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Bowling Green State University

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University senior uses Twitter to spread the message of body positivity. | PAGE 2

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University student armed with Twitter

By Megan Pettit
Reporter

Back in March 2016, a series of tweets were published by a college-aged girl that made many take a step back and think. With body shaming tweets attached, a girl posted a picture doing the exact opposite of what the shaming tweets suggested with the caption: “Girls: Wear whatever the hell you want.”

These tweets were posted by University senior and public relations student, Sara Petty.

Many people already knew her as a confident, happy-go-lucky, positive person. However, she will be the first to tell you, she has not always been this confident in herself, or her body.

“I had been over 200 pounds and was just really freaked out about it for a while,” she said.

Because of this, she decided to join CHAARG, which stands for Changing Health, Attitudes and Actions to Recreate Girls. CHAARG is a women’s fitness group on campus.

“I joined CHAARG in the second semester of my sophomore year,” Petty said. “Sophomore year, I realized I was gaining weight and didn’t have a lot of friends. I figured working out and meeting new people at the same time couldn’t be a bad thing.”

As she got more involved in CHAARG, Petty started to understand the message of positive body image, which is where she got the idea for the tweets.

“I had just finished a workout plan, and had lost eight pounds, and I still wasn’t where I wanted to be, but I was becoming more confident in myself. But then I started to see people on Twitter saying people shouldn’t wear things if they had a certain body type, and I wanted to prove that 200 pounds doesn’t look the same on everyone,” Petty said.

At 6 feet tall, and a little more confident, she decided to stand up for herself and hopefully other women who felt the same way.

“The point of it was to prove that people carry their weight differently, and that you shouldn’t be restricted on what you should wear based off a number because it doesn’t mean that much,” Petty said.

Petty also mentioned that the response was overwhelmingly positive — for the most part.

“Most of the response was very positive, I mean for every like 100 responses, there was one negative response, which was really nice to see,” she said.

Petty’s friends and the members of CHAARG were extremely supportive of her posts, including one of her best friends Rachel Boote, senior communication student.

“Sara and I met through CHAARG about a year ago,” Boote said. “When I saw Sara’s tweet, we were only acquaintances and I have gotten to know her a lot more since then, but it was really cool to see someone I was around and could relate to become viral.”

Boote also mentioned that she was proud of the way her friend and fellow member of CHAARG handled the sudden fame.

“I think a lot of people, when they become viral, they don’t know what to do with it. But I think Sara has taken on that role in a really cool way and has used it as an awesome platform especially in the CHAARG community,” she said.

Another big supporter of Petty is the CHAARG Ambassador and senior dietetics student, Marissa Flores. Flores believes Petty has learned a lot from her Twitter experience, mostly about herself.

“From this experience, I think Sara has grown to see that her body is capable of so many things and can constantly change. She has grown to really appreciate not only being comfortable in her own skin, but being able to appreciate all that her body can do as well,” Flores said.

Flores said Petty is not the only one who struggles with body positivity and explains why CHAARG is trying to change that.

“At CHAARG, we don’t care what you look like; we don’t care about what size you wear; we don’t care if you come with a group or by yourself; we just want you there,” she said. “We want CHAARG girls to feel how empowering it can be when you have a community of strong women cheering you on every step of the way.”

Petty said she has never felt more confident in herself or her body but is not stopping there.

“I really do love my body, and I am completely okay with where I am. But I am still trying to lose weight,” she said. “It is all about being kind to yourself.”

After viral tweets, joining CHAARG and finally loving herself, Petty has one thing left to say to those struggling with their body image:

“Fake it until you make it. Every day, tell yourself that you love your body and speak nicely to yourself, and you will start to believe it,” she said.

Members of CHAARG participate in exercises including partner pushups.

PHOTO BY MEGAN PETTIT

April 1, 2017
Spacey’s sexual assault allegations taint career

By Chase Bachman
Columnist

How do you reconcile the misbehavior of the people you idolize? That’s a question I’ve asked myself countless times. When you find out on SportsCenter your favorite athlete was arrested in a DUI case, it can be hard to look at that idol the same way.

When you come across a headline on Twitter that says one of your favorite celebrities has been accused of sexual misconduct, your mind starts to experience all sorts of conflicting thoughts. You wonder whether or not that celebrity or role model is someone you can continue to admire and support.

