

THE OAKLAND POST

FEBRUARY

4

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER — 2015

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THE NEW GENERATION

After seven years, the Association of Black Students reunites, resurges PAGE 10

Photo by Salwan Georges/The Oakland Post



aboutthecover

This week features a photograph of the recently re-activated Association of Black Students during its peaceful protest of the Ferguson decision. Participating students marched across campus and ended their march under the Elliott Tower. [Read coverage of the march at www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com).



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

A MARCH THROUGH HISTORY // This photograph of the Association of Black Students marching across campus was taken over seven years ago, before the group stopped meeting regularly. The group has been reformed and marched again last year in the same place, responding to the Ferguson decision.

Photo from the Oakland Post archives

Submit a photo to photos@oaklandpostonline.com for a chance to be featured. View all submissions at oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

Did you watch the Super Bowl?

- A** Of course I did — who doesn't?
- B** I went to so many parties I didn't actually get to watch.
- C** I tuned in for the commercials and halftime show.
- D** Nope. Puppy Bowl is the only path for me.

[Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Did you get a flu shot this year?

- A** Yes! Shots, shots, shots, everybody!
42.5%
- B** Nope. Vaccines are the enemy.
27.5%
- C** I just didn't have the time.
22.5%
- D** I'm planning on it. Better late than never.
7.5%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

February 7, 1964

Administrators announced that OU would be receiving \$75,000 in grants to make campus a "center of performing arts in the major Detroit area." The money was used to build the Meadow Brook Music Festival and engage the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

February 2, 1994

After an investigation by the Department of Public Health, OU's biology department escaped lab citations for HIV exposure. The investigation found violations, but the statute of limitations prohibits the issuing of citations for violations that occurred longer than six months prior.

February 7, 2001

Online courses were offered for the first time, with 10 total. Many professors responded with questions and concerns regarding online security and content ownership.

- Compiled by Kaylee Kean, Managing Editor



7

STRUT YOUR STUFF

Think you know the do's and don'ts of professional fashion? In case you don't, the American Marketing Association at OU has got you covered — literally and figuratively.



15

GOOD VIBES WITH GOLD VIBES

OU a capella club Gold Vibrations is back with a vengeance, taking on Canadian group Eh440 in its first "Pitch Perfect"-style riff off.



22

KARATE HALFTIME

Staff Intern Shelby Tankersley made memories and wowed the crowd with her karate team during halftime at the women's basketball game. Read her first-hand experience.

BY THE NUMBERS

Snow day edition

16.7

inches of snow to fall in this most recent storm. The Detroit Free Press reported it as the third-biggest snow-storm in Detroit history.

20.3

degrees Fahrenheit; average temperature in Rochester Hills from Jan. 3 to Feb. 3

2.5

temperature on Monday night and lowest temperature of the day

22

cars impounded on Sunday after they failed to move for OU's snow emergency policy

654

school closings and delays on Tuesday, as reported by Click on Detroit

Give in love, live in love: Volunteer this Valentine's Day

By Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief

Love: it's in the air and splattered throughout the aisles of your nearest Target. The Italians call it *amore*, the Chinese *ai*, the brokenhearted *torture*.

Like it or not, February is the month of love, of the heart, and it's upon us.

It's now that we gear up for Valentine's Day: the original Hallmark holiday since 14th century author Chaucer composed a love poem to commemorate the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia.

It stuck.

Today, Valentine's Day cards make up for 25 percent of all cards sent throughout the year, according to the Greeting Card Association.

Whether you relish or truly despise the exchange of sentiments via cardstock and bad puns, we at *The Oakland Post* believe that even back in the 14th century before routine hygiene became a part of culture, Chaucer was onto something when it came to love.

In today's fast-paced consumer culture, it is not often enough that we

are able to take time to properly express just how much we care to one another, to make someone else feel good.

After all, according to Seneca, "wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness."

So you don't have a special someone to take you out to dinner and the showing of *Fifty Shades of Grey* on February 14?

First, consider yourself lucky you're not doing the latter and second, consider practicing perhaps the most beautiful acts of the heart and engage in selfless love.

We urge you to use this chance to give with no intent of getting and volunteer your time to one of the many local organizations in need.

Curious where to begin your journey of Valentine's volunteerism?

Oakland.edu/volunteer has dozens upon dozens of organizations just waiting to accept your love and time, from puppy shelters to painting studios.

In fact, next Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 12 p.m.- 1 p.m. in the Gold Rooms, giving your love can be as easy as a making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for the Salvation Army to

serve individuals in need.

Your contribution doesn't have to move mountains - even a simple sandwich can make a difference in someone's life.

And you may be surprised with the ways in which giving your love can make a difference in your heart - literally.

According to a 2013 study by Carnegie Mellon University, "those who volunteered on a regular basis were less likely to develop high blood pressure than non-volunteers."

Additionally, according to Rodlescia Sneed, the lead author in the study, "Many people find volunteer work to be helpful with respect to stress reduction, and we know that stress is very strongly linked to health outcomes."

In other words, by helping to improve the lives of others, you are simultaneously improving yours. How's that for beneficial?

So, in this season of love, we at the *Post* urge you to get out and give your time - you may be surprised by the results.

In words from the seminal classic *Rent*, "measure in love," and measure your love in that you can selflessly give to others.



THE OAKLAND POST

Address 61 Oakland Center,
Rochester, MI 48306
Phone 248.370.4263
Web www.oaklandpostonline.com
Email editor@oaklandpostonline.com

editorial board

Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-4268

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor
managing@oaklandpostonline.com
248-370-2537

Salwan Georges
Photo Editor
photos@oaklandpostonline.com
248-991-7574

sections

Kayla Varicalli Campus &
Administration Editor
campus@oaklandpostonline.com

LeeAnn Brown Life, Arts &
Entertainment Editor
life@oaklandpostonline.com

Jackson Gilbert Sports Editor
sports@oaklandpostonline.com

Sean Gardner Web Editor
web@oaklandpostonline.com

Selah Fischer Blog Editor
scfische@oakland.edu

reporters

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Kaleigh Jerzykowski Staff Reporter
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Erica Marracco Staff Reporter
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advising

Holly Gilbert
Editorial Adviser
248.370.4138

Don Ritenburgh
Business Adviser
248.370.2533

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Nowshin Chowdhury Photographer
Erika Barker Photographer
Dave Jackson Intern

Torri Mathes Videographer

advertising

Hailee Mika
Ads & Promotions Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.2848

Lauren Peralta
Assistant Ads Manager

Kerry Zhu
Administrative Assistant

Corrections Corner

Last week in the article "Growing Pains," Jean Ann Miller was quoted as saying that "there are plans to add a food concept in the game room creating a new food destination in the building. We expect to retain billiard tables and electronic games in the space and reorganize the balance of games in an adjacent area." This was in fact said by Richard Fekel.

The Oakland Post corrects all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please e-mail managing@oaklandpostonline or call 248.370.2537. You can also write us at 61 Oakland Center Rochester, MI 48309.

Letters to the Editor

Writers must provide full name, class rank, phone number and field of study. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. Letters may be edited for content, length and grammar.



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Letter to the Editor: Academic expansion should come before OC building construction

Julia Waldman
Senior, psychology major

Although we all know that the OC is undersized for the growing population of our university, the real issue is our academic departments, specifically the psychology department.

It is appalling to me even as a graduating senior that OU has allowed the department's building to decay.

We can either spend money on a student union or we can spend that money on the social sciences.

The psychology department's building is cramped and should be condemned.

The computer lab is a joke and there is black mold that makes it unsafe for my professors to work.

I do believe there are trash cans in the bathrooms older than our chair, Dr. Shackleford.

How can a university show such little concern for its academics and yet expect to continue growing?

I urge the university to consider rebuilding the department if it wants to make a good impression on future students.

Academics should always come first before leisure in a school!

Please consider finding some funds to rebuild my beloved department.

WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

**Submit an opinion column to
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and you could see it in print.**

**Be sure to provide contact information,
class standing and field of study.**

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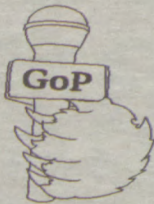
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Campus

Grizzlies on the Prowl



"How did you spend your snow day?"



**Jessica Wildey, senior,
psychology**

"I cleaned my room and worked on homework."



**Jon Walraven, senior,
accounting**

"Watched Netflix all day and shoveled my car out of a snow bank that was up to my bumper."



