

AN EARLY LOOK INSIDE HILLCREST

The newest residence hall takes
shape on the south side of campus
as the future home of 750 students
PAGES 8 & 9

SECRET OF SWEET

Music, Theater, and Dance wins
award for "Marcus" production

PAGE 6

CLASS PHILANTHROPY

Philosophy, criminal justice and
graphic design team up

PAGE 7

KONYA LEAVING



Athletic Director
steps down from
position at OU.
Joins Northeastern
University.

PAGE 14



Miss out on the news about the Oakland Center's flood? Editor-in-Chief Shelby Tankersley has all the updates.
www.oaklandpostonline.com



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

GRIZZFEST // Student org leaders tried their best to convince students to join their various clubs on Wednesday, Jan. 4. During the two and a half hour run time of the mixer, giveaways and fun were aplenty.
Photo // Brendan Triola

Submit a photo to editor@oaklandpostonline.com to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

What piece of winter gear keeps you toasty?

- A** My coat fit for an eskimo
- B** My ski mask making me look like a killer
- C** Only the flames of Hell can keep me warm
- D** Nothing helps and the air hurts my face

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

What did you think about Trump's first year as U.S. President?

- A)** He's making America great again!
9 votes | 16%
- B)** I'm still #FeelingTheBern
9 votes | 16%
- C)** He did 'aight
5 votes | 9%
- D)** My dog could have done better
33 votes | 59%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

January 10, 1964

Enrollment was shockingly down during the winter semester for the first time in the young university's existence.

January 8, 1977

The Oakland Post mentioned the Taco Bell that used to be on campus in an article about fast food.

January 12, 1994

An Oakland student skated for the final stages of U.S. Figure Skating Olympic trials in Joe Louis Arena.



"MOLLY'S GAME"

Aaron Sorkin's directoral debut is just as great as his screenwriting
Photo // IMDb



TOUGH LOSS

The Golden Grizzlies couldn't prevail against Northern Kentucky Norse
Photo // Elyse Gregory



DISAPPOINTED

Stephen Armica's father is not impressed with last semester's grades
Photo // Prakhya Chilikuri

BY THE
NUMBERS
HILLCREST HALL

750

Students will live in the building in fall 2018

30

Pieces of workout equipment will be available for use

17

Resident Assistants will staff the seven floors of the building

1

Giant staircase stretches through several floors of the residence hall

Oakland University Housing

Looking Back

Rats in Vandenberg Hall?

The Department of Psychology almost didn't move to Pryale Hall when it came time to find a new home

Cheyenne Kramer
Managing Editor

In recent years, there has been debate on the ethics and necessity for research to be done on animals in a university setting. In 2016, around 70 protesters gathered at the University of California — Los Angeles to fight for animal rights, with one protester saying that “animal testing is unethical, unnecessary and no humans benefit from it.”

The argument the protesters at UCLA had was that 90 percent of grants and funding received for research done on animals went directly to those doing the research.

At Oakland University, there was once a time where there were not two engineering halls along with two other science-focused buildings.

Lab space for all science fields in particular was so limited to the point that, in 1983, the psychology department was considering moving into Vandenberg Hall.

The headline ran in the Jan. 24, 1983 issue of The Oakland Post stating “Rats may live in Vandenberg Hall.”

This was because, at the time, the Department of Psychology had rat laboratories used in multiple experiments.

Today at Oakland and many other universities, a lab using animals as test subjects is held to a standard of humanity set forth by Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). Though a voluntary procedure, institutions can be accredited through the AAALAC to show the standards to which they hold animal rights.

The AAALAC states on its website that if any harm is to come to an animal, it needs to be assessed by before the experiments happen as part of the university being accredited by the AAALAC.

This means that there is some effort being made at OU to provide for the welfare of animals being tested on in multiple departments.

Most of these experiments happen in a \$5.8 million facility, funded in part by the National Center for Research Resources.

This facility has sterilization machines to clean animal cages and hosts a containment suite that allows research to be done on infectious diseases.

Part of the reason that the Department of Psychology was to move from Hannah Hall was because the amount of equipment it had in comparison to the other departments in Hannah was relatively low.

However, one thing prevented this move, and that was student living on campus. The plan was to move the department into the first, second or third floor of Vandenberg, which could have eliminated some housing space for Oakland University residents.

Especially with a move to floors two or three, rooms would have to have been eliminated as both of those floors are primarily student rooms.

The first level of Vandenberg was deemed “undesirable” for the psychology department due to the noise from the cafeteria. This would have been the only floor without rooms on it.

The psychology department is not presently located on the second and third floors of Vandenberg Hall. Instead, the department has been sent to an old residence hall — Pryale Hall.

Not all departments were safe from being put inside of residence halls, though.

On the first level of Vandenberg now sits the Department of Journalism, just below the staircase near the dining hall. It was given only two classrooms and four offices for faculty members.

Now it's journalism and communication students who are distracted by the sounds and smells coming from the cafeteria, rather than laboratory rats.

But hey, we think it's safe to say that none of us are upset over the fact that there are no rats running around a residence hall.



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Students flex acting muscles with “Martha”

Katarina Kovac
Staff Reporter

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University will present “Martha,” a romantic comedy opera, on Jan. 9, 11, 13 and 14 in Varner Recital Hall.

This opera is a love story set in Queen Anne-era England. Two noble women, seeking adventure in disguise, fall in love with two peasant men, but the ladies don’t care for country life. There’s mistaken identity along with plenty of comedic turns of events.

Drake Dantzler, associate professor of music, voice and the opera program coordinator, described Martha as an 1840’s opera that is tuneful and comic in nature.

“The show is composed of charming duets, trios, quartets and large ensembles based around the events taking place at the ‘Richmond Fair,’ and the ensuing fall-out from those events,” Dantzler said. “It includes

several famous numbers, including ‘The last rose of summer,’ Lionel’s famous aria ‘Ach so Fromm,’ and the ‘Spinning Wheel’ and ‘Midnight quartets.’”

Guests in attendance can expect to see elaborate and 1800s England-inspired costumes used throughout the whole performance.

“The costume designer for our show, Christy Huessner, incorporated the style from England in the 1800s with colors that reflected the nature of the music and the character’s personalities,” Dantzler said. “Some characters are dressed quite plainly, others reflect an exaggerated take on the highly stylized court dress of the time.”

Martha comes from the light, comical style of French opéra comique.

“This music is vocally driven, meaning that the music is primarily a mechanism for supporting rich, arching vocal lines,” Dantzler said. “Furthermore, comedic operas provide the students with an opportunity

to showcase their personalities and have fun on stage.”

“...comedic operas provide the students with an opportunity to showcase their personalities and have fun on stage.”

Drake Dantzler
Associate professor of music
Opera program coordinator

The cast is comprised of OU voice performance and voice education students. They are almost all undergraduate singers. Victoria Shively, conductor for Martha, said she especially enjoys working with student actors when putting on a performance such as Martha.

“Conducting the opera is an extension of my teaching here at Oakland University, so the success and educa-

tion of our exceptional students both on stage and in the orchestra is my primary focus,” Shively said. “I look forward the most to hearing and seeing them reap the benefits of their hard work. I couldn’t be prouder of them.”

With OU’s School of Music, Theatre and Dance quickly growing, opera has become extremely successful due to the dedication of the music faculty that works as a team.

“The students have learned how to perform in ensembles because of nationally renowned conductors (who are my faculty role models as well),” Shively said. “They see the rehearsal techniques, organization and production practices in their music education classes come to life.”