I recently experienced this with the news involving actor Kevin Spacey.

The Oscar Award-winning performer is now the most recent recipient of sexual misconduct allegations. Actor Anthony Rapp claims that when he was 14, Spacey made sexual advances on him. Rapp, until recently, had never felt compelled enough to go public with the incident, but in light of the recent circumstances, it now seemed like as good a time as ever.

Since Harvey Weinstein, and previously Bill Cosby, was accused of sexual misconduct, an innumerable amount of individuals have come forward to share their own experiences regarding abuse or harassment.

The floodgates have opened on this issue, and it’s actually quite a good thing this misconduct has been brought to light. Victims of sexual abuse and other misconduct shouldn’t be afraid or ashamed to tell people what they’ve experienced. It takes courage to come forward about something so somber.

Spacey subsequently apologized for the alleged behavior, despite not even recalling the incident in question. Spacey attributes the actions in part to his problems with alcoholism, and admits it was “deeply inappropriate drunken behavior.”

I completely respect Spacey’s decision to promptly apologize for behavior that may or may not have happened. He took accountability and expressed his respect for Rapp.

What came next in his apology, however, was more perplexing. He shifted the focus of the apology (which was released through Spacey’s Twitter account) to his own much-speculated sexuality. He clarified by saying he has chosen “now to live as a gay man.”

Spacey’s sexuality has always been somewhat reserved. His alcoholism has been known in some measure or another, but he has been rather aloof about his sexual orientation. He is now out and in the open to us all.

Spacey is someone I have always admired as an actor. He’s historically respected in his industry, has starred in a number of great Broadway productions and films (including some of my personal favorites, like “A Time to Kill,” “Se7en” and “Pay It Forward”). As a movie nerd, I’m enamored by his celebrity impressions.

That being said, Spacey’s apology was less than ideal, and that pains me to say. He may have engaged in inappropriate behavior, yet he has distracted the focus away from what’s important. It took Rapp 31 years to go public about this, and now a large portion of the media has made the story about Spacey’s coming out.

While I commend Spacey for coming clean about a part of his life that is none of our concern, it has now shifted some of the attention away from the issue of sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry.

The news of Spacey’s alleged actions has confounded me, but it won’t affect my admiration of him. I will still admire his talent and abilities as an actor, yet I will always look back on his apology thinking he could have done better.
Justly prosecuting politicians

For much of the public who already have a strong disdain for career politicians and lobbyists, the indictment of Paul Manafort and Rick Gates will come as no surprise. Money laundering, conspiracy and other charges are piling up.

Mr. Trump certainly seems to be "draining the swamp" in a rather indirect way, whether it is at the cost of his own presidency or not. What seems to be a more important issue to look at is how the prosecution of both Paul Manafort and Rick Gates, and one can only assume there will be more to follow, will feed the majority of the public's negative image towards career politicians.

Public trust in our leaders can certainly keep going down, but what will happen when it reaches its low point? A complete disregard for those in office may have two consequences. First, rising protests and violence may occur, although this is the less likely of the two. And second, politicians will use the public's disdain of politics to their advantage.

Speaking to the first, I do not see this as too terribly possible. When the public becomes so unfaithful and disdainful towards those in office, they will most likely not turn to violence. Instead they will turn to cynicism. We should be more aware of this because it will lead us into the second, and more worrisome consequence.

A cynical public abandons concepts of the right and just and instead looks to emotion. Did we see the beginnings of this in the 2016 election? Swaying public emotion on the grounds of hatred towards politics can have disastrous effects.

The content of a politician's policy becomes negligible as they win approval by saying things like, “Let's change the way Washington is run!” or worse, “Get all the crooks out!” The public who follows a politician using their own hatred as an advantage gets swept up into a group, defiant towards other political parties and reinforced by the idea of unity and change. If this sounds familiar, it should be.

No, this has not happened in American history yet, but it has happened in other countries, and I feel as though I do not need to name them.

Currently, it feels as though there is little to no trust being placed in the few running our country. Granted, this is hard to do right now and that is a fact we must reconcile with. But, lowering our respect for those in office will lead us down a potentially dangerous path, and it is one that we certainly will not want to go down.

