

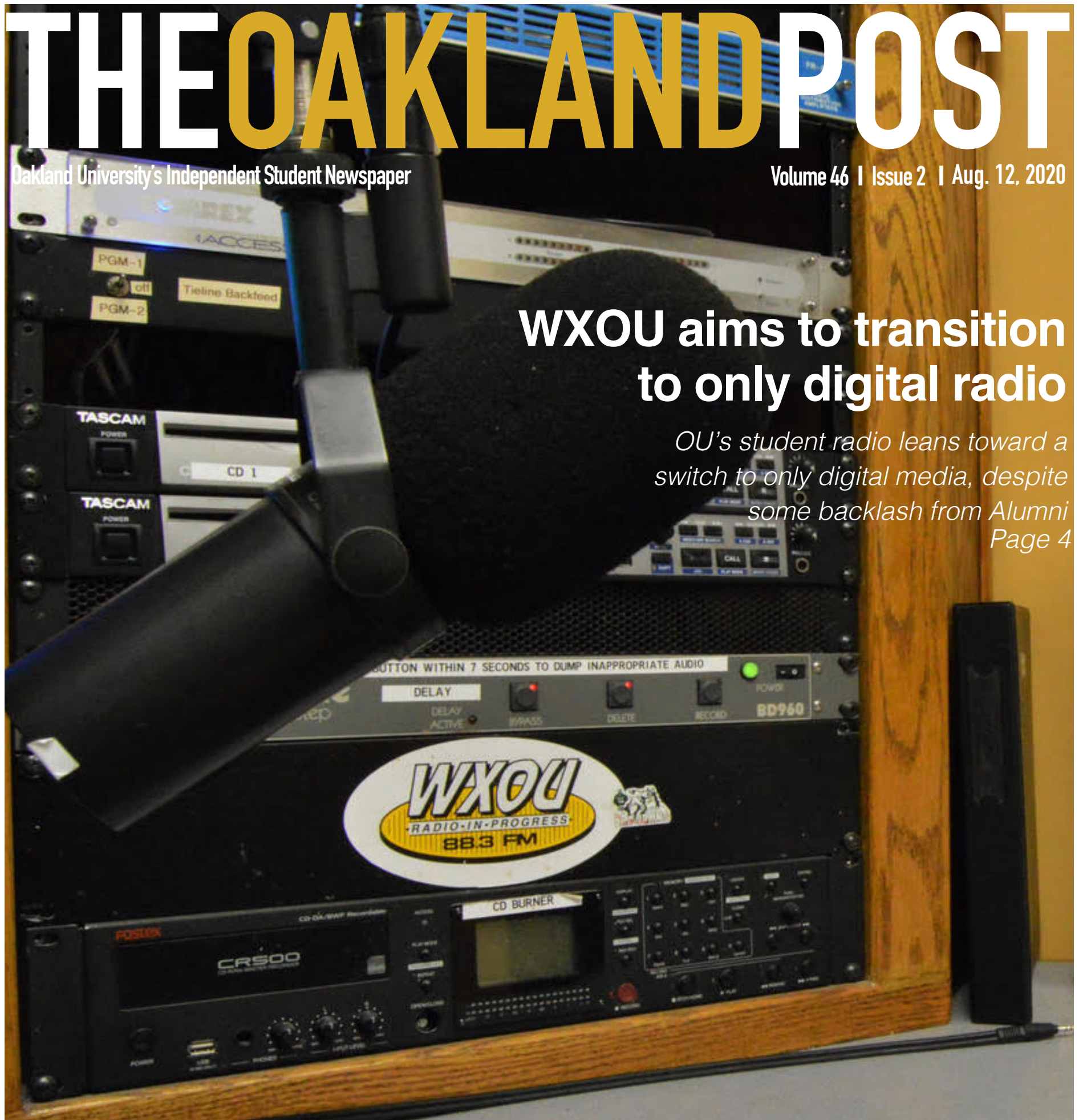
THE OAKLAND POST

Oakland University's Independent Student Newspaper

Volume 46 | Issue 2 | Aug. 12, 2020

WXOU aims to transition to only digital radio

OU's student radio leans toward a switch to only digital media, despite some backlash from Alumni
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THIS WEEK

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



RESPECTING A LEGEND Almost seven months after their untimely deaths, the rock painted for Kobe and Gigi Bryant outside of the Oakland Center remains unchanged.
PHOTO / EMILY MORRIS

THE OAKLAND POST

EDITORIAL BOARD

Michael Pearce
Editor-in-Chief
editor@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4266

Emily Morris
Managing Editor
emorris@oakland.edu
248.370.2537

EDITORS

Ben Hume Web Editor
bhume@oakland.edu
Lauren Karmo Campus Editor
laurenkarmo@oakland.edu
Liz Kovac Engagement Editor
ekovac@oakland.edu

COPY & VISUAL

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REPORTERS

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Autumn Page Staff Reporter
Lauren Reid Staff Reporter
Dean Vaglia Staff Reporter
Bridget Janis Staff Reporter
Rachel Yim Staff Reporter

DISTRIBUTION

Jaylon Johnson Distribution Director
jaylonjohnson@oakland.edu
Kimmy Guy Distribution Assistant
Meredith Atwell Distributor
Nico Bassman Distributor
Amanda Belz Distributor
Erika Beechie Distributor

ADVERTISING

Ethan Pierce Ads Director
ads@oaklandpostonline.com
248.370.4269
Kaitlyn Woods Ads Assistant

ADVISING

Garry Gilbert Editorial Adviser
ggilber@oakland.edu
248.370.2105
Don Ritenburgh Business Adviser
ritenbur@oakland.edu
248.370.2533



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Netflix releases season two of the hit series, "The Umbrella Academy"
Photo/Netflix



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Oakland announces all three esports team rosters
Photo/OU Athletics



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Free face masks with OU logos available for anyone with a GrizzID
Photo/Emily Morris

VOTE AND CONNECT AT:
oaklandpostonline.com

POLL OF THE WEEK

WILL YOU BE USING THE BIOBUTTON DURING THE FALL AND WINTER SEMESTERS?

- A) YES, SAFETY FIRST!
- B) NO, I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE
- C) I'M NOT SURE YET
- D) I ONLY HAVE ONLINE CLASSES ANYWAY

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

HOW MANY OF YOUR CLASSES HAVE BEEN MOVED ONLINE IN SOME CAPACITY?



CORRECTIONS CORNER: In the July 29 issue, The Oakland Post referred to the LGBTQIA+ students on campus as just LGBTQ+ in two instances, while using the correct acronym in two other places. LGBTQIA+ is Oakland's preferred acronym, and The Post apologizes for the inconsistency.

The Oakland Post corrects all known errors of fact. If you know of an error, please email editor@oaklandpostonline.com.

Looking Back: Kresge Library opens 24/7 in 2011

AUTUMN PAGE
Staff Reporter

In 2011, Kresge Library extended its hours of operation to 24 hours a day and seven days a week. This is the second time their hours have changed within a two-year period.

Previously, Kresge was open 24 hours, but only Monday through Friday.

The change in the hours of operation didn't extend to the Suzanne O. Frankie Café within the library. The café's hours are set by Chartwells, according to Frank Lepowski, the former associate dean for the library.

"We continually lobby them [Chartwells] for later hours, as it seems like students tend to want them later," Lepowski said. "It's a work in progress."

This hour change didn't include holidays and special dates — the library was still closed on those days.

OU Student Congress's commitment to students' needs resulted in the previous change. They worked with administration to increase access to the study space.

"Based on that success, we've approved a subsequent request to move to a 24/7 operation at the library," said Gary Russi, former university president. "Any time we're able to make additional funding available for resources that will help OU students succeed, we're both obligated and pleased to do that."

When the library switched to 24 hours, five days a week, the library found that there were 30,000 night visitors throughout the entire year.

Funding for the hours came from the president's office, and according to Lepowski, there was an increase in employee wages. Fifteen thousand dollars was added, and the library spent a total of \$110,000 on employee wages.

"It's created a need for more student workers, for sure," Lepowski said.

Mark Fisher, an elementary education major, said he was looking forward to the increase in hours because of his busy schedule. The increased hours would give him more time to spend in the library with his multiple jobs.

"The weekend is an excellent time for many students to study, especially those with Monday through Friday work days," Fisher said.