The show will be produced in English with full costume, set and orchestra. The audience will enjoy a light-hearted evening on tuneful songs and passionate duets.

Admission is \$10 for students and \$20 for the general public.

Soundings Series concert returns

Jessica Leydet
Staff Intern

The mission of the Soundings Series is to educate faculty about the various ways they can bring research out of the lab, by connecting it to wider audiences, and communities in effort to support positive change in the world.

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, another Soundings Series will take place from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Oakland Room in the Oakland Center.

Dr. David Stone, chief research officer at Oakland University, and Leanne DeVreugd, program assistant for WISER (Women in Science, Engineering, and Research), organize the Soundings Series.

“Over time, these sessions will have focused on a range of such strategies, for example, getting your work on television, on radio, in the popular press, in popular books, through blog posts and twitter feeds, and through direct work with community agencies, non-profit groups, hospitals and other community based organizations,” Stone said.

The speakers at this event are Mark Stone, associate professor of music at Oakland, and Dwayne Anthony, community relations specialist and arts commissioner for the city of Pontiac. They will share how they put together their concert series, “Soul Food,” and how they used music to unite the people of Oakland County.

“I look forward to Mark sharing his passion about bringing diverse communities together and how he incorporates his performative research into exciting and successful community events,” DeVreugd said.

About a year ago, Stone and Anthony started “Soul Food” to settle tensions after the election.

“It was such a divisive year, especially coming off of the political cycle,” Mark Stone said. “We wanted to promote unity through music because there was so much negativity streaming through the media and the community, so we wanted to promote something positive.”


Mark Stone started “Soul Food” during a conversation on the phone with Marvin Holladay, the founder of OU’s

World Music program, who now resides in Ecuador.

“I called him one day and mentioned that I wanted to do something to promote peace in the community and he told me they have celebrations in his town that bring people together through music, so we ended up doing our own version of that in Pontiac,” he said.

At Sounding Series, Mark Stone said he and his partner will discuss how “Soul Food” brought together people in the county, and how his own research and experience as a performing artist has given him something to offer the community.


“I think that with both the ‘Soul Food’ event and the Sounding Series, there is a common theme,” he said. “At our university, there are many different silos, like the School of Music, Theatre and Dance, for instance, and we all can exist separately in our own separate corners, but I think the Soundings Series and our creation, ‘Soul Food,’ both aim to break down those barriers to bring all of us together.”



FIRST SAILING OF THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE WELCOME WEEK FLEET

The Queen of the Oakland Center


TITANIC CASINO NIGHT



LENGTH 6.5 HOURS OVER \$4,000 DOLLARS 1,443 ACRES
OF PRIZES


This, the Latest, Largest, and Finest Welcome Week Event, will sail from
STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD, PIER 6-4 (North Trailer), OAKLAND CENTER

Saturday, January 20th At 19:00



FIRST CLASS ENTRANCE

Casino Games Food
Dancing Hypnotist
Photobooths Prizes



★ All passengers receive tokens at the door, but students must present valid OU ID to claim prizes.

FUTURE OAKLAND CENTER LOUNGE

The Tiny House Project Apprenticeship

Sadie Layher
Staff Reporter

One of the last thoughts by millennials as a vocational option is apprenticeship. The first instinct of students is to go to a college or university to get a safe career. However, college is not the only way to build a future.

Dr. David Strubler of Oakland University created a program called the Tiny House Apprenticeship pilot in August 2017 to teach a group of inexperienced men to create something with their hands. With direction, they created a fully functioning tiny house with no experience using power tools.

Jennifer Llewellyn, manager of Oakland County's workforce development for Michigan Works!, also played a part in Strubler's project. Both have similar philosophies regarding the lack of teens choosing to go into plumbing, electrical and construction-type jobs.

Llewellyn said she is "passionate about individuals that are here to learn and earn" at the Tiny House Apprenticeship.

In regards to the tiny houses, it took roughly three months for five 20-23 year old men to complete one full house. The house itself was a 28-foot and 304-square

foot tiny home and each man was exposed to the different trades.

"Under the direction of Father Shaun LeDuc, a bi-vocational Anglican carpenter/priest, the young men were exposed to carpentry, electrical, plumbing, roofing, siding, flooring, insulation, painting and the like," Strubler said.

With some apprenticeships, Llewellyn stated, people can learn and earn while working on their projects.

"For the past 10 years, Oakland County's Michigan Works! program has been identifying and promoting 60 apprenticeship programs in southeastern Michigan including the construction trades, manufacturing, medical, information technology and service," Strubler said.

Slowly but surely, the labor workforce is appealing to more high school graduates. This being said, they will have the opportunity to make salaries of those who spent four years at a university according to the "Good Jobs Project." According to the project, there is a high chance of making a median salary of roughly \$50,000 without needing a bachelor's degree.

"We need to educate parents and students that there are more options than just college," Llewellyn said.



Photo courtesy of Dr. David Strubler

A 28-foot long tiny house like the one pictured above takes about three months to complete.

College is a great thing if there are certain careers a student is extremely passionate about such as education, theatre, or nursing programs that are at Oakland. School is challenging and is not made for everyone, for those who feel this doesn't really fit their lifestyle, then trade skills may be a good starting option.

Currently there is a project in the works for creating multiple tiny houses on a lot in order to build a tiny community. Llewellyn was filming Strubler's project for a documentary on trade workforce

jobs and options and what could come from them.

"I am currently in conversations with a builder who is planning to purchase a number of lots nearby on which to build a tiny house community that involves apprentices," Strubler said.

Each of these houses would be built solely built by apprentices and the hope is that it would act as affordable housing in Detroit.

University is ideal for some, but trade skills are just as important.

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- Writing headlines and subheads for articles as well as cutlines for photos.

Interested applicants should send a resume, cover letter and Adobe InDesign samples to Editor-in-Chief Shelby Tankersley at editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

Position effective Feb. 18. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 5.

MTD production receives “sweet” invitation to festival

Trevor Tyle
Campus Editor

The Oakland University Department of Theatre is preparing for two sweet final performances of one of its most popular productions.

OU’s “Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet” has been invited to perform at the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at the Marian University Theatre in Indianapolis on Jan. 11. The play, written by “Moonlight” screenwriter Tarell McCraney, is the final chapter in “The Brother/Sister Plays” trilogy. Its predecessors, “In the Red and Brown Water” and “The Brothers Size,” have both previously been performed on campus.

Though director Karen Sheridan says the invitation was an “exciting” moment for everyone involved, it didn’t come as a surprise to the production’s star, Brandon Santana.

“

“It’s really one of those plays that is a complete celebration of life and such a beautiful play to expose what it’s like to be black in a black community.”

Brandon Santana

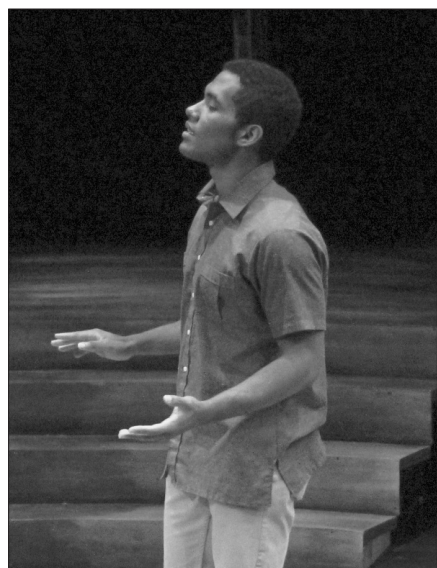
Main character of “Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet”

“It certainly didn’t feel like the last time back in November,” he said. “This was something we have been hoping for and anticipating since rehearsals began.”