Kevin Michel
Columnist

Photo Provided

SUBMISSION POLICY

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Letters are to be fewer than 300 words. They should be in response to current issues on campus or in the Bowling Green area.

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Guest Columns are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. Two submissions per month maximum.

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Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Forum page permits. Additional Letters or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

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In memoriam


Patrick is survived by his parents: Peter De Luca of Crystal Lake, Illinois and Kathy (Charles) Wojcicki of Bradner, Ohio; sister: Callen De Luca and her fiancé Gregory Hoffman of Bradner, Ohio; Grandparents: Jack & Betty Whitacre of Bowling Green, Ohio; aunts & uncles: Keith (Amy) Whitacre of Perrysburg, Ohio, Greg (Lisa) Whitacre of Pemberville, Ohio, Cheryl McCarthy of Bellevue, Ohio, Enrico (Linda) De Luca of Melbourne Beach, Florida, Charles (Joyce) De Luca of Bellevue, Ohio, Charles (Karen) Sherck of Colorado Springs, Colorado, David (Pam) De Luca of San Diego, California; cousins: Maggie Whitacre of Nashville, Tennessee, Mollie Whitacre of Athens, Ohio, Tracy (Candace) De Luca of Hilliard, Ohio, Jeremy De Luca of Melbourne Beach, Florida, Krista (George) Baraket of West Melbourne, Florida, Courtney (Daniel) Kiely of Reno, Nevada, Kayla (Michael) Robles of Arvada, Colorado, Charles Sherck of Orlando, Florida, Dr. Benjamin DeLuca of San Diego, California, and Eric DeLuca of San Diego, California. Patrick was preceded in death by his maternal great-grandparents: Wayne & Dortha Whitacre of Bowling Green, Ohio and his paternal grandparents Enrico & Patricia De Luca of Bellevue, Ohio.

Patrick was a 2015 graduate of Bowling Green High School and was a junior at Bowling Green State University majoring in psychology. Patrick played trumpet in the Bowling Green High School Marching and Concert Band. He was also a member of the Jazz Band. He loved to play all types of board games, video games and card games, where he was known as a very skilled card player. Patrick loved to read all types of books, loved to write, loved all animals, loved drama and improv, all types of music and especially loved to debate with others about a variety of topics. Although Patrick had a seizure disorder, he didn’t let it limit him and fought for his independence.

Visitation for Patrick was held on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017 in the Deck-Hanneman Funeral Home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the St. Aloysius Catholic Church (150 S. Enterprise Street, Bowling Green, Ohio). Interment will immediately follow in St. Louis Cemetery.

Memorial Contributions in Patrick’s honor may be gifted to the Patrick X. De Luca Memorial Fund at BGSU Foundation.

Hanneman Family Funeral Homes is honored to serve Patrick’s family and encourage those to share a fond memory or condolence by visiting their website.

Meet your Morale Captains

The BG News will be introducing you to the Morale Captains in following issues. Check in each week to meet a new member of the ZiggyThon team!

Jackalyn Siebenaler

What inspired you to become a Morale Captain?

I participated in Dance Marathon last year and I fell in love with the organization and everything that they do. During the event I was able to meet a lot of the Miracle Children and their families. This was so meaningful to me. I knew that being a Morale Captain, you would have more of an opportunity to meet the children and their families, and that is what I wanted.

What goals do you have for ZiggyThon?

I set a goal this year of raising $1,600. I want to raise as much as I can this year because it goes to such a deserving organization. Mainly, I just want to meet as many people as possible and share the message of Dance Marathon and what it means to me. I hope to get others involved and wanting to be part of it as well.

Find out more about Jackalyn at bgfalconmedia.com

By Brionna Scebbi | Reporter
Thomas Gibson: after one year here

By Erika Heck
Reporter

Arriving to take on his dual position as vice president for student affairs and vice provost at the University in July 2016, Thomas Gibson has tried to make his presence and his desire to listen to the student body known.

At first, he was not interested in the position; he did not even respond to the search consultant who contacted him. There was a lot more he wanted to accomplish at his previous university, Ball State, so when he was contacted a second time by the same consultant, he tried politely to decline.

“He said, ‘Let’s just have a conversation,’” Gibson said. “So, I had a conversation... and when he told me about the... student centeredness... I was hooked, and I wanted to learn more.’