From midnight to seven in the morning, only students with OU IDs are allowed in the library for security reasons.

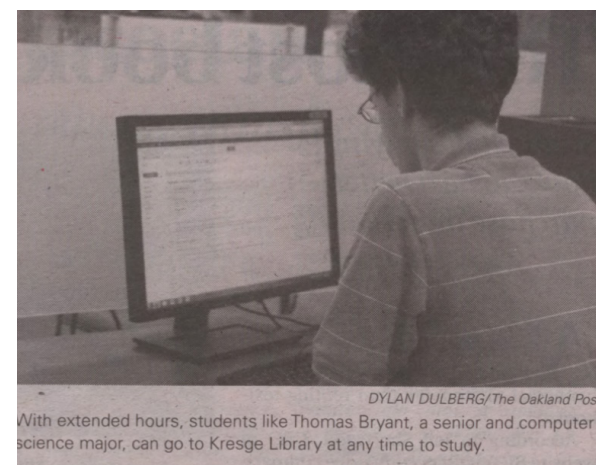
"We have a very close working-relationship with the Oakland University Police Department, they do frequent walk-throughs," Lepkowski said.

The last time the library changed its hours since 2011 was back in early March due to COVID-19 concerns. While it was recommended students used the remote services, the library was open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Then another hour change came not long after that, closing the library until further notice because of COVID-19 shutdowns.

With the upcoming fall semester approaching, the library is still closed to students but is offering remote service. This also includes the medical library and the Writing Center. Books can be requested and most of the services usually

offered are still available. The library plans to reopen to students on Aug. 17 with limited hours, reduced occupancy and masks required.

More information can be found on the Kresge Library website about requesting books, services like research consultations and how the library is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.



DYLAN DULBERG/The Oakland Post
With extended hours, students like Thomas Bryant, a senior and computer science major, can go to Kresge Library at any time to study.

OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES
This photo, featured in the 2011 Oakland Post, showcases a student using Kresge during their new hours.

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WXOU aims to transition to only digital radio

DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

WXOU is Oakland University's student-run FM radio station, but that could change very soon.

The Oakland Center-based radio station is considering terminating their FM broadcast operations in favor of a full move to online broadcasting. Plans to end the FM operations began last year under then-General Manager Caitlin Flora, who cited excessive costs and a changing industry as reasons for the move.

"When I took over as general manager, I found that we were constantly fighting falling into a deficit just from paying all of our necessary bills and payroll," Flora said. "One particular bill that was causing most of our monthly costs was our bill to AT&T to maintain our transmitter."

WXOU's transmitter is located north of campus around Lake Orion and costs the station about \$4,000 per month to maintain. The transmitter allows WXOU to broadcast on the 88.3 FM wave, though the broadcast strength tends to be weak.

"If you have ever tried to tune in on campus to WXOU, you have probably noticed that you do not get our station," Flora said. "You might get static or another 88.3 FM with a larger signal reach."

Many on-campus listeners opt to tune in through the internet due to the weak signal, which can be done through websites like TuneIn and Radio FX. With monthly costs so high and many listeners doing so online, the necessity of having FM broadcasts came into question.

After looking over possible solutions to the weak signal,



DONGFU HAN | OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES
WXOU, Oakland's campus radio station, is considering a switch away from the FM signal. WXOU has won college radio station of the year 3 times

ending FM operations became the option Flora pursued.

But due to myriad factors, the switch has since come to a standstill to reevaluate WXOU's options.

"When I saw [plans to remove the transmitter], at first I was trying to push more for the digital aspect," Teyler Thompkins, WXOU's current general manager,

said. "I ended up also discovering that it might not be the only solution for us."

One solution Thompkins considered is repairing the transmitter core and upgrading the tower. The upgrades and repairs could lead to WXOU's FM signal becoming stronger, allowing OU students to listen in through genuine radios. However, the decision to reduce or to enhance WXOU's FM capacity is not set in stone.

One possible reason for delays is a group of WXOU alumni that are vocally against ending the FM signal.

"A lot of [the alumni in opposition] were around when WXOU first got the FCC license to broadcast, which was a really big deal for the station at the time," Thompkins said. "A lot of them have personal ties, personal connections to the tower and the transmitter, and they do not want to see it go."

Thompkins mentioned part of the alumni's opposition to the move could be that they were not given the full information about the move, especially in regards to how much the transmitter costs WXOU.

Whether WXOU sticks with the airwaves or embraces the web, the station is especially expanding podcasts.

"Last year we decided we wanted to make sure podcasting was a focus of the radio station going forward," Brendan Triola, WXOU's first-ever podcast director, said.

Triola previously uploaded WXOU radio shows as podcasts, but 2020 marks the first time podcasts are a key focus at WXOU. Triola said every DJ will have an opportunity to make podcasts that will be published under the WXOU umbrella to websites like Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Kresge Library hybrid reopening targeted to begin Aug. 17

LAUREN REID
Staff Reporter

Kresge Library will open up space and technology to the Oakland University community beginning Monday, Aug. 17. To ensure the health and safety of students and faculty, there will be limited operating hours, no group studying or congregating and no study room usage. Some services will be available in-person, although primarily utilizing a hybrid approach.

Protective measures will be in place, including mandated face coverings, moved furniture to accommodate social distancing, provided disinfectant wipes and the installation of a capacity-monitoring system that adds and subtracts persons entering the building, among others.

"This fall, perhaps this entire school year, will be very different for all of us," said Polly Boruff-Jones, professor and dean of university libraries.

Library services will be available following a hybrid format. The service desk and book checkout will be open in-person, while contactless pickup and home delivery will also be available. Research assistance from a librarian can be done virtually, over the phone or in person on weekdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and the

technology desk will open on Sept. 3.

"We are matching [student] online access to library materials with virtual services to help them make the best of our resources," said Mariela Hristova, associate dean of university libraries. "I would like to encourage students to be proactive in seeking out remote library services; library faculty and staff have the expertise and commitment to help them be successful."

As far as the OU writing center, the current reopening date is Tuesday, Sept. 8. Appointments will be virtual.

"All services will be virtual via our online scheduling and video conferencing platform, WC Online, as well as through Google Meet and Google Docs," said Sherry Wynn Perdue, director of the writing center. "For clients with technology issues, we can conduct the session via phone, too. We will have remote receptionists available by Google Voice and our email (ouwc@oakland.edu) to help writers schedule and troubleshoot technology issues. Moreover, we have introduced a Virtual Help Desk for questions that do not require a full appointment."

As of now, students will not be able to study in groups or congregate socially, as mentioned by Boruff-Jones. Additionally, study rooms will be unavailable.

"For at least the fall semester, study rooms and meet-

ing rooms will not be available for use." Boruff-Jones said. "There are three reasons for this — concerns about social distancing, concerns about cleaning the space between reservations and because we must use those rooms to store the chairs and computers we have had to remove from our public spaces."

Furthermore, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m., access to the library will be reserved for at-risk groups. During this time, others are asked not to use the building in an effort to create the safest space possible for those who need it.

"We really look forward to having people back and hope they will help keep the space safe by following guidelines," Boruff-Jones said. "Even with all of these changes and limitations, we in the university libraries want to make this semester as 'normal' as we possibly can for our OU community."

More information on Kresge Library's plans will be available on the library's website in the coming weeks as details are available.

The operating hours planned for Kresge Library are as follows for fall semester:

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

SPB continues pursuit to plan events for campus

LAUREN REID

Staff Reporter

This school year, Student Program Board (SPB) is working to bring entertainment to the OU community with a mix of in-person and virtual events. The annual welcome week carnival (to be hybrid this year) is planned for Sept. 11, followed up by a drive-in homecoming weekend, amongst other future events in the works.

“Students can expect a variety of things [this year]” said Owen Bennett, president of SPB. “The traditional welcome week carnival will have an in-person component – musical entertainment, food trucks and a movie – in addition to a variety of digital activities. We’re also working with administration to bring some more in-person activities to campus, but the COVID-19 guidelines change daily so students should stay tuned.”

According to SPB annual events director Giuseppe Giammalva, the carnival will be equipped with a live band, movie and food by Bear Lake.

“During the day, we have a couple of virtual options that students can participate in, along with a few make and take items as well,” Giammalva said.

