

THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Rochester, Michigan

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WINTER WONDER LIGHTS

Meadow Brook hosts must-see holiday lights display.

Page 12

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Students share their thoughts on COVID-19 learning experience

PAGE 6

OXFORD STRONG

Students, Oxford High alums open up about last week's tragedy

PAGE 9

FLAMES EXTINGUISHED

Women's basketball dominates against conference rival UIC

PAGE 19

PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD

THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



CONFERENCE BATTLES Golden Grizzlies women's basketball out maneuvered their opponents, bouncing back with a big win over conference rival UIC. Story on page 19.
SOPHIE HUME PHOTOGRAPHER



4 STRESS LESS DAY
OSI/SAFAC hosts event in The Habitat to help students unwind.
Photo/Maggie Willard



7 MANDATE UPDATE
A new deadline for updating vaccination status, faculty share their concerns.
Photo/Sophie Hume



12 PEOPLE OF OU
New OUWB Professor Akshata Naik shares her story.
Photo/Oakland University

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POLL OF THE WEEK

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CONTENT FROM THE POST DURING THE FALL SEMESTER?

- A) FACULTY CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS COVERAGE
- B) PEOPLE OF OU SERIES
- C) GOLDEN GRIZZLIES SPORTS COVERAGE
- D) YOUTUBE VIDS / SOCIAL MEDIA EXCLUSIVES

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR WINTER BREAK?

36%

A) HIBERNATION

8%

B) VACATION

42%

C) WHAT BREAK? I GOTTA WORK.

14%

D) TRY TO COEXIST WITH FAMILY

CORRECTIONS CORNER: In a previous issue, we referred to Getnet Bekele as Getnek Bekele, which is incorrect. The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

Letter from the editor: Happy holidays, thank you for an incredible semester

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

As we come down the homestretch of what's been a historic semester for the campus community and The Post, I'm dropping in with this letter to express my gratitude for our success the past few months and to update our readers on what's happening with the newspaper.

First and foremost I have to thank our readers. The engagement that we've seen from our audience this semester has been nothing short of remarkable.

Our coverage of faculty contract negotiations in late August and early September brought historic highs in engagement, with a new high-water mark of over 20,000 page views in a single day being set. We're proud to report that momentum in readership from that period carried over throughout the fall.

The Post's website has received well over 200,000 page views since the beginning of the semester. In all likelihood, by the official end of the fall term, we will surpass the entire year of 2020 in total number of page views in just the past three months.

In October, our page views increased year-over-year by approximately 75%. During November, our page views more than doubled the total number of page views from Nov. 2020, with analytics showing an increase of approximately 125%.

We are incredibly grateful to have experienced such strong and sustained readership. All of the emails, comments and letters to the editor are indicators that we're doing our job engaging the campus community. So thank you readers, and stay with us because there's sure to be plenty of news during the winter semester.

Next I want to express how thankful I am for

the incredible team of people that we have on staff at The Post for the 2021-2022 school year. I am constantly in awe of the talent we have in this group. It's because of their hard work that all of this is possible.

I have to mention our Content Editor Lauren Reid and Managing Editor Bridget Janis. They're my right-hand people helping me oversee everything at The Post. They're fabulous individuals, and just outstanding leaders and community builders.

Perhaps our biggest accomplishment of the semester was getting our print issue back up to 20 pages, something we hadn't been able to do since before COVID-19. Bridget and Lauren were instrumental in the push for 20 pages.

It was their vision and persistence that really made me see how ready we were to accomplish that goal. I can't thank them enough for all that they do. Everyone on our staff is better off because they get to work with them.

I look forward to getting back to 24 pages in the winter. Heading into the next semester, we've got 35 people on staff. The people that have been around doing the work are better at their jobs than they've ever been, and our recent hires are talented and hungry to get to work. I'm excited to see what we'll be able to accomplish together before the end of the school year.

For me personally this semester was life changing. In my first letter from the editor last May, I wrote about how fortunate I felt to be leading The Post as the community returned to campus. At the time I knew I was excited, but of course the reality of the last few months has exceeded any reasonable expectation.

The love and support that I've received not just from within our organization, but from other

students, faculty and on-campus staff has been tremendous. It's something that will stick with me for the rest of my life.

Of course, it takes a community to put together and publish a newspaper. I'm thankful to be a part of this community. You all inspire me to do my best work. So again, thank you.



PHOTO BY AYMAN ISHIMWE
The Oakland Post's Editor-in-Chief Jeff Thomas.

I'm Jeff Thomas, editor-in-chief of The Oakland Post. Thanks for taking the time to read this final letter of the semester. I wish you all a happy holiday season with your friends and family. I'll see you guys in January.

O'rena to host first in-person graduation during COVID-19 era

BRIDGET JANIS

Managing Editor

Students look forward to the emotionally bittersweet graduation ceremony that marks the end of their time at OU. For their part, the university always seems ecstatic and prepared in hosting the ceremony event for their graduates.

Last year, due to COVID-19, OU performed a drive through ceremony in place of the in-person ceremony that is usually held at the end of each semester. But this year the university decided to host the in-person ceremonies at the O'rena.

"This year, we're going back to our traditional ceremonies as if there was no COVID, with the exception of everyone being masked," Theawiana Bracewell, an event manager for OU Academic Affairs said. "We're going back to our roots."

Commencement takes place Friday, Dec. 17 at 9 a.m. for the College of Arts and Sciences and for the Bachelor's of Integrated Studies. Again at 1 p.m. for all the professional schools, which includes the School of Business Administration, School of Education and Human Services, School of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Health Science, Health Sciences in School of Nursing. Then there will be a separate ceremony on Dec. 18 at 9 a.m. for all the university's masters and doctoral students.

At the ceremony there will be the traditional agenda of President Pescovitz addressing the

students. There will also be one honorary degree recipient at the Dec. 17 ceremony who will be given the option to speak if they want to. All the Deans will be present at the events and address the students at the ceremony. There will also be an undergraduate student award winner that will be offered the opportunity to speak as well.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
Oakland University's O'rena is going to be hosting an in-person graduating ceremony for the end of the winter semester.

And lastly, there will be a student award winner that will be speaking at the College of Arts and Sciences ceremony.

Students are offered three guests for the ceremony and all guests and students will be required to wear masks during the ceremony.

"Getting [things] back to a normal basis before COVID," Bracewell said. "So we're hoping and we're anticipating that everyone understands that we're trying to make the university seem [like before the pandemic]."

There will also be a livestream link that will be provided on the day of on the Oakland University website. This allows for anyone that can't attend or does not feel comfortable attending to still be able to see the ceremony.

Graduating students are excited to be offered an in-person ceremony, and look forward to having the feeling of normalcy during their last moments of college.

"I was really excited when I found out commencement would be held in person this semester," Madeline Mason, Senior, Public Relations and Strategic Communications said. "I'm thankful OU is taking the proper precautions to make it a possibility for us. I can't wait to walk across the stage and feel the magnitude of my accomplishments, it's such a special moment for graduates."

As of now, OU is planning to have an in-person spring commencement while carefully monitoring the COVID-19 cases in Michigan.

Winter Grizz Fest to showcase student involvement on campus

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

The annual Oakland University Winter Grizz Fest is kicking off on Tuesday, Jan. 11, and Wednesday, Jan. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on both event days.

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the event will occur in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center (OC). Organizations participating on this day include: fraternity and sorority organizations, Student Activity Fund Assessment Committee (SAFAC), various OU departments and offices and preferred vendors.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12, the event will take place in the Founders Ball Rooms of the OC. Organizations tabling on this day will encompass various student organizations and club sports. Other organizations expected to attend are academic organizations, Undergraduate Healthcare Leaders, Neurology Club, Chess Club of OU, Improv of OU and faith-based organizations.

Winter Grizz Fest is organized by the Office for Student Involvement (OSI). They are striving to have 100+ tables at Grizz Fest while still being COVID-19 cautious.

“We want students to have the full college experience even if they are living at home,” Stephanie Jurva, OSI assistant director of student programs, said. “So that way, they can get involved in different student organizations. Some are academic, some are just plain social for fun — for example, we have club sports, and we have fraternities and sororities. So, we have a wide range of things. Whatever people have an interest in, they can find a way to meet other people with the same interests.”

It is immensely important for OU students to get involved with the university outside of class, especially with OU being a primarily commuter school, where it is very easy for students to just go to class then go home. Joining organizations allows students to become more marketable, meet new people, expand their horizons, improve their resumes and gain new skills.

“I know we’re mainly a commuter school, but that involvement is absolutely critical,” Jean Ann Miller, OSI senior director, said. “All of these involvements will enhance their skill level, leadership level and also their resume. You need to get the full college experience, and being involved is the full college experience — even for commuter students. You also get connected to the university you’re going to. You’re enhancing whatever you’re learning in the classroom.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSI
Student organizations participate in the 2021 Fall Grizz Fest.

There’s a lot students can gain from attending this event. They can see what organizations have to offer as well as what they can bring to the table. Students have a wide range of opportunities to become involved, have fun, attend exciting events and meet new people.

“It shows students that there is a lot of organizations on campus,” Jennifer Yetter, OSI programming assistant, said. “Getting involved is easy. Just by going up the stairs to the ballrooms, they can see that we have a ton of student organizations on campus. They definitely can find a good one to join. It’s a lot of fun, and hopefully, Grizz Fest will give them a little taste of all the cool activities we do in our office and everything.”

The organizations tabling at the Winter Grizz Fest will display what their organization is all about. As a result, they can grow their participation in events and gain more members in general.

“Hopefully, they’ll gain more participants in their organization and everything,” Yetter said. “Get a wider pool of students who want to participate in events and their actual organization. With students organizations, they’re always looking for new leaders to take on when the seniors end up leaving and stuff. I know for a fact that our student organizations are hungry for more students to participate in what they’re doing and be members of their organization.”

It is important to note the Winter Grizz Fest is open to all students no matter class standing. Upperclassmen are highly encouraged to attend this event as it is never too late to get involved.

For student organizations looking to participate and table at this event, visit Campus Labs.

Student organizations host Stress Less Day amid finals

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

Several student organizations joined together on Thursday, Dec. 2 to host an 11-hour stress relief event: Stress Less Day. The event took place from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. at various spots in and around the Oakland Center (OC). All students were encouraged to participate in different activities to help relieve stress associated with the last week of classes and exams.

The event was put together by several organizations at OU, including: the Office of Student Involvement (OSI), Student Video Productions (SVP), Student Program Board (SPB), The Tutoring Center, Residence Life Association (RLA), Hillel — a Jewish student organization and the Leadership and Volunteer Center (LVC).

Stress Less Day began with a blood drive in O’Dowd Hall sponsored by the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) and OSI. Other activities at the start of the event included multiple coloring stations in The Habitat and crafts for service projects, which were sponsored by LVC, in the garage across from the OSI office.

Snacks were provided by several different organizations inside the OC throughout the course of the event. The OSI had set up a long table in The Habitat stocked with chips, popcorn, Blaze Pizza coupon kits and OU reusable lunch boxes.

Afternoon activities included therapy dogs, string art and massage chairs sponsored by SPB, two

movies sponsored by SVP — “Elf” and “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” — and holiday crafts sponsored by RLA. There was also the continuation of an all day elf-on-the-shelf hunt sponsored by the OSI.

SVP sponsored a booth outside of the OC near Elliott Clock Tower from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. called “Smash Station.” Students were able to throw ceramic plates at a wall inside the booth as a means of getting their anxieties and frustrations out as they approach final exams.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Student Video Productions (SVP) stationed outside during Stress Less Day.

Hannah M., freshman, hoped activities like the “Smash Station” would relieve her anxieties before her finals next week.

“I’ve just been really stressed out because of all my exams and work,” she said. “I smashed some plates earlier and it was really fun, and actually kind of helped.”

With the last week of instruction and final exams fastly approaching, students can easily get overwhelmed with final coursework and studying. To help students check in on themselves and each other during these rigorous weeks, there were posters displayed throughout The Habitat encouraging students to take care of their mental health.

Stress Less Day provided an engaging and creative outlet for students to take a step back from the pressure of school. Charlie L., senior, was excited about the chance to distract himself from coursework for a few hours.

“I’m happy that I had something to do between my classes that wasn’t homework,” he said. “It’s cool that this is all day and there’s so many things I could be doing [at the event].”

As the fall semester comes to an end, campus events put together by these organizations will start back up in January with the beginning of the winter semester. Students interested in diving back into campus activities during the new semester should keep an eye out for posts on GrizzOrgs and flyers around campus for events being put on by these organizations.

Linguistics Department offers new speech language pathology minor

SARAH GUDENAU

Features Editor

The Linguistics Department at Oakland University has a new minor program in speech language pathology (SLP) that launched during the fall 2021 semester. The program prepares students for graduate studies in SLP and their careers in the field beyond education — in which they'll work with a variety of patients "to evaluate, diagnose and treat speech, language and swallowing difficulties," according to U.S. News.