“Marcus” tells the story of its titular character, a 16-year-old African American boy struggling with his sexual identity amid some stunning revelations about his late father. The play has been praised for being both inclusive and contemporary, both important elements for a college audience according to Sheridan.

“I think it’s topical in that way because you can’t help but like this character,” she said. “You can be a very conservative person [...] and it’s going to be really hard for you to hate this kid. You sit there and you go, ‘OK, so, I am not a gay man, but I have felt like the people around me don’t understand me. So, I get that.’

And then all of a sudden, you go, ‘OK, so, I know what my thing about not being accepted is, so I get your gay thing, even if I don’t get the gay thing.’ So, it just starts



Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

Brandon Santana plays the main character, Marcus in “Marcus; Or the Secret of Sweet.”

to open a little door. And our job at a university is to get people to think. It doesn’t have to be to piss people off, so you just have to pick your stories appropriately, but this is a challenging piece.”

Sheridan had to restage the production to maintain its intimacy in a slightly less intimate setting—the Marian University Theatre seats 487, while the Varner Studio Theatre seats 125. The production’s popularity allowed it to make a one-night-only comeback to OU on Saturday, Jan. 6, during which the restaging was debuted. The night’s proceeds contributed to the travel costs for the cast and crew’s participation in the festival.

Next week’s festival marks an accomplishment not only for the production, but also for Santana, who received an Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition nomination for his starring role. He is one of seven nominees that will represent OU at the festival, with each competing for the \$500 award.

“It’s really one of those plays that is a complete celebration of life and such a beautiful play to expose what it’s like to be black in a black community,” he said. “What’s very exciting about doing this kind of work is that people outside the black community or the LGBTQ+ community seem to always take something away from this. We’ve had people express how surprised they were and thankful to have seen such a show. It’s a play that is impossible to replicate.”

For more information, visit OU’s School of Music, Theatre and Dance webpage.

POLICE FILES

Month-long feud

An Oakland University Police Department officer responded to a walk-in complaint on Nov. 5 at 3:28 a.m. The individual stated that his roommate had tried to assault him. The feud began over a month ago when his roommate overheard him use a racial term over the phone. His roommate took offense immediately and they had been disputing since. While attempting to sleep, the roommate turned on the lights upon arrival and increased the TV volume to an inconsiderate level. The two argued and the roommate threatened to “beat his ass.” The individual visited OUPD out of fear for his safety. Officers spoke with the roommate, who admitted to the altercation and threats, but the initial complainant did not want to press charges against him. Housing was notified of the situation.

A schedule 2 narcotic, actually

OUPD was notified by the Oakland University Credit Union of a suspicious glass vial filled with clear liquid that had been found on a chair Nov. 2 at approximately 1:30 p.m. The vial was tested and found to be Fentanyl, an opioid which is used as pain medication with a high risk for addiction and dependence. Upon reviewing surveillance footage, officers were able to identify a student who dropped the vial from his backpack during a visit to the credit union. He was contacted and questioned. He stated that he was a paramedic and it wasn’t uncommon to have these drugs in possession while off duty and that Fentanyl was a schedule 1 narcotic, though it actually is a schedule 2. His supervisor did not back up the claim, either, saying that paramedics were not supposed to carry the drug with them. The investigation continued into December while officers contacted other paramedics for further clarification. No charges have been made as of print.

Compiled by Mary Siring,
Staff Reporter

2018 Wilson and Human Relations Awards

Now accepting nominations.

THE ALFRED G. AND MATILDA R. WILSON AWARDS (\$1,000 AWARD EACH) recognize one female senior student and one male senior student who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the OU community. **Nominees must:**

- be graduating seniors in winter 2018 or have graduated in summer or fall 2017
- have a strong academic record of 3.5 or higher GPA

THE HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD (\$500 AWARD) recognizes a senior student who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution in the OU community. Nominees must:

- be graduating seniors in winter 2018 or have graduated in summer or fall 2017
- demonstrate service to the community
- have a minimum 2.5 GPA

Nomination forms are available at oakland.edu/deanofstudents/dean_awards. Nominations are due by January 29. All application materials are due by February 5.

For questions, contact:

Dean of Students Office | Vandenberg Hall, Room 120 | (248) 370-3352

Community and charity come together



Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

Haley Weigman, an OU graphic design student, gave her winnings to The Devoted Barn.

Mary Siring
Staff Reporter

In multiple departments, students are engaging in the donor-funded pilot Student Philanthropy and Community Engagement Program, turning existing philanthropy-based projects into reality.

“For this current semester and the previous two, I run my final project assignment pretty much as usual,” said Joyce Havstad, a philosophy professor. “Then the college also makes an addi-

tional, sizable donation to the winning charity.”

Students from the philosophy, criminal justice and graphic design departments are tasked with projects such as these and a \$2000 donation to a charity of their choosing as the prize.

The student does not see any of that money, but it’s a donation of behalf of the student’s hard work and the university.

“I asked them to choose a non-profit that was local to them, within, say, a 50 mile radius to school, that they cared

about or were passionate about,” said Meghan Barry, a graphic design professor at Oakland University. “They then had to use graphic design to better aid that organization’s mission.”

For the students, this is a semester long project with research and required volunteer time included. Each of the discipline has different requirements for students.

“They could create new programs that were mock trial things, or they could take things that the non profit already had and tweak it,” Barry said. “All the students were tasked with this through the semester. They did a lot of research and then at the end of the semester they all presented and the students in class actually voted for each other.”

Haley Weigman was the winner in the graphic design department in the 2017 fall semester, donating her winnings to The Devoted Barn in Newport, MI, an animal rescue and rehabilitation center.

“I chose it because I saw that they were doing really amazing work for animals from all over the world,” Weigman said. “I thought how they ran their rehabilitation center was really unique and different from any other humane society.”

Weigman, for her project, made a new logo for The Devoted Barn, a volunteer handbook, a 24x36 poster, a wine bottle, a dog adoption kit, and matching dog and owner apparel — the wine bottle

becoming her favorite creation.

“With the wine bottle, my target audience was millennials,” Weigman said. “Millennials are the biggest consumers of wine and the most charitable group of people. I thought that if there was a wine bottle with a dog on it and the proceeds go to benefit charity, it’s a no brainer.”

The other winning charities were Detroit 4 Puerto Rico in Terressa Benz’s criminal justice class and The New Day Foundation for Families in Havstad’s philosophy class.

There are plans to include the political science major in this program, as well.

“What’s so interesting about this program is that it’s in criminology and philosophy and, now, political science,” Barry said. “These three very different programs in the college that are doing something that falls under the same umbrella. The ways that everyone is handling the assignment is very different.”

The professors involved hope to have a day in which students from the classes can view each others’ work.

The program will be running again next semester, providing the opportunities to students looking to make a difference in their discipline.

“For one, it’s a great portfolio piece,” Weigman said. “But you are actually able to make a difference in the world through design, that’s what design’s all about.”

Imagining Rochester from another country

Strengthening relationships between two Rochesters through a new book

Laurel Kraus
Life Editor

This year will be celebrate 60 years of Oakland University, 40 years of the Oakland University Honors College and 200 of years of Rochester.

Born out of this look back at our history, the Honors College, West Middle School, Echo Cognito and Rochester Grammar School collaborated to create the book “Imagining Rochester” and develop the relationship between Rochester, MI and Rochester, Kent in England.

