

THE OAKLAND POST

MARCH

18

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

— 2015 —

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SAE.

Clearing the controversy

PAGE 8

CAREER.

Gaining experience

PAGE 10

EMPOWERING

Vagina Monologues return

PAGE 16

TO THE TOP

Seniors climb Elliott Tower PAGE 12

thisweek

March 18, 2015 // Volume 40. Issue 55



ontheweb

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at OU has begun its first-ever Paddy Murphy week to honor its late brother and hero and to raise money for its national philanthropy, Children's Miracle Network. [Read more at www.oaklandpostonline.com.](http://www.oaklandpostonline.com)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

BENDING IT LIKE BECKHAM // TEDx speaker and LGBTQIA+ advocate Ash Beckham visited campus last week to deliver her message of "giving voice to your truth" and spreading authenticity. Beckham's lectures on self-acceptance have gone viral on YouTube with a collective 8 million hits. "You don't have to be perfect — no one relates to perfect," she said.

Photo by Danielle Cojocari/The Oakland Post

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

POLL OF THE WEEK

How do you register for classes?

- A** I set my alarm and get all the good ones first!
- B** Eh, I'll get to it.
- C** How do you do that again?
- D** It all depends on what I can afford.

Vote at www.oaklandpostonline.com

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Are you following the OUSC elections?

- A) Yes! Can't wait to cast my vote.**

44.2%

- B) Nah, sitting these out.**

16.3%

- C) What elections?**

20.9%

- D) #KONY2012**

18.6%

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

March 17, 1993

The women's swim team took the national championship for the fourth straight year. The men's team finished in second place.

March 18, 1991

The DNR fined Oakland University after ceiling tiles were ripped down in the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute and asbestos was exposed. The university was ordered to pay \$19,000.

March 23, 1994

OUPD launched an investigation into a Dodge Hall fire, where a biology lab suffered between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in damages.

— Compiled by Cheyanne Kramer, staff intern



7

UNWANTED VISITOR

Thirteen cases of a "norovirus-like illness" have been recorded on campus by the Graham Health Center — a number expected to grow.



22

REFUSING TO SINK

Graduating swimmer and ESPN reporter Grace Waller has many reasons to celebrate: one of them being five years cancer-free.



23

SLIPPING AWAY

The division 3 hockey team fell short in overtime to Florida Gulf Coast after taking the season all the way to the ACHA National Championship in Alabama last weekend.

BY THE NUMBERS

Women's history month

1.6mil.

number of women veterans in the United States in 2013

63.7%

female citizens 18 and older reported voting in the 2012 presidential election

161 mil.

The number of females in the U.S. as of December 2013. The number of males was 156.1 million.

32%

women 25 and older had obtained a bachelor's degree or more as of 2014

\$39,157

The median annual earnings of women 15 or older who worked year-round, full time in 2013. In comparison, the median annual earnings of men were \$50,033.

Students need to take elections seriously — but not too seriously

By Kaylee Kean
Managing Editor

Monday, March 23 marks the beginning of the next round of elections for the Oakland University Student Congress leaders. It's the one time that the OU student body is able to hand-pick its representation.

1,079 students voted in the last election. 1,919 voted the year before. There were well over 19,000 students each year.

Where are those voters? Why doesn't anyone care?

For those many who aren't up-to-date, there are three pairs of students battling for the positions of Student Body President and Vice President.

There is Nick Walter, running for president, with Madison Kubinski, running for VP; Katie Rose, president, with Layla Sizemore, VP; and Laina Townsend, president, with Sam Harris for VP.

Walter and Kubinski want to change the grading scale so it's easier for students to get 4.0s. They want to introduce "random swag campaigns" for more spirit gear on campus. They want more electrical outlets. They want to continue work with administrators on the Oakland Center expansion.

Rose and Sizemore want to bump up campus life through new and old activities. They want to charge less for online classes, make Moodle training for professors mandatory and expand the tutoring cent-

er. They want to extend Rec Center hours, create more fitness opportunities on campus and bring more varied and healthy eating options to campus.

Townsend and Harris want to promote "responsible campus growth," increase campus engagement and pride, and boost student interaction through additional representatives and a student voice committee. They want to centralize all student services, specifically the registrar's office.

These are only a few simplified points from each platform, which can be viewed in more detail at oakland.edu/voteou.

It's one thing to call for a complete change of the grading scale or relocation of a department's office, but it's another thing to do it, especially with a need for unity and a time constraint of one year.

We at want our next leaders to recognize that.

We also want our fellow students to hold those leaders accountable.

If the next Student Body President tells you he or she is going to put a back door in the Kresge Library, ask how. If the Vice President tells you he or she is going to change the campus menus, ask what exactly they will be doing and why.