**Amy Hyde, junior,
bio-engineering**

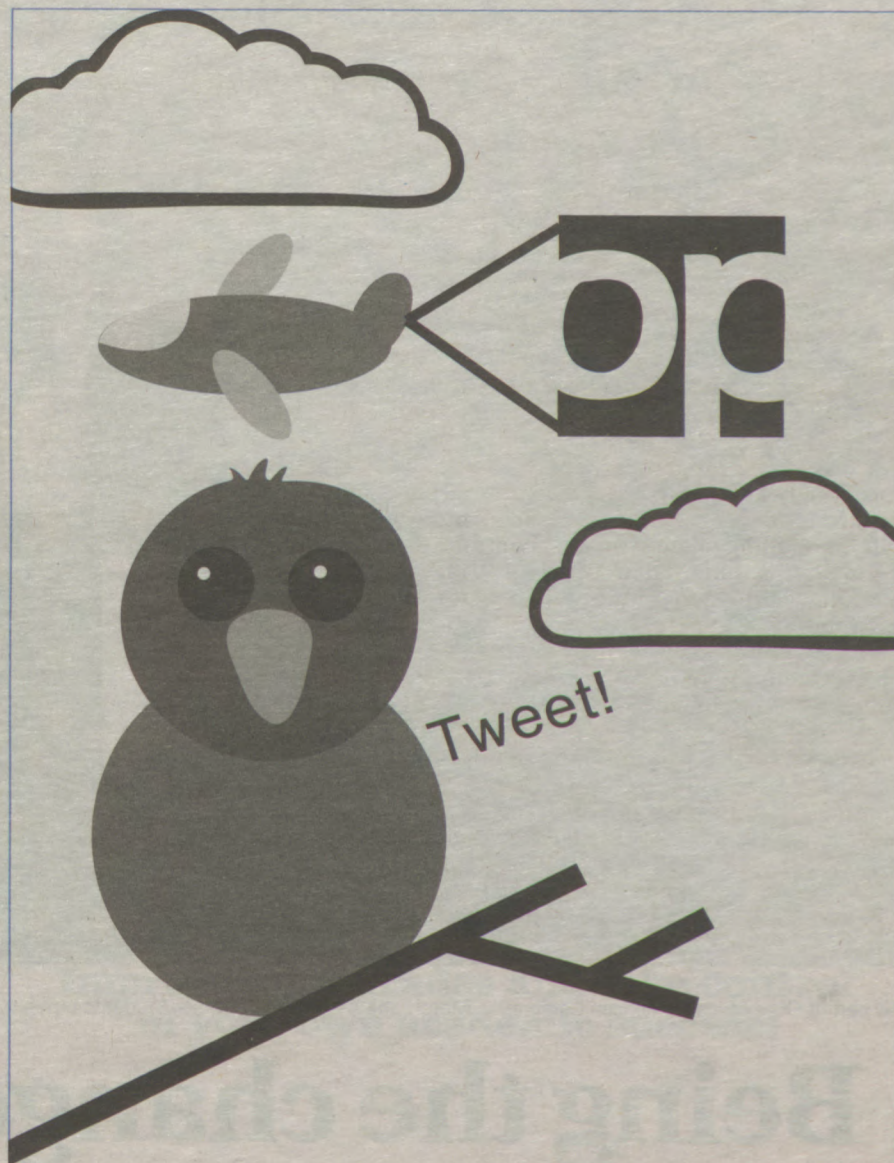
"I didn't have class that day so it didn't affect my day at all."



**Sarah Gourley, freshman,
psychology**

"I spent it with my boyfriend at his house. We played Mario Kart all day."

— Compiled by Danielle Cojocari,
Photographer



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Kaylee Kean / The Oakland Post

As part of OU's African American Celebration Month, the Association of Black Students brought in Detroit Chief of Police James Craig to speak on police-civilian relations.

Being the change he wants to see

Detroit Chief of Police shares experiences, views on police-civilian relations with students

Grace Turner
Staff Intern

Detroit Chief of Police James Craig gave relationship advice to students Tuesday — police and civilian relationship advice, that is.

He was brought in by the Association of Black Students to share his experiences and views as part of OU's African American Celebration Month.

Forging a career path

While he has spent a long time working in the police world, Craig said he didn't originally plan on being a police officer. He decided to make the switch when he wanted change and realized the only way to create that change was to be a part of it.

Craig started working for the Detroit Police Department in 1977. He said that the department was on the cutting edge of what he calls "community police"; it was a department with many stations that established a good relationship with the citizens it served.

He left his job there to work for departments in other states. After years of this he came back to Detroit and became its Chief of Police in 2013.

The department that he returned to was much different than the one he left. Detroit residents didn't want to help the police, and it took officers a long time to respond to calls. The officers were discouraged and relationships with civilians were at an all-time low.

"I'm talking the lowest morale I've seen any place," Craig said.

Craig's policy

Since he has been in charge, Craig said he has seen that morale rise, and with it, the community's confidence. Police responses to emergency calls have gotten better, and while there will always be bumps in the road with police-civilian relationships, he said they are doing much better.

Communicating with the people the department serves is key, Craig said. When citizens know what's going on, they tend to be more cooperative. That's why he asks his officers to communicate to build rapport.

If an officer pulls someone over, Craig thinks it's best to tell them why, as "it really fosters good relationships."

Craig said he also wants to address any police-citizen clashes head-on. "Transparency is always key."

Citizens need to do their part as well, he said. He wants people to cooperate with officers even if they don't see eye to eye.

"The time to fight is in the courts," he said. "You definitely don't want to handle it in the field."

Craig said his department doesn't get as many complaints as other departments, but violent events get more publicity since it's in Detroit.

Because communication between officers and civilians has improved, Craig said that Detroit is far from being the next Ferguson, and that he hears mostly good things about the department from the people it serves.

Craig said tries to communicate with everyone and will continue to do so whenever possible.

"I always welcome an opportunity to talk with our young people."

Paving the way to a free community college education

Students weigh in on recent announcement regarding free community college

Shelby Tankersley
Staff Intern

In his push to get a lot done in his last two years of office, President Barack Obama recently proposed an idea that would give two years of free community college to "anyone who's willing to work for it."

Basically, the law would allow anyone who stayed in a program or was working toward transferring to a four year college, went to school at least half time, and maintained decent grades (C+ average or higher) to go to school for free.

People already in college might not be as excited about

this law as others; after all, we're already in school.

Bridget Vander Hoff, OU dance major, said she is indifferent to the law.

"I think it's a great idea, but I'm not going to transfer to a community college at this point," Vander Hoff said.

Victoria VanTiem, a student at Mott Community College, feels that the law would only encourage some people to get back into school.

"Honestly, I don't really see the point with all the ways we can get money to go to school already," VanTiem said. "This would only benefit people who won't apply for grants or scholarships."

VanTiem also said that while the law might be a motivator for those people, grants and scholarships should be a motivator too. There's already a lot in place to help out aspiring students.

While this law won't have much of an effect on people already in college if it is passed, it

will affect a great many others.

A college age person not seeking higher education right now, Amanda Sanders, surprisingly shares views similar to VanTiem's.

"If I really wanted to go to school, I would make it happen one way or another," Sanders said. "I believe that anyone who truly wants to go to college will do whatever it takes make it happen, whether they end up with a lot of debt or not."

While some people are simply not willing to apply for a scholarship, others have to work. Depending on the job, one might not be able to balance work with school.

Obama's proposal would help those people out the most.

Emily Swann, a lunch worker at Bendle Public Schools, said she thinks the law holds a lot of opportunity.

"This would motivate me to go back to school," Swann said. "Getting half my education for

free would be amazing."

The only worry Swann has is where the tuition money would be coming from. If the proposal goes unchanged, the federal government would front around 75 percent of the money while the states picked up the rest.

Swann fears this would raise taxes.

"If the state has to pick up the rest of the bill the only way for them to really pay for it is to raise our taxes in the states," Swann said.

As of right now, where the money would come from isn't known. It's just an idea that may or may not actually come to pass.

Regardless, free college would be a big deal. We all know that few things make a college student happier than free things.

Would people really make use of this idea, changing the education game and making a more competitive America?

Contact the writer at srtankersley@oakland.edu.

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OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

A Grizzly's guide for dressing to impress

American Marketing Association preps the pros with fashion show

Kaleigh Jerzykowski
Staff Reporter

Life is full of unpleasanties: the dentist, filing taxes, and the greatest of them all, the job interviews.

College students currently face a disadvantage, often applying for important positions that will evolve into careers shortly after graduation.

Fortunately for students, the American Marketing Association's (AMA) OU chapter prepped its future professionals through a peppy Business Fashion Show on Friday, Jan. 30.

The AMA brings professionals from all areas of marketing to OU in order to educate students about what job opportunities there are after graduation.

"Through these professional development events, we hope that students find their passion and connect with professionals that can help them build their networking and interview skills," said Vice President Oana Fenescu.

The show was an open forum event that invited audience members to participate by identifying the "do's and don'ts" in the interview outfits worn by each group of models.

"We feel like the demonstration of the 'do's and don'ts' has been much more successful at helping students retain the information than just another Powerpoint presentation," Fenescu said.

Before the main event, keynote speaker Elizabeth Flemming, an OU alumna and Country Talent Acquisition Manager at Faurecia, gave interview tips as well as some information on how she landed her job at the world's sixth largest auto parts supplier.

Flemming said that Faurecia currently has 58 OU interns with 98 OU alumni working amongst the company's 20,000 employees, showing there are opportunities for current students and fresh graduates.

Following Flemming's tips, DJs TommyWin and Kacper Kawala spun tracks as the lights dimmed, and the hosts greeted the audience.

MCs Garrett Kolodzig, an OU communication major and Harmon Harris, an MSU alum, took to the stage.

Six groups of models walked the stage, along with a performance by the Hoa Sen Dance Team, from Windsor, Ontario.



Throughout the evening, Harris and Kolodzig pointed out interview outfit faux pas' like wearing distractingly bright lipstick for ladies and a baggy, dated suit for guys.

Allison Rechtzigel, a human resources management major at OU, walked the stage wearing a sleek, high ponytail — an interview "yes," according to Harris.

When William Truong, an OU marketing major, came on stage wearing a grey sport coat, V-neck tee and dark jeans, Kolodzig reminded the audience that there's a difference between looking stylish and looking professional.

Kolodzig said that Truong would have been interview-ready if he kept the jacket, added pants of the same color, and put on a collared shirt. Kolodzig also said that wearing a navy suit, or mixing brown with navy, are both excellent choices for guys.

Prizes from Faurecia and OU Career Services were given out to audience members who could correctly identify the flaws in each outfit, providing students with a way to learn about the importance of dressing for success.