Any in-person event hosted by SPB will require masks. As of now, these events will either take place outdoors, or require registering in advance for a time slot to allow for effective social distancing in the midst of COVID-19.

Virtual events will take place throughout the semester

as well, with more information to come. Currently on Wednesdays, SPB is putting on virtual hump days, primarily through social media. Virtual hump days allow students to share posts ranging from pet photos to their favorite playlists, almost always with the opportunity to win prizes.

SPB Marketing Director, AuJenee Hirsch, encourages students to stay updated on these plans and others primarily via social media. She mentioned there will be a heavy media presence, so students should follow SPB on their socials for the latest updates.

“We have amped up our marketing presence over the summer on social media to garner engagement, and see what students are interested in,” Hirsch said.

Additionally, GrizzOrgs – OU’s student organization database – will continue to be a great resource for students to keep up on what’s happening with SPB.

“The Office for Student Involvement’s goal this year is to make as much event information as possible openly available to students via GrizzOrgs in addition to the traditional advertising channels SPB usually uses,” Bennett said. “We’ll be making an effort to list our upcoming events there.”

All in all, through the unprecedented situation the pandemic presents, Bennett is confident in his team.

“I have a ton of faith in the team we’ve put together and their ability to weather the unique challenges this year has posed,” Bennett said. “Even through the pandemic and the uncertainty it brings, we’re firing on all cylinders to contribute positivity and entertainment to student life at OU, and I’m incredibly excited for

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Owen Bennett
SPB President

”

students to see what we’ve got planned.”

To keep up with the SPB and stay in the loop regarding upcoming events, opportunities to snag OU merchandise and more, students can follow the SPB’s social media platforms on Facebook at Student Program Board of Oakland University, Instagram at @spbou and Twitter at @OUSPB.

Biobuttons become optional after public outcry

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

To further prevent COVID-19 from cutting the fall semester short, Oakland University administration continues to add new ways to spot those infected.

Their most recent effort, however, did not receive praise from students and their families.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, students discovered a paragraph on OU’s COVID-19 prevention webpage. The page included the “BioButton,” a button students, faculty and staff would wear to spot early symptoms of COVID-19.

A change.org petition emerged from Resident Assistant Tyler Dixon to make the button an option, not a mandate.

“It [the petition] came from a lot of people expressing concern ... but no one making the move to actually create one,” Dixon said. “So I figured, ‘why not?’ and created it. Oakland University has done a lot to get us back on campus ... but this just seemed a step too far in terms of privacy.”

Students were worried about being potentially tracked by OU and potential health risks of wearing the BioButton.

“I had a heart monitor at one point ... the leads have the same sticker-type thing that the BioButton does, and when they took the leads off I had welts for three weeks in the places the leads were on,” OU student Charity Rutter said. “My big thing was that they didn’t address us in an email, they just posted it on their Facebook, and we had to find it out for ourselves.”

The BioButton was initially reported as being mandatory, but on Monday, Aug. 3, the university’s official Facebook page released a statement saying the

button was optional.

“The information that is gathered from the device is only made available to the wearer,” the statement said. “In this way, the specific data is kept private. The wearing of this device is not mandatory.”

David Stone, Ph.D., is the vice president for research at OU’s research office. He was heavily involved in the process of implementing the BioButton, which will come to campus in August.



The BioButton, which will be optional this school year.

“We have obviously been looking for ways to re-open in the fall, and we were looking if there was anything out there we could do to limit spread or reduce the chance of outbreaks,” he said.

The committees saw what the National Basketball

Association (NBA) was doing with wearable tracking rings and thought that was a potential avenue to prevention. The BioButton emerged as the strongest option for a wearable tracker.

“I don’t know what message got out on Friday [Aug. 1], I didn’t see it,” Stone said. “The discussion has been back-and-forth. If this technology can indicate that you might be and get you to stay home in three or four days — that seems important to us.”

Stone confirmed the button has no tracking abilities, and the data collected is only accessible to the user. The user will have an app on their phone, and users will receive a green [fine] or red [not fine] signal depending on their vitals.

Administration and Graham Health Center will only see the green or the red, not any vital information from the user.

“We can’t see your data,” Stone said. “You can see your data, you can then go talk to someone, but we can’t see your data.”

Stone and the COVID teams are still looking for new ways to prevent COVID-19 from spreading on campus.

Stone mentioned at the Monday, Aug. 3 Board of Trustees meeting that they are monitoring ways to find COVID-19 traces in wastewater from residence halls.

“I don’t think we’re done trying to find ways to keep everybody safe, this is just the one we’re starting with,” Stone said.

The company which produces the BioButtons, Biointellisense, is producing the first batch of buttons, which will roll off the assembly line in late August, and they will ship them to OU after testing.

Stone anticipates the administration will test the buttons out and then distribute them to those opting into wearing the button.

The difficulties of reopening the Recreation Center during a pandemic

BEN HUME
Web Editor

March of 2020 was a hectic time for all of Oakland University's campus, and the University Recreation and Well-Being (RecWell) building was no different. With the sudden spread of COVID-19, the department was forced to move to very limited hours to end the winter semester. Now, with fall semester around the corner, OU RecWell has been working on how to approach reopening.

Greg Jordan, Director of the RecWell, felt that the middle two weeks in March were some of the most difficult for the department.

"We didn't know how much infection spread via contact versus breathing — we were debating quite a bit about if we should even be open at all," Jordan said. "But, you know, hindsight's twenty-twenty."

On the heels of dealing with the sudden closure, the RecWell started putting together a plan for how and when to safely reopen.

"We feel that recreation, physical activity and well-being are critical components to successful navigation of life, and so we think that our services are still important," Jordan said.

He went on to explain that "[he's] been on probably a dozen calls at the state level and at the national level of recreation directors and staff" to draw from the experience and wisdom of other states reopening processes. "We can have the best laid plan, and you know what, it changes tomorrow," he added. "You have to be flexible, you have to be nimble, you hear the word pivot a lot. Those are certain buzzwords I never want to hear again."

Even with all of those hurdles and the unknown nature of COVID-19, RecWell has already piloted some pandemic-friendly programs over the summer. Their virtual group exercise programs survived the sudden closure in March and continued to be popular as a safe workout option from home. Intramural sports, similarly, looked to the online space to find ways to continue allowing students to compete from home.

Jordan Leslie, Intramural and Club Sports Coordinator, used the summer to test out intramural esports tournaments to some success.

"We want to continue to expand our virtual options, esports will continue to grow in the fall," Leslie said. "Rocket League and Fortnite have been pretty popular so far — we're definitely looking to continue growing those."

Aside from continued esports tournaments and events, Leslie explained that the department still wants

to continue offering physical exercise for students to stay active and remain social while still being cautious of the pandemic. He and others worked to find safe alternatives to the most popular intramural events for the upcoming semester.

"Everything pretty much is on the table at this point, basically what we're trying to do is take what we've offered in the past and transform it into something that we can do with COVID," Leslie said. "For example, instead of doing flag football we might do a punt, pass and kick kind of event...same thing for soccer, maybe having a soccer shootout instead."

The end goal is to open this area of Oakland University as carefully as possible while still giving students the opportunity to use the resources available to be physically and mentally supported. Greg Jordan hopes that the reopening process will give the department a chance to rethink and adapt how they help the OU community.

"I think, when you're challenged like this, an opportunity is there. COVID has given us the opportunity to revisit our values and our mission, and I think it really has confirmed the importance of the services we provide."

To stay updated with the Recreation Center, visit oakland.edu/recwell.

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OPINION

Younger generations prove they actually are mindful

AUTUMN PAGE
Staff Reporter

If you haven't been living under a rock — or taking an internet cleanse — then you probably know something about recent internet drama. The Millennial and Gen Z generations are using these internet issues to promote and gain attention for social issues. Moreover, they're using this attention to try and increase the accountability of influencers.

This is something Baby Boomers think younger generations only focus on, and that is simply untrue. Boomers have the idea that millennials and younger generations only focus on irrelevant issues, like internet drama and not the world issues. That's the reason "the world is doomed," according to them.

Within this chaotic year, there has been plenty of internet drama — influencers attending and throwing big parties during a global pandemic and YouTubers in blackface and saying words they have no right to say. Influencers needed to be held accountable.

None of this is exactly new, but as everything resurfaced once again the responses have changed from a year ago. Instead of people discussing the drama and what they think, the common response was about how ridiculous it was.