If legislators are planning some huge initiative that you are just not interested in, tell them so.

Hold them accountable.

Tell them what you want. Let them help you the right way by letting your voice be heard. Your student leaders CAN help and CAN make a difference, but only if you let them know how best to do so.

Student Congress: the best leaders are leaders of the people. Let your fellow students guide you. Don't reach for things that can't be accomplished in a year, and only reach for the things that your peers believe in.

We at *The Post* encourage students to check out OUSC and the candidates fighting for the presidential and vice presidential positions for the next school year. We ask you to consider your legislators and explore each ticket's platform. Think about which agenda aligns best with your interests and speak up if you feel none of them reflect what you want.

We ask you to learn about these leaders and vote. It only takes a few minutes, and it does make a difference.

More importantly, we ask those in Student Congress to give us agendas that can actually be considered. Don't worry about what sounds great or could make OU history — worry about what matters.

Focus on what will help. Work on achievable things that can make a direct difference in a student's life.

That's what Student Congress was made for, after all.

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



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Perspectives

Career Services: Education's 'icing on the cake'

Employers look for more than just a degree- so should you

Bianca Marrogy

Human Resource Development major, senior

An education received at Oakland University is similar to an unfrosted cake - a supportive foundation but simply not enough by itself.

What distinguishes students from each other is what we choose to do with the opportunities presented to us while at OU. Yes, we learn about our desired career path through the classes we take; however, we truly do not learn or become marketable to employers unless we gain career-related experience to supplement our education.

What qualifies as career

-related experience?

Career-related experience can come in the form of internships, co-ops, job shadowing, volunteer work or participating in undergraduate research.

In order to pave the path to success after graduation and make a smooth transition from student to working professional, Career Services recommends completing two career related experiences prior to graduation.

Do you want to gain career related experience but do not know where to start?

Career Services can help!

Our office provides various tools to aid you in your pursuit of obtaining related experience, including our comprehensive job posting site, OUCareerLink.com.

There are over 1,042 job postings available on

OUCareerLink; we encourage you to have your OUCareerLink, profile and resume updated, so that you are ready to apply for the opportunities presented through the website.

You may also choose to meet with a Career Consultant to discuss job search and branding strategies to become the most marketable to the industry.

Career Services not only provides coaching on how to obtain career related experience but also gives students the opportunity to have their resume and cover letter reviewed, practice interviewing through mock interviews, learn the basics of networking, prepare for informational interviews and polish their LinkedIn profiles.

If you have not been in to see us, feel free to make an appointment or stop by during walk in hours; we are located at



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

Career Services provides coaching and resources to pave students' futures.

154 North Foundation Hall.

When making internship decisions or as graduation day approaches, make sure that you have taken advantage of all the opportunities OU has provided you with, especially making use of the Career Services office.

Yes, an OU education provides

us with a supportive foundation but employers want more.

They want the icing on the cake, which comes in the form of career-related experience.

Once you have obtained the supportive foundation and the icing, you get the sprinkles: a full time job.

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#MuslimLivesMatter — still

Mainstream media coverage may have stopped but Islamophobia continues

Tifrah Akhtar

Communication major, junior

In 2012 the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter became a popular outlet to discuss the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

Since then it has taken off and become more than a hashtag, embodying a form of resistance with respect to the dehumanization of black lives in America.

A little over a month ago the hashtag was repurposed for a new movement — #MuslimLivesMatter — when three Muslim students were murdered in their University of North Carolina dorm room.

The hashtag took off and demanded that the media give

attention to the story.

In the days that followed, Muslim

activists on social media brought attention to an

onslaught of other crimes against Muslims committed in the West, from Alberta, to Kansas City, to Louisville, to Dallas and even locally here, in Dearborn.

In February, a man was assaulted while buying groceries with his two



Tifrah Akhtar

daughters, who wore the hijab, the Muslim head covering.

To me, Dearborn had grown to become a safe haven from the rising Islamophobia that is being fostered in contemporary American society.

The city hosts one of the largest Muslim populations in the West, and I see women like my mother wear their religion proudly and fearlessly in the form of a hijab.

Hearing about the attack left me shocked that the place I call my hometown was the setting for yet another hate crime against Muslims.

I was even more shocked and disappointed by the silence from mainstream media, especially coming off the heels of the Chapel Hill shooting.

Sadly, attacks like these are far too common in this day and age, so it's naïve to expect every story to be given

"The current dominant discourse surrounding Muslim Americans - and Muslims in general - plays a large role in fostering Islamophobia, which we can see has real, violent consequences."

Tifrah Akhtar

Communication major, junior

national attention.