"The Business Fashion Show is meant to prepare students to feel confident and ready for their next interviews in order to land their dream jobs," Fenescu said.



Katherine Cagle / The Oakland Post

TOP The intermission included some stylish performers, such as the Hoa Sen Dance Team from Windsor, Canada.

BOTTOM The fashion show was graced by many exquisitely dressed individuals, sporting stylish yet proper formal business attire.

Darrin to dream: Engineering professor pursues pleasures

Erica Marracco
Staff Reporter

From advising and teaching students, to collaborating with other doctorates, to flying planes, this OU professor is a man of many talents.

Dr. Darrin Hanna, of the Electrical and Computer Engineering department, started teaching at 19 years old. He began teaching supplement courses in chemistry and is now teaching undergraduate courses related to computer engineering, computer sciences and bio-engineering.

"I really enjoy my undergraduate courses," Hanna said. "There's a lot of energy when interacting with the students that keeps me feeling young."

Hanna has been familiar with the young OU scene. He was raised in the Rochester area and attend Oakland himself from 1999 through 2003.

"I have a special connection with Oakland University; It's a home to me," Hanna said. "I grew up here and have an active interest in everything that's going on."

Hanna's research includes Artificial Intelligence and creating software for applications and vehicle networks through nano imaging. Part of this research is connected to assisting AHK Technologies of Troy to create a quicker, more efficient software for the company's scanner that has the ability to scan something down to a size less than a quarter of an atom.

He also is working in collaboration with Dr. Madlambayan and William Beaumont to find better ways to identify and destroy harmful cells that are responsible for diseases such as leukemia and cancer.

"It's getting really good results," Hanna said.

Working with PhD students

Jason Gorski and Anthony Bogedin, Hanna has assisted in the development of four different apparatuses that have a main goal to assist in destroying harmful cells in a way that is safe for human trial.

"I'm so impressed by the work that they've done so far," Hanna said about his PhD students.

This bio-medical breakthrough shows promise for the future of medical engineering in curing diseases.

"It may be easier than we think [with this process] and I doubt anyone has tried," he said.

Hanna doesn't fill all his time with research, though. Hanna flies his Cessna 172 RG plane to meetings. He learned to fly at age 14 through a family friend and eventually earned his pilot's license.

"I realized I was driving all over the place and that I'm so active that flying a plane would



Photo courtesy of Darrin Hanna

make sense with my experience," Hanna said. "I love it and I get around quite a bit."

Hanna said he flies his plane around 200 hours a year, which is "a lot compared to average flyers."

He also likes to throw his body into the air- with dancing; participating in styles of dance that involve gymnastics, tap, jazz and modern dance. He's a member of the Alumni Dance Company.

Roller skating for fun after a career of competing nationally is another hobby of his. He

also immensely enjoys winding down with a movie at the theatre.

"I'll literally leave a lab, look up late-night showings, and call my buddies to see a movie," Hanna said.

Overall, Hanna most importantly feels lucky to have a job he loves doing. When asked about time management, Hanna gave some wise advice that applies to everyday life:

"When you're doing what you love, it's easier to manage time because you'll find the time for it on your own."

2015 Wilson and Human Relations Awards

Nominations are now being accepted.

THE ALFRED G. AND MATILDA R. WILSON AWARDS 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 2015 or have graduated in summer or fall 2014
- have a strong academic record of 3.5 or higher GPA

THE HUMAN RELATIONS 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 2015 or have graduated in summer or fall 2014
- demonstrate service to the community
- have a minimum 2.5 GPA

Nomination forms are available at oakland.edu/dean_awards or in 144 Oakland Center. The deadline for both awards is Monday, February 9, 2015.

For questions, contact:

Dean of Students Office | 144 Oakland Center | (248) 370-3352

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Campus

Reborn, reunited and ready to change

Association of Black Students returns to work towards unity

Grace Turner
Staff Intern

After seven years of hibernation, OU's Association of Black Students is active.

As part of African American Celebration Month, hosted by the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, the association is displaying a movie in Hamlin Lounge at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6. The movie will be announced at the event.

Before the movie, the Taste of Africa event will be from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Banquet Rooms of the Oakland Center, where students can find members of the association lending help.

The newly-active association planned events for students at the beginning of the week. The Detroit Chief of Police, James Craig, spoke about police brutality Tuesday, and a panel of students will speak about how their race affected their choice of major on Wednesday.

Among other events hosted this school year, the association led a peace march on campus on Nov. 25 out of respect for the controversial court case in Ferguson, Mo.

Asia Anderson, the association's president, doesn't want to limit events to OU's grounds. The association held an off-campus food drive last Thanksgiving and donated the food to the Rochester Area Neighborhood House.

The association has hopes to host as many large events and dances that it used to put on, according to Anderson.

"I just want to make it as big as it used to be," Anderson said.

The main goals of the association are to raise the graduation rate of OU's black



"The association was founded in the 1960's. It helped to create the center [for Multicultural Initiatives] in the mid-1990's and helped to establish Martin Luther King Jr.'s remembrance on campus."

Omar Brown-El, Director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives and Advisor of the OU Association of Black Students

students and promote unity, according to Anderson.

"We're the voices of under-represented students on campus," she said.

Anderson also hopes to keep members interested and continue to host events next year. She is currently on the prowl for an office, since their previous one was taken because of dormancy.

Some in the community think the association is similar to the Black Panthers, a group of revolutionary blacks often associated with violence

that was active during the civil rights movement, Anderson said. This isn't true. The association works toward unity.

"We all have the same struggles as students here," she said.

"The association was founded in the 1960's," Omar Brown-El, the director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives and the association's advisor said. "It helped to create the center in the mid-1990's and helped to establish Martin Luther King Jr.'s remembrance on campus."

"This student organization



Salwan Georges/The Oakland Post

gives a voice and place for students to feel connected to the university."

Anderson said she's very happy with the association's reboot and hopes to continue to be an active part of OU's community.

Contact the writer at gmturner@oakland.edu.

TOP The Oakland University Association of Black Students staged a peaceful march on campus at 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 25, 2014, making OU one of the first colleges in the nation to host a march in protest to the rulings in Ferguson, MO.

BOTTOM Asia Anderson, president of the Association of Black Students, doesn't want to limit events to OU's grounds.



1



2



3

Danielle Cojocari / The Oakland Post

A world of pure imagination

Students experience a magical night at annual Meadow Brook Ball

Cheyenne Kramer
Staff Intern

Since the 1970s, the Meadow Brook Ball has brought in students and staff for a night of elegance and dance. The event continued to impress on Friday, Jan. 30 and Saturday, Jan. 31.

This two-night event had a creative spin on it, and this year's title said it all: "A World of Pure Imagination." Students entered Meadow Brook Hall to find it adorned with Willy Wonka-themed decorations and activities throughout the mansion.

At the start of the night, there were ballroom dancing lessons, provided by the president of the Ballroom Dance Club. Later in the night, the ballroom was filled with students and a DJ, creating an energetic environment for the usually quiet mansion.

A magician roamed the

halls, performing tricks of the hand to unsuspecting guests. Students visited a photo booth and took pictures with an array of colorful accessories, and sat patiently for a one-minute caricature sketch of themselves and their date. There was a scavenger hunt, where students searched the upper level for hidden eggs, and a craft room, where there were bags to decorate and fill with candy.

The Meadow Brook Ball is more than just a game-filled event, though. Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities, explained that the ball feels more sophisticated than what one would expect when met with a college dance.

But if students want to go, they have to work for it. According to Miller, only 300 tickets are sold for each night.

"Someone was in line at noon the day before tickets went

on sale," Victoria Humbarger, president of the Meadow Brook Ball Committee, said.

According to Miller, the Meadow Brook Ball is something every OU student should experience in his or her time on campus. By offering two nights, the ball offered choices for students.

"Friday was more calm," Miller said. "I think most students wanted to go to Saturday's dance since they had the whole day to prepare and not have to go to class. But having both days made sure more students could get the chance to go."

"We used to only have one, then we changed to having one in the fall and one in the winter. But I think having two back-to-back meets everyone's needs, since the winter dance is always the most popular."

The process of making the mansion into the desired theme varies every year. For

"I would say that the most exciting part about the ball being in a mansion is just getting to see what an actual mansion looks like."

William Bunch
Student, history major

each ball, the entertainment, decor and theme changes so attendees experience a new scene.