“It was also a misinterpretation on my part because I think maybe the original thing was ‘oh is this where it’s [Rochester, MI] connected to?’” said Dean of the Honors College, Graeme Harper. “Because we’ve got a whole bunch of stuff in terms of the city seal that suggests a connection in a way, and it’s not really the exact connection at all.”

It turns out there are 19 Rochesters in the world, and ours links back to Rochester, NY. Nevertheless, Harper developed the idea of creating a book made up of poems, short stories and artwork, in which students from both sides of the Atlantic could imagine what it would be like to live in the other Rochester.

“You can kind of travel without traveling when you use your imagination,” Harper said. “The point was, can we get people to imagine what a different life would be like to their own version of Rochester.”

In 2015, at the time when collaborations between the two cities were just beginning, the then Mayor of Rochester, Jeff Cuthbertson, traveled to England on a family vacation and visited Rochester, Kent in an effort to aid the growing relationship.

“I lovingly refer to Rochester in some ways as a bubble,” Cuthbertson said. “We live in, what I consider to be, a wonderful and charmed community and there’s a lot of strengths in that. You might argue that there’s some weakness in it if you’re not looking to the broader world around you.”

The two cities are now looking toward potential future collaborations which could come in any number of forms.

According to Harper, Rochester Grammar School has a world class choir which does an American tour each year, and this year, he hopes they may drop by Oakland.

There is also the possibility of an OU study abroad program to Rochester, Kent developing out of the relationship, as well as a type of exchange of festival activi-

ties between Rochester, MI’s Fire and Ice Festival and Rochester, Kent’s Dickens Festival.

“It’s kind of interesting of course to think of Matilda Wilson at the time, because there wasn’t much else except Rochester to link to, was so adamant about our postal address having the Rochester name in it, and you sort of think ‘that’s kind of cool, Matilda would probably like this,’” Harper said.

Free copies of “Imagining Rochester” can be found in the Honors College office in Oak View Hall.



Nicole Morsfield / The Oakland Post

“Imagining Rochester” brings cities together through art.

An inside look at the new *Hillcrest Hall*

Story by Shelby Tankersley

Photos by Elyse Gregory

Design by Megan Luttinen, Copy Editor & Graphics by Erin O'Neill and Prakhya Chilukuri, Graphic Designer and Assistant

Built into a hill on the southern end of campus sits the developing skeleton of Hillcrest Hall. When it opens, it will become the ninth building to serve as a residence hall at Oakland University. Far removed from the rest of Housing, the building is planned to house upperclassmen who have classes in buildings like Pawley Hall, Varner Hall and the Engineering Center.

The building is still a hardhat area and remains rather bare, but it is on schedule to open in the fall semester of 2018. The construction crew continued to work over winter break to ensure a smooth opening.

"I was in this building just before winter break and it already looks so different," said Kelly Garnett, Housing's assistant director for enrollment and mar-

keting. "It's like walking into a new building every time I visit."

As the building is so far away from the rest of Housing, it will offer some features that are not in the other residence halls.

Perhaps most notably, Hillcrest will have its own cafeteria with 400 seats along with a 75-seat multi-purpose room and a room for private events. Compared to Vandenberg Hall's 550 seat dining hall, it will sit less people but offer more food options. The cafeteria will also be open to the entire campus.

"The cooking is going to have more of a pod concept instead of everything being pushed behind the scenes," said James Zentmeyer, the director of Housing. "More of the cooking will be taking place out in the open. There are seven different stations that will have typical home-cooked dining, barbecue cooking and Italian among other things."

Another food option Zentmeyer is looking forward to is the offering of more gluten-free and lactose-free food for students with those allergies. The seating in the dining hall will also match the themes of the various cooking stations. For instance, Zentmeyer said picnic-esque tables will accompany the barbecue station.

Hillcrest will also offer a fitness center with 30 pieces of equipment ranging from strength to cardio. The center will be staffed by Oakland University Rec Well employees and available to all students whether they are on-campus residents or not. Separated only

by a few floors and a glass wall, the fitness center will overlook the dining hall.

"Some people say it's motivating, I say it's mean," Garnett joked about the fitness center's view.

The area surrounding the dining hall and fitness center is largely separated by glass. This creates some transparency between floors three, which is the ground floor, though five and allows for natural light. Floors three through five also play host to a grand staircase.

The suites where students will stay are also unlike the other residence halls. Each room can house four students who will each stay in their own bedroom. The four bedrooms are joined by a large main room with a fridge and microwave as well as plenty of room for a couch and television. The bathroom is separated into two rooms with the shower on one side of the suite and the toilet on the other.

Zentmeyer said a focus group of students came up with much of how the rooms are laid out.

"We worked very closely with 10 different students that were either very active in the university or Housing," he said. "They sat down with the designers and said they're okay with four bedrooms to a suite and the split bathrooms instead of one bathroom for four people. They really wanted the shared community space."

All suites in the building are laid out the same, and they will become the homes for 750 upperclassmen in September.



- Hillcrest Hall will have 17 Resident Assistants who work across seven floors.
- The building will host a restaurant and convenience store similar to Oak View Hall's Tilly's. It will serve soups, artisan sandwiches and coffee drinks made by baristas.
- Some of the Housing office's employees will move their work spaces to the new building, though the main office will still be in Hamlin Hall.
- Hillcrest will pass Hamlin Hall, which hosts 680 students, as the largest residence hall on campus.
- Hillcrest is the first of several residence halls planned for southern campus.
- The building will have just one Night Watch station, though that may change based on traffic.



Pictured: James Zentmeyer and Kelly Garnett.



The 2018-2019 school year
Housing contract will be
open from Feb. 1 at 8 a.m.
to March 1 at 5 p.m.

CAUTION
Priority numbers will be given
based on credit hours earned,
no matter what point a student
fills out the contract.

The Housing contract
can be accessed through
oakland.edu/housing



Sigma Xi ranks third in competition for first time

16 Oakland University students competed for their school's chapter

Sadie Layher
Staff Reporter

For the first time in its history, Oakland University's honor society Sigma Xi ranked third in the Sigma Xi Excellence Award competition.

500 chapters of Sigma Xi from across the country came together to compete and present the research done by the prestigious honor society's participants.

According to Dr. Shailesh Lal, who has been president of the Oakland University chapter for 10 years, what makes this society so prestigious is its 200 nobel-laureates, or members who graduated and went on to be nobel prize winners.

In order to compete the members have to become "full-members." According to Regan Miller, an associate member, "you can 'advance' from an associate member to a full member by being a

first author on two or more publications."

The whole competition is research-based. Sarah Medley's research, a student who competed in the competition, was conducted on the "evolution of malaria and finding ways to make drugs target malaria more effectively."

Each participant is rated on a five point scale, Oakland is one of the only schools who sends 10 or more applicants to the conference. Annika Grupp was also a part of the competition. Grupp studies within Dr. Frank Giblin's Eye Research Institute located inside Dodge Hall. Grupp created a poster on the lens of the eye and what proteins are doing that created cataracts.

After being reviewed by two to three judges, Grupp said she earned, "scores I was proud of."

Both of these students had only become members recently and did not have any prior experience

with Sigma Xi. Medley wanted to compete at the competition and Grupp did not know about the club until her primary investigator approached and asked her to join.

Lal has been a member since he was pursuing his undergraduate degree. He got involved later on as he was asked to be a guest speaker at one of the annual banquets after joining as a faculty member.

"As a whole, the society is centered around education," Lal said.

The society is supported by donors like Dr. Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, Oakland University's president. Each year there is an annual banquet which initiates new members, and because of the donations each first year member has their dues paid for the first year of membership.