He applied for the position and was hired. The titles of “vice provost” and “vice president for student affairs” are often two separate jobs. Here at the University, it is only one. This allows for greater collaboration on academic affairs, especially when there is a need for the student voice to be involved.

He was no stranger to the uneasy campus climate after the general election and the uncertainty that was being expressed by some students. This prompted the beginning of his Listening Tours.

Last fall semester, Gibson, along with President Mary Ellen Mazey and Provost Rodney Rogers, visited various student and campus organizations to listen to the concerns that many students had post-election.

“I felt that there was something amiss, but I was new and I didn’t know what exactly it was that I was feeling,” he said.

The Listening Tours helped him better understand how students were perceiving campus and what he could do as a new vice president to respond. He was grateful for the learning experience.

To continue the spirit of the Listening Tours he holds First Fridays, where he sits in the Student Union for an hour and a half so students can meet with him and voice their concerns or issues, “whatever is important to them.”

“For me, it’s an opportunity to hear from students, to connect with students, to meet as many students as possible.”

— Thomas Gibson —
Vice President of Student Affairs
Vice Provost of the University

He values the new relationships he has with the students he has met, and he hopes that they will not hesitate to come to him if something is wrong.

“I’m hopeful students are maybe now connected to a greater network of support,” he said.

Despite only being here a year, however, Thomas Gibson is working with a lot of different groups on various projects. He is responsible for newly created Drug and Alcohol Task Force on campus and a member of the Sexual Assault Task Force implementation team, which is carrying out the recommendations from the task force report. He’s also working on a late-night program.

“This would... engage students in the evenings and over the weekend... and hopefully serve as an alternative to the bars,” he said. “There’s a lot of students who don’t go to the bars... who don’t consume alcohol, and I want make sure there is programming students want to participate in.”

He is also hoping to develop more student traditions at the University and “has some feelers out.” He wants more interaction and conversation with students and encourages them to reach out to him for any issues they have.

On the first day of the semester one year ago, while attending the National Panhellenic Greek Council’s annual Yard Show, he declared the University “the best” institution he has ever worked at. He told the crowd he had worked at four different institutions and that “this is home.”

He wants this to reflect in his relationship with the student body.
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Read the entire text of the charter amendment at www.facebook.com/groups/BGCharterAmendment

USE YOUR VOTE TO PROTECT
OUR COMMUNITY & OUR FUTURE!

PAID FOR BY STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS OF BG CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND OUR FUTURE
The Falcons football team defeated the Kent State Golden Flashes 44-16 on Tuesday night, as the team is still fighting to stay alive in the Mid-American Conference playoff chase.

“We got turnovers, but we didn’t turn the ball over and that usually leads to winning football,” Falcons head coach Mike Jinks said. “We called an aggressive game, and the kids seemed to play with a lot of confidence.”

The game began with a bang for the Falcons, as freshman running back Andrew Clair got an early rushing touchdown on the team’s first possession, along with an extra point from senior kicker Jake Suder making it 7-0. Suder came right back after the team forced a Kent State turnover, kicking a short field goal making it 10-0. The team finished out the first quarter with a touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Datrin Guyton from freshman quarterback Jarret Doege, giving the Falcons a 17-0 lead going into the second quarter.

In the second, Kent State was able to fight back as they were able to convert on a run for a touchdown; however, the extra point attempt was missed. The Falcons rebounded as Suder kicked another field goal, but Kent State was able to counter less than two minutes before the end of the half with a field goal of their own, making it a 20-9 advantage for the Falcons as the teams headed into the locker room.

The team came back out strong in the third quarter, as Doege ran for a short touchdown, followed up by senior running back Josh Cleveland running for a touchdown as well to give the Falcons a 34-9 advantage at the end of the third. Kent State would cut into the lead a little bit in the fourth, getting a touchdown run early in the quarter. However, that would be all the offense they would get, as the Falcons were able to put the game out of reach with a touchdown pass from Doege to senior wide receiver Teo Redding, then tacking on another Suder field goal for the 44-16 victory.

“We watched film on them all week, but the entire game they ran a completely different offense than they’ve shown,” Falcons senior linebacker Nate Locke said. “I’m really proud of our guys for making something that we’ve never seen before one dimensional, and then adjusting because we haven’t in the past, that shows good change.”