A YouTuber and TikToker named Nikita Dragun threw a birthday party for another influencer named Larray on July 21. The party had reached maximum capacity and got to the point where there were lines outside to get in. The Hollywood Fix interviewed and talked to the influencers that attended, and there were no masks or social distancing in sight.

We all know this is incredibly stupid and seemingly irrelevant on surface level. These influencers are located in Los Angeles, California — a city in one of the biggest COVID-19 hot spots. So not only are there chances to spread it throughout

the party, but to the different "Hype Houses" of TikTok and everyone they come into contact with. This could be other influencers, their family, people at the grocery store or gas station and fans.

Dragun posted about it the next day, and the outrage was clear. Multiple comments discussed how irresponsible it was — especially as an influencer who kids look up to — and reminded the influencer that COVID-19 still exists. The majority of the comments had the same theme — the only people who didn't mention the virus were verified influencers (I'm just going to leave that there).

Generations who use platforms like Instagram, TikTok and Twitter are getting older and have become more outspoken about things like COVID-19, racism, pedophilia and sexism. I'm not surprised at all about the reaction.

Shane Dawson, a YouTube veteran with over a decade of content on the platform, has always been very controversial. He's done blackface, joked about pedophilia and used racial slurs. Last month this all resurfaced, and people have demanded he be held accountable. Let's just say his "apology" was lackluster.

The comments were discussing what he did for years and hasn't seemingly changed from an outside perspective. The internet hasn't been able to forgive his racist past, along with his pedophilia. He lost more than 700,000 subscribers on YouTube and similar numbers on his other social media accounts.

Another prominent YouTuber, Jeffree Star, owner of Jeffree Star Cosmetics, was involved in a controversy. Like Dawson, Star's racist past has been brought up. His apology was half-baked, and then a small mention of the Black Lives Matter movement in the middle, but never included resources, petitions or a personal pledge of donation. This made it seem like he was just bringing it up to take some heat off of the situation.

It also didn't help that he promoted his next makeup launch at the end.

As you can guess, it got to the point where Star turned off the comments.

All of this has become such a big deal now compared to the past because there are so many social injustices within the world, and our leaders help enable that. Boomers also don't really understand how effective social media can be when it comes to social injustices and raising awareness.

Internet drama isn't what everyone "focuses" on — it's the underlying issues and the realization that there's more going on in the world. Influencers should be held accountable for their irresponsible and problematic actions.



NICOLE MORSFIELD | OAKLAND POST ARCHIVES
Autumn Page

Fear and loathing at your local Kroger

DEAN VAGLIA
Staff Reporter

Never in the past six years of working for Kroger has my faith in humanity ever faltered like it has over the past five months. The carelessness of shoppers since the pandemic hit keeps on showing me how and why the United States will make the recovery period a year — if not several years — long affair.

The first signs of trouble came when stores faced shortages. Meat, hand sanitizer and (for a brief period) milk became scarce. Workers hired to scan bar codes were increasingly demanded to enforce company-mandated rations.

Granted, enforcing a limit of three cases of uncooked chicken or one mega pack of toilet paper per person is not an unreasonable ask for cashiers and other staff. Every shopper needs these items, and the store needs to ensure every shopper has a fair chance to buy what they need.

And for the most part, people followed without issue. But not everybody was so civil.

Everyone is forced into the same pandemic and its realities, but a particular segment of people views every ration and mask order and lockdown as a personal attack against them and their unspecified "freedoms." I have interacted with members of this segment many times, but no encounter has been quite like the time I enforced a ration before Memorial Day.

While every other customer was able to comply with the request to not buy more than three of the same kind of meat, this shopper loaded up their cart with a mountain of ribs. I approached them, told them about the limit and proceeded to get yelled at and grabbed for the audacity to ask someone not to hoard meat in a meat shortage.

Once management came over, he claimed my supervisor and I were gestapo officers, yelled to the heavens that he would never shop at Kroger again and waddled out of the store without a single item in hand.

I am almost certain I saw him buying corn the following week.

So what? Who is this other than one unruly customer? Who is he other than a lone freak who probably calls the cops if someone parks too close to their truck? To be concise, he is the

loud symptom of a national problem.

A large group of people are confronted with unfamiliar and bizarre orders to adjust their actions and habits to combat an invisible threat. And unless you know someone affected by the disease, there can be some (unreasonable) skepticism as to whether COVID-19 is one big global bit.

But rather than looking into the question and realizing there is a very real virus killing their neighbors, this segment of the population does whatever they can to justify not wearing a piece of cloth for 30 minutes while they buy eggs. Their responsibility to public health ends at their discomfort, even if being comfortable comes with a \$500 fine.

I have given up all hope of a timely recovery. I was not surprised when cases spiked as lockdowns ended. To the people who could afford to stay home this whole time, I envy the optimism you had for a quick recovery.

If you were out in public every day, you never would have convinced yourself the pandemic would be over so soon. Since wearing a mask and following simple precautions is too uncomfortable for so many people, we will all suffer COVID's wrath.

Rose Cooper celebrates 47 years of teaching at Oakland University

Article and Design by Emily Morris

Rose Cooper's 47 years of teaching communication skills have weaved her career into Oakland University history. With COVID-19 dynamically changing OU's classrooms, Cooper decided to retire and move into the next phase in her life.

"I'm a face-to-face person... and I thought I think this is a little too much for me," Cooper said. "I think it's time, and I knew that I would know when it was time.

Cooper has emerged as "a great role model for everyone in the Department [of Communication, Journalism, and Public Relations], according to Jeff Youngquist, Chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism. Her adult life has occupied the majority of OU's existence (founded in 1957 or 63 years ago), and her longevity and extensive mentorships all began with a last-minute switch.

Initially, she planned to study at the University of Michigan, until an Oakland University recruiter swayed her and, subsequently, changed the course of her life.

She took that leap of faith and pursued an undergraduate degree in education when OU was still in its infancy — with around 4,000 students and 16 years experience as an institution. To put that into perspective, Oakland University's size was comparable to Calvin College, Baker College of Auburn Hills or Hope College today.

"I kept saying, 'yes,'" Cooper said, "I've been at Oakland ever since. Oakland is literally part of me. My entire adult life has been at Oakland University."

OU's neighbor, Oakland Community College, was a starting point in her teaching career, but the combination of her budding experience and her time as a teaching assistant at OU coaxed her back to her Golden Grizzly roots. Cooper was 22

years old when she began teaching in the Department of Rhetoric at OU.

"I was actually approached to teach at Oakland...I never thought I would be here this long — I'll just say that," Cooper said. "I really had not necessarily planned to stay a long time, and then opportunities just continued to open up at Oakland."

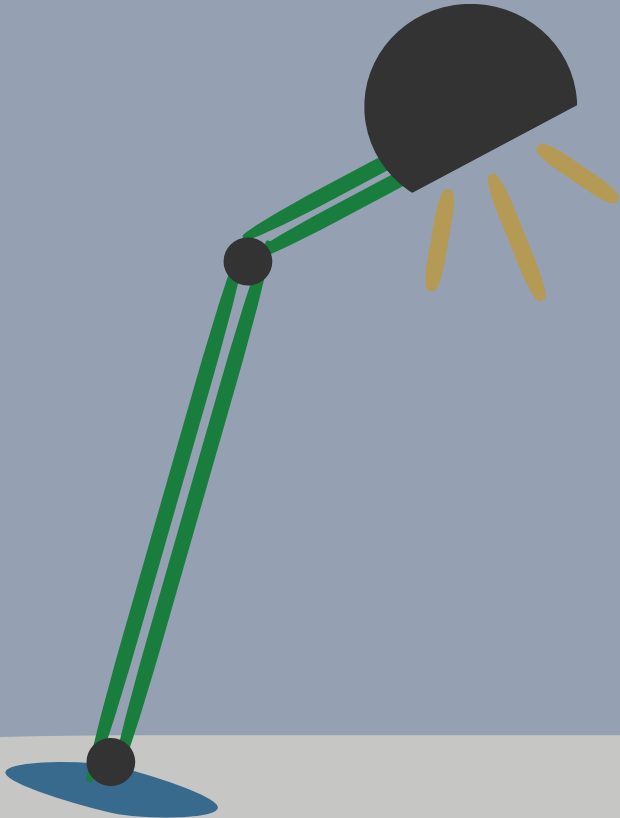
Today's average college graduate leaves their university in their early adult life (20 to 27 years old), but Cooper was just beginning to make an impression on Oakland University.

