parking lot P37

**EVERY DAY**

- Campus window decorating
- Hidden Gem social media challenge
- Student Organization sidewalk/sheet banner contest
- Pumpkin decorating (virtual)
- Faculty After 5 Lectures (virtual)
- Contests, prizes, giveaways and more

Join in the fun all week!

**REGISTER AND LEARN MORE:**

[oakland.edu/homecoming](https://oakland.edu/homecoming)

*\* In-person/socially distanced event.*

PLEASE NOTE: Event details may change at any time based on Michigan state executive orders and university policy updates.

alm22469/9.20

**OAKLAND**  
UNIVERSITY™

# Donald 'J. for Genius' Trump is an illiterate brat

**LAUREN KARMO**

Staff Reporter

The last few weeks in politics have felt like a punch in the face with every Twitter refresh. Allow me to provide some solace and sway you toward the only logical choice in this election between your weird grandfather and an illiterate brat — that's right, I said illiterate.

Ever since Donald J. ("for genius") Trump has been on my radar for something more valuable than his cameo in "Home Alone 2," I have held a strong belief that he cannot read.

Flashback to 2015. You're 15 years old in your Physics class with two minutes until the bell. You're arguing with a classmate — he suffers from early onset Tr\*mp-supporter syndrome. It is your moral duty to heal him from such, and what do you do? Suggest his lord and savior, and illustrious "The Apprentice" host, cannot read.

The initial reaction you receive is one of disgust and dismissal, but after some time, he simply cannot disagree. Who is the young brilliant mind to convince him of this? Check the byline.

The face of U.S. fascism has never had a need to read in his decrepit lifetime, and I can prove it.

**College degree: because education apparently can't be bought**

The fat monster has a bachelor's from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, which many people seem to take as some sort of accomplishment. As we have seen time and time again during Zoom University,



BEN HUME | WEB EDITOR  
You read that right, Don can't read.

receiving a college education does not signal any signs of intelligence, especially when someone with a fat wallet and little moral obligation is concerned.

According to his dearest niece Mary, the illiterate fool paid someone to take his SATs. There's clearly nothing holding him back from paying someone to write his exams and essays as an "economics" major (also, seriously? He literally majored in economics, and we still live like this? Embarrassing).

If he didn't need to read during his college or high school experience, what use would he have for it at any other time? He has servants for that.

**It's the inability to write a 240-character sentence, for me.**

Our Twitter KING (or dictator?) has proven time and time again that he cannot spell nor read — failure to recall QAnon retweets ring a bell? Now I refuse to play on tired millennial jokes like covfefe, but the typos are insane. Just admit defeat and use voice-to-text.

"What about 'Art of the Deal'?" Just because he makes a mistake typing on Twitter doesn't mean he can't write, he's a published author!!"

OK Johnathan David, I guess you've never heard of ghost writing. I'm a 20-year-old, and I've ghostwritten over a dozen projects, what makes you think future "top five worst president" wouldn't hire some chump to do the same?

**They really give anyone a driver's license, huh**

Little Boy Billions was born into money, so I find it shocking he has a license in the first place. Totally ignoring the fact that he couldn't even read his own plastic square of information when sharing his height with the public (every inch counts), what use does Lil' Don have for a license?

As someone who has taken the driving exam without paying someone else to do it for me, as most normal and regular people do, I needed to be able to read the words on the page to select a choice on the written exam. I also needed to be able to read street signs when operating a motor vehicle.

I have never seen Trump drive a car (golf carts don't count, champ). Let's face it. This little bitch can't read — hopefully to the point where he marks a fat vote for Joe Biden.

**MIX & MATCH**  
**\$5.99 EACH**

TO ORDER ONLINE USE CODE: **CHOOSE2**

**NEW! STUFFED HOWIE BREAD™ & PEPSI® 4-PACK CARRIER**

**CHOOSE ANY 2:**

- Medium 1-topping Pizza
- Any Howie Bread™
- Pepsi® 4-Pack 20 oz. Carrier
- Any Regular Oven-Baked Sub
- Any Regular Salad
- Howie Cookie™
- 8 Original or 10 Boneless Howie Wings

**Hungry Howie's**  
**FLAVORED CRUST PIZZA**

**248-373-4330**  
**3011 E. Walton Blvd.**  
(next to 7-11)

**OPEN LATE • WE DELIVER ON CAMPUS!**  
**OPEN FOR LUNCH DAILY**

**START EARNING FREE PIZZA**  
**DOWNLOAD OUR APP & YOUR HALFWAY TO YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> FREE PIZZA**

**MEAL DEALS**

**\$5.99** Small 2-topping pizza

**\$10.99** Lg. 1-topping deep dish, or lg. 2-topping thin crust or round pizza

**\$15.99** 2 med. 1-topping pizzas and a Howie Bread™ or a 2 liter beverage

**\$20.99** 2 lg. 1-topping pizzas and Howie Bread™ with dipping sauce

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO GET THE APP



You can register  
to vote now  
using your  
campus address.

You can vote early.

You can vote by mail.

You can vote  
on Election Day.

Go to [voteamerica.com/students](https://voteamerica.com/students)

**Vote  
America**

[VoteAmerica.com](https://VoteAmerica.com)

VoteAmerica is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit organization, and does not support or oppose any political candidate or party.