Oakland sent 16 students to the conference this year which happens to be everyone that applied to attend. The University of Michigan won last year's conference, where-



Sam Boggs / The Oakland Post

Annika Grupp was one of the students selected to compete for OU.

as this year they did not even make the leader board. Oakland University was the only school from the state of Michigan to rank in 2017.

Medley believes that the victory "makes research and Oakland look better and currently it does not receive the recognition it deserves."

Research is important and time consuming and it is not necessarily better to go to a big university to get a quality education or to conduct great research.

"I believe that students should pursue their goals, even if they're afraid of failing," Miller said.

WINTER 2018 PAYMENT DUE DATES

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™

The winter semester is here — start it off right and avoid any last-minute surprises by being proactive with all your financial business.

Consider all your financial options, including OU payment plans, which help spread tuition and costs into smaller, more manageable installments.

IMPORTANT DATE

- **January 18** — cancellation (drop) date for students who have not paid their charges

You can avoid class cancellation (drop) by paying your student account in full by enrolling in a payment plan and paying your installments on time, obtaining financial aid, utilizing external sources, and/or using your own funds.

We are here to help. If you need help understanding payment options or how to finance your education, please contact Student Financial Services at (248) 370-2550 or go to North Foundation Hall, Room 120, as soon as possible.

Payment
Due

VIEW all payment and cancellation (drop) dates and **LEARN** how to avoid cancellation (drop) at oakland.edu/financialservices, then Payments & Refunds, then Payments & Cancellation

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Political Focus: California Marijuana legalization, could Michigan be next?



John Bozick
Web Editor

California became the largest state to legalize the consumption and sale of cannabis on Jan. 1, becoming one of eight states along with the District of Columbia that have legalized recreational marijuana. The state, which previously had a \$13.1 billion illegal underground market, is expected to create a \$5 billion market within the next year, generating hundreds of millions in tax dollars toward the state.

Marijuana reform is not a radical practice. Countries such as Uruguay, The Netherlands and Jamaica have all decriminalized marijuana, and our closest neighbor Canada is expected to become the largest country to fully legalize recreational marijuana in the coming months, owing up to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's campaign promises. This brings the question of whether Michigan could be the next state to legalize recreational marijuana.

Currently the Michigan advocacy group, MILEgalize, is working toward getting the reform on the ballot in 2018 following a sabotage of the campaign in 2016. Collecting close to 350,000 signatures before the 2016 election, the measure was struck down by the Michigan Bureau of Elections, a move that is now being challenged in court.

The group looks to model their plan after the states that have already followed through with these reforms, essentially taxing and selling the plant in a similar way to alcohol. Creating what they call "the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act," this would fully legalize marijuana under state and local laws to anyone above the age of 21.

The proposal would establish strict regulations into where dispensaries could be lo-

cated, with the local government of the city or town having the final say as to where it could be located. This shows that MILEgalize has done their homework on the matter and come 2018 this will be a hot issue for Michigan's future governor.

Candidate for governor Abdul Sayed, one of five democratic candidates running, called the policy smart and believes this reform would help to reduce incarceration rates for some people.

At a campaign rally, Sayed stated, "The single best way around limiting marijuana usage for folks for whom marijuana may be dangerous is to legalize it for everyone else and be very focused about who can't use it."

During a forum hosted by MILEgalize in November, Gretchen Whitmer, another democrat running, also voiced support stating, "We've seen other states do it wrong. In Michigan, we've got a chance to do it right."

The market for legal Marijuana has been threatened recently after Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memo rescinding an Obama era regulation that protected states, that had legalized marijuana, from crack-downs by the federal government.

"The single best way around limiting marijuana usage for folks for whom marijuana may be dangerous is to legalize it for everyone else and be very focused about who can't use it."

Abdul Sayed
Candidate for Governor of Michigan

Despite President Donald Trump voicing support for Sessions' move, many members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have voiced disdain for the move, making the idea of marijuana being legalized federally not seem far off.

While national polls show that a majority of Americans support legalization, in Michigan alone, based on a poll from EPIC-MRA (Educational, Political, Industrial, Consumer Market Research Analysis) of Lansing, around 57 percent of those polled support this legislation, showing that this will be one of the most important issues for the Midterm Elections in 2018.

"Time's Up": Hollywood creates movement in demand for change



Katarina Kovac
Staff Reporter

As many prominent figures in Hollywood have been faced with sexual harassment allegations recently, 300 prominent actors and female agents, writers, directors, producers and entertainment executives have formed an ambitious initiative to fight systemic sexual harassment in Hollywood and in blue-collar workplaces nationwide.

On Jan. 1, The New York Times ran a story with a headline titled "Dear Sisters." The open letter was signed by over 300 prominent Hollywood figures.

Members of the "Time's Up" initiative include Reese Witherspoon, Emma Stone, Natalie Portman, Eva Longoria, America Ferrera, Meryl Streep, Shonda Rhimes, Blake Lively and many others.

Tina Tchen, Michelle Obama's former chief of staff, pioneered the creation of the fund with this initiative which will connect sexual harassment victims with lawyers. The fund, which is still accruing donations, will be administered by the National Women's Law Center's Legal Network for Gender Equity.

Their goal is to help correct a power imbalance through the use of a legal defense fund.

This legal defense fund, backed by \$13 million in donations, has been put into place in an effort to help less privileged women such as janitors, nurses and workers at farms, factories, restaurants and hotels pay for court fees

when fighting sexual harassment or assault.

With the help of this legal defense fund, victims will be able to protect themselves from sexual misconduct and the backlash that unfortunately comes with reporting it.

"It's very hard for us to speak righteously about the rest of anything if we haven't cleaned our own house," said Shonda Rhimes, the executive producer of the television series "Grey's Anatomy", "Scandal" and "How to Get Away With Murder", in a public statement to The New York Times.

Other initiatives within "Time's Up" include legislation to penalize companies that tolerate persistent harassment and/or incorporate the use of nondisclosure agreements to silence victims.

In an effort to raise awareness, women walking the red carpet at The Golden Globes on Jan. 7 wore black.

"It's very hard for us to speak righteously about the rest of anything if we haven't cleaned our own house."

Shonda Rhimes
Executive Producer

"For years, we've sold these awards shows as women, with our gowns and colors and our beautiful faces and our glamour," Longoria said in a public statement to The New York Times. "This time the industry can't expect us to go up and twirl around. That's not what this moment is about."

Those involved with the "Time's Up" movement demand greater representation for minorities, immigrants and those in the LGBTQIA+ community whose experiences in the workforce are said to be often significantly worse than their white, cisgender, straight peers.

The group will also seek legislation that would penalize misbehaving companies as well as a specific push to achieve gender parity at Hollywood studios and talent agencies.

The creation of the "Time's Up" initiative led by powerful Hollywood women is most certainly a positive step in combating widespread sexual harassment and assault in show business and other industries in America.

“Molly’s Game” deals a winning hand

Trevor Tyle
Campus Editor

Screenwriter Aaron Sorkin may be a bit of a wildcard, but with his new film “Molly’s Game,” he’s been dealt a winning hand.

It’s surprising that, after a career spanning more than three decades, Sorkin is just now making his directorial debut. The Oscar-winning screenwriter has previously found success with “The Social Network,” “Moneyball” and “The West Wing,” though with “Molly’s Game,” the thrillingly superb cast and Sorkin’s brilliant direction may have given him one of his most compelling creations yet.