Department Chair and Associate Professor Kuniko Nielson, Ph.D. took the initiative to create the minor in 2018. According to Dr. Nielson, all the required courses for the SLP minor count toward the requirements of many SLP post-baccalaureate programs — with the exception of LIN 2201, Introduction to Linguistics.

"Having an Intro to Linguistics course among the SLP requirements makes us [OU] stand out from other programs because our students will have a deeper understanding of human language," Dr. Nielson says. "Degrees in SLP are typically offered by departments such as Hearing and Speech or Communication Sciences and Disorders at most institutions. According to our alumni who became speech language pathologists, knowing linguistics helped them become better speech language pathologists."

Third year student Alivia English is graduating this spring from OU with a major in linguistics and a minor in SLP, with the goal of working as a medical speech language pathologist. She originally intended to graduate in three years because of the post-baccalaureate year that is required for many graduate programs, but she likely will no longer need to take that

year with the new SLP minor.

"With the SLP minor at Oakland, I will be able to get into some schools without taking any additional classes after I graduate," English says. "Some schools I'll have to take one or two classes this summer if I decide to go there, but this minor has definitely helped a lot with saving time and money for that extra year."

Additionally, up to 12 credits of overlap are allowed between a major in linguistics and a minor in SLP. Linguistics, though, is not the only major that can pair well with an SLP minor.

The program has also seen psychology majors, and it may be attractive to communication students with an interest in American Sign Language. A faculty member from the School of Music, Theatre and Dance contacted Dr. Nielson and explained that some vocalists are also interested in SLP — as they study the International Phonetic Alphabet in their classes.

To become a speech language pathologist in Michigan, students must complete a graduate-level degree in SLP — which typically takes two years — before applying for licensure.

Speech language pathologists may work in a variety of settings, including nursing and residential care facilities, hospitals, educational services and private practices. Salary varies depending on the work environment.

According to Northeastern University, the number of speech language pathologists is expected to increase by approximately 25% between 2019 and 2029, which amounts to around 40,500 open positions in the next decade.

"It is a meaningful job because you're helping people communicate, but also in this economy, I think it's quite special to have some skill set which pays right away," Dr. Nielson said.

New Geographic Information Science minor offers unique opportunities

JOEY COLBY

Contributor

There is a new minor at Oakland University, introduced in August 2021. The Geographic Information Science (GIS) minor is a 20 credit minor situated in the Department of Anthropology, Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice.

GIS is a rapidly growing field. The technology and science behind GIS brings geography into all careers. The comprehensive knowledge of the GIS minor makes students competitive for careers. Students will have a healthier career outlook and stronger job security.

Associate Professor of Anthropology Jon Carroll, Professor of Environmental Science Jonathan Weyhrauch and GIS student Nicholas Psenicka spoke about the minor and internship possibilities.

"What makes us different at Oakland, is that we not only teach the science and software, we show students how to take the knowledge out into the world and do things with it," Carroll said. "Theories, methods, science and techniques are each part of the GIS software — there is great flexibility in this minor and the usage of the technology."

The three core courses for the minor are:

AN 3800 — Intro to Geographic Information Systems

AN 3801 — Principles of Cartography

AN 3802 — Satellite Photography

The science and technology from GIS is used in navigation systems, traffic engineering, meteorology, agriculture, environmental science and sociology. The minor is open to substitutions from other courses, as well as internships or research for a capstone project.

The mapping technology of GIS allows for topographic and cartographic analysis of urban and

rural environments. With the advent of affordable drone technology, many businesses and nonprofits are utilizing this technology to economically innovate and grow.

Weyhrauch is the founder of Reroot Pontiac. Reroot Pontiac is a local non-profit that focuses on creating sustainable technology and green infrastructure that offers numerous internship opportunities.

"The educational value of a GIS minor translates into great internship and employment opportunities," Weyhrauch said. "Reroot Pontiac has been using this technology for specific mapping of our orchards and the mapping of food deserts."

GIS technology is used in the mapping of climate change and the area effects that infrastructure has had. The placement of businesses such as Starbucks rely on this technology to help them determine locations which are high traffic. Using drones and satellite imagery to create maps has unlimited uses.

Psenicka, an intern at Reroot Pontiac minoring in GIS, developed a map showing the construction of the DOW chemical containment pond from the years 1953, 1959, 1973 and 2020.

"A picture may be worth a thousand words, but a map is worth a million," Psenicka said. "I feel very confident in the education I am receiving from this minor, Dr. Carroll is an outstanding professor."

There is a lot of versatility in a myriad of majors. A background in GIS gives students the ability to solve complex problems and develop new perspectives through geographic spatial analysis. Students who are majoring in public health and public administration can use this technology to help with zoning and land applications. Students majoring in women and gender studies can use this information to help with urban planning and develop.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. NIELSON

The Linguistics Department at OU is now offering an SLP minor. The minor will prepare students for SLP graduate studies.

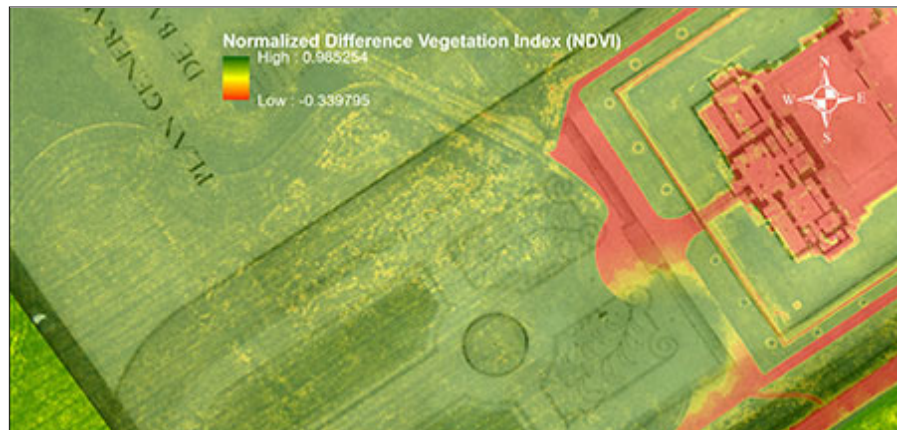


PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY NEWS

Drone imagery utilizing GIS software.

OU students comment on COVID-19 college experience

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

Students at Oakland University, no matter their major or year, generally feel the same way about attending college during the pandemic: pretty bad.

COVID-19 has proved a challenge to many universities, OU being no exception. Four OU students share their experiences and how they feel OU has handled the pandemic.

Ryan Shiemke, junior, Marketing

How was your learning experience during the past year with COVID-19?

Last fall was pretty bad, I was expecting my classes to be all in-person and they ended up being all online. This year it's not too bad — the professors' overreliance on what they did for online classes makes the in-person experience worse.

Do you feel safe in your face-to-face classes?

Depends on the professor's mask restrictions, but with masks and knowing most students are vaccinated, I feel safe.

Do you think OU has handled COVID-19 effectively?

I think they are doing a good job enforcing masks. Communicating the case numbers, vaccination numbers and positive cases they have done poorly. It took four days before I found out I was in close contact. It was unwise to tie the vaccination status to the honor code.

Liv Kunkle, junior, Theatre Design and Technology

How was your learning experience during the past year with COVID-19?

Pretty bad, I felt like I wasn't getting a good education because all of the hands-on learning was gone. Because



PHOTO BY JOE ZERILLI

Ryan Shiemke showing the two faces of wearing a mask.

I was separated from my peers, I wasn't getting the opportunity to collaborate and work on stuff in a team. Everybody was in a bad mood and suffering, which made the learning environment suffer.

Do you prefer in-person classes or online and why?

In-person classes because I feel they are more stimulating and keep me engaged. I feel less connected to the material in an online class.

Do you think OU has handled COVID-19 effectively?

I don't know if there really was or is a way to handle COVID-19 effectively. I think they handled some things far better than other universities — tuition reimbursement, mask mandates — but others they really failed at — communication, enforcing vaccination mandates, student support.

Kai Gatt, sophomore, Anthropology

How was your learning experience during the past year with COVID-19?

Last year, I enjoyed my time here at OU during COVID-19. Although my learning experience was different from previous years, I still had a good year.

Do you prefer in-person classes or online and why?

I prefer online classes while staying on campus. [I like] being able to go at my pace or taking the time that I need to do any work.

Do you think OU has handled COVID-19 effectively?

I believe that OU has handled COVID-19 efficiently. I do believe that now that everyone is now vaccinated, people should have the choice to wear a mask.

Myth Parks, junior, Creative Writing

How was your learning experience during the past year with COVID-19?

My learning experience with COVID-19 was rough. Over video calls we could never get into a good flow of conversation for classes. COVID-19 also disrupted my study habits and time management. My teachers were accommodating as much as possible, but it was hard to keep up with online classes.

Do you prefer in-person classes or online and why?

In-person classes. I feel like I get better collaboration with my teachers and peers face-to-face.

Do you think OU has handled COVID-19 effectively?

I think OU did a good job at handling COVID-19. I liked their enforcement of mask mandates and social distancing, however I wish the school had allowed more support with the switch to online. Labs like art and science were very lacking online but the same amount of work and price.

Network of enlightened Women empowers students on campus

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

There is a "NeW" club at Oakland University for students who are searching for a community of hardworking and independent-minded conservative women. The Network of enlightened Women (NeW) has a definitive goal — to educate, equip and empower its members.

NeW meets twice a month on Thursday and Friday evenings and is free for anyone to attend. The student organization is a safe space for participants to learn, debate and grow as individuals.

"This club empowers women through hosting open policy discussions where women can explore facts and form their opinion on societal issues," President Erika Head said.

The group discussions are one of the focal points of joining NeW. Every month a new topic is introduced for club members to debate on. Typically, debate topics address academics or policy, and for each discussion articles are provided to participants to assist them in opinion development.

"Women will walk away with more knowledge on educational topics," Head says. "Women will feel equipped to step into their role in society, and women will be empowered with knowledge as they are surrounded by like-minded friends who all want each other to succeed."

Support and friendship are especially important to

the both NeW e-board and the group members alike.

"It's an amazing group full of friendly, like-minded people that make you feel like you've always been a part of the group," member Heidi Beaton says.

Other NeW benefits include resume workshops, interview prep and job search tips to assist women entering the workforce. This club also functions as a way for members to make professional connections and can be a helpful addition to a resume.

These connections allow for confidence-building, networking and the assemblage of a community where participants are supported by each other in all aspects of life.

Members also participate in team-building events. At the most recent club event, members met for dinner, built gingerbread houses and filled out holiday cards for children in the hospital. Other events have included an ice cream study session and cider mill social.

Each event allows for members to connect with each other and walk away with the knowledge that they have expanded their circle on campus. Exciting activities are already in the pipeline for the winter semester as well.

"Next semester NeW will be hosting a variety of exciting events," Head says. "We will be hosting professional development sessions with resume workshops and mock interviews, [as well as] a book club, Galentine's day party and a speaker event."

While the group identifies as conservative, NeW is a judgement free zone where all are welcome.

"The benefits of joining the Network of enlightened Women are creating lifelong friendships and

connections with members, as well as attending unique team building events," Head says.

By joining NeW, members will walk away with lifelong connections, more awareness about societal issues and skills that will assist them in life after graduation.

Those interested in the Network of enlightened Women can find them on Instagram @newatoaklanduniversity.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW ON INSTAGRAM

NeW members at the most recent event on Dec. 2. The group met for dinner, built gingerbread houses and filled out holiday cards for children in the hospital.

Mandate update: Winter semester deadline, faculty concerns

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

Last weekend via social media, the university announced a deadline of Dec. 13 for uploading vaccine information ahead of the winter semester. At this point it is unclear to students and faculty what the consequences will be of not complying with that deadline.

"I have not heard anything about disenrollment," President of the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (OU AAUP) and Associate Professor of History Karen Miller said. "Not for students in this semester, nor have I heard a policy stated for disenrollment next semester. It was implied that students who were not compliant in the fall would not be allowed to take their classes in the winter until they had proven vaccination status. But that was implied. I have not seen that written anywhere."

As of writing, the COVID-19 dashboard indicates that 9% of students with at least one on-campus course (1,267) have received an approved exemption (religious or medical) and 5% of those students (687) have not complied with uploading proof of at least dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 is currently surging in Michigan, with a 23% increase in new cases reported over the last two weeks. In the last seven days, Oakland County has reported 926 new cases and Macomb County has reported 747.

The seven day average for new cases in the state is 7,768. These numbers, combined with the emergence of the Omicron variant, have heightened safety concerns among the campus community. "Given the numbers in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne County ... It makes

me very nervous," Miller said. "I'm not sure that 'protecting the rights,' to use Dean Wadsworth's terms, of non-compliant students should be held in superior value to the potential threat to other students."