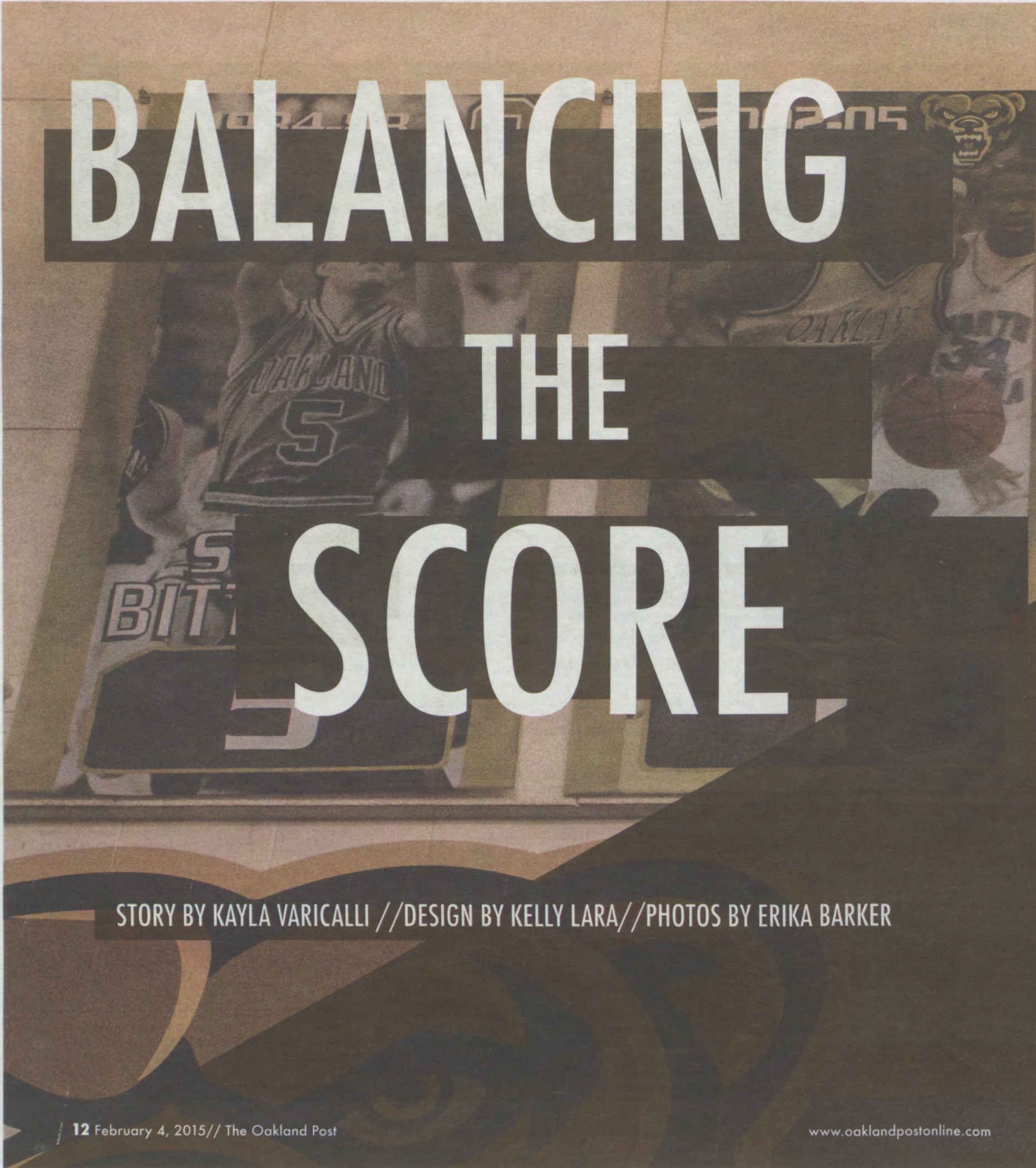
"I would say that the most exciting part about the ball being in a mansion is just getting to see what an actual mansion looks like," said William Bunch, an attendee of the Meadow Brook Ball.

Students can visit the mansion during any of their public tour hours for free with student IDs.

1. President of the Oakland University Ballroom Dance Club Ria Perez gave dance lessons at the beginning of the ball.

2. Dressed in their fanciest attire, Oakland students filled Meadow Brook Hall's extravagant ballroom with energy and excitement.

3. Guests had the opportunity to dress up in a variety of fun accessories in a photo booth at the Willy Wonka-themed Meadow Brook Ball.



BALANCING THE SCORE

STORY BY KAYLA VARICALLI // DESIGN BY KELLY LARA // PHOTOS BY ERIKA BARKER

As former OU basketball player Travis Bader's banner began to rise in the O'Rena on Jan. 15, so did the question - where are all the women's banners?

A banner in Oakland University athletics represents public recognition for an individual player's achievements and is hung above the basketball court, complete with a ceremony. Currently, a walk into the O'Rena shows individual banners only for players from the men's basketball team.

While in recent years, Oakland University's women's basketball team has seen players with stats comparable to those recognized players at Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University and its Horizon League rival, University of Detroit Mercy, OU has yet to be represented by a female Golden Grizzly banner.

"We as a staff are trying to get our arms around what has been done in the past and what our different perceptions are for the future," Director of Athletics Jeff Konya said during an interview on Thursday, Jan. 29.

Under Oakland's past system, program directors selected students whom they felt deserved athletic recognition, with the highest honor being public recognition and a banner raised in the O'Rena.

"Each coach looked at how it is they want to honor some of the people within their programs," Holly Kerstner, associate athletic director for student-athlete services, said.

"In the past [recognition] has been done more so on a programmatic basis rather than a departmental basis." In other words, this means that there is not currently a universal standard between sports in OU athletics for athlete banner recognition.

Though both men and women in each sport are represented across the hall of fame in Oakland's Athletic Center - the second highest honor - the gender imbalance in banner recognition is apparent. Padraic McMeel, senior associate athletic director for external affairs, also explained that it is the nature of the difference in men's and women's records, such as men's basketball being around longer than women's, that contributes to the difficulty in equal banner representation of the athletes.



While both male and female athletes represent Golden Grizzly athletics in the Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor, Oakland University has yet to have a female student athlete's banner hung in the O'Rena - the highest sports honor at OU. The athletic department has formed a committee to pursue equality in sports.

When it comes to jersey numbers, the swim and dive team - home to some of OU's stand-out male and female athletes over the years - does not have numbers to be recognized by on a banner. Women's records cannot be compared to men's, since they are reached at different times and under different circumstances, according to McMeel.

Konya said that the athletic department has yet to recognize the accomplishments of the women of the volleyball team, who clinched first place in the Horizon League this season, moving on to the first round of NCAA final play.

Addressing the imbalance in athletic recognition, the department is forming a committee to set universal guidelines and goals for each sport. Under the previous leadership of former Athletic Director Tracy Huth, each team's coach was responsible for recognizing noting accomplishments and honors.

With this new committee and new athletic director, the department is looking to shift the responsibility. More versatile guidelines should be seen in the near future.

"We're trying to assess where we've been and what we need to do," Konya said. "We have great stories: male female, and all of our sports."

Under the leadership of McMeel, the committee hopes to eliminate any inequality within these guidelines.

"We just need to really start talking through what do we want as our institution," McMeel said. "We'll have a very systematic way to recognize anybody above the hall of honor in a different way."

Along with new individual recognition plans, the informal committee will set new parameters to decide what constitutes as honorable for the hall of fame, and what is considered a higher honor, according to Konya.

As the athletic department looks to put in an end to the athletic inequality, student athletes can expect to see drastic changes to the out-of-date, discriminatory guidelines, which currently leave program directors in charge of public recognition nominees and unfair, universal record-setting banner requirements.

"As we move towards having our department more integrated in this process, I think we're going to have many more discussions of what makes sense and what is going to be worthy of such consideration, whether you're a male or female or whatever sport you play," Konya said.

We thought we'd have a little more fun by bringing back The Mix, once a regular feature page of the Oakland Post. Here you'll find a few fun lists, WXOU hits and top Yik Yaks.

TOP 10 TREATS FOR SNOW DAYS

In honor of the snow day Monday, where I had the pleasure of spending my day on the couch eating a bunch of junk food, I compiled this list. Here are ten of the best snacks for a snow day.



CHEEZ-ITS // The salty, cheesy snack is so addicting, the only way to stop eating it is to finish the box.

BROWNIES // It does not get much better than a soft, chewy, fudge-drenched brownie—paired with a warm glass o' milk. It's the perfect way to forget about all that snow you need to shovel.

HOT CHOCOLATE // Cold weather and hot chocolate go hand in hand. Treating yourself to a cup after being forced to shovel your driveway (and the neighbor's), almost makes it worth it.

CANDY CANES // Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean you can't enjoy a nice candy cane. Bonus: they are on super sale with Christmas over.

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES // I'm sorry if you have a peanut allergy and cannot enjoy these. When done right, they are chewy, peanut buttery goodness.



POTATO CHIPS // A classic snack for any occasion.

TWIZZLERS BITES // Not the licorice sticks, but the bites. It is yet another snack that you can just grab a handful of and stuff your face with.

M&MS // Another classic. It's safe to assume some type of M&Ms are always in someone's snack cupboard.



PISTACHIOS // Yes, a curveball, but they are a satisfying snack and make you feel accomplished because you have to put effort into eating them.

CHOCOLATE // A fan favorite of a certain managing editor at the Post. You can really never go wrong with binge eating chocolate on a snowy day.

—Compiled by Sean Gardner, web editor

YAKS of the WEEK

Yik Yak:
The voice of the people



1. "Seriously, don't talk to me about your workout unless you fell off the treadmill."

2. "It's a blizzard, Harry."

3. "One day I'm going to get over-excited about an empty

parking spot and hit a Fiat."

4. "'Wake Me Up Before You Go Go' is what I play for the kids sitting next to me before I cash out in lecture."

5. "You are now aware of your own breathing."

6. "To the kids across class, talking and laughing about me, I'll remember you in your interviews."

7. "I just opened a pint of cookie dough and threw the lid directly in the trash because I am not a quitter."

8. "Just for showing up to class today, both my professors gave out extra credit because more than half the class failed to come - lol - college."

9. "Shout out to the people who awkwardly hold the door when I'm like 30 feet away."

10. "Is it possible to change my major to Trivia Crack?"