The team will next play on Tuesday night on the road against the Buffalo Bulls.
Men’s basketball plays preseason game

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons men’s basketball team will play in their lone exhibition game of the season against the Capital Crusaders on Thursday night.

Despite it being a preseason contest, the team is still putting a lot of emphasis on it to set the tone for the rest of the season, as well as to get a better look at their players.

“It’s very big,” Falcons head coach Michael Huger said. “Preseason games give us a chance to see what we really have. It doesn’t matter what your opponent; it’s what you do and the performance and the things that I’m looking for in my team.”

The team struggled last season, going 7-11 in Mid-American Conference play and missing the playoffs; however, the team is confident in the freshman players that they have coming onto the team for this season.

“I think we’re coming along very nicely at this stage,” Huger said. “The freshmen are coming along very nicely, developing, learning the system. Learning the defense has been the biggest thing that they have to get adjusted to as freshmen.”

However, the team was very impressed with the effort and selflessness the freshmen showed in the weeks before the season.

“All of them were the best player on the team,” Huger said. “Now you’re coming into a situation where a whole team was pretty much their best player and now you have to get them to play as one. That’s the thing that they adjusted to the best, I thought, was sharing the ball. They didn’t have a problem with sharing the ball and being a good teammate. Playing defensively is always the toughest thing for freshmen; physicality, first of all they’re not strong enough coming in, so they worked really hard. (Assistant coach) Kenny Gilchrist did a great job with them over the summer.”

“I think we’re coming along very nicely at this stage.”

-Michael Huger-Falcons Head Coach

“Now I think we’re ready for that outside competition. A couple of weeks ago, I don’t think we were quite ready for that outside competition, but right now they’re itching to go, so I can’t wait, I’m excited for the start of the season.”

Hockey looks to face Michigan Tech

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team will face the Michigan Tech Huskies on Friday and Saturday night in a rematch of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association championship game from last season, where Michigan Tech eliminated the Falcons 3-2 in double overtime.

However, the team feels that facing Michigan Tech will be different this time around, while still being a tough opponent.

“I think there’s some change at Tech, not only with the coach but some turnover of players,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “I do think they’re a really confident bunch and they’ve got a swagger that they’ve earned over the course of the last three or four years. I’m expecting high octane offense and a team that’s going to come at you and skate, push the pace north and a team that we’re going to have to be tight against defensively.”

Despite the loss in last season’s championship game, the team still has overall good memories from the game.

“The last time we were in this building, the overall experience was a pretty good one,” Bergeron said. “Obviously we didn’t get the result we wanted, but from an experience perspective, what a cool event to be a part of and we earned our way into that; that’s something I’m very proud of.”

The team also went 2-1-1 in their four game home stand against the Minnesota State Mavericks and Alaska Nanooks leading up to this series.

“With the exception of Friday night against Minnesota State, I thought we gave ourselves a chance to win those other three games,” Bergeron said. “Giving our team a chance to win three out of four nights, it’s good, it’s definitely not great, but it’s not bad. I think from an effort perspective, we need to have a good strong effort every night; I think that’s something that we can control.”

The team also feels that they need to improve on building their efficiency on offense in order to create more quality shots.

“There’s times that we create traffic and we miss the net, and there’s times when we hit the net with no traffic,” Bergeron said. “I think we have to combine those two. I’m not saying that we don’t have natural goal scorers, we have some, but we don’t have a crazy number of just guys that just score naturally; it’s just something that you have to work at... those two areas in particular are where I think you can work on in practice.”

However, the team is also looking to maintain their focus going into this weekend.

“We’re trying to not use the word ‘frustrated’ around our program because it’s a waste of everyone’s time and effort,” Bergeron said. “Let’s just keep pushing and keep the habits right, keep the details right, and we’re going to score goals because of that.”
By Courtney Brown
Campus Editor

Undergraduate senators criticized a potential plus and minus grading scale University officials proposed, giving feedback to Assistant Vice Provost Andy Alt of Academic Affairs.

If the proposal is passed into rule, a grading scale that would apply minus or plus designations to letter grades based on performance would start in the Fall 2018 semester. As of now, Academic Affairs is gathering feedback from various departments and organizations before anything finalizes, Alt said.