There were two previous deadlines for compliance with the mandate of Sept. 10 for one dose and Oct. 8 for a second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. In an interview in September, Dean of Students Mike Wadsworth indicated that the mandate would be enforced on a case-by-case basis via the student code of conduct. As of writing, it is unclear whether non-compliant students faced any consequences during the fall semester for failing to upload their vaccination documents.

Heading into the winter semester, OU AAUP members would like to see continued improvements to vaccine mandate enforcement.

"In general, I think most of our faculty would like to see a quicker and more diligent enforcement of the mandate," Miller said. "... I have heard rumors, I don't know if they're correct, about extraordinary laxity in terms of granting the weekly tests. As long as we have the weekly tests, and as long as people are then being yanked out of class, if they don't take the test, I can live with that ...

But if that's not enforced rigorously, then we've got a problem."

While faculty play a significant role in enforcing campus COVID-19 procedures like the mask mandate, they are not allowed to know which students are and aren't vaccinated in their classes.

The agreement between the university and OU AAUP requires the university to notify any faculty member who is currently teaching an in-person class of 25 or more students with a 15% or greater unvaccinated student population. Professors teaching courses with less than 25 students are not notified if there's a significant percentage of unvaccinated students in their classes.

"Faculty in all of the classrooms where there are 25 or more registered students ... if 15% of the students aren't vaccinated, then faculty get notified," Miller said. "Now, that doesn't [include] small laboratory classes. We have a number of faculty who teach where the circumstances are the students are all pretty much shoulder to shoulder, but the class size is lower than 25. So they don't even fall under the agreement. So those faculty are reasonably concerned."

The Post has an interview scheduled with Wadsworth this Wednesday afternoon and will be following up with more details on the mandate.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
Doses of the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine that the university made available last spring. Heading into the winter semester there is uncertainty about the vaccine mandate.

OUWB students' organization nominated for Billion Acts of Peace award

GRACE LOVINS

Senior Reporter

In Michigan, 1 in 8 people is faced with hunger, totaling out to almost 1,300,000 Michigan residents — including children. The Detroit Food Policy Council reports that roughly 48% of households in Detroit are considered food insecure.

Two students from Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) aim to change food insecurity and the food gap in Detroit with their non-profit organization, Detroit Feedback Loop (DFL). The organization has reportedly provided over 50,000 meals to local shelters and soup kitchens in the area.

As a result of their efforts and dedication to "bridging the gap between excess food and hunger," DFL is a finalist nominee for the 2021 Billion Acts of Peace award — an initiative led by 14 Nobel Peace Laureates showcasing campaigns that bring communities together around an issue or shared goal.

Co-founders Nicholas Ang and Camilla Cascardo started DFL while earning their undergraduate degrees at Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit. Ang and Cascardo attribute the founding of the non-profit to witnessing excessive food-waste at campus dining locations.

"We were both living on campus and we would go to the cafeterias to eat every meal. We saw that a lot of the food from the cafeteria was being wasted and would go back on the conveyor belts where people would put their plates back to get washed," Cascardo said. "We thought that was kind of a juxtaposition to all the homelessness we were seeing in Detroit right outside of our campus, and we thought that maybe we could do something about it."

Ang and Cascardo began by collaborating with the chefs from WSU's cafeterias, who appreciated the idea of donating prepared food that had been untouched by students to local shelters. Cascardo stated that although the chefs were on-board with the idea, they were weary about the legal aspects that stem from food donations.

"That inspired me and Nick to start an organization where we could take on that legal burden and then be the middle-man to transport the food to the shelters," Cascardo said. "From there [we] grew and grew and began transporting food — not only from our cafeterias, but from places like Whole Foods, other grocery stores, bakeries and restaurants all around Detroit."

Ang states that he and Cascardo faced pushback from WSU administration, with about six months going by between the offering of their first donations

from WSU and the completion of the administration's approval process.

DFL has been able to provide donations to several shelters in Detroit, including Detroit Rescue Mission, Detroit Veterans Center and multiple women and children's shelters.

Both of the co-founders expressed their gratitude and excitement about being nominated for such a highly-regarded award in the field of community impact and acts of peace.

"Hearing all of the other finalists' and nominees' stories — it's pretty incredible," Ang said. "We're really

honored to have been included in a cohort that's as impressive as they are."

Although the organization has only been around since 2017, DFL has done substantial work in providing meals for low-income or homeless individuals in the Detroit area. Ang and Cascardo have big goals for DFL, and hope to encourage engagement from students at WSU and continual awareness of food insecurity in the community.

"The biggest goal [...] is creating opportunity for student leadership and getting students engaged in the community," Ang said. "We really felt like we learned a lot from creating this organization and were able to help a lot of people in the process, but the biggest thing that stuck with us was the knowledge — we are able to see a problem and create a solution where essentially we can attack that problem head-on. We wanted to create a chance for students to have a similar experience and engage with the community surrounding them."

Cascardo shared an additional goal for the non-profit — to become a recognizable name in the city. She hopes businesses aiming to give donations will feel they can rely on DFL to provide a safe and secure route, and that shelters will recognize DFL as a go-to source for donations.



PHOTO BY NOORA NEIROUKH
A snowy exterior shot of O'Dowd Hall, home to OUWB.

Campus community responds to tragic school shooting in Oxford

JEFF THOMAS

Editor-in-Chief

Members of OU's campus community have responded with an outpouring of support for those that were impacted by the unspeakable tragedy that took place yesterday at Oxford High School.

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz released the following statement in support of the community early this morning.

"Our hearts and deepest sympathies go out to the families of those who lost their lives in the horrific shooting at Oxford High School. We will continue to hope for a full recovery for the students and teacher who were injured."

President of OU's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors and Professor of History Karen Miller released this statement last night.

"We are all deeply alarmed by the incidents at Oxford High School today. Those impacted are our family, our neighbors, members of our community. They are grieving today, even if they have not experienced a personal loss. If you know someone who was affected, I encourage you to reach out with human kindness. I'm sure your students or colleagues who have friends and relatives at Oxford High would appreciate words of comfort. Take care, hug your loved ones tonight."

Student Body President and Oxford High

School graduate Andrew Romano shared his support and perspective about the tragedy last night.

"To all in the University Community,

First and foremost, we would like to express our deepest sympathy to all of the students, teachers, staff, families and community members affected by the horrific shooting at Oxford High School. We stand with the Oxford community. No one should feel unsafe while they are trying to pursue an education.

As a member of the Oxford Community, I can say it has been a tough day for our small town. To my fellow Oxford Alumni and other OU students who are impacted by this tragedy, I encourage you to take care of your mental health. Keep in mind that at an already stressful time of the semester, it's okay to feel overwhelmed. If you need to talk with someone, please contact the campus counseling center. Free sessions are available this year and they can be contacted at (248) 370-3465.

For much of our lives as students, we have been conscious of the ever-present threat of gun violence in our schools. Every year, we hear of gun violence in a school somewhere in the United States, and every year, we hope that we never have to experience that violence in our own community. Unfortunately, some in our community are hurting today, and for many of us, this is the first time we have been faced with this chilling reality. The unimaginable devastation caused today will

not soon be forgotten."

Thoughts and prayers have their place, but they are not going to end the public health crisis of gun violence. Please allow everyone time to process what has transpired before engaging in the necessary conversations surrounding gun control."

The OU Police Department put out their statement last night in support of the victims and first responders.

"Thinking about all those impacted by the senseless violence that occurred today at Oxford High School. We are thinking about all those whose lives were forever changed & for those first responders who responded to the call of duty and provided safety, support, and care to everyone."

The OU AAUP faculty union followed up today on social media with additional resources for students who have been affected by the tragedy.

"Many of our faculty have expressed concerns about their students who, already struggling this semester, are now dealing with yesterday's violence and its aftermath. We are gathering resources from faculty and students so our members have them on hand both for themselves and for their students. The last two links on the list are geared specifically towards faculty/teachers/parents

and offer guidance in dealing with students. We'll continue to share more resources as they come to our attention.

- <https://oakland.edu/oucc/>
- <https://oakland.edu/counseling/sehs-cc/>
- <https://commongroundhelps.org>
- <https://wxyz.com/.../managing-mental-health-here-is-a-...>
- <https://schoolcounselor.org/.../After-a-School-Shooting>
- <https://www.nctsn.org/.../terro.../school-shooting-resources>

Students struggling are encouraged to reach out and seek support in the community. The Oakland University Counseling Center (OUCC) is offering free sessions to students this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A photo of the outside view of Oxford High School taken Tuesday following the tragic shooting that killed four students and left seven others injured.

Ways to feel festive, get in the holiday spirit and stay safe this break

JOE ZERILLI

Senior Reporter

As Oakland University enters its second COVID-19 winter, students are once again looking for ways to enjoy their break while remaining safe.

Luckily, even though winters in Michigan can be rough, there is no shortage of ways to enjoy the holiday season. Just be sure to bring your coats and mittens while checking out these festive activities.

The Holidays at Meadow Brook

In our backyard, The Holidays at Meadow Brook has been a staple at OU for the past 50 years. Now featuring two different events, it's a great way to get into the holiday spirit without heading too far.

The first event, the Holiday Walk, is roughly an hour-long, self-guided walk through Meadow Brook Hall which is fully decked-out in lights and displays. All three stories of the mansion are decorated with lights, trees and more.

"It's essentially what we're known for," says Shannon O'Berski, Meadow Brook Hall's director of external relations. "It's just opulent and over-the-top and it's absolutely beautiful."

Making its debut this year is an outdoor tour called Winter Wonder Lights

where you can explore the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall completely revamped for the holiday season. The tour takes place in the evening and features spectacles such as a pegasus flying across a light display.

"You can definitely see the heart and soul of this experience when you come through here, and you see all the work that's put into this and the uniqueness that is this light show," O'Berski says.

Both shows have an OU night where tickets for students are \$5 and they can bring friends and family for the day at only \$12 opposed to the regular \$22 for the Winter Lights and \$20 for the Holiday Walk. OU night is Dec. 16 for Winter Lights and Dec. 19 for Holiday Walk.

The Big, Bright Lights Show

A staple of Rochester, the Big, Bright Lights Show decorates the buildings on Main Street in roughly 1.5 million lights. The show is completely free, and the lights are lit every evening from 5 p.m. until midnight.

The executive director of the Rochester Development Authority (DDA), Kristi Trevarrow, says the idea came in 2005 when the "economy wasn't super great" and it was created to draw attention to downtown Rochester. It was inspired by a Disney

World display called "The Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights."

It isn't just about the lights — a big part is to support small businesses and local shopping. While walking or driving down Main be sure to stop by and get involved — whether that be grabbing some cocoa or checking out some of the local businesses.

"These are memory making moments that the light show creates," Trevarrow says. "People make these special memories in front of the show and you just can't get that anywhere else."

Campus Martius Park

Campus Martius is an essential part of Downtown Detroit and has been since its inception in 2004. It is located on Woodward Avenue and was named a "Top Public Square" by USA Today in 2021.

The park features a flashy tree with half a million lights, as well as The Rink, an outdoor ice skating rink that anyone can use no matter their skill level. Tickets range from \$8 to \$11 and you can even rent skates for only \$5.

After you are done skating, feel free to visit one of the two restaurants located just next door. The Fountain Detroit and Parc are open during the holiday season and offer a wide variety of food and drinks.

Whether you decide to see some



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK
Downtown Rochester's Big, Bright Lights Show decorates the buildings on Main Street in roughly 1.5 million lights.

lights, go skating or just stay at home, be sure to stay safe and enjoy yourself over break.

Current OU students and Oxford High School alumni share thoughts on tragic shooting

GABRIELLE ABDELMESSIH
Campus Editor

On Nov. 30, a 15-year-old student allegedly opened fire at Oxford High School (OHS), killing four fellow students and injuring six others as well as a teacher.

Oakland University is the nearest public university to OHS, with many students, staff and faculty being connected to both communities. Andrew Romano, student body president and OHS graduate, penned a letter to the university community on the day of the shooting to acknowledge this connection and the people affected.

“Unfortunately, some in our community are hurting today, and for many of us, this is the first time we have been faced with this chilling reality. The unimaginable devastation caused today will not soon be forgotten,” Romano wrote.

Romano, who still lives in the Oxford area, has friends and family that are currently students at OHS.

He first heard something was going at the high school when his mother, who was with him at the time, got an emergency text from the district because she is a parent of a child who attends school in the district.

“Getting that news was gut-

wrenching...it was surreal,” Romano said. “They didn’t even say if there was a shooter or what had been going on, so then I checked my messages, and I started seeing messages from friends. One of the first messages I got was from somebody that was near [the shooting] and had run out of the building. Hearing that from a friend and that there was a shooter, it was a lot.”

Mackenzie Nichols, junior, OHS alumna and former assistant OHS ski coach, described her account of when her sister, an OHS senior, told her there was a gunman in the building.