However, when I turn on

the TV and see phrases like "radical Islam" being thrown around and the contexts they exist in, it's clear that the current dominant discourse prefers to portray Muslims as savage, barbaric and inhumane.

Any narrative to the contrary is dismissed as a random act of violence unrelated to the Islamophobia pervasive in and perpetuated by the mainstream media.

The current dominant discourse surrounding Muslim Americans — and Muslims in general — plays a large role in fostering Islamophobia, which we can see has real, violent consequences.

The Chapel Hill shooting was not a random parking dispute.

It is representative of a growing pattern of hate crimes committed — and subsequently ignored — by the mainstream media.

Our identities matter and so does our outlook

Being 'color blind' to the world can prevent us from seeing our own privilege and promoting equity

Evan Fobar

Communication major, senior

I don't see color. I just see everyone as equals."

These sentiments are common in everyday public discourse about race.

Depending on the context—perhaps, a room full of white people—this comment may go completely unnoticed and with no critique.

Social institutions and structures work on hierarchical platforms, which is why the archetype for individuals in power is almost always white, straight, middle-to-upper-class, able-bodied and male.

When you decide not to see color, you have decided not to recognize the privileges that people are benefiting from solely from underlying (or overt) racist, heterosexist,

classist, ableist and patriarchal (and the list goes on) structures that are in place.

Claiming everyone as equals eliminates the historical and political contexts that led each marginalized group to where they are today.

It eliminates slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, Ferguson, the Stonewall Riots, Women's Suffrage Movement, the Americans with Disabilities Act and so many more social movements and reforms before us.

Color blindness comes from a place of privilege. We all have privilege but it is how



Evan Fobar

"Color blindness comes from a place of privilege. We all have privilege but it is how you use it that affects the structures and institutions we interact with."

Evan Fobar

Communication major, senior

you use it that affects the structures and institutions we interact with.

Acknowledging your personal privilege and

identifying how you have benefited from it is important for promoting equity within social change.

Ask questions like, "why are transgender women of color the most prominent group of individuals to have violence perpetuated against them? Is it because they are members of multiple, intersecting marginalized identity groups?" (Answer: yes.)

Color blindness — and blindness to other identities — will only help for non-marginalized groups to continue to reap benefits from which others are excluded.

I am writing this not only because I am extremely passionate about creating open dialogues about race and other identities, but because when I submitted a question about diversity,

equity and inclusion during the Student Body Presidential Candidate Debate, one of the answers I received was this narrative of color blindness.

The Center for Multicultural Initiatives, the Leadership and Volunteer Center, the Gender and Sexuality Center, the Multicultural Affairs Director and Committee on Student Congress — and countless other student organizations on campus — are working to create these dialogues that give voices to marginalized groups.

Our identities matter. They work both to limit and grant us privileges, but it is what we do with those privileges that will affect public culture towards social change.

If you think that you don't see color, ask yourself how you have benefited from your own identities.

Campus

Grizzlies on the Prowl



"March is Reading Month. What's the last book you read?"



Jossette Bailey, French, senior

"I read 'Waiting for Godot.' It was for my 20th century French class. The whole book was in French."



Hasan Alwazan, mechanical engineering, freshman

"I read 'The Igloo' for an oral report in my ESL class."



Ahmed Mukhrigh, physical therapy, sophomore

"'Say What?' I read it for my English reading class. It helped me learn English a lot."



Anne Kuthy, mechanical engineering, freshman

"I read 'Rin Tin Tin' for a writing project. I thought it was an interesting book."

— Compiled by Nowshin Chowdhury, photographer

POLICE FILES

Rear window damage to vehicle in P32 reported to OUPD

An OUPD officer responded to a complaint of damage to a vehicle in P32 at about 10:00 p.m. on Thurs., March 12.

The officer spoke with a man who stated that the rear window of his vehicle was broken out. He told the officer that he had parked his car on the third level of the parking structure around 9:00 a.m. that day. He said that when he returned to his vehicle at 9:30 p.m., he noticed the damage to his vehicle.

During inspection of the vehicle, the officer observed that the rear window was mostly broken out but there was a small impact area on the left side of the glass that was remaining in the window.

Officers determined that the vehicle did not appear to have been entered. The complainant told police that nothing appeared to be missing from the interior of the vehicle.

OUPD later tried to observe video video footage from the parking structure but the officer checking was unable to see anything dealing with the complainant's vehicle. No further developments have been made.

— Compiled by Josh Soltman
Chief Copy Editor

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Torri Mathes / The Oakland Post

Student body presidential candidates (from left) Rose, Townsend and Walter squared off on Wednesday, March 11.

Election fever heats up

By Grace Turner
Staff Reporter

Oakland University Student Congress' presidential candidates pressed the flesh and their platforms last Wednesday at the formal debate.