Fronted by Jessica Chastain, the film tells the true story of Molly Bloom, a skier-turned-entrepreneur who finds herself running a high-stakes poker game amidst the shadiest of participants, ranging from Hollywood scumbags to Russian mobsters. After being arrested by the FBI for running an illegal gambling operation, Bloom seeks help from attorney Charlie Jaffey (Idris Elba), who comes to find that her “poker princess”

tabloid reputation is far from the truth.

Chastain is, unsurprisingly, delightful in her portrayal of Bloom. In fact, she’s truly remarkable. Sorkin’s notoriously advanced wordage has met its match in the feisty redhead, who beautifully narrates in between shots of her past and present throughout the film. Her chemistry with the equally exceptional Elba is quite possibly the film’s strongest offering. The duo are fire together, but have just enough of their own sparks to drive their individual moments on screen.

Kevin Costner, who plays Bloom’s estranged psychiatrist father, is also quite excellent. Though his appearances throughout the film are rather infrequent, he has one powerful scene with Chastain at the end that may be a tad predictable, but cathartic nonetheless.

Sorkin’s wordy screenplay is both his winning ally and greatest enemy here. Though a trademark for the veteran writer, the film’s fast-paced dialogue may, at times, isolate audiences who aren’t poker aficionados or business experts—though this is, in part, due to the characters’ impressively unbelievable wit.

At times, “Molly’s Game” may seem a bit dull—though this, again, is a reflection of Sorkin’s sometimes incomprehensibly advanced writing. The film is, however, mostly entertaining, finding plenty of opportune moments for a film centered on high-stakes poker to feel like a dangerous thriller.

On a deeper level, Bloom’s story is particularly resonant now, in light of the growing list of sexual assault allegations in Hollywood. An unmistakably mighty statement on female empowerment, it’s the perfect story to be told to a culture as corrupted by misogynistic views as our own. Bloom, motivated by the control she holds over other powerful men, represents the voiceless and oppressed in a way that only Chastain could. Released just after the peak of the #MeToo movement, the film’s appeal to a feminist as fearlessly outspoken as Chastain is understandable, as she manifests that same fortitude on screen.

If nothing else, the flawless cast makes “Molly’s Game” worth its nearly two-and-a-half-hour runtime. Though Sorkin’s films are frequently an ac-

quired taste, even the most uninterested of audiences will be able to find something both profound and captivating about it.

With “Molly’s Game,” Sorkin has, once again, played his cards just right.

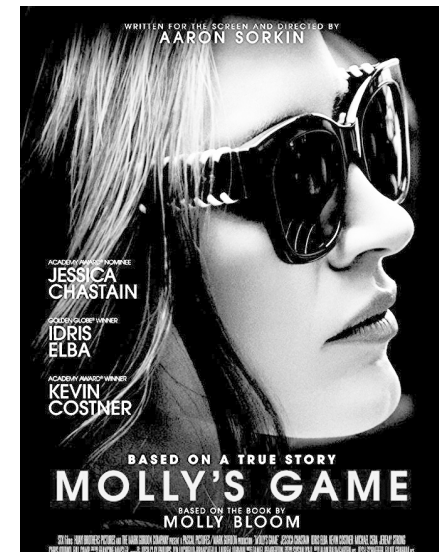


Photo courtesy of IMDb
A biography/drama telling the story of Molly Bloom who ran high stakes poker games.

The “CREAM” has risen

A mixtape with a message, encouraging listeners to rise above obstacles

Mina Fuqua
Copy Editor

Local Detroit artist Fvded (pronounced Faded) has released his latest mixtape, CREAM. In this project, Fvded describes his life journey of being faced with adversity. And as most know, the cream always rises to the top. Referring to himself as the cream, Fvded used this project to express how he has always been able to rise above hardships.

The introduction of CREAM explains the inspiration Fvded received to create the project. One day, Fvded was working and encountered an older man named Mr. Brown who was singing a Temptations song. Once he finished singing, he left a few wise words which gave Fvded the incentive to create CREAM.

“There’s millions of people — only one is going to stand at the

top,” Brown said. “That’s why they call me Cream, because I rise to the top.”

In this project, Fvded displayed his outstanding ability to create a quality mixtape. From his impeccable storytelling to his unique word play, CREAM deserves all ears. Out of all 13 tracks, there is not one song worth skipping. A couple of songs that stand out are “95’ Flows” and “I SEE.” These tracks not only display great quality, but they exemplify meaning and diversity in style.

In CREAM, storytelling is one of Fvded’s strengths. “95’ Flows” is a track that Fvded uses to reminisce on his early upbringing. He describes how his experience of growing up in a low income environment was the best and worst of times. This track is a personal favorite of mine because it is very well made and highly relatable. Even for listeners who cannot personally

relate to his story, Fvded’s lyrics paint a vivid picture of how he grew up. This allows listeners to clearly imagine how Fvded’s adolescent years were.

Fvded says his favorite song from CREAM is “I SEE.” This song easily qualifies as one of the realest songs I’ve ever listened to. Fvded expresses that he recognizes those people who are truly supportive of him and others who only pretend to be. When listening to “I SEE” it sounds as though Fvded truly put his all into that song. In this single track, there’s profound emotion, word play, rhyme scheme, undeniable flow — it’s honestly amazing.

“The reason [“I SEE” is my favorite] is because it’s me,” Fvded said. “It’s just how I feel and I’m talking about what I’ve seen, how I view the world... That song is 100 percent me.”

CREAM is one of the best mixtapes released by a hip-hop

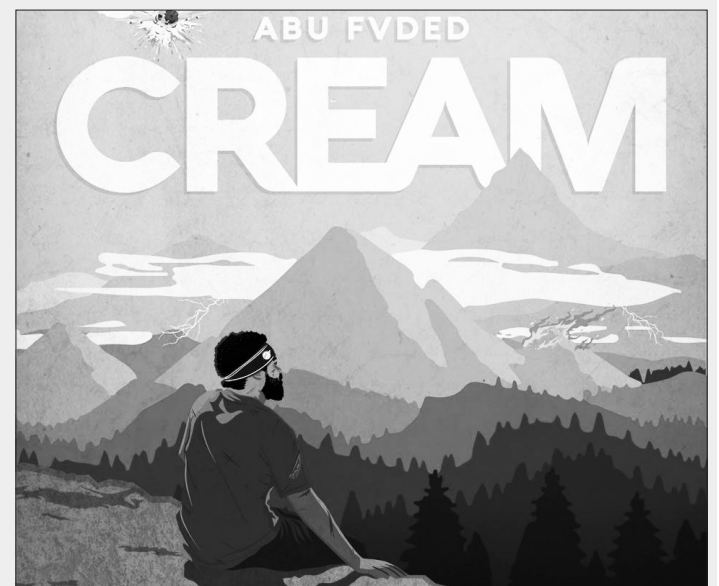


Photo courtesy of Fvded

CREAM is a 13 track hip-hop mixtape composed of freestyles and songs.

artist that I’ve heard in a long time. Fvded’s CREAM is able to connect with people; it causes a reaction from the listener, it’s memorable and it’s well crafted with phenomenal production. CREAM is about how Fvded has overcome obstacles and rose higher, and with that message he hopes to inspire listeners to do the same.

“I was kind of down,” Fvded said. “I was in a space where I wasn’t happy or my normal self, but I rose out of that and I always have. Hopefully someone can listen to it and it will help them overcome their situation.”

CREAM can be found on SoundCloud by TheRealFvded. <https://soundcloud.com/the-realfvded/sets/cream>

Club figure skating hopes for Nationals

Katie LaDuke
Staff Reporter

With the recent weather dipping below freezing, many college students could have skated their way across campus. As Michigan gets a warm front, the Oakland University figure skating club is now trying to skate their way to Nationals.