Cooper originally specialized in rhetoric, as communication hadn't been introduced as a field of study yet. However, she knew what her passion was and completed her doctorate at Wayne State University in communication, rhetoric and public address. Then her teaching career evolved with her, and she became a foundational pillar in the new Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism.

"The speech and communication department — that's what really excited me," Cooper said. "So I knew I had this passion for speech... and I've had room to grow and room to do what I want to do right at Oakland."

As OU continued to grow, Cooper taught hundreds of students the art of effective communication, but there were some students "that just stand above the rest."

One was Dr. Valerie Palmer-Mehta — OU professor of 16 years who specializes in communication, rhetoric and gender studies. She, similarly, had a bit of serendipity involved in her start at OU. Per her parents' advice, Palmer-Mehta began her freshman year in 1989 with a public speaking course, which inspired her career.



"I kept saying, 'yes.' I've been at Oakland ever since. Oakland is literally part of me. My entire adult life has been at Oakland University."
- Rose Cooper

Her introduction to communication happened to be taught by Cooper. Teaching Palmer-Mehta was an “excellent” student, according to Cooper, and teaching her was a “vibrant” part of her career

“I loved her, and because I enjoyed the class so much... I decided during that first semester with her to become a communication major,” Palmer-Mehta said. “She actually changed the trajectory of my intellectual life.”

After stepping away from OU post-graduation, Palmer-Mehta also returned to the university, looking for a “challenge,” and Cooper continued to leave an impression on her life.

“She was one of my first role models... She could command the attention of the world in a way I hadn’t seen people do before,” said Palmer-Mehta. “She had a very powerful presence, but at the same time she was very kind and compassionate.”

Cooper brings the same qualities in each of her endeavors, which have ranged amongst professor, ordained minister and television producer. Somehow Oakland University seems to follow Cooper everywhere though.

Amidst church bells ringing when she prepared to officiate a wedding, a surprised student approached her from the bridal party. Cooper matter of factly explained, “Well, I’m also a minister, and I’m officiating this wedding.”

She also ventured into the television industry, joining a production team called “Speak Out,” where she remembers many students visiting her and participating in the studio audience often. A fellow professor even stopped by the studio as the guest talent on a show about “women working in nontraditional jobs.” Cooper eventually won an Award for Cable Excellence (ACE) for that production.

Palmer-Mehta strives to portray the same “confidence and professionalism” in her career. Although she admitted to be “selfishly deeply saddened” by Cooper’s retirement decision, her influence on both Palmer-Mehta personally and the entire Department of Communication, Journalism, and Public Relations won’t soon be forgotten.

“If there’s a capacity that I can [stay involved at OU], I will,” Cooper said. “I just

know it’s time to step back, especially after the pandemic hit.”

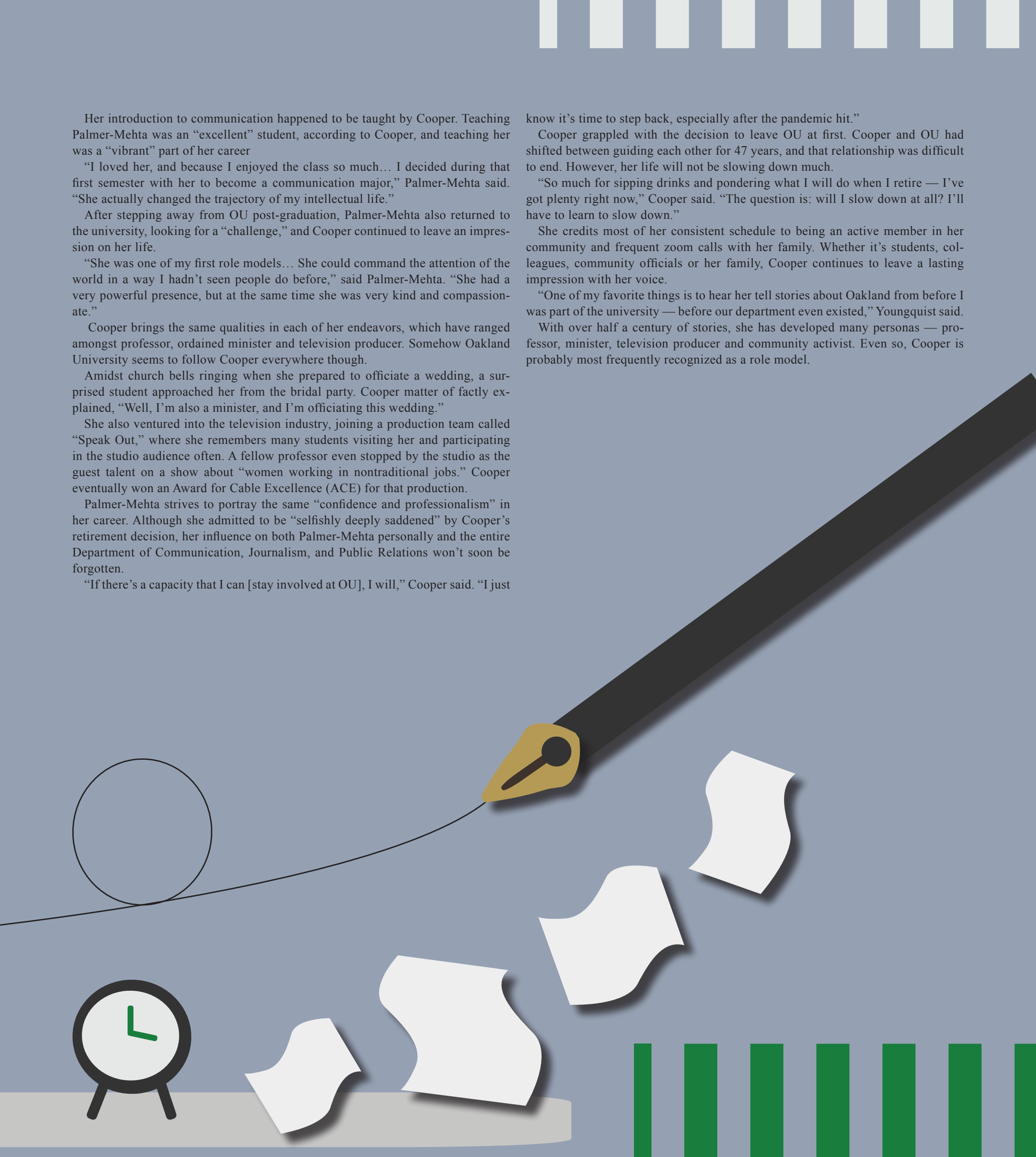
Cooper grappled with the decision to leave OU at first. Cooper and OU had shifted between guiding each other for 47 years, and that relationship was difficult to end. However, her life will not be slowing down much.

“So much for sipping drinks and pondering what I will do when I retire — I’ve got plenty right now,” Cooper said. “The question is: will I slow down at all? I’ll have to learn to slow down.”

She credits most of her consistent schedule to being an active member in her community and frequent zoom calls with her family. Whether it’s students, colleagues, community officials or her family, Cooper continues to leave a lasting impression with her voice.

“One of my favorite things is to hear her tell stories about Oakland from before I was part of the university — before our department even existed,” Youngquist said.

With over half a century of stories, she has developed many personas — professor, minister, television producer and community activist. Even so, Cooper is probably most frequently recognized as a role model.



The world is ending... again in Netflix's "The Umbrella Academy" season two

KATELYN HILL

Staff Reporter

It started with the apocalypse and the seven siblings of *The Umbrella Academy* traveling back in time to stop the world from ending. Oh, how things tend to spiral out of control.

The new season picks up right where the first season left off, yet instead of the siblings going back in time to stop the apocalypse of 2019, they wind up traveling all the way back to the '60s, with the end of the world following them there.

The siblings in question are the adopted children of billionaire Reginald Hargreeves (Colm Feore). There are seven in total, each with a number lovingly given to them by Reginald instead of actual names. In numerical order, the siblings include: Luther (Tom Hopper), Diego (David Castañeda), Allison (Emmy Raver-Lampman), Klaus (Robert Sheehan), Five (Aidan Gallagher), Ben (Justin Min) and Vanya (Ellen Page).