“At 12:52 my sister texted our family group chat, both of my parents were at work, ‘I love you guys so much’...‘Someone has a gun.’ I called my parents at work and both rushed to Oxford,” Nichols said.

On the day of the shooting, Nichols’ sister didn’t follow her usual after-lunch routine, which typically involves visiting a friend at a location nearby a school bathroom, but instead went straight to class. According to Nichols, the alleged shooter pulled on the classroom door, which is only two doors down from the bathroom where a part of the shooting took place, based on multiple accounts.

Nichols expressed gratitude for Cam, a student who “likely saved the lives of everyone in that classroom,” by slamming the door, putting the night lock in place, and stacking desks as a barrier as well as for whatever the reason may have been that her sister decided to go straight to class instead.

“I am forever grateful for her guardian angel that told her to go to class, or for her lack of sleep due to her studies because it told her she needed to go to class,” Nichols emphasized.

Like many of the students, staff, and faculty of OHS, Nichols’ sister is experiencing both the anxiety and fear generated by such a heinous act compounded by the grief of losing friends and loved ones.

“My sister has survivor’s remorse. She questions why it was her friends and not her — she was close with Riley, Kylie and Justin [victims of the shooting]. She questions why she went to class and didn’t follow her usual after lunch routine. She questions why such beautiful humans were taken from this earth,” Nichols said.

People from across the metro-Detroit area have been holding

vigils and raising funds to cover medical expenses and for the much-needed items that students might have left in the school in an act of solidarity and support for Oxford.

“The Oxford community will never be the same. We lost beautiful individuals — heroes — that made this world a better place. Over time, we will slowly, very slowly start to heal, but we will never ever forget,” Nichols said. “For those of the [Oxford] community, please live your lives in a way that will make those that we have lost unbelievably proud. Be there for your family, your friends, or for any individual that may need you.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIME MAGAZINE
Governor Gretchen Whitmer paying her respects and honoring the victims at a memorial outside Oxford High School.

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Federal, State and/or County funding has been provided through the Oakland Community Health Network Office of Substance Use Disorders to support project costs.

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Posties share their favorite holiday specials

With winter break finally upon us, we’ve compiled the Posties must-watch holiday film favorites. You’re sure to enjoy your well-deserved time off watching these classics with a cup of hot cocoa.

Design by: Carolina Landeros
Story by: The Oakland Post Staff



“The Polar Express” — Lauren Reid, Content Editor

As I ~age~, this movie randomly affects me on an increasingly deep level. There's absolutely no way I'll ever be able to watch without frantically looking for a bell and ramming it into my ear to make sure I still believe in Santa. Also, the emotional rollercoaster involving that moment on Santa's sleigh with the first gift of Christmas — so sweet and endearing — subsequently being ripped apart by the hole in the pocket, and then tied back together at the end is just pure brilliance, you know? And yeah, that annoying kid on the train? Unfortunately for me, that's probably what my offspring will turn out like.

“Serendipity”— Gabrielle Abdelmessih, Campus Editor

As The Post's self-proclaimed romantic comedy expert, I've seen some of the best films of the genre revolve around the holidays. “Serendipity” was written about this before, but the chemistry between J. Lo and Bill Murray — you believe in destiny — if only for one hour and thirty minutes, I am tempted to wait in the gloves section of a crowded store and hope for the best.



“A Year Without a Santa Claus” — Bridget Janis, Managing Editor

The claymation movies hold a special place in my heart and have this specific holiday feeling that you can't get from any other movie. The appearance of Heat Miser and Snow Miser and their collaboration on a song gets me in the perfect holiday spirit every time, because I am like Heat Miser, hot. This movie can hit every emotion in one hour long film, with the song “I'll Have a Blue Christmas” making me feel sad every time I hear it. While I prefer the warm weather, this film makes me appreciate living in Michigan and having the opportunity to play in the snow. The Christmas spirit that is spread throughout the town in this film makes me want to create that scenario in my own city, which I don't think would be impossible to do. #TeamHeatMiser

“Spongebob Squarepants’ - Christmas Who?” — Marissa

Every year around Christmas time, my sister and I will watch the special holiday Christmas episode of “Spongebob Squarepants” [not the regular episode]. We just have so much nostalgia for this episode from our TV Christmas morning when we were kids. Plus, the song “Christmas Who?” that's probably the biggest reason we go back to this episode.



“Merry Christmas, Drake and Josh” — Carolina Landeros, Graphic Designer

What better way to celebrate the holiday season than to combine the best TV show and the best holiday? The iconic sibling duo, Drake and Josh, never fail to make me laugh, and this movie is no exception. It brings a sense of nostalgia to me everytime I watch it, it's like living in the 2000s all over again. It provides a feeling of both giving and being grateful through the holiday season, which is what Christmas is all about.

“Last Christmas” — Rachel Yim, Senior Reporter

“Last Christmas, I gave you my heart.” If you watch this movie, you know — when I say this, I meant the literal meaning. This is a twist I've ever seen. Despite the twist, the movie has beautiful and festive scenery of London and a strong message. I consider the less fortunate people during the holiday season. The movie brings warmth to its audience. Therefore, definitely watch it.



“The Holiday” — Katie Reid, Distributor

Jude Law. That's it. But in all seriousness — I love the vibes, the casting, the happy ending and the overall warm feeling I get while watching this movie. The cozy English cottage (cottage core for life) that Kate Winslet lives in is everything I have ever wanted. I'm not going to lie, sometimes while watching, I get so jealous of these lives that I have to pause the movie and think over my own — sad, lame, suburban — life. Also, I am constantly surprised by John Krasinski's cameo even though I've seen this movie countless times. Okay — but back to Jude Law, let's unpack him in glasses...

“The Chronicles of Narnia” — Noora Neiroukh, Photo Editor

The winter scenery, storyline, soundtrack and incredible cast make this movie a classic. Yes, the White Witch is terrifying, but she's got a backstory so I would be lying if I said I wouldn't be lured by that. This is also one of the few adaptations that in my opinion is the best. The so-called “Father Christmas” who brings the children into the world in medieval clothing (not very Christmas-like of him, but still).



“The Santa Clause” Series — Tori Coker, Marketing Director

This trilogy encompasses the perfect balance of humor and heart to settle you right on into the holiday spirit. My family has a tradition of playing at least one of these films in the background of our gift exchanging, so growing up, most of my Christmas mornings were spent reveling in the film's surprisingly dark explanation of how the role of Santa makes its shift, sharing in Scott Calvin's annoyance toward Dr. Neal, and harboring a confusing and barely justifiable childhood crush upon Bernard the Elf. The third installment in the series was actually the first film I ever saw in theaters — so Rotten Tomatoes reviews be damned, I have cherished memories surrounding all three of these movies.

“Die Hard” — Joe Zerilli, Senior Reporter

While it may not be like your typical Christmas movie, Die Hard is a Christmas classic. The story follows a man, John McClane, who is interrupted and he must save his family for Christmas. What if John was with family? Plus, John's wife has a Christmas-y name. This movie happened since 1962. Whether or not you classify it as a Christmas movie, the watch either way: If not you could always just watch it.

“Dr. Seuss’ How The Grinch Stole Christmas” — Jeff Thomas, Editor-in-Chief

Jim Carrey is like a father to me...lol jk...but I do really like Jim Carrey. I just wish I could do with my face the kind of things that he does with his face. With how focused grouped and public relations heavy media is nowadays, I think he's probably the last truly openly strange leading man that we're going to get in Hollywood. His stretch of movies from the early 90s to the mid-2000s is just an unassailable filmography. And of the iconic characters that he's portrayed, the Grinch is certainly on that list. I loved this movie as a kid. Yes there's humor, but the emotional core of the film is rock solid. I think the story of an outsider being welcomed in and shown the meaning of true Christmas spirit is beautiful and wholesome. I look forward to rewatching this movie after finals.



“National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” — Amelia Osadchuk, Photographer

I LOVE National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation. This movie is absolutely one of my favorite holiday films. The story alone is funny, but the characters make the mayhem hilarious! Clark Griswold is the all American dad and husband trying to create the perfect holiday for his family. However, in this version of a classic holiday story, things just won't go as planned. Between the arrival of Cousin Eddie and his sewage, to the dog chasing the squirrel through the house, to the obnoxious light show that causes a power outage, Clark just can't get a break! I feel that we can all relate to the effort of trying to make the holidays the best they can be, but things may not go as planned. What is truly important is being together with the ones we love.



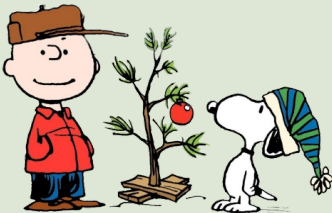
“Elf” — Elizabeth Foster, Graphic Designer

It actually wasn't until maybe five years ago that I actually watched this movie, but ever since it's been one of my favorite Christmas movies ever. It is just a classic that myself and my family watch several times every Christmas season. This movie manages to balance comedy and the heartfelnness of the storyline all throughout the film. From the cheesiness of Will Ferrell's curiosity and naiveness, to Zooey Deschanel's charming nature, this movie is a highlight for me and my family during the holiday season!



“A Charlie Brown Christmas” — Christian Tate, Sports Reporter

A venerated Christmas classic and one of my all-time favorite pieces of media Christmas or otherwise. This special walked so all the other Christmas specials could run. There's a reason it gets played every year despite being nearly 60 years old. The Peanuts' holiday specials never missed, and they really knocked it out of the park here. A definite 10/10 will forever watch again!



“Klaus” — Leticia Santos, Ads Assistant

My list of Holiday favorites is an ever-growing list, but my last addition to it was the animation movie, “Klaus.” “Klaus” gives you a new, yet lovely, version of Santa Claus' origin. It was so exciting to identify Christmas' classics embedded into the story. Kindness, growth, changes, adventures and friendship are some of the many elements of this story that catch you from beginning to end. This animation took me back to my childhood watching movies in the afternoon. While you laugh, you get emotional watching Klaus and Jesper transform “the unhappiest place on earth” gift by gift and letter by letter. A heart-touching story, beautiful and cute graphics and an incredible playlist make this story my most current holiday favorite.



“Home Alone” — Sarah Gudenau, Features Editor

When I was a kid, I wanted nothing more than to be as clever as the iconic Kevin McCallister. Setting up booby traps to take on the bad guys? I don't know about burglars, but I could definitely pull some of those stunts on my older brothers. You're sure to learn a thing or two about wreaking havoc when you're home this holiday season from “Home Alone,” but beware if you watch with kids...



“A Miser Brothers’ Christmas” — Ryleigh Gotts, Distributor

One of the holiday movies I cherish is “A Miser Brothers' Christmas” — and for a good reason. As an older sister, I can't help but watch how Snow Miser and Heat Miser feud and ruin Christmas, only to realize it was all a misunderstanding and work together to bring it back — it reminds me of me and my own younger sister. Not to mention the musical numbers in the movie are phenomenal and nostalgic, a must see movie especially if you have siblings!



People of OU: OUWB welcomes Dr. Akshata Naik

TANNER TRAFELET

Senior Reporter

Akshata Naik, Ph.D., was welcomed to Oakland University's William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) in September 2021. After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Mumbai in India — where Naik studied microbiology and life sciences respectively — she earned her Ph.D. from Wayne State University (WSU) in 2019.

Having taught physiology to OU students in fall of 2021, Dr. Naik's preceding experiences were most recently in the areas of medical publication writing — for an international scientific and medical communication company — as well as being a postdoctoral research fellow at WSU.

"One of my areas of academic interest is physiology," Dr. Naik said. "My research background focuses on cell secretion — more specifically insulin secretion — and I also do have experience in nano-biotechnology. That's where you use things called 'Quantum Dots' to understand muscle efficiency and also of a particular muscle protein called Myosin."

OU presented a new experience and challenge for Dr. Naik — in pursuing new types of research and subsequently methods of instruction — that she plans to analyze and implement in accordance with her increasingly expanding role with OUWB.

"At OU I would also like to do an additional area of research, that being in medical education," Dr. Naik said. "Right now, my role at OU is as an educator in

physiology, meaning that I teach physiology to M-1 and M-2 medical students. But I do my own research, and I would like to add medical education, as being in an educator-focused role will allow me to find innovative ways and methods to improve learning outcomes for the students that I teach."

Dr. Naik expanded extensively on how her initial perceptions of OU — specifically on the school's focus on a central vision for academic instruction — have



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUWB
Dr. Akshata Naik joined OUWB in September of 2021 as an assistant professor in the Department of Foundational Medical

been proven to be true. Of utmost importance for her was being evaluated on the basis of her dedication to instruction and research in her fields of study.

"OU itself had a big role to play in me coming here," Dr. Naik said. "As soon as I reviewed the opening posting — and did some research — the mission and the vision of the school resonated deeply with me. It's a place where I am respected for what I am, not being looked at for who I am. I knew that my experiences and education would matter here more than any other school."