—Compiled by Shelby Tankersley, intern

TOP TUNES

wxou albums of the week

1. Sleater-Kinney – "No Cities to Love"
2. Cloakroom – "Further Out"
3. Aquadolls – "Stoked on You"
4. Bully – "Bully" [EP]
5. Ty Segall – "Mr. Face" [EP]
6. Ariel Pink – "Pom Pom"
7. Panda Bear – "Panda Bear Meets The Grim Reaper"
8. Dr. Dog – "Live At A Flamingo Hotel"
9. D'Angelo and the Vanguard – "Black Messiah"
10. Future of What – "Pro Dreams"



Cloakroom - "Further Out"

These three Indiana factory workers play music that is the perfect blend of heavy and melodic. Self-described as "the best stoner emo band on the internet," this seemingly contradictory description is spot on. Cloakroom mixes the slow heaviness of stoner/doom metal with the shoegaze drone of bands like Slowdive, My Bloody Valentine and Whirr. Singer and guitarist Doyle Martin's forlorn croon drifts sweetly over the top of it all, sharing lyrics of being let down by people and places he knows well, with an air of cynicism. The rhythm section of bass player Bobby Markos and drummer Brian Busch is often heavy and always tight, pounding away at the simplest rhythms with finesse and precision. This is music to bob your head to while you contemplate your purpose in life, the meaning of your degree, why people change, who you are as a person, etc. Though Cloakroom may not provide the answers to these questions, there's comfort in knowing they understand the struggles of disappointment and uncertainty.

Recommended if you like: Run For Cover Records, 90's emo, stoner metal, or playing air drums.

— Anthony Spak, WXOU Music Director



Photo courtesy of I Prevail

I Prevail's cover of Taylor Swift's "Blank Space" instantly went viral, wracking up 2 million YouTube views in the first month and 3.6 million views to date.

Prevailing through the 'Blank Space'

Local band featuring former OU student rides cover song to success

Erica Marracco
Staff Reporter

After uploading a Taylor Swift cover of "Blank Space" in a post-hardcore style onto YouTube, the Rochester Hills band, I Prevail, went viral.

The five members in I Prevail never thought they'd become this big when they got together in 2013.

The YouTube video accompanying the Swift cover has 3.6 million views as of press time. The video initially had 2 million views within the first month. The song was number one on the iTunes Rock Singles Chart for one week.

After all of the positive feedback from "Blank Space," I Prevail's sales increased. Its 6-track EP, Heart vs. Mind, hit the number one spot on the iTunes Rock Album chart for over a week. In addition, the album hit number two

on the Google Play Rock Album chart.

"When we launched the EP, for probably 45 days straight, we were online non-stop promoting," drummer Lee Runestad said. "When we started going viral, we had to take time off of work to keep up with it."

Right now, the members of I Prevail are still in the writing process for the next album. They've ditched school and their day jobs to make the band their top priority.

Before the band, 25-year-old Runestad attended Oakland Community College where he earned his associate degree in liberal arts. He also received training to be an EMT, but decided his previous accomplishments didn't fit his expectations and wanted something more.

It was when he started a new semester at Oakland University in fall 2014

that I Prevail's video went viral and Runestad made the business decision to finish the semester then stop schooling in order to promote the band more seriously.

"We'd played plenty of shows before we released the EP, so we had a small fan base and people who liked us, but we were playing for a different dynamic back then," Runestad said.

Now, the members are at the point in popularity where fans and fame are changing their lives. They're very careful of when they give out their phone numbers and other personal information, which they had to learn through Runestad's mistake of featuring his personal number at the end of the "Blank Space" cover video.

"Back then, we expected things

to turn out differently," Runestad said. "I put my number there for business purposes, but soon I was getting at least thirty calls a day and a crazy amount of text messages from fans."

Luckily for Runestad, the amount of calls and texts from fans has slowed down. I Prevail now uses that opportunity with the phone to interact with fans when they reach out.

"It's always wonderful to get support and hear from others how much our music

helped them," Runestad said.

The members of I Prevail hope that one day Taylor Swift's manager, or Taylor Swift herself, will be the one on the other end of the call.

"There are a lot of voicemails and texts from people impersonating Taylor, and a part of me dies every time it's not really her," Runestad said. "But I'm still holding out. It would all be worth it."

Contact the writer at emmarrac@oakland.edu.



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Art and inspiration strike OU

Oakland adjunct art professors present their current projects to students at Lightning Talks

LeeAnn Brown
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

In the far back corner of Wilson Hall sits a cramped lecture room.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, students filed into room 124 for the adjunct art professors' presentation of Lightning Talks.

Though you may not be able to tell the difference in the classroom, adjunct professors fill flexible part-time positions at universities, sometimes only teaching one class a semester.

This class will be only one of a multitude of hats that the professor must wear that semester, however. On top of working on outside art projects, which are featured in numerous museums in the area, these professors teach classes

at other universities, making their "flexible" schedule tight — a few of them were running into Tuesday's talk a few minutes late.

Flash-style presentations

Each professor, frenzied and enthusiastic, spoke about his or her most recent projects and inspirations for five-minute increments, hence the 'lightning' in the name.

The lights dimmed, the room grew quiet and the first professor, Bruce Charlesworth, headed up to the computer to begin the PowerPoint. Charles-



Photo courtesy oakland.edu
Rachel Reynolds,
Adjunct professor

worth showed a video trailer for his interactive installation entitled "Retraction."

A man of few words at the podium, he let the film speak for itself. The audience was taken into a strange world composed of ladders; long, connected hallways, decorated in wild colors; solemn telephone calls and impromptu courtyard dance sessions.

After the audience learned about Miranda Clark's three weddings (two were in the name of art and, the most recent, in the name of true love, as Clark said, "Whatever that is") and John Corbin's graphic novel about a boy on an island made of Flow Blue China, it was introduced to professor Anthony Paul Olsen.

Olsen, a tattooed sleeve peeking out from his white button-down shirt, donned a skinny, black tie, glasses and wild curls that framed his face and shoulders.

Olsen talked about his BFA in psy-

chology and philosophy and how grad school helped him develop his understanding of his dark paintings, which are mostly influenced by scenes from classic horror films.

"[It] helped me understand the psychology behind why I want to draw monsters and the language to talk about my work," he said.

From psychological influences and sham weddings to summer art camps, these adjunct professors fill their time with creativity and passion.

Leaving your mark

Some people make a mark in the world with their words. They do it with their hands. With their eyes. With their minds.

As professor Rachel Reynolds said, "I think it is important as an artist to create an audience for art. If students don't grow up to be artists, maybe they'll at least grow up to appreciate art."

Gold Vibes jumps, jives and riffs in SPB pitch perfect performance

Kevin Teller
Staff Reporter

While many styles of music come and go, a cappella seems to be one that is here to stay. OU proved just that last Monday, Jan. 26, when the Student Program Board hosted its first "Riff Off."

The concert featured OU's own a cappella group, Gold Vibrations, as well as Canadian recording artists Eh440.

Gold Vibrations kicked off the night's entertainment with a dramatic interpretation of Sam Smith's "Lay Me Down," which rose in intensity with each passing bar.

Ultimately erupting in a crescendo of harmony and beatboxing, the song set a tone indicative of the rest of the night's set.

Concert attendee Noel Kucharczyk said, "I really liked when they sang 'Say Something' by A Great Big World. I thought their arrangement was good."

Kucharczyk was at the concert to support a friend of hers who sings in Gold Vibrations. She was also intrigued by the fact that there was a riff off, just like in the movie "Pitch Perfect."

Eh440 (a pun on "A440," the pitch to which one tunes to) also gave a riveting performance, featuring something that caught many off guard: a beatbox solo.

It was around the middle of the set when the group's beatboxer took to the stage alone and proceeded to put forward a percussive onslaught. He sounded identical to a DJ spinning at a club, bouncing back and forth between beats seamlessly.

Vocal spontaneity

After both groups had performed, they took to the stage once more for an epic "riff off," or battle. During each round of the riff off, the groups went back and forth singing songs that pertained to a certain

topic.

This was a reference to "Pitch Perfect," which features a scene with a similar exchange between a cappella groups.

"We didn't actually know about the riff off portion of the event until we got there," said Gold Vibrations secretary, Elise Selberg. "So all the songs we ended up doing were totally impromptu and spontaneous."

This is Selberg's third year singing in Gold Vibrations. She also said that while the riff off was spontaneous, she had fun doing it.

The group is considering embellishing upon the songs that they pulled out to perform in the next performance at OU.

All together, Gold Vibrations and Eh440 sang 13 songs about sex, eight about "big booties," and 10 about break-ups.

It was a fittingly energetic end to the night.

It was the point in the



Danielle Cojocari / The Oakland Post

OU's own Gold Vibrations a cappella group breaks it down at the Riff Off on Jan. 26. The group plans to host an on-campus concert in April.

night that got the loudest and most boisterous audience reaction, which practically erupted into an all out party.

'Paying homage'

Gold Vibrations' music director, Christopher Brody, calls a cappella a "beautiful invention of modern music."

He said, "It allows performers to express themselves by paying homage to tunes in a modern medium

while reinventing the very songs that have inspired them."

Currently, Gold Vibrations is planning its next OU concert, which may be sometime in April.

They are also looking forward to performing at Carnegie Melon in Pennsylvania where they will compete in the International Championship of A Cappella.

Alumna achieves dreams, reaches the stars — literally

Kaleigh Jerzykowski
Staff Reporter

For most, the future is an area of shaded gray. For OU alumna Miranda Divozzo, the future would be a little more Black.

Her journey would take her from OU to Hollywood — from Michigan to California — and it all began when she got involved with the Student Life Lecture Board (SLLB) in college.



Photo courtesy of Miranda Divozzo

"She was such a ball of energy and so fearless in everything she set out to do that you knew there was something extraordinary about her," said Center for Student Activities Director Jean Ann Miller.

Divozzo always wanted to tell stories, but she wasn't sure how she was going to do it.

She graduated from OU in 2014 with a degree in communication and a minor in journalism and had a dream of going to New York after graduation, but little did she know, things wouldn't exactly work out that way.