This new timeline offers up unique circumstances for each of the siblings, with each starting a new life with the cards they've been dealt. When Five finally arrives in the '60s, he finds the U.S. and the Soviets at war, with his siblings at the forefront of the battle. Though that battle eventually ends with the Soviets nuking the U.S. and causing the end of the world, Hazel (Cameron Britton) swoops in seconds before the bombs land and takes Five back to 10 days before the end of the world, giving him time to save his family and the world along with it.

The second season of *The Umbrella Academy* is the highly anticipated sequel to Netflix's incredibly popular and successful first season. The first season was released on Feb. 15, 2019 and is based around the characters and plot lines of the comic series of the same name, written by Gerard Way and produced by Dark Horse Entertainment.

Though the sequel was announced the same month the original was released, fans didn't get any information about the sequel until fairly recently and didn't receive a trailer until a few days before the release of the show on July 31, 2020.

As with the previous season, fans will be delighted with the choices of music for the show, ranging from a cover of Billie Eilish's 'Bad Guy,' to 'Everybody (Backstreet's Back),' by the Backstreet Boys. Fans of the original can also expect similar fun and comical sibling shenanigans, including a dance scene between Vanya, Klaus and Allison.

One of the biggest improvements this season had to offer was the far more meaningful interactions between the siblings. Vanya, though she starts off with memory loss, finally has her place among her siblings, who are finally treating her with the love she deserves. Though each has their own issues with each other, we really see the love they have for one another this season.

One of the biggest outcries and conflicts with the first season was the weird relationship between Luther and Allison. There is far less of that now that Allison is married to the kind and enthusiastic Ray Chestnut (Yusuf Gatewood). Other great new additions to the cast include Sissy (Marin Ireland) as Vanya's love interest, Lila (Ritu Arya) as Diego's love interest,



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

The *Umbrella Academy* season 2 released to Netflix, ending with a cliffhanger that will leave audiences waiting for season 3.

and Elliot (Kevin Rankin), the lovable, paranoid man who is able to bring the lost siblings together again.

As much as the new season improves upon previous issues and makes for a fun, emotional rollercoaster, the sequel still has one underlying issue — the antagonists.

Fans of the first season will recall how tricky time travel can be, especially when the Commission is involved. Though the Commission is obviously a big part of the show, this season their involvement was not as entertaining or worthwhile as the first season was.

The big bad is still the Handler, who somehow survived a bullet to the head and immediately goes back to shit-stirring. However, my gripe with the Commission's involvement has more to do with the Swedes, the band of three brothers sent to eliminate the Hargreeves siblings.

In season one, we had the entertaining and dangerous duo of Hazel and Cha-Cha (Mary J. Blige), two agents with the Commission who donned some pretty interesting masks. Though they were obviously the bad guys, there was more to their story than just to take out Five and his siblings. Hazel forms a relationship with Agnes and develops from an antagonist to more of an anti-hero. Cha-Cha, who ultimately remains on the side of the commission, has far more depth to her than just simply being a villain.

The Swedes were supposed to be their equivalent, yet they

just never live up to what Hazel and Cha-Cha brought to the series. They hardly say anything for the majority of the show and it feels as though they don't fully fit into the storyline the way they should. There is nothing more to their characters, other than the fact they're Swedish brothers. There is no depth and there is very little growth over the course of the season.

However, even with this issue, the new season carries on the best of the first season and brings back the characters the viewers love for a brand new adventure. Though the stakes seem similar upon first glance, the season is able to stump the viewer as to what will happen next. The characters grow more together this season, while still retaining their unique traits that make them who they are. There's a great balance between scenes to make viewers laugh and cry, carrying on the unique dynamic of the show that has gained it so much attention.

And what's *The Umbrella Academy* without a confusing and vague cliffhanger to bring people back for another season? Audiences will just have to wait and see what's in store next for the Hargreeves siblings and their lovable, dysfunctional family.

Rating: 4/5 stars

LIFE & ARTS

OSI makes welcome week, GrizzFest hybrid events

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

The Office of Student Involvement (OSI) is trying to make sure this year's hybrid welcome week will set the tone for campus life during the "new normal" of the upcoming fall semester.

Welcome week will have both digital and in-person events to ensure there are options for all students to connect with the Oakland University community while abiding by health and safety guidelines, starting Sept. 2 through Sept. 12.

"Our student organizations are going to function and meet," OSI Director Jean Ann Miller said. "We just have to find different platforms to make it happen."

The schedule for welcome week includes the new student convocation, welcome stations for students to meet club officers, an ice cream giveaway and several themed days hosted by different groups on campus. Student Program Board (SPB) will also be

having their annual carnival by Bear Lake and other events for people to be a part of with digital and in-person aspects.

In the current statewide COVID-19 recovery phase there are capacity limits for outdoor gatherings, which makes planning for in-person events difficult, according to Miller. In order to combat this, OSI is having students RSVP to events.

"I know it is the new normal but we still want to make sure that students have their OU experience — their campus life experience," Miller said. "Hopefully it's not all just virtual, but it will be a combination of both."

GrizzFest — the large gathering of all student organizations for students to sign up for — will be taking place virtually, with QR codes to link students to a club's GrizzOrg page. Clubs will have the opportunity to set up tables during welcome week to introduce themselves to new students, but it will look

different compared to years past. It will be happening on Thursday, Sept. 10.

"[We're] just making sure that the student body knows that the student orgs are still running and they're still functioning even though it's virtual," said Jen Yetter, OSI member in charge of student org training. "We're just helping out the [student org] presidents as much as we possibly can."

While OU is already equipped with GrizzOrgs to help students connect with groups online, OSI has been working to make clubs' online presence stronger and more accessible to students.

"We're trying to be as creative and as innovative as we possibly can to make sure [freshmen] truly are having their college experience," Miller said. "I feel so bad for the first year students coming to campus because they didn't get their graduation and now they're coming to campus, a college

campus in a whole different kind of way. So we want to make sure that they get to get that college experience, they get that university experience, so that they feel like they're really going to college, and they're not being robbed of campus life."

While groups like SPB have already been piloting virtual events throughout the summer, Miller hopes to get a good turn out at welcome week to show the student body that there will still be campus life for students during the hybrid semester.

"I hope that they appreciate that we are trying everything to make sure that they have that experience and we had that in mind," Miller said. "It goes both ways. We're offering, [students] have to try it, and hopefully they try it and like it, and they'll come back for more."

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The graphic features a large, stylized 'THE POST' logo on the left. To its right, a central circle contains the text 'YOU CAN FIND US ON'. Below this text are four smaller circles, each containing a social media icon: a Snapchat ghost, a Facebook 'f', a Twitter bird, and a Target bullseye. To the right of these icons, the text 'VISIT US ONLINE' is displayed in a large, bold font. At the bottom, the website address 'WWW.OAKLANDPOSTONLINE.COM' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire graphic is set against a background of maroon and white curved lines.

Athletics announces esports rosters for all three games

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

The inaugural Oakland University esports teams were announced over a three-week span in July-August.

All three teams — League of Legends, Rocket League and Super Smash Bros. — are filled, and players have profiles on goldengrizzlies.com.

The League of Legends team has six players, the Rocket League team will have five and the Super Smash Bros. team will have three players. Approximately 250 people applied to be on the teams, and 52 tried out.

One Rocket League player, Eddie Azzam, is currently in the top 100 of all players in the United States, and his teammates are also in the top 5% in the nation. All League of Legends players are also in the top 2% in North America.

Head Coach Carl Leone has experience as a former League of Legends player and coach at Aquinas College, so he was very hands-on in the recruiting and scouting process.

“My experience is in League of Legends — that’s the one game that I’m most knowledgeable about,” Leone said. “What I was looking for were players that had good, strong game knowledge and good

communication skills.”

For Rocket League and Smash, Leone consulted former colleagues and people in his network to help determine what made the best player for each game.

“I never played Rocket League or Smash at the competitive level up to that top 1%, so I didn’t see it being fair for me to take a swing at who I thought would be the best at tryouts,” he said. “In Rocket League we were looking for players that had a lot of communication.”

The three versus three car-soccer game that is one of the most popular esports demands good communication between all three players, according to Leone.