Moving forward, Dr. Naik aspires for her research and instruction goals to expand in unison with OUWB. The development of OU's medical programs and her additional undertakings in medical instruction research are things she hopes will interlock in pushing both herself and her students to realize their full potential.

"Also [OU] having a younger medical school [drew me to the university]," Dr. Naik says. "After coming here, I have realized that it is true that OUWB is willing to try out new things to benefit the students."

When she does find free time — which she admits sometimes is a rarity like no other — she makes a concerted effort to balance and diversify what she experiences outside of the academic and professional spaces. With interests spanning from the fine arts to a voracious reading appetite, she makes the most of her time no matter the situation.

"In my free time, I love to do many things," Dr. Naik says. "I love dancing, and I'm a trained dancer and vocalist. I enjoy painting, reading a bit and if the weather is nice, I really enjoy biking around in the Metro-Detroit area. Something else is that I like to travel."

Meadow Brook Hall's Winter Wonder Lights are a must-see

LAUREN REID

Content Editor

December is among us and with that, the holiday season. After the year we've had, everyone could use some time to take their minds off the constant stressors of daily pandemic routine, and Winter Wonder Lights at Meadow Brook Hall is the perfect escape. The festivities began Nov. 26 and run through Dec. 30.

"Meadow Brook Hall is a place to connect, to be inspired and enjoy some unique cultural opportunities in our community," Marketing and Communications Manager of Meadow Brook Estate, Katie Higgins said in an Oct. 14 interview with The Oakland Post. "The Holidays at Meadow Brook are both a longstanding tradition for us, and gives us the opportunity to bring more members of the community in through our doors and into our gates than any other time throughout the year."

For Winter Wonder Lights, adults ages 13+ are \$22, and youth ages 3-12 are \$12. Oakland University students get in at a discounted \$12 rate.

The other holiday event taking place at Meadow Brook is the Holiday Walk — which occurs indoors during the day. The

Holiday Walk "is a self-guided indoor event featuring incomparable holiday sights and decorations inside Meadow Brook Hall, the historic mansion and National Historic Landmark located in Rochester on the campus of Oakland University," according to the Meadow Brook Hall website.

Our thoughts on Winter Wonder Lights: The lights begin with a serene walk around the beautiful Meadow Brook Estate. During our visit — myself and Oakland Post photographer, Maggie Willard — the air was crisp and clean, and holiday music lifted our spirits.

Coming around toward the front of Meadow Brook Hall, the structure was illuminated by a plethora of colors — and what's more, the lights were often synced to the music, which made for an even more enjoyable experience. We felt we could stand and watch contently for a while.

Following the path, we were led into Meadow Brook Hall itself, where we were able to warm up by the fire and soak in the tranquil, traditional atmosphere and furnishings. It definitely felt like we were walking across a Pinterest board.

After our time inside, we came up to Maggie's favorite part of the lights — the pink orbs. There was something so

calming about them, and they seemed brighter and more attention-grabbing than most of the other lights along the path.

Similarly to the Detroit Zoo lights, the Winter Wonder Lights provide a spectacular walk-at-your-own pace experience, perfect for date night or an outing with family or friends.

There's also places to stop for some

snacks and rest along the way, which creates an additional opportunity to sit and take in the lights, music and winter-y atmosphere. Plus, the amount of Instagrammable photo moments is definitely something to look forward to.

To book your spot for either Winter Wonder Lights or the Holiday Walk, visit the Meadow Brook Hall official website.



PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILLARD
Meadow Brook Hall's Winter Wonder Lights provide a great escape this holiday season.

NAfME completes successful fundraiser for local music education organization

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) OU chapter organized a fundraiser, “Practice-A-Thon,” for a local music education non-profit.

“The Practice-A-Thon went really well,” Hannah Combs, president of the NAfME OU chapter, said. “Truly, none of this could have been possible without the community we have cultivated through NAfME at OU and the support of the NAfME Collegiate state board.”

NAfME is the largest music education organization in the country and the only arts education organization to address all aspects of music education. NAfME actively works to support rising educators through their collegiate membership program. The NAfME chapter at Oakland University was reinstated in the fall semester of 2019 and subsequently was recognized nationally as a 2020 NAfME Collegiate Chapter of Excellence Recognition recipient for the Professional Development category.

In addition to their work with the OU chapter, Combs, a senior majoring in Instrumental Music Education, also serves as the social media chair for the NAfME Collegiate state board. Along with other E-Board members of the OU chapter,

Combs brainstorms event ideas and plans professional development in an effort to “fill in some of the gaps and supplement what we learn through the Music Education degree.”

Initially starting as an idea to focus on professional development and community outreach, Practice-A-Thon engaged the community members and their families in sponsoring instruments and voice practice hours and in donations. In order to increase the reach of their fundraiser, Combs decided to bring the idea to the state level and involve the rest of the Michigan NAfME Collegiate state board.

“This helps me to stay in contact with NAfME chapters all over - we’ve had attendance from across the country at many of our virtual events, which has been super exciting. I love the networking opportunities I’ve been granted through this organization.”

According to Combs, the chapter collected a grand total of \$270 for 14 days in November with 100 percent of the funds proceeding directly to Accent Pontiac – a non-profit organization based in Pontiac for music education.

Accent Pontiac is committed to lowering conventional barriers to music education, such as cost and transportation, and is dedicated to using music to effect social change. The non-profit now has approximately 200 students enrolled in

its programs, which are entirely free of charge. Bucket band ensembles enrichment programs, and group training on woodwind brass and percussion instruments are available to students. It also provides food to students participating in after-school programs.

“I’m so inspired by their commitment to providing accessible music education to the youth of Pontiac, MI — it is really special to have such a powerful force for change so close by,” Combs said. “During a time in which music education was becoming increasingly inaccessible due to the inability to teach wind instruments in a classroom setting, Accent Pontiac offered ‘Porch Lessons.’ Students were able to continue learning their instruments while adhering to safety precautions for the pandemic.”

Combs and other e-Board members of the OU NAfME chapter are currently planning more collaborative events for the winter semester, including interactive events for teaching Elementary music and several bigger projects.

“I am looking forward to using this experience to plan future fundraising events that can further support the students in our community,” Combs said.

Anyone interested in joining the OU NAfME chapter can visit their Instagram and Facebook pages @NAfMEOU,

or reach out to Combs via email hannahcombs@oakland.edu. If interested in gaining more information about Accent Pontiac, visit their website or Instagram page @accentpontiac, and support the organization in a variety of ways.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAFME
NAfME is the largest music education organization in the country and the only arts education organization to address all aspects of music education.

Omicron variant emerges as a public health threat, 36 reported U.S. cases

RACHEL YIM

Senior Reporter

It doesn’t seem long since the delta variant of COVID-19 hit many people worldwide. Now, we have another variant named “omicron” – which may be far more threatening than the delta variant.

Omicron, initially identified in Botswana in southern Africa on Nov. 11, is a mutation in which 43 mutant sites, more than twice as many as the previous variants, were found in the external protrusion protein (also known as the spike proteins) of the novel Coronavirus.

As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as CDC have classified omicron as a mutation of concern – equivalent to the delta variant – on Nov. 26. Variant of concern is designated when there is enough evidence of increased transmission or severity

and decreased vaccine or therapeutic efficacy.

According to a British journal and WHO, as a result of analyzing data from the South African National Health Checkup Agency, it took 100 days for the delta variant to become the dominant variant accounting for the majority of all confirmed cases, but it only took about 20 days for omicron.

The severity of the omicron variant is being emphasized since cases are still being diagnosed two weeks to two months after immunization, when the vaccine is expected to provide the most protection against COVID-19.

Then, where did this aggressive variant come from?

A scientist at the University College London (UCL) Genetics Research Center in London said that it is possible that the omicron variant developed during a chronic infection in an untreated HIV/AIDS patient with compromised immune function. In this case, he explained, that the virus in the body is not removed due to continuous replication, further increasing the probability of overlapping mutations, compared to in patients with normal immune function.

Including the first case of the variant on Dec. 1 in a traveler who returned from South Africa, a total of 36 cases have been reported in the U.S. These cases have already widely spread across 12 states, including eight cases in New York, seven in California, six in Nebraska, two in Colorado and one in New Jersey in a Georgia resident, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri and Pennsylvania.

Now, the biggest question is if currently available vaccines will prevent us from this variant.

David Ho, professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University, anticipates a higher vaccine resistance rate in the omicron variant

due to its mutations in the spike proteins.

“The vaccine antibodies target three regions on the coronavirus spike, and omicron has mutations in all three of those regions,” Ho said. “We technical experts are much more worried than the public health experts because of what we know from the structural analysis of omicron.”

However, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the Chief Medical Advisor to the president, recommended eligible individuals to receive the booster shot.

“When you get a high enough immune response, you get spill over protection even against the variant the vaccine wasn’t specifically directed at,” Fauci said during the press conference. “Even though we don’t have a lot of data running, there’s every reason to believe that that kind of increase that you get with a boost would be helpful at least at preventing severe disease of a variant like omicron.”

Although there is great hope for the efficacy of the existing vaccines, there is still not enough information available about omicron. The WHO, Dr. Fauci and the president Joe Biden announced that it will take more than two weeks to further obtain a clear understanding of the variant, including its contagiousness, severity and other characteristics. Therefore, it is too early to make hasty judgments.

With Christmas holiday and family gatherings quickly approaching, taking precaution is crucial to prevent further spread of the variant. Anyone considering traveling during the holiday season must consider their personal risk as well as practical concerns regarding their destination, and mask up when surrounded by a large crowd – even outdoors.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS
Dr. Anthony Fauci at a Dec. 1 press conference at the White House discussing the omicron variant.

JJ's House brings community together for Thanksgiving meal

ANELLE SCOTT
Contributor

On Nov. 20 between Mack Ave and Cadillac Blvd, JJ's House, a 501c3 organization in Detroit, brought volunteers together to provide a Thanksgiving meal for the Detroit community.

Courtney and Jason Faraday founded JJ's House in an effort to contribute to the community. The Faradays have reconstructed their house to offer pregnant women and young moms a place to live, offering them everything they need to live independently — the goal of the organization is to provide resources, according to Courtney Faraday.

During the Thanksgiving event, the roads were packed with cars — including an assembly line of volunteers providing food to every vehicle that lined the street. The volunteers delivered hot meals and food baskets, packed with all the necessary fixes to create a Thanksgiving meal, such as stuffing, cranberries and boxed mashed potatoes. The event was over within hours — and over 300 meals were given out.

JJ's House volunteer Nate Garland, who has been part of the food drive for the last three years, explained why he loves this opportunity saying, "It's great being a part of this event. Like today, I was talking to people, figuring out what was going on in people's lives, a lot of the issues are the same, such as health and financing. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, health is always an issue. So it's nice to come down, bring some joy and hopefully make someone's day."

Due to the city restriction related to COVID-19, JJ's House implemented a car food drive. As a result, the more traditional Thanksgiving event they have been running for the last seven years has changed.

"Before, we had tents and tables where everybody came and we had a sit-down meal, the community could come together,

meet, talk and get to know everybody. It was a time of fellowship," said Courtney Faraday, a co-founder of the organization.

The founders of JJ's House also own a profitable construction company that feeds money into their non-profit organization. JJ's House renovates old homes and buildings in the Detroit area-rebuilding the community in any way possible.

"The construction company primarily works in Detroit and hopes to revive the neighborhoods by taking abandoned or run-down houses, beautifying them and bringing the neighborhoods back," said JJ's House Construction Consultant, Anna Opel. "We also worked on an abandoned church and transformed it into a coffee shop called The Congregation. We did everything — it brought life into the whole community. Mayor Duggan came in on opening day and committed to re-doing the park across the street, which he did."

Courtney and Jason Faraday, and all involved in the organization, provide year-long volunteer opportunities. For example, Oakland University students would have the opportunities to help rebuild the Detroit communities.

"There are always opportunities to volunteer," Courtney Faraday said. "We have a Christmas event that includes a toy drive, summer events where we have a live band and pass out backpacks, and we have our movie events where kids from kindergarten to high school come to hang out for the night. In addition, volunteers help facilitate games and tutoring programs."

Jason Faraday also mentions that consistency is a vital aspect of running this kind of an organization. Being able to have events at the same time every year is essential so people know they can depend on their organization.

"It's just cool to be a part of," he said. "The biggest thing is just being a part of what so many other people in the community have been doing."

Thanks to the Eye Research Institute, the Honors College, the Department of Biological Sciences, and especially the many bright and talented undergraduate students in my eye research laboratory and in my courses. It has been great fun and a total enjoyment for me throughout my career at Oakland University. I am grateful.