The club was first started in 2007 to give Oakland students a chance to continue skating careers after high school.

“I felt that I put so much time into it already I didn’t want to just quit after high school,” senior President Alyssa Hankins said.

Some members have upwards of 10 years of experience in figure skating. While skating experience is recommend, it is not a requirement to be a part of the team. Some members skate just for fun or who are very novice do not have to compete.

The Figure Skating Club averages six to 13 members but is always accepting new members. Since there are no specific tryouts, interested students just need to attend practices.

“The reason we recommend having experience is because of the ice skates and the technique,” Hankins said.

In the club’s bi-weekly practices, much of the time is spent working toward competitions. The team attends three competitions in hopes of placing for Nationals. In all of the competitions, ice skating and ice dancing are incorporated. While ice skating allows for more jumps, ice dancing has performers skate to more defined beats.

All routines vary depending on the skill level of the skaters which then decides the length. Freshman member Julia Budnick did a “Beauty and the Beast” inspired competition routine that was four minutes long.

“It feels very light,” Budnick said. “Although it’s four minutes long, and I feel like I’m

going to die by the end, it’s my favorite.”

For competitions, it is not unusual for the team to travel far. This past October, Western Michigan University was the first stop of the competition season. In February, the team will be flying to Minnesota for a competition.

With the help of fundraising, the club was able to cover majority of the season’s expenses. Their recent bowling fundraiser gathered around \$2,000. If the team places for Nationals, more money will have to be raised.

If the club places for Nationals, this would be the first year they attend. However, members are not new to placing in the top five at competitions. At the last competition, the team placed fourth, a big improvement from years past.

“Our team this year is a lot more competitive than the past,” Hankins said.

One unique aspect the club picked up from traveling to competitions is their signature “tweeting.” It started when the team saw Adrian College’s members and student section barking as a way to support the performers when they took the ice.

“We just started tweeting, and it just stuck,” Hankins said. “It’s just this obnoxious thing that we do.”

Members try their best to support each other as much as they can because ice skating is just as much mental as it is physical.

“If you fall all the time you just have to learn to keep going and to push yourself,” Budnick said. “I think [skating] has taught me so many great lessons that I definitely would not have had if I didn’t figure skate.”

The team is excited for their upcoming competitions and looks forward to growing in the future.

“We want others to know we exist,” Hankins said. “We want to make a name for ourselves.”

Jeff Konya leaves Oakland Athletics

Skylar Tolfree
Sports Editor

Jeff Konya will be stepping down from his \$210,000 role as athletic director at Oakland University and is headed to Northeastern University, according to Boston 25 News.

Konya has been at Oakland since 2014, and last summer signed a new five-year contract extension. No spokespeople at Oakland were able to confirm Tuesday the exact state of Konya’s potential new position, but sources did confirm there will be a press conference at 10 a.m. at Northeastern University on Wednesday.

Konya is known for his innovative ideas in Athletics. He started the branding hashtag #WEARtheBEAR, the annual Black and Gold Awards at The

Fox for student athletes and he brought the Blacktop to the O’rena. He was named the Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year for 2016-17.

When Konya came to the university in 2014 from the University of California Bakersfield, he was quoted by The Oakland Press, saying:

“This [Oakland] is really a perfect fit for me, I always thought this was a destination spot for me. I have always felt a connection with this place. I am coming home in a permanent way at an institution that has so much potential and so much promise and means so much to so many. To be given the athletic department operations and management in a leadership position like that, in many ways it really is a dream come true.”

This announcement has come

as a shock to the university community, especially after the sudden departure of Oakland’s Associate Athletic Director for Communications, Scott MacDonald, in October. MacDonald worked at Oakland from 2007 to 2017. He recently accepted a position as Vice President of Marketing for the United Shore Professional Baseball League.

It is expected Oakland will name an interim athletic director while conducting a national search for a new program leader.

The Oakland Post will continue to provide updates as they become available.



Jeff Konya, Athletic Director of Oakland Athletics

Men’s Basketball

Graphic by Prakhya Chilukuri

DATES	OPPOSING TEAM	TIME
01/10/2018	Youngstown State	7:00 p.m.
01/12/2018	Cleveland State	7:00 p.m.
01/15/2018	IUC	8:00 p.m.
01/20/2018	Detroit Mercy	4:00 p.m.
01/26/2018	Northern Kentucky	9:00 p.m.
01/28/2018	Wright State	2:00 p.m.
02/02/2018	UIC	9:00 p.m.
02/04/2018	IUPUI	12:00 p.m.
02/09/2018	Detroit Mercy	9:00 p.m.
02/14/2018	Youngstown State	7:00 p.m.
02/16/2018	Cleveland State	7:00 p.m.
02/19/2018	IUPUI	7:00 p.m.
02/22/2018	Green Bay	7:00 p.m.
02/24/2018	Milwaukee	3:00 p.m.

Golden Grizzlies fall to Northern Kentucky Norse

Dakota Brecht
Staff Reporter

Friday night, prime time, ESPN in the house. This was the scene as the Golden Grizzlies took on the Northern Kentucky Norse in their Horizon League home opener. The Norse were coming in at 9-5 while the Golden Grizzlies are coming off a tough loss to Green Bay and a 9-6 overall record. Oakland standout Kendrick Nunn came in averaging an outstanding 25.3 points per game. With the O'rena packed to the brim, the Black and Gold would have to give it their all to beat this strong Northern Kentucky squad.

The first ten minutes of the game were as back and forth as it gets and the score was all knotted up at 21 a piece. Nunn and Jalen Hayes both had eight points up to this point. Chris Palombizio checked in off the bench, hit a couple shots and played some key minutes for Oakland in the first half. Nunn and Hayes went off in the second half of the first to send Oakland on a run which would put them ahead 47-41 by the half.

Hayes and Nunn led Oakland in scoring with 14 each and Martez Walker wasn't far behind with 10 points. Isaiah Brock was having a fantastic game defensively with five rebounds and 4 blocks at the half. The Golden Grizzlies would have to keep up the intensity if they wanted to hold off the Norse in the second half.

Northern Kentucky came out of the locker room for the second half with a renewed confidence and took a 57-52 lead over Oakland in just four minutes. The Golden Grizzlies fought back and it was yet again another back and forth first ten minutes of a half where neither team looked ready to give in. With 10 minutes left to play in the game, the Norse were up 68-61 over the Golden Grizzlies.

Oakland continued to claw its way back into this one and with five minutes to go, the team was only down by four. Foul trouble continued to torment Northern Kentucky and this was a major factor in Oakland's comeback attempts. As hard as the Golden Grizzlies tried they just couldn't break through and the Northern Kentucky Norse came up victorious 87-83.



Elyse Gregory / The Oakland Post

The Golden Grizzlies lost to the Norse in a heated game that ended with a final score of 87-83.

Nunn was the high scorer for Oakland with 24 and Walker was just behind him with 19. Brailen Neely had a game high 11 assists while Brock yet again recorded six blocks.

It was another tough loss for Head Coach Greg Kampe's squad and it

made two losses in a row in Horizon League play.

"They [Northern Kentucky] were the championship team, they deserved to win the game," Kampe said. "They beat us every way you want to beat us, they beat us."