In order to figure out who would be the best fit, Leone and his team recorded their game chat during tryouts and listened to it afterward, determining which players were best for a team-oriented game.

“In a sense, you’re kind of blindsided, you don’t always see where your teammates are at,” Leone said. “For the team to be communicating all the time precisely — and not wasting time — it’s very important.”

Communication skills were a top priority for the coaching staff, but another intangible trait that Leone and his staff looked for was the attitude of players when things aren’t going well.



COURTESY OF OU ATHLETICS

The inaugural esports rosters for League of Legends, Rocket League and Super Smash Bros. were announced weekly throughout July and August.

“You have to look at how players react when they’re losing,” he said. “There’s certain qualities you can’t really teach. It’s the mentality of ‘all I care about is figuring out what the next right thing to do is and making my team do that thing, too.’ There’s only a small amount of players that will actually do that.”

With COVID-19 affecting large gatherings and traveling, Leone anticipates that most tournaments will remain strictly

remote, in contrast to the typical structure where semifinals and finals are in stadiums.

Now that teams are finalized, Leone expressed optimism in each team’s balance of personalities and playstyles.

“They’re incredibly talented players,” he said. “They’re strong mentally, as well. They’ll do well in school as well as on the rift playing League of Legends, Rocket League and Smash, as well.”

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New club lacrosse player brings the sport to disadvantaged communities around Detroit

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

Lacrosse is a predominantly white sport, with high barriers of entry for anyone without significant disposable income or modes of transportation.

One of Oakland University's Club Lacrosse players is aiming to bring the sport to those who typically aren't able to compete due to financial constraints or limited exposure to the game.

Summer Aldred is a former lacrosse player from Denison University in Ohio. After tearing her meniscus and dealing with residual patella tendon injuries, she had a few years of eligibility left. Now, she's coming to Oakland University to join their club team while working on her second degree.

"I'm getting my second bachelor's degree in exercise science, and then going to work toward getting my master's in athletic training," she said.

Aldred helped form the first girl's lacrosse team in the Detroit area at Cass Tech High School, after the school only introduced a boy's lacrosse team.

"Detroit public schools haven't had any lacrosse up until the spring of 2019," she said. "The girls of course were upset that they didn't want a girls program off the bat and just wanted to focus on boys. I ended up just hosting clinics, not associated with Cass during the spring, because it wasn't fair that the girls didn't get to play and the boys did."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMER ALDRED
Aldred (middle) poses for a photo with two of the kids whom she coaches. Aldred works to provide kids the opportunities to play sports they might not typically have exposure to.

The inaugural girls season was cut short due to COVID-19, but Aldred and the other coaches received overwhelming interest, with more than 65 kids at tryouts.

She also has spoken on active allyship for athletes during a webinar through a US Lacrosse national panel.

"It was a really cool opportunity to speak with other

people that have very similar experiences and work in other disadvantaged communities," Aldred said. "Lacrosse has been so privileged for so long, so we talked about how coaches can give back and expand diversity."

Aldred never grew up with lacrosse around her, but she was "athletic enough to just pick up the game," according to her. Giving kids the opportunities that she didn't is something she is focused on.

"Women's sports in general are not as well-funded," Aldred said. "There aren't as many opportunities for young women to play sports, especially at an accessible level."

Through her coaching, she has seen kids receive scholarships at the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) level and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division II level.

"Being able to provide something that they wouldn't have otherwise had an opportunity to fall in love with has been something that's really rewarding for me," Aldred said. "It's been awesome to see kids get that opportunity to get money, go to college and to do something that they love."

As for the future of lacrosse in the greater Detroit area, Aldred sees a place and desire for more lacrosse teams.

"I'm really lucky, I'm a cofounder of Detroit United Lacrosse, which is a nonprofit arm that does a lot of the outreach and clinics," she said. "We had a clinic with University of Michigan varsity coach Hannah Nielsen, and we had 20 girls there. We just keep seeing that interest, people want to invest in lacrosse."

Opinion: The NBA "bubble" reigns supreme

MICHAEL PEARCE

Editor-in-Chief

There's a professional sports team doing everything right, and there's one doing everything in their power to make sure their season doesn't work out.

The National Basketball Association (NBA), implemented a "bubble" in Orlando to protect their players from infection and ensure that the season and playoffs would be able to finish.

Major League Baseball (MLB) has ignored the massive success of the NBA bubble, and risked their players' livelihoods in the process.

Not only did the MLB ignore the success of the bubble, they have had numerous instances with COVID-19 infection — and kept going anyway.

The Saint Louis Cardinals have not played a game since July 29. They have had 17 people in their organization test positive for COVID-19, and yet the MLB continues to proceed with their season. The Cardinals have had two series postponed due to their COVID-19 results.

A season, mind you, that was cut to 60 games because the MLB players association (MLBPA), MLB owners and Commissioner Rob Manfred couldn't agree on how to properly reopen baseball. It has been misstep after misstep for the MLBPA and MLB owners, mainly the owners and Manfred.

Adam Silver, commissioner of the NBA, implemented the bubble with player safety as the top priority. He aimed

to pay players fairly and gave them an option to opt out of the season if they didn't want to risk contracting the virus.

The NBA has strict rules about leaving the campus, no guests are allowed and they constantly test everyone in the bubble. The MLB, on the other hand, is letting players travel freely and not monitoring their extra-curricular activities. Their irresponsibility and lack of preparation for a rebooted season is showing now more than ever.

The Cardinals aren't the only team with COVID-19 issues. The Miami Marlins had an outbreak that left 21 members of the organization infected. Meanwhile, the NBA hasn't had a case of COVID-19 in weeks.

One league had a clear, concise, plan. The other is flying by the seat of their pants, desperate to regain public interest in a sport that has long faded from the front of the casual sports fan's mind.

The MLB has an issue, and it's an issue they should have seen coming — had they not been so focused on the money and rushing their athletes back into competition.

There's a fine line in professional sports that needs to be walked between treating athletes like human beings and also running a business in the best way possible. The NBA has shown they are capable of that, time and time again. It's why they're competing with football for the top sport in The United States and growing in worldwide popularity every year.

It's much too late now for the MLB and Manfred to fix the season. There's no way to properly quarantine every player, coach, front office member and media personality



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORBES
The NBA has seen massive success with their Orlando "bubble," (pictured above) which has allowed players to compete for a title in a COVID-19 free environment. The MLB should take notes

in a bubble with an already-reduced season.

Manfred needs to take a look at his direct competitor and see why they've been so successful, and not make the same mistake twice. If COVID-19 restrictions spill into Feb. 2021, the MLB needs to prepare and put thought into their plan — something they should have done many months ago.

It is a travesty for baseball fans and players that the MLB failed to provide them with a solid, shortened rebooted season.

Free OU-branded face masks available in The Habitat

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

Oakland University will be providing a branded face mask to everyone with a current “GrizzCard” — students, staff and faculty will be required to wear a face covering while on campus.

Those campus affiliates can retrieve their mask between Monday, Aug. 3 through Friday, Aug. 7 or Monday, Aug. 10 through Friday, Aug. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in The Habitat of the Oakland Center. Attendees will be expected to social distance while waiting and show their Grizz ID to obtain their OU mask. There will be additional dates for mask distribution announced once the school year begins.

After announcing a hybrid learning approach for the 2020-2021 school year,



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR
The Oakland University facial masks will include both official logos — the Grizz and OU printed.

Oakland University has begun flexing the campus environment to meet state guidelines. Ensuring everyone is safe will include a black cotton mask with two white OU logos printed on it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “affirms that cloth face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19.” If the campus community “universally” wears face coverings, then there’s projected to be a “reduced” spread of COVID-19 on campus.

Anyone in the campus community who chooses to wear their own mask is still welcome. Oakland University’s announcement reinstated that facial masks (branded or homemade) will be required in public spaces on campus for health safety, but official masks will also “promote Golden Grizzlies community pride.”

Graham Health Center offers testing to support return to campus

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

Returning to campus this fall has a few more challenges than Oakland University is used to facing. In response, the Graham Health Center (GHC) has been expanding their services to help monitor any instances of COVID-19 on campus and keep the OU community healthy.

The GHC has been closely tracking any reports of positive cases both on and off campus that affect OU, screening anyone that comes on campus for symptoms and is now offering antibody and COVID-19 testing for any students showing symptoms.