Candidates Katie Rose, Laina Townsend and Nick Walter each said they understand the duties of Student Body President and are ready to be the voice that takes student problems to the administration and also each said they have already met with administrators to talk about their platforms.

These candidates said they are dedicated to being accessible to students, whether by phone, email, social media or regular office hours.

"If you need to contact me, I will be available," said Walter, a junior criminal justice major. He said he would drop all other leadership positions if elected, including his current Criminal Justice Club presidency and senior legislator position with OUSC.

Rose, a sophomore biology major, said she would step down from some of the e-board positions that she holds outside of OUSC if elected. She is not currently in OUSC, but is president of Leaders for Environmental Awareness and Protection, and would become volunteer coordinator if elected. She would

no longer hold her positions as secretary of the neurology club or events coordinator for the Red Cross club.

"I would love to be here for you guys," Rose said.

Townsend is a sophomore psychology major and said she will only take 12 credits per semester while in office. She also said she will attend the minimum number of events necessary to stay in her sorority or take a professional leave from it if necessary. She currently serves in the OUSC legislature.

Each ticket has a platform it hopes will improve OU in the next five to 10 years.

Part of Townsend's platform includes creating a student voice committee, which she said will ask students what they want improved.

"We can't be everywhere," Townsend said. "We need to be implemented with a team."

Walter said he doesn't think a student voice committee is necessary because it's the legislators' jobs to find out what students want.

Walter said his agenda would include changing the grading scale so it's easier for students to get a 4.0.

Townsend said she wants to start planning for the Oakland Center expansion and would include a space for the registrar's office, which is currently located in O'Dowd Hall.

Rose said she wants to find

out what students want included in the expansion plan and would send these ideas to the administration.

All three candidates said they want to promote inclusion by helping diverse student organizations.

As the debate closed, Walter said the president should have experience with OUSC and pointed out that Rose doesn't.

Rose said she has had many leadership positions and has served on e-boards before. She has also attended OUSC events and has been going to its meetings for the last two months.

Walter also said Townsend doesn't fully understand the struggles of OU students because she doesn't pay tuition since her mother, Janell Townsend, is faculty.

Townsend said that because she goes to OU, her mother has a pay cut. She also pays taxes on her tuition and an administration fee.

"I think it's unprofessional that this was brought up," Townsend said in a later interview. "My tuition is not completely free, but because of this benefit I receive, it makes me want to work harder for students so they can receive similar benefits."

All three candidates encouraged students to vote.

Students can vote March 23-30 at booths around campus or at oakland.edu/voteou.

Norovirus 'far from unusual' this time of year

University says it's prepared to prevent further spread

By Oona Goodin-Smith
Editor-in-Chief

Springtime weather wasn't the only visitor to Oakland's campus last week. As of Friday, March 13, the Graham Health Center (GHC) confirmed a total of 13 cases of a "norovirus-like illness," according to director Nancy Jansen.

"All students reporting illness have so far been in the residence halls, but they've been very spread out in the different halls," said GHC Health and Wellness Coordinator Julie Proctor.

Jansen said the GHC expects to see more students as the illness runs its course. The GHC and housing offices have issued a confidential survey and are encouraging all students ill with vomiting or diarrhea since Sat., March 7 to self-report.

"There are no commonalities in what people have eaten, so at this point we do not believe there is any affiliation with food," Jansen said.

Kathy Forzley, health officer and manager for the Oakland County Health Department noted that while the department has "received an uptick in calls," the spread of norovirus is not unusual this time of year.

"Tis the season, unfortunately," Forzley said. She said that due to the disease's con-

tagious nature, clusters of individuals in concentrated spaces such as cruise ships, families and, in this case, schools, are highly susceptible.

Jansen said she couldn't stress thorough hand-washing as a means of preventing the "highly contagious" virus spread through contact and touching infected surfaces or people enough. She emphasized that hand sanitizers are not particularly effective and no substitute for good old soap and water.

Jansen said even if students choose to return to class after feeling better, that they should still be careful to isolate themselves as much as possible as the virus is still alive and communicable.

"What they don't realize is that they're infectious for several days," she said.

Ill students who sign up for an appointment at the GHC—which accepts insurance—may get a doctor's note to excuse class.

Although norovirus is a virus and thus cannot be completely cured through medication, Jansen said the GHC does have medicine that will stop consistent vomiting.

Cora Hanson, manager of Environmental Health and Safety, said the university custodial staff is also implementing flu protocols campus-wide, including regularly disinfecting commonly-touched areas.

For more on norovirus and the GHC's services, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/ghc/>.



Nowshin Chowdhury / The Oakland Post

Doctor's notes are available at the GHC for ill students with appointments.