Barry S. Winkler, Ph.D
Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Sciences
Eye Research Institute

Political implications, domestic terrorism examined in Jan. 6 case

TANNER TRAFELET
Senior Reporter

As reported by the Associated Press, the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia heard arguments from legal representatives of Donald Trump and the U.S. House committee investigating the Jan. 6. riot. This legal case focuses on whether Trump may claim "executive privilege" in blocking the House committee's pursuit of presidential documents concerning the insurrection.

David Dulio, Ph.D. — professor of political science at Oakland University — explained that the political implications of the case center on Donald Trump. Specifically, such a case works to ascertain what role Trump played in the Jan. 6 Capitol attack, how far individuals will go in trying to pin the attack solely on Trump and how the case is indicative of broader political fissures in American politics.

The question looming over the case is whether a previous U.S. president's claim of executive privilege may override that of the sitting president. A particular point of emphasis within the broader narrative surrounding the event is what role far-right paramilitary groups played in the violence that day.

"In its totality, Jan. 6 should not be considered an instance of domestic terrorism," says Peter Trumbore, Ph.D., professor of political science at OU. "If we think about the people that stormed the Capitol, is it very clear from the evidence that there were organized groups of individuals who planned, trained and equipped themselves and then acted together with the intention of using violence to alter the outcome of the [electoral] decision process on that day."

A main question pursued by the House's investigation is why Trump and his legal team would work to prevent the release of White House visitor logs, presidential diary correspondence and hand-recorded notes to the committee's investigation.

Dr. Trumbore elaborated on the connection between the Proud Boys organization and the White House's visitor logs leading up to Jan. 6. However, he made a specific point to differentiate between those domestic terrorists that maliciously engaged in premeditated, politically motivated violence that day, and those in attendance who participated in the riot or did not engage in violence at all.

"There were people who were involved that may be justifiably

classified as domestic terrorists, with their acts that day being examples of domestic terrorism," Dr. Trumbore says. "There are other people who we would struggle to define in those terms. That's why I think we must be careful about matters of definition. The way that we define terms is important, as definitions draw out attention to the distinctions surrounding complicated political and human behaviors."

Far-right paramilitary groups in attendance — such as the Oath Keepers — attended with levels of premeditated communication, organization and confrontational intent that was not seen with the protesters who did not attack Capitol police and storm the Capitol building.

"The best evidence available that we have points to two domestic terrorist groups in particular: the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys," Dr. Trumbore says. "Members and leaders of those groups engaged in significant amounts of pre-Jan. 6 communication, organization and planning — all in order to engage in acts of political violence on that day. If you've seen some of the videos of the groups of people in tactical vests, helmets and backpacks engaged in communication — with their hands on each other's shoulders in coordination — moving through the crowd and breaching the building as a unit...those are the people we're talking about."

Regardless of the outcome of the court case, the losing side is predicted to question the U.S. Supreme Court in this battle between the former and current administrations over executive privilege.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MINCHILLO
Rioters at the Jan. 6 insurrection of the Capitol. The U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia heard arguments investigating the incident.

Roe v. Wade in doubt after Supreme Court oral arguments

ARIANNA HEYMAN

Senior Reporter

You do not need to pick up a history book to know that women have been treated as second class citizens in the United States since its founding. Constantly undervalued and underappreciated, women in America have had to fight for basic freedoms on a continual basis since our Founding Fathers declared that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were rights only guaranteed to men.

Women were not given the right to vote until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. They were also not granted autonomy over their bodies and reproductive choices until the landmark case *Roe v. Wade* was brought before the Supreme Court in 1973.

The outcome of *Roe v. Wade* saw the Supreme Court declare that access to legal and safe abortions was a constitutional right. Despite the controversial ruling, the court's decision has protected women's rights to self-determination for almost 50 years.

These inherent rights are now in doubt after a shameful display from the conservative controlled Supreme Court on Dec. 1.

After listening to oral arguments concerning the Mississippi law that would

prevent abortions after 15 weeks, the court seemed to signal that they would side with Mississippi. This implication violates the essential guidelines of *Roe*. It would also set a dangerous precedent that would essentially render *Roe* ineffective if the court allows states to dictate abortion laws.

Many states including Michigan have already drafted harsh abortion restriction legislation and are waiting for a signal from the Supreme Court to implement these unjust constraints.

The implication of ruling in favor of Mississippi was only the beginning of the enraging discourse of the day.

Willfully ignoring almost a half century of precedent to play politics, Justices Thomas, Kavanaugh and Alito appeared to take things a step further and suggested overturning *Roe* completely. It is a violation that three partisan puppets in robes who do not possess ovaries are able to discuss overturning this ruling so flippantly. It is also hard not to see the irony of these men debating an individual's right to choose when two of the three justices were accused of sexual assault.

Justice Sotomayor summarized this situation perfectly in her remarks when she said, "Will this institution survive the stench that this creates in the public perception that the Constitution and its reading are just political acts? I don't see how it is possible."

Justice Sotomayor is right. The fact that the highest court in the land is determined to reverse progress is a disgrace.

There are still so many unanswered questions as of now. If the justices attempt to turn back time and rule against themselves, what would that decision suggest about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court? Is America ready to come to terms with the

fact a supposedly non-partisan branch of government has suddenly become a political body?

We will not know the outcome of the Mississippi case until June of 2022. However, all signs seem to suggest reproductive rights are in danger again in America. Overturning *Roe* will not end abortions — it will only end access to safe ones.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW HARNIK

Both pro-abortion and anti-abortion protestors gathered outside the Supreme Court on Dec. 1, while justices listened to oral arguments on Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban.

My top six book recommendations of 2021

D'JUANNA LESTER

Senior Reporter

With the year coming to a close, I've been thinking about all of the books I've read this year. So far, my count is up to 97. Here is a rundown of some of my favorites from 2021.

"A Vow So Bold and Deadly" by Brigid Kemmerer

This book is the final story in the "Cursebreaker" trilogy. With Kemmerer's immaculate storytelling and lovable characters, this book had me in tears from start to finish. The stakes were raised as the war-driven kingdoms clashed. Getting points of view from all of my favorite characters was the best part. I can't pick a side in the war because every character is so complex. I could write a review on this book alone!

"Rule of Wolves" by Leigh Bardugo

This. Book. If you've read my previous articles, you know what a big Grishaverse fan I am. Getting to see all of my favorite characters from the previous six books interact was such a fangirl moment. When that scene happened, I had to put the book down and process. All three storylines blending together for the Endgame-esque reunion fit so well with the arcs of the characters. The open ended final scene gives me hope that we'll get an eighth. I NEED a Brekker/Nazyalensky scene!

"This Poison Heart" by Kalynn Bayron

The first book in this fantasy duology started off with a bang! Greek mythology? Strong, magical characters? Yes, please! Bayron has a way of writing characters that captivate you. The main character's relationship with her parents and the theme of family make this story so

memorable. It feels like so much more than a typical "mansion mystery" story. It was complex and fun.

"Happily Ever Afters" by Elise Bryant

This book is something I wish I had when I was younger — a Black rom-com book. It's such a good story that touches the hearts of people who didn't have this kind of representation growing up. It's a book that I want to read over and over again. With complex characters, sweet chemistry and a heartfelt story with imperfect leads, it's a book I wish everyone who likes young adult (YA) summer romance novels could read. There's so many things to like — for once we don't get a Mary Sue perfect lead, and it reminds me of "To All The Boys I've Loved Before." There's a strong connection between the main character and her family. There's also diversity among the characters, both with race and disability.

"Counting Down With You" by Tashie Bhuiyan

Where to start with this one? The "fake dating" trope kicked it up to eleven? A diverse, supportive friend group? What's not to love about this book? Not to mention the super sweet playlist that the main love interest makes for the main character! The chemistry between "good girl" Karina and her "bad boy" love interest is what makes the story so cool. It's not this outlandish fantastical romance — it's raw and authentic.

"Defy the Night" by Brigid Kemmerer

Surprise, surprise, another Brigid Kemmerer book! This book is the first in her newest fantasy duology, and I've talked about it before in a previous article. The world building and strong characters is what sells this book, and I'd recommend it for any fantasy fan!

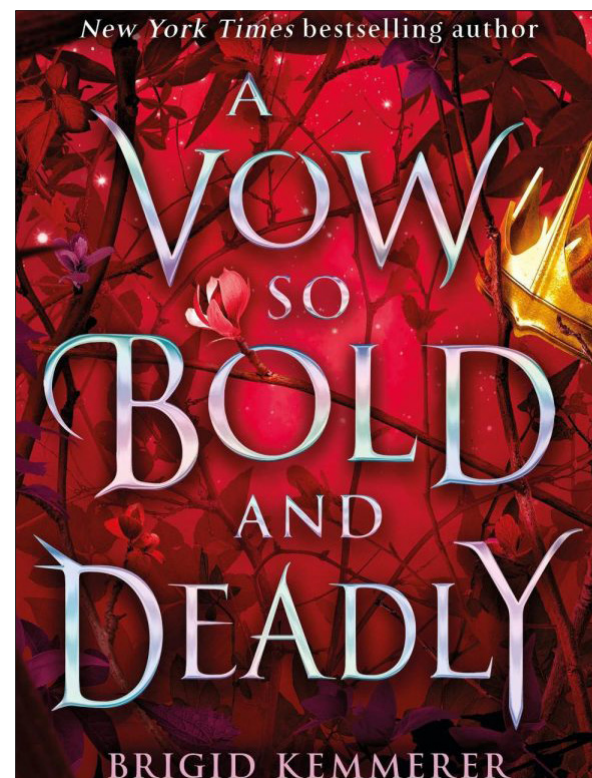


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON

"A Vow so Bold and Deadly" is the final book in the "Cursebreaker" trilogy.

MLB war between players and owners culminates in lockout

MATTHEW SCHEIDEL

Sports Editor

What has long been feared to be a lengthy, dark winter for Major League Baseball (MLB) has finally come to fruition.

On Dec. 1, MLB owners unanimously voted to initiate a lockout. It's the first work stoppage for the league since the 1994-95 players' strike.

This is not a good look for baseball. At a time where popularity of the sport is at an all-time low, the last thing it needed was for everything to shut down.

Best case scenario is this lasts a couple months, with everything sorted out and nothing delayed. Worst case scenario is the 2022 season gets cancelled, which would be incredibly damaging for MLB.

So — how did we get to this point? Well, things have been boiling over between the players and owners for a while.

Cracks were beginning to show during the 2018-19 offseason, with high-impact players such as Bryce Harper and Manny Machado demanding decade-long contracts for \$300+ million. Owners

were reluctant to hand out these deals — they had seen the albatross' that older players like Miguel Cabrera, Chris Davis and Albert Pujols had become for their respective teams and weren't willing to take that risk.

As a result, these players didn't sign until well into the offseason, with Harper not signing with the Philadelphia Phillies until after spring training had started. Neither side was willing to budge.

Then you have the disaster that was the 60-game 2020 season. The owners wanted player salaries to be rolled back because it was a shortened season, but the players wanted pro-rated salaries for the 60 games. MLB commissioner Rob Manfred had to step in and basically force the 60-game season upon the players — either that or no season at all.

That did not sit well with the players, and rightfully so. Most of these owners are billionaires, and could afford to pay the players what they were worth while they played during a public health crisis.

Money, of course, has been the biggest issue all along. The players want their

salaries increased and to be able to become free agents sooner. They also want to discourage tanking to increase competition in the sport, which is very admirable. Tanking has become an epidemic in MLB, and has given owners another excuse to not spend in free agency.

And then there's the embarrassing letter to the fans from Manfred. Where to begin with this abomination?

All this letter does is paint the players as the villains. Manfred states that "the Players Association's vision for (MLB) would threaten the ability of most teams to be competitive," which is completely false. Every team can compete in this league if the owner wants to, but many are content to sit on the sidelines and endure 100-loss seasons.

I've talked before about a salary floor, which is something that Manfred claims the league offered during CBA negotiations. I still think this is vital to the sport, as it would force every team in the league to spend money on some level.

There's a reason teams like the Pittsburgh Pirates, Kansas City Royals

[outside of two years in the mid 2010s] and the Colorado Rockies have been so bad for so long — their owners are cheap, and could care less about winning. They own their teams simply so they can say they own a sports franchise.

Baseball fans don't attend games because of the owners — they go to see the players. They are what makes the game great.

Manfred notes that MLB teams spent a combined \$1.7 billion in the month of November, which further proves that owners can spend if they want to. All that money was spent in large part because the CBA was about to expire, so teams had to get all the kinks ironed out in their contracts before free agency froze. The result was an exciting month, especially the last few days.

Many experts are saying not to worry — that a delay in anything is highly unlikely. Hopefully they are correct, because the very last thing MLB needs right now is another shortened or even cancelled season.

For now, however, both sides are at an impasse. Buckle up, everyone — this might take a while.