Divozzo knew that if she ever wanted to make it big in the entertainment industry, she'd have to build a strong foundation, and she found her opportunity to do so with the SLLB, which she chaired her sophomore year.

Her first year on the board, Blake Mycoskie — founder of TOMS Shoes — was brought to campus, sparking a fire in Divozzo that burns stronger today than ever.

"[SLLB] was my world," she said, "and that's where I made all my connections."

Mycoskie was first, followed by author Max Brooks, legendary naturalist Jane Goodall and Academy Award winning screenwriter/human rights activist, Dustin Lance Black, being just a few of the notables Divozzo said she helped bring to Oakland.

"I made a valiant effort to stay in touch with every person we brought," she said. "I knew I wanted to be a part of this world."

Divozzo had many opportunities to meet amazing people, but when she met Black, a hero of hers, for the first time, she said something felt different.

"I knew I wanted to work for that man," she said, immediately setting what was

perhaps one of her loftiest goals to date.

"She kept in touch with [Black]," said Beth Talbert, professor of communication at OU and faculty representative of the SLLB. "She dug in deep, read volumes of material, and proved that she was willing to do what it takes to help him succeed."

"I would send him random articles via email," Divozzo said. "Christmas cards... just to stay on [his] radar."

Divozzo would stop at nothing to build her professional relationship with Black, so when he emailed her saying he was in Windsor, ON having coffee, she dropped what she was doing to drive across the border and meet up with him — no hesitation.

After their "international meeting," the two eventually had the "job" discussion as Divozzo closed in on graduation, hoping that her tireless efforts in staying in Black's world would end with the position she'd been dreaming of.

At the same time, Divozzo was mulling over an enticing opportunity that had been offered to her in New York, but she was holding out to hear from Black.

"He didn't end up offering me the job," said Divozzo, "I was heartbroken."

So she moved to California anyway.

Divozzo contacted Black shortly after her plane touched down and let him know that she had made the move, and a length of time passed before she heard from him, again, leaving Divozzo waiting with baited breath.

She secured a full-time job at Macy's in California, unsure of what might come her way next.

She didn't have to wait long. Two weeks later Black called.

"We had coffee," she said, "and the next morning I was his writer's assistant."

"She's loyal and willing to make success happen for herself," Talbert said, with proof of this lying evident in Divozzo's fearless pursuit of her goals.

Divozzo left an impression on Miller and Talbert that won't soon be forgotten with her upbeat attitude and tenacity, but Divozzo said it was really her choice to get involved at OU that allowed her to accomplish so much, rather than relying on luck and personality to get her noticed by someone like Black.

"Getting involved with student activities changed my life," she said. "It's about how you get involved and what you do when you're involved."

"[Divozzo] is a great example of transferrable skills from OU," Miller said. "All of [a student's] opportunities at OU are going to lead to something bigger and better... and she is living proof of it."

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Spreading awareness instead of HIV myths



Selah Fischer / The Oakland Post

Speakers shared information and perspectives on the ways that HIV affected their lives.

Health teams lift the veil on HIV misconceptions

Selah Fischer
Blog Editor

By hugging or kissing someone with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), you will immediately contract it. HIV is a death sentence. Homosexual men and drug users are more likely to get HIV than anyone else. HIV originated from monkeys.

All of the above statements are false, yet many people actually believe them to be true. When it comes to HIV, there are many misconceptions.

This may be because it isn't something that's always easy to talk about.

"Many people think if you just make out with someone it can spread HIV," Valentina Djelaj, Connect to Protect study coordinator, said. "You have to have about two tons of someone's saliva for it to spread. These are the kind of myths we frequently hear."

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the OU Minority Association of Pre-Health Students, Preventive Healthcare Org, and Connect to Protect, a nonprofit organization in Detroit, came together to spread awareness about HIV at OU and put an end to myths regarding HIV.

"People between the ages of 13 to 24 are what we look at because this is where a lot of stigma, discrimination and misinformation is happening," Ari Hampton, MSM outreach worker at Wayne

State University said. "We want to try and break down these barriers by providing as much education and prevention methods to the community as possible."

At the event, speakers shared information about HIV to students in a different light other than just from a medical perspective. They put an end to some of the most common myths about HIV and looked at it from different perspectives, such as those of homosexual men and transgender people.

A lot of information about HIV is commonly misunderstood for many reasons and some information is false due to statistical flaws. Gay and trans communities are often overlooked.

"Trans is not usually included in data, but HIV doesn't discriminate," Bre Campbell, another MSM outreach worker at Wayne State University, said.

There are also many new trends happening as well when it comes to being HIV positive.

"We are starting to see a trend of many black males about the ages of 13 to 19 having HIV," Hampton said.

The teams want to make sure that everyone, regardless of race or gender, has an equal opportunity to prevent HIV.

The speakers hope that by spreading the truth about HIV and helping others understand that it's not only certain people who are able to get it, they will help prevent adolescents from contracting HIV. They want to send everyone in the right direction.

"We are looking at prevention as opposed to treatment," Djelaj said.

BETCHA WE CAN BEAT YA HOME!



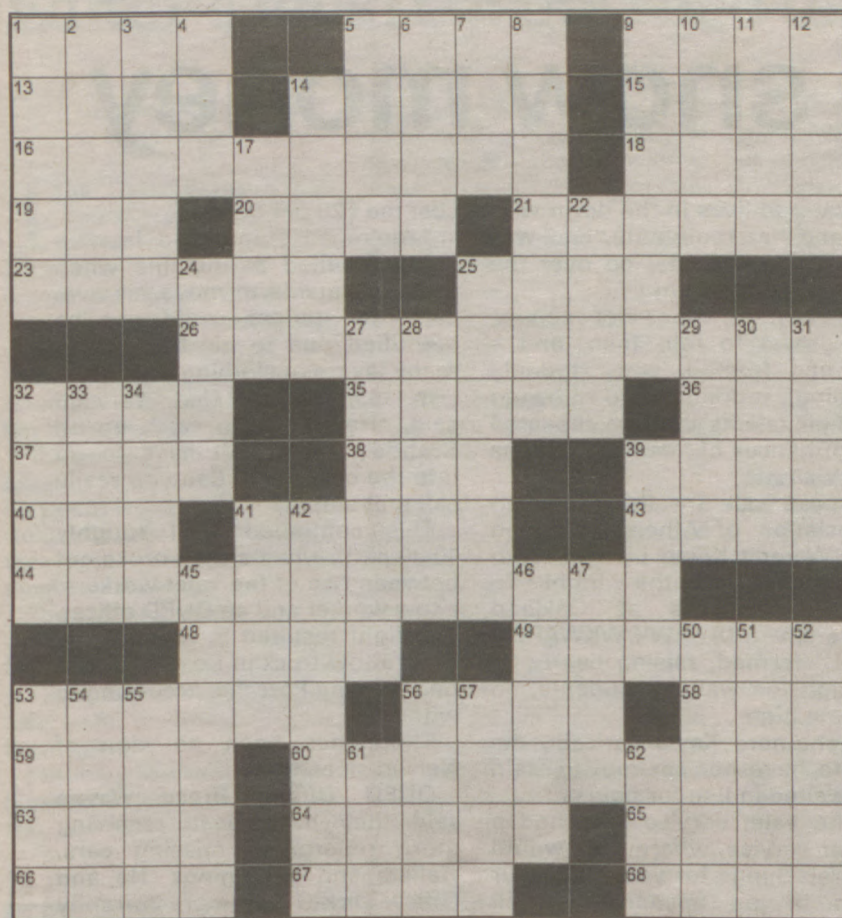
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Puzzles



Across

- 1: Boot binding
5: Cauterize
9: Buckwheat noodles of Japan
13: On vacation, perhaps
14: Hairdresser's offering
15: Well-ventilated
16: NASCAR venues
18: Sooty shaft
19: Set of supplies
20: 'Quiet!'
21: Salutes an honoree
23: Sets of fence steps
25: Look sullen
26: Positron, e.g.
32: Mormon Tabernacle Choir number
35: Bogs down
36: Quoits target
37: Ripped off
38: Four-poster, e.g.
39: Paint crudely
40: Merlot cask
41: Intense
43: Goes for
44: Study ace?
48: Settles a debt, with 'up'
49: Stand up to somebody
53: Dying fire bits
56: Beam with pride
58: Long-nosed fish
59: Horse color
60: Lively Italian folk dance

- 63: Take digs at
64: Extreme pain
65: Put ammo into
66: Kane's dying thought
67: Salacious
68: Pie à la ____

Down

- 1: Carefree adventures
2: Be in store for
3: Prickly plants
4: Spot
5: Geographical seven
6: Every one individually
7: 'Shoot'
8: Make like new
9: African adventure
10: Keeps from squeaking
11: Champagne type
12: Motion-carrying votes
14: U.S. coin word
17: '____ Came You' (1974 Dionne Warwick and Spinners chart-topper)
22: Inning enders
24: Long and lean
25: Greased for roasting
27: Drenches
28: Michelangelo masterpiece
29: Bloke
30: Galoot
31: Reduces in intensity
32: URL opener
33: Thy, nowadays
34: Hi-fi description
39: Follows persistently
41: Way off
42: Watch part
45: Inaugurated
46: 'The Gift of the Magi' device
47: 'To Renew America' writer Gingrich
50: Block house?
51: Healthy lunch choice
52: Make a swap
53: Units of work
54: Work hard
55: Paul's ox
56: Expand
57: Bring in
61: Historical period
62: Shade tree

	1		5	6	2		8	4
				1		5		2
5		2	7		4			3
3	9			4	5		7	8
2	4		1	7			9	5
8			6		1	4		7
1		5		3				
4	2		8	5	7		3	

			4			2	5	
	5	8	6				7	
4	7						9	1
		9			4		2	
7	4		1		5		8	9
	8		9			1		
5	1						4	2
	2				6	5	3	
	3	7			2			

Snow problems, snow money

Students spend hundreds, wait hours to avoid moving cars for snow emergency policy

Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

It started with a YikYak. "Screw this stupid snow emergency policy. I don't want to go out into the snow. Someone should start a valet service."