According to GHC Director Nancy Jansen ANP-BC, looking at the greater Oakland County community has been instrumental in predicting what the cases on campus may look like.

“You have to remember that OU is not an island — it doesn’t have a moat around it — so people are constantly on and off campus,” Jansen said.

In order to combat this, Jansen and the GHC have been working closely with the Oakland County Health Department (OCHD). The two have a connection through epidemiologist Kayleigh Blaney, who works for the OCHD and is a special lecturer for the nursing school. Blaney explained how the OCHD is helping track cases and do contact tracing for anyone connected to OU who tests positive.

“So if there is a case, we would investigate that case,” Blaney said. “We would figure out if they were on campus, where they were on campus, what classrooms and individuals might be affected.”

Jansen is confident that cases will remain low if students, faculty and staff can all buy into the idea of using preventative measures, like wearing masks and social distancing.

“I don’t think we will have a significant problem on campus [if we’re careful],” Jansen said. “Of course someone can be infected, but if someone is infected with COVID[-19], and they go to class, and everybody is six feet away and everybody has a face covering, the chance of spread is very very low. That’s the key issue, is everybody committing to doing this all the time, not only in the classroom, but then when they leave campus always wear a mask.”

While there have been talks of vaccines being invented around the world, and when one is approved

for general usage, Jansen hopes to get it as soon as possible for students — should they want it. While that may not be for some time, Jansen highly suggests students get their flu shots this year, so it’ll be easier to navigate COVID-19 when the fall flu season hits.

“We’re really gearing up to provide a lot of vaccinations for flu this year because the thing about flu and COVID[-19] is they have very similar symptoms — fever cough, maybe sore throat,” Jansen said. “So it’s hard to determine if somebody has the flu, or COVID[-19], so it’s really important for everyone to get the flu shot so they don’t become ill and have to be worried they have COVID[-19].”

Similar to the flu shot, the BioButton is another preventative measure that OU has taken to monitor COVID-19 on campus, but it was made optional after students posed privacy concerns. While the button will not share information it collects with anyone outside of the wearer, it being an option returns back to the question of personal responsibility for preventing the spread of the virus.

“Individuals really need to be taking it upon themselves. If you’re sick, don’t go anywhere — get tested,” Blaney said. “Obviously we don’t have any control over people who are asymptomatic ... but how things are happening and how things progress and our success of going back to school is going to be determined by if people who are sick are willing to stay home or go get tested, and when people do become cases, actually giving us accurate information about where they’ve been, and who they’ve been around.”

If someone isn’t feeling well, the GHC suggests contacting them to get tested and provide accurate answers to screening and contact tracing questions to limit the spread.



EMILY MORRIS | MANAGING EDITOR
The Graham Health Center is offering COVID-19 testing to prepare for OU students’ return to campus this fall.

Oakland University alumnus starts COVID-19 testing company

EMILY MORRIS

Managing Editor

In an effort to “serve our community,” Evan Tsang, an Oakland University alumnus, partnered with Erik Bogaard and created Task Force Lab, a California-based COVID-19 testing facility.

In early March, Tsang was faced with bleak options, like many Americans, when COVID-19 began to spread in The United States. He could either have “months of watching Netflix,” or he could create a story to “tell our grandkids,” and he chose the latter.

“We’re not happy with how our nation seems to be responding to this, and we said, ‘what are we going to do?’” Tsang said.

Healthcare workers were immediately at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Tsang had a different skill set. He received his Master of Science degree from OU in Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) in 2008.

While in the career field, Tsang gathered experience working for several technology-based companies — beginning with General Motors and, most recently, Skylar Consulting.

He had a steady stream of work until the pandemic pushed him out of work, briefly — Tsang was laid off in early spring. The unemployment rate increased in record breaking time when COVID-19 began spreading in the U.S. — people lost their jobs faster in three months than in the two years of the recession in 2007.

“This economy is going to take a hit, but — probably — the one thing that isn’t going to go bad is the need for testing,” Tsang said. “As this pandemic has evolved, particularly in our country, it’s been clear that that’s a bigger and bigger need.”

Although Tsang had worked with notable companies in the past, he didn’t see himself as an “entrepreneur” until recently.

“I never saw myself as a person that was going to start a company... but it’s possible,” Tsang said. “It went from that’s what other people do to it’s possible.”

Initially, Tsang expected Task Force Lab to be funded, but there wasn’t enough interest in the company. This didn’t deter Tsang and Bogaard for long though, because they knew there was a demand for COVID-19 tests.

“In the midst of being unemployed, I went out and spent a bunch of money to buy a [testing] machine,” Tsang said.

Task Force Lab specializes in RT-PCR tests, “real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction test” so they’re able to return results in 48 hours or less.

Aside from efficiency, Task Force Lab is also a convenient option because it’s focused on group testing (businesses or group homes), and the testing site is able to come to its patients within their areas of operation.

Now, Task Force Lab has tested more than 10,000 people in five different areas in California — Altadena, Santa Monica, Rancho Palos Verdes, Aliso Viejo, Irvine and San Jose. Their goal is to soon be able to test 1,000 to 1,500 people each day.

“It’s not bad for a couple guys that just started a couple months ago,” Tsang said.

Although Task Force Lab has growing interest in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVAN TSANG
Evan Tsang is co-creator of Task Force Lab, a COVID-19 testing company that’s based in California.

community, Tsang admitted that its future is murky because COVID-19 testing has an unclear expiration date.

For now, Tsang and Bogaard aren’t looking far into the future, but at their community around them.

“At the end of the day, we’re really focused on what we can do now,” Tsang said.

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Trump wants to ban TikTok? Do it, I dare you

LAUREN KARMO

Campus Editor

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and gays, welcome back to the Oakland Post's satire section after a long hiatus. In March, we needed to take a pause to focus on some slightly more important issues — we're in a global pandemic, perhaps you might have heard about it — but something has awoken us from our deep satire slumber — Trump's "ban" on TikTok.

My loyal readers will know that I am no stranger to TikTok, so it should not come as a surprise to anyone that this, of all the things that have occurred over the last five months, this is the tipping point for me. So Donny J. wants to ban TikTok, huh? Let's tussle, big boy.

Many of you zillennials might be wondering, why now? TikTok has been around for years, starting out as Musical.ly and now as the glorious app we know it to be. In the last four years he's been stinking up the oval, why is he suddenly so concerned with some dumb kids shaking their ass for three likes?

I'll tell you why in three words — Tulsa rally, baby. It's no secret the lib kids wanted to troll him for deciding to host a rally at the home of the infamous Tulsa Massacre on the weekend of June-teenth in the middle of the biggest racial justice movement in years. Choices were made, and the past is the past.

Twump's wittle ego got huwt? Hmm? So sad. I can just imagine the rage that filled his absolute unit of a big head when he calculated the amount of empty seats in the stadium as he looked out on the crowd. It must've been those no good snowflakes, the Marxists, the an-

archists, the agitators, the looters and people who in many instances have absolutely no clue what they are doing.

He saw that empty stadium and really said "let's GO."

You know what, though, go ahead. Ban TikTok. I double dog dare you. I'm tired of it! The for you page is getting too specific, and I don't want to see any more TikToks about foreign parents' road rage or demanding answers for why rats eat like that. It's about damn time someone did something about that algorithm because it's a little sus if you ask me.

On the other hand, if he does get rid of TikTok, he will also be disbanding the conservative hype house, and I could do without that on the internet. All those frat boys and pick me girls will need to stick to playing devil's advocate in the Facebook comments section where they belong. Kellyanne Conway's daughter, Claudia, will be missed, though.

As a totally mindless 20-year-old, I thrive on the hours I spend on the app. If China was really mining my data — which studies have proven isn't a bigger concern than with any other social platform — than let them. I don't care! If it means I can watch more one minute videos about frogs in small hats, it's worth it.

If you're asking me — and since you decided to read my satire, you are — Don is just a little punk. He's scared of the power we have on an app which his elderly mind doesn't understand. If he thinks he'll stop us by censoring our favorite app, then he better think again. I'm not afraid of a fight. Square up, fool — this isn't over yet.



GRAPHIC | MICHAEL PEARCE

Trump was so bad at TikTok dances, that he just decided to ban the whole platform



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

COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES

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