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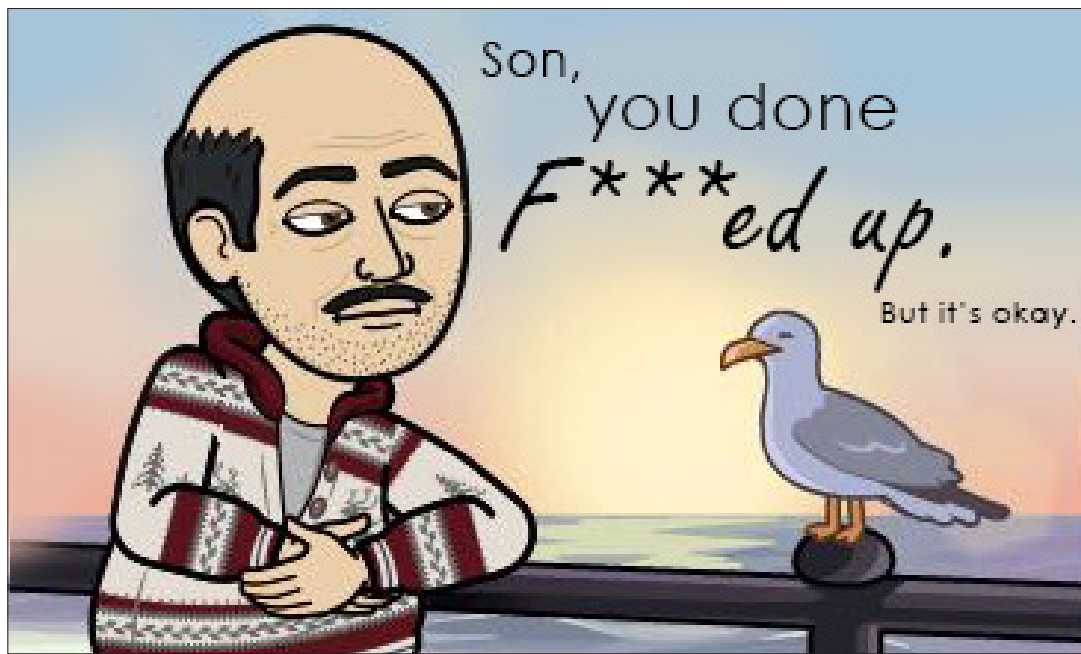


Photo illustration by Prakhya Chilukuri

Phil Armica, a loving father of three who's not willing to admit he has a problem yet, but we're working with him on it.

A letter from your father who's not mad, just disappointed

To be honest, this won't be the last letter I get from my dad

Stephen Armica
Satarist

Last Semester, Stephen Armica didn't do so well in his classes. He was a little upset and emailed his father for advice. His father, Phil Armica, in his careful way with words, obliged. Stephen hopes this letter can serve as a motivational tool and as an explanation for why his satires are so screwed up.

Dear Stephen,

Look, I know finals didn't go well last semester. I get it. This can seem like the most stressful part of your life sometimes. So I'm really not mad that this happened. I'm just a little disappointed.

I understand how it is. When I was your age I was getting into all sorts of trouble. But I stopped after my first semester. Do you know why? I'll give you a hint, it's not because I got your mother pregnant and had to work instead of goof off with my friends.

...But that did still happen.

It's because I understood that this was the first time in my life that I had to be a man. I knew after coming to the hospital in the middle of a drunken frat party to my soon-to-be-wife in labor that it was time to grow up.

After dropping you on your head, stumbling to pick you up and then staring into your eyes, I knew you were going to be my life from then on out.

I've made my share of mistakes just like you

and everyone else. But sometimes those mistakes open you up to even greater successes. Like when I couldn't get a job after my second cocaine conviction and had to start my own business.

Now your college education and the summer home in Connecticut are completely paid for.

It may seem like it's hard at the moment. But just remember that you're exactly like your old man. You're willing to do anything to get past a hard time. Remember when I had to sleep on the couch for almost a year because I used you as gambling collateral when you were a toddler?

You might not remember it, being a toddler at the time. But I'm proud to say your mother and I are happily sleeping in the same bed again. I'm proud that you weren't killed while being shipped to Venezuela after the collateral holder sold you to a cocaine cartel.

Now, like I said, I'm a little disappointed. I raised you better than this. Wasn't I teaching you to never give up when we went on that hunting trip? You were crying and crying until finally, I convinced you to shoot that baby lion. I was so proud of you coming home from Mozambique.

I know you hated that trip, but you should've at least kept the pelt as a trophy. It would have gone well next to my ivory collection.

But that's beside the point. I know you'll bounce back from this and make this your best semester.

I hope this letter helps.

Sincerely,
Papa Armica

The perks of being on the road while broke

Simon Albaugh
Social Media Editor

I don't normally have to think about my safety. I say normally because I'm currently writing this in the passenger seat as my friend pushes 95 on a Kentucky freeway with a joint between his fingertips. Wow, do I wish I didn't have to think about that.

Like a lot of other college-age screw ups, I thought a road trip with no plans and an extremely small amount of money was a great idea. My friend and I brought heavy-duty blankets and cheap beer to make sleeping in the car easier and even told our parents we were going in the general direction of Nashville, Tenn. And that was enough at first.

The thing a lot of people say, but don't stress enough, is that the journey is worth more than the destination. Now, metaphorical connotations aside, this turned out to be truer than we could've ever thought.

Because the truth is that Nashville sucks.

It's awful when you've spent all your money on gas and Cracker Barrel Restaurants before realizing that a ticket to anything costs more than you ever thought you'd spend on bad country music.

My friend and I spent a half day there just trying to find something to do. It's too expensive to go to any bars or shows. And that pretty much leaves you with one of those architecture tours that you're almost positive is run by a well-spoken homeless guy B.S.-ing his way to \$10.

Then we went to the University of Tennessee-Nashville neighborhood, trying to find college-age degenerates like ourselves. Fun fact: everybody in Nashville aged 20-26 looks pretty much like Richard Spencer.

When we took a wrong road in the university area and accidentally drove out of Nashville, we didn't turn back. Since it was nine at night and we were

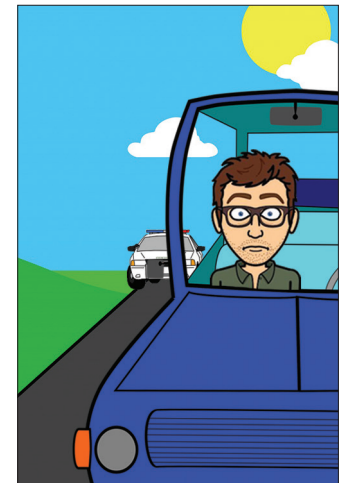


Photo illustration by Erin O'Neill

My upholstery was sprayed a lot by a skunk Mr. Police Officer, sir.

four states away from home, we weren't driving home any time soon.

We made it halfway through Kentucky when we both were too tired to drive. The first turn we noticed was to this National Park off Interstate-65, and that's where we stayed the night.

But that dirt road behind the parking lot of Mammoth Cave Nature Center marked the shift in our journey that we needed. We realized the trip was going to be bad regardless of what we made of it. So we just let be bad. And it was great.

We spent the rest of that night drinking ourselves to a 28 degree sleep. And then we left, stopping anywhere we felt. We met people in Cincinnati who invited us to their house for dinner, we went to four art museums and we even stayed the night at one person's house in the middle of nowhere, Kentucky.

It was an interesting trip to say the least and even though there wasn't much where we intended, it did turn out that the journey was much better than the destination.

But as much as I want to continue, my friend is getting pulled over. Hopefully the officer doesn't smell the felonious amount of weed in his pockets.