It was the first day in February — a cool Sunday afternoon. At around 4:30 p.m. the order came in — everyone needed to move his or her car. OU's snow emergency policy was being put into action for the first time.

The policy, announced in December, requires all vehicles to be moved to designated lots by 10 p.m. if an emergency is announced. Designated lots include P29 and P32, located on the far side of campus, and the Anne V. Nicholson and George

T. Matthews apartment spaces, which fill quickly. If any vehicles are found in undesignated lots after 10 p.m., they will be impounded and towed, and the owners will have to pay a \$100 retrieval fee and potentially an additional \$20 for each day in storage.

Students grumbled and moaned but slowly went to move their cars.

An hour after the announcement a man began waiting outside, offering to take students' cars for them so they didn't have to walk out into the gruesome weather. The Yak had become a reality.

Students started handing over their keys and a \$100 labor fee to the man, who they said answered to the alias Babyface Nelson.

"Totally worth it, in my opinion," said Pippi Smith, 18, a freshman who lives in Oak View. She said until this year, her mom or boyfriend had driven her wherever she needed to go, so she wasn't used to walking or driving long distances on her own.

"I don't even go to school here," said Pippin Popper, 46, who is dating Smith. He said he shares

her car and lives in the dorm with her and her roommate, and was glad Nelson was taking over the car situation for him.

By 7 p.m. the valet service had grown to four men, and a line had formed, with students sleeping, cuddling, and showing off their talents through repeated performances of "Wonderwall" as they waited.

A bake sale for the American Association of Atheistic Women Who Weren't Killed in the Womb Advocating for the Right to Destroy Diseases at Oakland University (AAAWWWKWARD at OU) formed, raising nearly \$7 through the waiting students, an all-time high.

Sophomore Kayla Varicalli, the last to have her car moved, said she waited in line for hours.

"The valet service also had a carrier service, where they would go grab things for you from your room if you needed," Varicalli said while she ate a brownie sundae she had purchased from AAWWWKWARD. "I eventually got my blankets, a pillow, pajamas, my microwave and TV, and it only

cost me \$20 per trip."

"You're all stupid and lazy," a student yelled at the line when walking outside to move his own car. The student could not be identified due to his having too many layers of clothing on.

In response to that, Varicalli said, "Hey, I got to catch up on Scandal, and didn't have to go into the cold at all. Can you really call that stupid?"

This continued until roughly 10:30 p.m., when a fight broke out between two of the valet workers, a tow worker and an OUPD officer. The fight resulted in four totaled cars, a tow truck in Bear Lake and one missing Porsche, according to witnesses.

There has been no sign of Nelson since then.

OUPD Officer Bruce Wayne said they have been receiving more reports of missing cars, wallets and belongings. He and Officer Dick Grayson are currently investigating, and are encouraging anyone with information on Nelson or the stolen goods to call OUPD's non-emergency line, which can be found on Google.

WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

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Sports

Editor's Pick: On the road to the Horizon League

Jackson Gilbert
Sports Editor

The Oakland men's basketball team sits in fourth place in the Horizon League at 6-2 behind three schools deadlocked at 7-2.

But that record is deceiving — Oakland has beaten all three teams currently ahead in the standings: Valparaiso, Green Bay and Cleveland State.

The road to the Horizon League tournament (knock on wood) is shaping up for the Golden Grizzlies; they've played their home games against the toughest conference teams.

They play six of nine on the road in February including a final regular season matchup at Green Bay that could potentially be for the first seed in the tournament.

Finishing first or second has huge advantages in the Horizon, with those two seeds only

having to win two games to be crowned league champion. The first seed gets to host the tournament. So let's get to the picks.

Oakland at UIC 8 p.m. Wednesday

UIC (5-18, 1-7) is arguably the worst team in the Horizon League, but that doesn't mean it's a team of slouches. The Flames play well at home. Their only win in league play is against Youngstown State at home.

However, they have played Cleveland State, Detroit and Valparaiso very close at home, losing those three by a total of 11 points.

Senior guard Jay Harris leads UIC with 13.8 points per game and is second on the team averaging 3.1 assists. Junior forward Jake Wiegand leads the team with 6.4 rebounds per game and is second with 10.5 points.

Oakland is a better team

than UIC, but the Flames have proven to be resilient and will be hungry for an upset after a heartbreaking loss last weekend to Valparaiso. All league games are important at this point in the season and Oakland coaches should do everything they can to avoid overlooking the Flames.

Prediction:
Oakland 73, UIC 65

Oakland at Valparaiso 2:30 p.m. Sunday

This is the game of the week in the Horizon League. Valparaiso (20-4, 7-2) will be ready to avenge a Jan. 2 overtime loss at the O'rena.

Since then, Valparaiso's only loss has been at Green Bay by one point.

Alec Peters continues to look like one of the top players in the Horizon League, going for 24 and 19 points in his last two

contests, victories over Milwaukee and UIC.

He'll be matched up against the possible HL defensive player of the year, Dante Williams.

Saying Valparaiso had a cake-walk schedule in the nonconference is a fair criticism. The Crusaders played some terrible teams on the way to winning 20 games.

But their 7-2 league record has to be respected and Oakland's history with Valparaiso and the Drew coaching family means head coach Greg Kampe will have the Golden Grizzlies ready.

Prediction:
Oakland 63, Valparaiso 59

Looking ahead, Oakland will likely stay in the Chicago area following the Valparaiso game to play Milwaukee two days later.

On the following Sunday, the



Jackson Gilbert
Sports Editor

rematch against Detroit will take place in the O'rena, a game Kampe has certainly circled on the calendar.

Oakland then heads back out on the road to battle Wright State on Feb. 18. The final two home games will be UIC on Feb. 22 and then Youngstown State on Feb. 25.

The final game of the regular season is slated for Feb. 28 in Green Bay. The Horizon League Tournament starts on March 3.

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Melissa Deatsch / The Oakland Post

Oakland University student athletes get together for some snow day fun — a rare occurrence in the sports world.

Snow day gives student athletes a chance to relax, be young again

Melissa Deatsch
Staff Reporter

The phrase 'no days off' is commonly heard in sports to inspire athletes to reach success.

With Monday's snow day staring them in the face, it became the coach's call on whether to continue with practices.

For many of the student athletes, 'no days off' was exactly the case.

Most of the sports that are currently in season continued with practice as planned.

The Oakland swimming and diving team had a practice in the morning and afternoon on top of weights with the strength trainer.

The men's basketball team, after being stranded in Akron, Ohio for an extra night on Sunday, got off the bus and headed straight to the O'rena for a morning practice.

The baseball team took the snow day as an opportunity to lift weights as a team.

On the flip side, some of the other teams, including track and field, volleyball and soccer had

"What made the snow day special was getting a bunch of student athletes together to hang out and have fun. It's not every day that we get a big group like that together at once, so it's nice we had a snow day and a chance to do that."

Sammy Condon
Freshman volleyball player

the entire day off.

But there's one thing that a wonderful snow day buys every student athlete: time.

It's something student athletes generally don't have enough of.

Time to catch up on homework.

Time to relax and get caught up on sleep.

And for many, even for just an hour or so, time to pretend that

they are neither students nor athletes.

On Monday's snow day, many of the student athletes gathered to go sledding together.

They created their own sleds out of anything they could find: trays, laundry baskets, and garbage bags.

They had to get creative.

Members of the men's and women's soccer, track and field, men's basketball, volleyball, and baseball teams came together share laughs and create memories.

"What made the snow day so special was getting a bunch of student athletes together to hang out and have fun," said Sammy Condon, redshirt freshman volleyball player. "It's not every day that we get a big group like that together at once, so it's nice we had a snow day and a chance to do that."

A snow day as kids meant a day of relaxation.

For some student athletes, it still meant practicing but a day off from classes that was certainly well deserved.

For other athletes, it meant that they got to enjoy it like kids again, on the sledding hill.

Williams develops defense for W's

*Defensive player
reclaims recent
basketball games*

Melissa Deatsch
Staff Reporter

Greg Kampe's basketball teams have rarely been known for their defensive prowess.

He even jokes about it.

The Golden Grizzlies men's surprising run to contention in the Horizon League in January, however, has been driven by Dante Williams' stifling defensive efforts against the league's top scorers.

For example, the 6'6" senior forward held Cleveland State's Trey Lewis to five points in two games.

For the season, Lewis is averaging 16.9 points per game for the Vikings, who are 7-2 in the league.

In the Jan. 22 victory over visiting Milwaukee, Williams held the Panthers' leading scorer Matt Tiby to one point in the second half after Tiby netted 12 in the first half.

Kampe described Williams' defensive efforts as an advantage that not many other teams in this league can claim.

"Defense has always been a strength of mine because I love it," Williams said. "I love the challenge of guarding the other team's best player. I love that I can help my team without the ball being in my hands."

Williams has been entrusted to guard the opponent's leading scorer in every league game so far, and Oakland has won six of the eight matchups.

Even in the Jan. 10 loss on the road at Detroit Mercy, Williams held Juwan Howard Jr. to 11 points — seven less than his average per game.