Wolverines demolish Hawkeyes 42-3 to win Big Ten Championship

JOSEPH POPIS

Senior Reporter

Michigan Wolverines Head Coach Jim Harbaugh has finally delivered a Championship to the University of Michigan. This year's Michigan team has accomplished a 12-win season, a win over Ohio State and winning the Big Ten Championship. But there is still one goal yet to achieve — winning the National Championship.

U-M's 42-3 defeat over the Iowa Hawkeyes last weekend began with the Hawkeyes winning the coin toss and deciding to defer the ball to Michigan. On the Wolverines' first drive, they went three and out to kick off back to the Hawkeyes.

On the Hawkeyes' first drive, they quickly drove down the field only to miss a 33-yard field goal by (Iowa) Caleb Shudak. The Wolverines would then capitalize on the Hawkeyes missed opportunity. On 1st and 10 (U-M), Blake Corum showcased his speed by rushing for a 67-yard touchdown to make the score 7-0. The touchdown by Corum was the longest rushing touchdown the Hawkeyes have allowed all season.

With no luck on the Hawkeyes' second drive of the game, Michigan got the ball back. (U-M) offensive coordinator Josh Gattis orchestrated a magnificent play call when (U-M) running back Donovan Edwards made an impressive pass to (U-M) Roman Wilson for a 75-yard touchdown 14-0.

Late in the first quarter, the Hawkeyes ended up at Michigan's goal line once again due to some savvy catches by Iowa's playmakers. They weren't able to punch it into the endzone, but they did hit a 22-yard

field goal by (Iowa) Caleb Shudak 14-3.

The Hawkeyes would then make a big play as (Iowa) Jake Campbell intercepted (U-M) Cade McNamara for a one-yard gain.

Penalties such as a tripping call by the offensive line pushed them back 15 yards. A timid run play call on 3rd and 20 went for seven yards, leading to a Hawkeyes punt.

Back-to-back-to-back punts by the Wolverines and Hawkeyes gave U-M the ball at their 3 yard line. The Wolverines could get nothing going from such a putrid field position that led to yet another punt. When Iowa received the ball, they put themselves in a not-so-favorable situation when a holding call put them back to third and seventeen. They almost got bailed out when there was a possible targeting call, but it was cleared that there was no foul on the play. A tough catch by (Iowa) Keagan Johnson to the right for 13 yards would not be enough, resulting in another Iowa punt.

Michigan again could not get anything going toward the end of the second quarter. A well-read play by (Iowa) Seth Benson sacked McNamara, leading to a Michigan punt. Iowa received the ball, and (U-M) Aidan Hutchinson would get a sack of his own on (Iowa) quarterback Spencer Petras. On the last play before halftime (U-M), freshman quarterback J.J. McCarthy threw a hail mary pass intercepted by (Iowa) Jermari Harris for no gain.

The second quarter of the game proved uneventful compared to the first quarter. There were countless punts combined with lousy field position that resulted in no points on the board by either team.

Iowa received the ball to start the second

half — even with a great catch by (Iowa) Sam Laporta. Michigan then got the ball and go on their first drive of the second half as. Following a couple of runs plays (U-M), McNamara delivered a 27-yard pass to (U-M) Luke Schoonmaker. (U-M) Hassan Haskins would punch it into the endzone midway through the 3rd quarter with a 4-yard rush 21-3.

The Hawkeyes switched quarterbacks midway through the second from (Iowa) Spencer Petras to (Iowa) Alex Padilla. However, what looked to be a successful drive, turned out to be a 4th and goal failed conversion. A turnover ensued with the Wolverines gaining possession with 1:16 left in the third quarter.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Wolverines could get nothing going. Iowa received the ball at the 23-yard line. Michigan then blocked an Iowa punt, giving them great field position. (U-M) McCarthy connected with Luke Schoonmaker, who made a juggling catch. (U-M) Hassan Haskins rushed up the middle for a 1-yard touchdown 28-3.

Midway through the fourth quarter (U-M), McNamara connected with (U-M) Erick All for a 38-yard gain. However, Erick All wasn't done yet as he caught a back-shoulder 5-yard touchdown pass from Cade McNamara to make it 35-3.

On Iowa's next drive (U-M) Caden Kolesar intercepted (Iowa) Alex Padilla for a 1-yard gain. The Wolverines scored one last time when (U-M) Donovan Edwards rushed up the middle for a 1-yard touchdown 42-3. Iowa had one final drive to put

a touchdown on the board but came up short, ending the game.

(U-M) McNamara threw 16 completions on 24 attempts for 169 yards, one touchdown, and one interception. (U-M) Corum carried the ball five times for 74 yards and one touchdown, while his counterpart (U-M) Haskins carried the ball 17 times for 56 yards and two touchdowns. (U-M) Roman Wilson and (U-M) All both caught one touchdown. (Iowa) Spencer Petras threw the ball 22 times, with nine of them being completed, and his backup (Iowa) Alex Padilla threw the ball 15 times with 10 completions and one interception.

The Michigan Wolverines have compiled back-to-back statement wins within the past two weeks. As a result, they have solidified themselves into the College Football Playoff and one of the top two teams in the country. The Iowa Hawkeyes didn't look like they belonged on the same field as the Wolverines. Their offense was nonexistent throughout the entirety of this game. While their defense did hold up and make effective plays in the first half, it couldn't keep up with Michigan in the second half.

The College Football Selection Committee released their final rankings on Sunday, Dec. 5: No. 1 Alabama, No. 2 Michigan, No. 3 Georgia and No. 4 Cincinnati. Alabama will face Cincinnati in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 31., and U-M will face Georgia in the Orange, also on Dec. 31. The winners of those two games will play each other in the National Championship game on Jan. 10.

Intercollegiate sports recap Dec. 1-8: MSU, U-M, GVSU

BRITTANT KEARFOTT

Sports Reporter

In this final issue ahead of winter break, let's take a moment to dive into the latest in intercollegiate sports news.

Michigan State's men's basketball faced Louisville Wednesday night at home, winning 73-64. Their women's team had a close call game as well, losing to Notre Dame 76-71. Wrestling rounded things out with another victory, finishing 19-17 against Lock Haven.

On Friday, the wins continued with Grand Valley State University's track team at their Holiday Open. The men placed third, while the women placed fourth. Men's hockey took a defeat to Penn State, with a final score of 4-2. Finally, wrestling took another win this week, this time leading Bucknell 23-10.

Down state in Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan (U-M) men's basketball team traveled to North Carolina to add a loss to their record, with the game finishing 72-51. Women's basketball gave Louisville a visit on Thursday night, ending in a 70-48 loss for the Wolverines. The university's weekend continued on a rough streak with volleyball losing 3-2 to Ball State, following ice hockey's 5-1 loss to Minnesota.

Home in bear country, Oakland University's men's and women's basketball teams both challenged the University of Illinois-Chicago. The men were on enemy turf while the women faced off at home, with both games ending in 81-77 and 67-99 victories respectively for the Golden Grizzlies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURIER JOURNAL
Michigan State defeated Louisville 73-64.

The teams faced some challenges and tough losses but also some great wins this last week. The days, however, do get colder, the leaves on trees scarcer by the day and the dreaded snow encroaching closer and closer. This means one thing — football championships.

Football has wrapped up the normal season as it heads into playoffs. We now head into the six bowls (two semifinal games and four premier bowls) — the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Fiesta Bowl and Peach Bowl. The SEC championship game is No. 1 Georgia against No. 3 Alabama, with Georgia originally the favored team to win this matchup. While Alabama has 18 national championships under their belt and Georgia only one, the latter team

went into the game undefeated.

The American Athletic Conference (AAC) championship is No. 21 Houston against No. 4 Cincinnati. This was a big ranking difference, but the conference performance was unbeatable for both teams. Houston had lost one game out of twelve overall, while Cincinnati was undefeated all around and favored to win in this matchup.

The Big Ten championship is No. 2 Michigan against No. 13 Iowa. This is another pair up where there is only a one game win-loss difference for these teams — however, each have lost at least one game. Both teams went there with something to prove to themselves and everyone else, with predictions favoring Michigan to come out on top.

The Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) championship is No. 15 Pittsburgh against No. 16 Wake Forest. These teams held exactly the same conference and overall win-loss total — going into the game, it was a total coin flip of who would win, though Wake Forest was the favored team in most predictions.

The Big 12 championship is No. 9 Baylor versus No. 5 Oklahoma State. Baylor seemed to have struggled in conference a little, having lost more in these games than Oklahoma State. They still pulled through the season to match Oklahoma State's overall 11-2 win-loss, and earned predictions to take home this championship title.

We have a full six weeks of crazy matchups and wild cards, and will all be sitting on the edge of our seats cheering on our favorite teams as we await the results of the games.

Carrying the weight of performance expectations

BRITTANY KEARFOTT

Sports Reporter

Athletes have time and again been put on pedestals and held to a higher standard than others. The fans only see one side of the person — the athlete. However, there are many masks worn by every athlete, especially collegiate athletes.

Athletes wear the masks of human, student, friend, athlete, family member and more. Putting these standards on athletes does not just start when they hit the professional level — it starts the moment they start competing.

The weight of these standards and expectations to succeed can be unbearable. Whether it be for family pride, scholarships or other reasons, it can make balancing life difficult. As top-of-their-game as they perform, they, too, are human and have off days.

"In swimming, one of the most frustrating and mentally challenging things is knowing that you can't drop time every race, and every practice isn't going to be the best," Oakland University men's swimmer Ben Davis said. "It is really frustrating, but when swimming at the collegiate level, you develop the understanding that it is impossible to be at your best 24/7."

Men's golfer Anthony Comito has his own method for dealing with off days.

"I try and control the things that I can control — such as my attitude and decision making," Comito said. "My coaches and teammates are always

supporting and encouraging me, even if I am not having the best day on the course."

While competing at levels that are progressively increasing, you learn ways to cope with setbacks.

"The way that I cope with that is taking each season one day at a time," Davis said. "If I'm not having a great practice, I try to focus on one thing that I know I can fix or improve. I know that tomorrow is a new day and all of my coaches will support me as long as I don't get discouraged."

While dealing with those struggles on the field/pitch/court/green and more, athletes still face the challenges that present themselves in their classrooms and lives.

Comito shared how he tackles the challenges of the classroom.

"I make sure that I know everything I have to get done, and then I set aside time in each day to make sure I get everything done," Comito said. "It sometimes even requires planning days [or] weeks in advance."

Davis seconds this strategy, adding that he carries a weekly planner with him wherever he goes.

School and athletics is very challenging, both mentally and physically. In order to keep up with it all, you have to take time for yourself to rest and recharge.

"I try to balance my social life by having my swim friends and my friends who aren't athletes," Davis said. "I make sure that when I'm with my non-athlete friends, I never talk about swim unless I'm asked. It just makes for some better conversation, and a nice break from 'work talk.'"

However much weight each of those masks worn

by the athletes might carry, being a collegiate athlete means they would not prefer it any other way.

"My favorite thing about being a student athlete is always having something to do — whether it's class, workouts, golf or meetings," Comito said.

For Davis, the best part of living life as a student athlete is the opportunities that come with it.

"It gives me the opportunity to continue doing what I love, meet new people from all around the world and the ability to study at a higher level," Davis said. "Without being a student athlete, my life would be drastically different."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
Oakland golfer Anthony Comito takes a swing.

Kahlaijah Dean: Women's basketball's leading star

CHRISTIAN TATE
Sports Reporter

Oakland University is watching what could be the final collegiate basketball season for one of its brightest stars, Kahlaijah Dean.

The senior player from Bakersfield, California is lighting up the court this season, averaging 18 points, 4.7 rebounds and 3.2 assists in 32 minutes of action per night. Although her efficiency leaves some things to be desired, it can't be denied she's been a bright spot for the Golden Grizzlies this season.

This high level of play is nothing new and definitely not a surprise to anyone familiar with Dean's game or level of athletic ability. A three-sport student coming out of high school — participating in basketball, track and volleyball — Dean averaged 16.5 points, 6.5 boards, four assists and three steals per game en route to racking up multiple awards prior to her first season with OU.

Alongside leading Independence High to four consecutive league championships from 2015-2018 and three consecutive valley championships from 2015-2018, Dean was also selected for the 2016-2017 Division II All-State First Team and

won both the All-Area MVP award from 2017-2018 and the All-Valley MVP award from 2015-2016.

Dean finished her high school career as Independence's all-time leading scorer, along with the leading records in field goals, three-points and assists, giving us a prelude to the legacy she would produce here at OU.

Her production really took hold her junior year in the 2020-2021 season. After only starting four games in the season prior, she started all 24 games of the 2020-2021 season, putting up her best statistical season in her college career.

She averaged 17.2 points, 5.6 rebounds and 4.4 assists in 31.7 minutes of action en route to an All-Horizon League First Team selection. She also became just the 29th player in program history to score 1000 points in their career.