"I believe defense is just being willing to play hard and give your best effort," Williams said. "I'm not doing anything special out there. I'm just playing my butt off. When you play hard and give it your all, you get rewarded. My reward is helping my team get W's."



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post
Williams has played a large role in bumping up Oakland's defense.

Kampe has long relied on a high-powered offense in his 31 years as Oakland's head coach. His teams have reached the NCAA Tournament three times with that offensive philosophy.

"I'm not doing anything special out there. I'm just playing my butt off. When you play hard and give it your all, you get rewarded. My reward is helping my team get W's."

Dante Williams
OU basketball player

But Kampe said during a press conference after the Milwaukee game that he had to switch gears this season. A close friend told Kampe after a November preseason game against Ferris State that the Golden Grizzlies team was "the worst team he'd ever seen on defense."

And Oakland lost 12 of its 17 games in November and December.

Since then, the Golden Grizzlies have won seven of nine, including three victories over the teams that were ranked ahead of them in the pre-season Horizon coaches' poll.

"The thing that changed the most from the beginning to now is that everybody stopped going off on their own and doing their own things. Now everybody follows the team concepts that our coaches try to reinforce to us and it works," Williams said.



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

Oakland guard Nola Anderson provided 18 points in the game against Cleveland State at home Jan. 31.

Grizzlies' defense falls short

Women's basketball loses 72-64 at home against Cleveland

Scott Davis
Staff Reporter

The Golden Grizzly women's basketball team dropped below .500 in league play as it lost to Cleveland State Saturday at the O'rena.

Elena Popkey scored a season-high of 21 points, while Nola Anderson added 18, but neither was enough for Oakland as it fell to Cleveland State 72-64.

The Vikings led for the majority of the game, and even though the Golden Grizzlies trailed by three going into the half, Oakland was never able to make a big run or take advantage of some Cleveland State mistakes.

Head coach Jeff Tungate was disappointed in the team's inconsistency and believes its members need to get mentally tougher to have success.

"It's kind of the story of the

season where there's times where we can't score but we can defend and then there's times when we won't defend but can score," Tungate said. "Until we can get that consistency, we are going to have an inconsistent season."

Cleveland State was led by Kristen Green, who scored 21 points including five three-pointers. Alecis Eckles also proved to be a tough matchup for the Golden Grizzlies, posting a double double with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

After giving up 108 points to Wright State last Thursday night, Oakland knew it needed a better defensive effort if it wanted to beat the Vikings. Though Tungate thought that the team was effective at times, the intensity wasn't the same all game long.

"In the second half I thought we were inconsistent defensively," Tungate said. "We were good in spurts, but I thought there were too many straight line drives to the basket."

This was an important game as both teams were

3-3 in Horizon League play heading into the match. With the loss, the Golden Grizzlies have now dropped to 3-4 and have to go on the road for four straight league games.

"It's going to be a tough stretch," Tungate said. "To win on the road you have to be mentally tough, and right now we are not a mentally tough team."

At halftime, the women's basketball program honored alumni by holding a special ceremony for its 40th season celebration. Past players and coaches were recognized on the court with a special video presentation of the program's best moments. The ceremony was highlighted by celebrating the 1989-1990 Division II Final Four team.

Oakland will hit the road for the next four games as it will face the Horizon League leading Green Bay Phoenix Wednesday night. It will travel to Milwaukee, Youngstown State, and finish with Cleveland State over the next two weeks.

The next home game will be against Detroit Mercy on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

Karate demo team rocks the audience at half-time

Perspective: keeping a promise, practicing hard and kicking butt

Shelby Tankersley
Staff Intern

The music was playing, the crowd was cheering, and I was freaking out.

Let me back up: I've done karate for the majority of my life. Consequently, I became a member of my school's Demo Team, a group of people who go around and do karate shows for the public.

When I was in my senior year of high school, I told my fellow Demo Team members that I would try my best to get us into a basketball game if I was accepted into Oakland University.

So, this being my freshman year, I went and talked with the athletics department to see about getting a performance set up this season. I had to send them some footage of us and narrow down some dates—then we had ourselves a show.

The team was thrilled when they found out; we started preparing for the show almost immediately after we knew what date we would be going out. We focused practicing a lot to make sure we would be perfect.

In the three weekends leading up to the show, we practiced for around two hours at a time; we ran through the show and endured all kinds of torturous muscle-building exercises. But, in the end, it was good for us. Nobody got even remotely tired during the main event.

The day of the show, we all vented our nervous feelings to each other on Facebook and whined to our friends about how scared we were. I told my friends if they didn't see me on Friday, it'd be because I had died of fear. None of our team members had ever done a show in front of so many people before, which made going out to perform a very daunting task.

We all arrived in the O'rena around 6 p.m., got changed, got warmed up and received the rules.

We were told we could not talk to any of the players from either team or ask for an autograph. The people in charge also let us know that it was imperative we didn't drop any of our weapons on OU's court since it's a very expensive floor.

At the beginning of the game, we got to high-five the basketball players as they ran out onto the court. After that, we went back into our staging area to warm up.

We ran through all of our routines one last time and stood in line to get ready to run out. With my trusty bong in hand (relax, bong is karate talk for staff), both I and the rest of the team were ready to go.

Needless to say, our six minutes in the middle of OU's court were glorious. The team did great, the crowd was great, and we were even on ESPN3 for a whole five seconds. Being an OU student, performing in the halftime show is something I'll probably never forget.

Later, we found out that they would like us to come back next year. Will I be terrified again? Probably, but I'll also be very excited.

Katy Perry who? The Demo Team owned that halftime show.



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

Shelby Tankersley, left, leads the Demo Team in a kick-butt karate performance.

Assistant coach has friends in high places

LeBron James attends Oakland's game to support long-time pal

Scott Davis
Staff Reporter



Courtesy of operationsports.com

Oakland Assistant Coach Brandon Weems has been close friends with basketball superstar LeBron James since they played together in high school.

of Walsh's record books when he recorded 1,160 points and 649 assists during his four years there, which is good enough to put him in the top five of each category.

Weems started his coaching career at Kentucky for three seasons where he worked with legendary head coach John Calipari. Weems added another championship to his resume, one he earned as part of the staff when the Wildcats won the 2012 national championship.

While he was there, Calipari would hold coaching clinics every fall. Oakland head coach Greg Kampe would always be one of the speakers, and Weems started to build a relationship with Kampe there.

After one season at Drexel, Weems learned about an opening at Oakland. After Kampe received a strong recommendation from Calipari, a couple of interviews and a campus visit, Weems got the position.

Weems said he did not know

much of Oakland before he got here, but he knew that opportunities like this did not come around all that often.

One of the reasons Kampe decided to bring in Weems as an assistant is because of Weems' ability to expand Golden Grizzly recruiting into Ohio. Oakland has signed Jaevin Cumberland of Wilmington, Ohio, for the 2015-16 academic year.

"I try to bring in different guys that maybe we weren't able to get before," Weems said. "What I mean by that is that I have a big influence in Ohio, so I try to get our name out there and try to spark a little bit of interest from that standpoint."

As for James' visit to the O'rena for Oakland's 59-56 victory against Cleveland State on Jan. 26, Weems said it meant a lot to him. Weems said James gave him a couple of pointers and overall really liked what he saw of the Grizzlies.

Weems was also quick to point out that he is undefeated when James is in the building.

For example, following Oakland's 96-80 victory Sunday over Youngstown State, the Grizzlies changed plans and stayed overnight in Akron due to a snow-storm.

Weems tweeted Monday morning to his buddy: "Surprise visit... thanks for the hospitality @KingJames".

THE SPORTING BLITZ

Men and women's swim

In the final meet before the Horizon League Championships, the men and women's swimming and diving teams swept the competition in Cleveland on Saturday. The Oakland women beat Cleveland State 203-77 and Xavier 162-100, while the men defeated CSU 159-135 and Xavier 202-78. Patricia Aschan had three individual wins while Nikki Flynn, Takara Martin and Seth Timmons each had two wins.

Women's tennis

The women's tennis team traveled to Akron to take on the Zips Saturday. The team dropped the match 6-1 with Cam Sabourin winning both singles and doubles for the only Golden Grizzly victories. Oakland will travel to Fort Wayne, Ind. on Friday to take on IPFW.

Men and women's track

The men and women's track and field teams traveled to Saginaw on Saturday to compete in the Jet's Pizza Invitational hosted by Saginaw Valley State University. The men had a strong showing highlighted by Aaron Davis' 200m title, a second place performance from Austin Dawn in the 800m and a second place finish from the 4x400 relay A-team. The women were highlighted by a first place finish in the distance medley relay and Candice Mack's fourth place finish in the 400m.

— Compiled by Scott Davis,
Staff Reporter

Horizon League Standings

Men's Basketball	W	L	W	L	Women's Basketball	W	L	W	L
1. Valparaiso	7	2	20	4	1. Green Bay	7	0	17	3
2. Green Bay	7	2	18	5	2. Wright State	5	2	16	5
3. Cleveland State	7	2	13	10	3. Youngstown State	4	3	15	5
4. OAKLAND	6	2	11	12	4. Cleveland State	4	3	12	8
5. Detroit	4	5	11	13	5. UIC	3	4	13	7
6. Milwaukee	4	5	9	14	6. OAKLAND	3	4	9	11
7. Wright State	3	6	11	12	7. Detroit	3	4	8	12
8. UIC	1	7	5	18	8. Milwaukee	3	5	7	13
9. Youngstown State	1	9	10	15	9. Valparaiso	0	7	4	16