She notched two top-three statistical rankings in the Horizon League last season while leading the Grizzlies to a .500 [12-12] record, ranking third in points and second in assists by scoring 412 points and sending out 106 assists. A volume scorer by nature, she ranked second in the Horizon League for most 20-point games with eight. Out of her 24 games, she scored in double figures 21 times.

Continuing to build off of her amazing breakout season, she's set to eclipse every mark she had set the year before. She has improved in what could be considered the most important skill in modern basketball, as she is currently shooting 32% from the arc — up from the 28% she was shooting last year. Always a confident scorer, she has shown some incredibly dangerous potential this season as a two-way player, averaging 2.8 steals through her first seven games.

Her production is a necessity for an OU team that is struggling to find offensive firepower elsewhere this season. A huge reason for the Golden Grizzlies' nearing .500 right now, Dean is showing the kind of star power needed for the Golden Grizzlies to make a deep postseason run.

Swim and Dive combine for seven golds at Zippy Invitational

REECE TAYLOR
Sports Reporter

The Oakland University Golden Grizzlies men's and women's swim teams combine for seven gold medals en route to a third place finish in the three-day Zippy Invitational at the University of Akron on Dec. 3-5.

The Golden Grizzlies were active over the three-day event, winning 16 total medals across 40 events. Oakland was one of five teams to win multiple gold medals, and was third in total gold medals with seven, placing behind the hosting University of Akron, who took home 11 golds, and the eventual winners University of Pennsylvania, who finished the event with 13 golds. Of the 10 teams, the other teams to take home golds were Cornell University with two, Keiser University with one, University of Buffalo with four, and Bloomsburg University with one.

Oakland represented the Horizon League well in this outing, as the men's team's top performers—juniors Christian Bart and Marko Khotynetskyi—combined for three gold medals and a pair of relays to make up the five gold for the men's team. The women's team's two gold medals were won by senior Susan Lagrand, who won the 200-yard backstroke and the 400-yard im.

Over the three-day event, the Golden Grizzlies also won seven silver medals as well as a pair of bronze medals to work their way into third place with an event score of 2,500, just

barely missing out on second place by six points to Cornell. Oakland's performance was neck and neck with the Big Reds, and earned their points against the formidable opponent.

University of Pennsylvania was the big winner of the meet and put on a dominant performance. Pennsylvania led schools in total gold medals with 13, silver medals with 16, and tide for bronze with 11. Top performers Matthew Fallon and Williams Fallon alone combined for five individual gold medals en route to an incredible performance for the Ivy League school. University of Pennsylvania closed the event with a 3,757 score

Oakland's top three finish is a great moment for the defending eight-time Horizon League champion, as it shows the Golden Grizzlies are as dominant in other conferences as well. Earning 16 medals in competition play is no small feat for any team, and to showcase their ability across a multiple day tournament is a testament to the resolve of the Oakland swim team.

With the Zippy Invitational in the books, Oakland will take a month break for the holiday before returning home to Rochester to compete against Horizon League rival Youngstown State University at the Oakland Aquatic Center on Jan. 15, 2022. This will be their last home meet until Oakland hosts the USA Michigan Open on Feb. 11-13. The Golden Grizzlies will take their finishes in Akron back to Oakland and are ready to sharpen their claws to face the Penguins.



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME
Kahlaijah Dean starts to drive from the top of the key against UIC on Dec. 2.

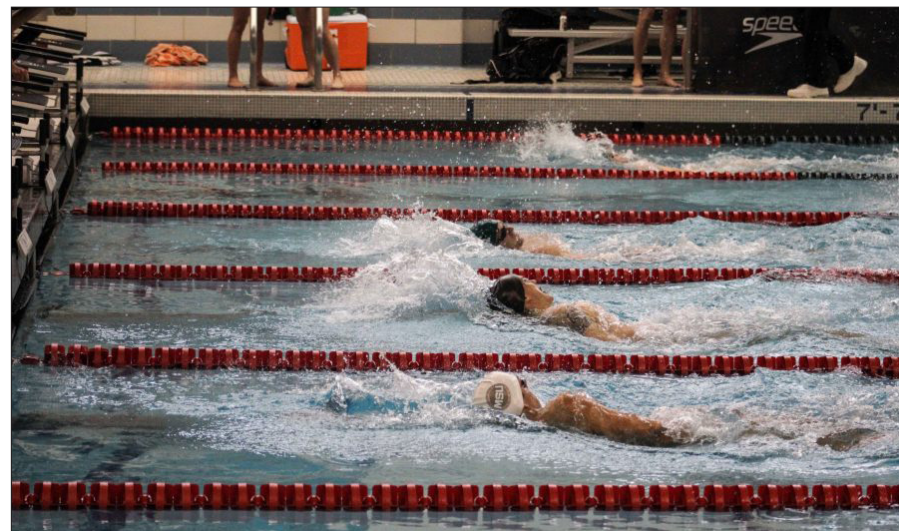


PHOTO BY MARY MITCHELL
Swimming and Diving finished in third place at the Zippy Invitational in Akron, Ohio.

Women's basketball extinguishes Flames of UIC in Horizon League matchup

BROCK HEILIG

Sports Reporter

The women's basketball team hosted the University of Illinois-Chicago on Thursday, Dec. 2 in an early season Horizon League matchup. Oakland established an early lead and never let it go, holding off a late UIC run to win the game 67-59.

The Golden Grizzlies got off to a great start, leading the Flames 17-10 after the first quarter. Freshman guard Olivia Sims had five points in the game's opening quarter, and Kahlaijah Dean added three points — along with two assists, a steal and a rebound.

OU didn't let up in the second quarter, as Sims and Dean continued to lead the way. Sims finished the half with eight points on 2/2 shooting from behind the arc. Dean recorded 11 points, shooting 4/8 from the floor and giving the Grizzlies a 40-23 lead at halftime. Oakland dominated UIC on the glass, winning the rebound battle 20-12 in the first half. The Grizzlies also hit 50% of their three point attempts, compared to just 16% for UIC.

UIC regained momentum in the

third quarter, outscoring Oakland by five points and cutting the deficit to 12. Sensing his team was struggling, Golden Grizzlies Head Coach Jeff Tungate shouted, "Let's go! Get a stop!" to his team as The Flames began the fourth quarter with the ball. The Grizzlies stepped up defensively and offensively, ending any hopes of a UIC comeback.

Kahlaijah Dean finished with 16 points, leading the team in scoring for the sixth time this season.

"We ask her to do a lot," Tungate said following the victory. "The thing that makes her different is she's a great passer, and we know she's going to make the right decision."

This win comes off a two-game skid in which the Grizzlies dropped back-to-back games against Michigan and Michigan State. Despite the two losses to the in-state schools, Coach Tungate is hopeful the tough non-conference schedule will help his team in the long run.

"I hope it gives us confidence," Tungate said. "I thought we did a pretty good job of holding our own against Michigan and Michigan State, so I hope it gives us a



PHOTO BY SOPHIE HUME

Kayla Luchenbach dives to the basket against UIC on Dec. 2.

little bit of confidence in playing in those tough environments and tough situations against tough players. Hopefully it makes us tougher in the end."

Oakland played tough themselves in this game, holding UIC to just 59 points — the fewest amount of points Tungate's team has given up so far this season. OU is now just one game back

from first place in the Horizon League, with much of the season still in front of them.

The Grizzlies improve to 2-1 in Horizon League play, and 3-4 overall. They look to even up their record against Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Offensive woes sink women's basketball against IUPUI

CHRISTIAN TATE

Sports Reporter

The Golden Grizzlies had a horrible shooting performance against the IUPUI Jaguars, costing them the game 74-49 and forcing them to drop to 2-2 in conference play on Saturday at the O'Rena.

The game got off to a very fast start for the Jaguars, who jumped to a major 19-8 lead by the end of the first quarter. The Golden Grizzlies struggled to find their stroke from the three-point line, and to stop the Jaguars from scoring.

Frequent turnovers hurt the team as well, and the constant mistakes and shooting woes had them down by 19-6 at one point in the first. The Jaguars would control the pace and tempo of the game by the throat, constantly scoring from anywhere and everywhere they could while playing good defense.

The Golden Grizzlies found their footing in opening the second quarter with a 6-0 run against the Jaguars. While they were able to find some semblance of rhythm on the offensive end, their defense still struggled to stop the Jaguars' offensive onslaught. This trade of momentum would not bode well for the Grizzlies, as they tried to complete the taxing comeback in order to win the game.

Their efforts seemed to come at a trade-off throughout the game, as the Grizzlies started to control their defensive play better at the cost of their offensive strides. They closed the second quarter with a little bit of momentum, only



PHOTO BY AMELIA OSADCHUK

The women's basketball team in a huddle against IUPUI on Dec 4.

trailing by 11 points with the score at 36-25.

At one point upholding an 18-point lead over the Golden Grizzlies, IUPUI kept a steady grasp on the lead by getting to their spots and making their good shots at a consistent rate, while the Grizzlies struggled to compete. The lead ballooned by the end of the third quarter, as the Jaguars led the Golden Grizzlies 60-38.

Staying in the driver's seat from the tip-off,

the Jaguars cruised to their fourth win — second in conference play — overall on the season, winning the game 74-49. The Golden Grizzlies never really found their stride in the game on either side of the ball, shooting 32% and 23% from the field and three-point range respectively, while allowing the Jaguars to torch them by shooting 45% from the field and 38% from three-point range.

The Golden Grizzlies also lost the battle of the boards to the Jaguars, out-rebounded by 18 with the count being 45-27 by the end of the game. The Jaguars' reigning Player of the Year Macee Williams notched a double-double in the win, recording 14 points and 12 rebounds in her action on the court.

This loss against the Jaguars — a perennial championship contender — marks the final home game of the 2021 calendar year for the Golden Grizzlies. The OU team will return to the court in a Dec. 7 match up against the Central Michigan Chippewas at the McGuirk Arena in Mount Pleasant.

Why are you, as Santa Claus, actually the worst?

LAUREN REID & TORI COKER

Content Editor & Marketing Director

Happy holidays blah, blah, blah — let's get real and unpack Santa Claus. We all buy into this "jolly" being without question, but if we actually sit back and think about it — this man is weird af. Here are just a few reasons why Santa is actually long overdue for some festive canceling.

1. He unapologetically stalks us.

He sees me when I'm sleeping? That's outrageously invasive. It seems Santa Claus is actually just Joe Goldberg with a holiday-themed outfit. He knows if I've been bad or good? Literally mind your business, Santa — I didn't ask you to evaluate my decisions. And the, "so be good for goodness sake," feels like blackmail. If I want to be bad, I'll be bad. What criteria are we even using?

2. His laugh is misogynistic.

'Ho ho ho?' In the year 2021? Unforgivable — and of course this is coming from the guy who's ensured that his longtime wife is known by no other name than Mrs. Claus. What exactly is so funny anyway, big guy? The wage gap?

3. Who exactly made him the boss of all of these reindeer and elves?

I know that sleigh could run on gas if you wanted it to, Kris. Funny how Rudolph's special nose was seen as a hindrance until it served a purpose

to you, huh? And don't even get me started on the wrath you'll incur from me should I ever find out those wondrous little toy-makers receive anything but the highest wages, best benefits and most complete retirement packages — Christmas spirit won't exactly pay the bills, my guy.

4. Why the chimney? Parkour Santa activated, I guess.

This is literally the least discrete way to enter my house. POV: I'm sleeping calmly in my bed when I hear a massive rumbling, followed by an old man somersaulting out of my literal fireplace coated in ash. Like guess what Santa, I'm probably going to wake up, and I thought your whole plan was to go unnoticed?

5. He expects to be fed.

My cookies are mine for a reason. You're literally so greedy, Santa. This is also not COVID-cautious whatsoever. The last thing I want is you pulling down your holiday mask to free breathe in my home while eating MY food. There better be some Moderna in that jolly ol' belly of yours.

6. We actually have to circle back to the whole ~watching us while we sleep~ thing again because it's just THAT weird.

From what I understand, the purpose of all of this watching is to judge our behavior (which is its own pile of garbage reasoning, but c'est la vie, I suppose). Tell me, Santa, what is it that you gather behavior-wise from observing us as



PHOTO BY LAUREN REID

Tori and Lauren cheers to a successful cancellation of Santa Claus.

we slumber? Am I behaving too snoring-ly? Did I roll over one too many times for the nice list this year? Unpack this, I beg you. You are not the Edward Cullen you think you are.

WINTER 2022 PAYMENT DUE DATE

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

Students who do not pay their balances in full or sign-up for a payment plan (and make the required installment(s)) may be dropped from classes and University housing (if applicable), and may be subject to late payment penalties and registration holds.

If you have questions or are experiencing circumstances that may prevent you from paying your account balance, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550. We are ready to support you and help with your financial aid and billing options.

Payment
Due

LEARN how to avoid cancellation (drop) at oakland.edu/financialservices/payments-refunds/payments-cancellation