“There’s a sense that this sort of a grading scale would improve motivation,” he said Monday in front of the Undergraduate Student Government. He said he wants to push students harder, and that this grading scale would make it more difficult for students to achieve a 4.0 GPA.

Honors College students are particularly concerned over this matter, as most aim to achieve 4.0 GPAs. The new grading system would negatively affect them the most.

Alt said most of the University students range from a 2.8 to a 3.2 GPA and concluded that students who fall within this GPA range would benefit from the plus, minus system the most.

He also wanted students to put more effort into their final exams, and the plus and minus grading scale would possibly motivate students to do that, he said.

However, this decision has not been finalized, Alt said. Feedback is still being gathered, and there is the possibility the current grading scale will remain untouched.

For another concern covered at the meeting, Brad Holmes of the Bowling Green Climate Protectors brought up the city’s charter amendment. The amendment will be on the ballot Nov. 7.

Most current and potential Bowling Green City Council members oppose the charter amendment, aside from 2nd Ward candidate John Zanfardino, as seen in a previous article (https://www.bgfalconstdia.com/campus/bg-candidates-talk-politics-before-election/article_8e14f7d6-bb74-11e7-845c-4b5a02638060.html). The language of the amendment, which can be viewed at http://www.facebook.com/groups/BGCharterAmendment, poses questions about its legality, and Bowling Green’s Green Party does not support it.

Assistant Vice Provost of Academic Affairs Andy Alt gathered student feedback at USG.
Nexus advances through the city

By Paul Garbarino
City Editor

The city of Bowling Green consented to Nexus Gas Transmission LLC’s immediate possession of city-owned land. While Nexus’ eminent domain rights make its pipeline nearly irrepressible, there are activists who see a way to stop it.

City attorney Michael Marsh submitted an answer to the northern district court of Ohio on Oct. 11 in response to Nexus’ eminent domain rights over 1.5 acres of farm land in Middleton Township on the pipeline’s planned construction route. The answer says the city admits to Nexus’ rights and will not contest them.

Nexus has offered $79,360 to the city for the land.

“The answer does not deny that Nexus has been granted eminent domain status by the state and that they’re going to be entitled to possession of that property,” Marsh said. “That’s what that answer does. It doesn’t give them an easement and doesn’t say we’re going to accept money.”

The judge has not yet officially signed an order to allow Nexus to have the properties along its projected route.

Marsh says Nexus’ state granted right to eminent domain land renders local legal power useless against influencing the pipeline’s construction.

“This summer, once the state decided that Nexus was a public utility and was entitled to eminent domain rights, this was really all over,” Marsh said. “Nexus has sued hundreds of parties, and a good half of them have already settled in the months they have been filed. Almost everybody involved in this understands that this is about money. This isn’t really about stopping any pipeline.”

Despite Nexus’ legal power, local environmental activists are not content with how the city has been handling the Nexus pipeline issue, and they see a solution.

“Mike Marsh silently signed away the city’s easement rights to Nexus pipeline,” Bowling Green resident Lisa Kochheiser said. “The city has betrayed citizens’ trust and has scandalously kept it to themselves.”

During an Oct. 16 city council meeting, Marsh did not address the answer and consent to Nexus.

Pipeline pponents are upset with how its construction has been shrouded in secrecy.

“The city’s administration kept the pipeline’s close proximity to the Water Treatment Facility a secret for two years,” Kochheiser said.

The University’s Environmental Action Group president, Brad Holmes, says the Bowling Green charter amendment is a solution to limiting the construction of fossil fuel infrastructure in the city.

“It’s one thing to rely on our city leaders to protect us, and it’s another to watch them fail to do so,” Holmes said.

The city of Waterville, which passed a charter amendment that prohibits the construction of pipelines last year, has currently not consented to Nexus’ eminent domain rights and is fighting having it cross through city-owned land.

“Waterville, on Oct. 25, filed a 12-page answer, claiming that their local charter amendment forbids them from consenting and that Nexus cannot cross the city,” legal counsel attorney for the Bowling Green charter amendment group, Terry Lodge, said.

Whether Waterville’s charter will possess the legal standing to successfully resist the pipeline has yet to be determined, but for now they have banned Nexus’ building actions.
Implementing task force recommendations

By Meredith Siegel
Reporter

Following the Trump Administration’s Title IX changes and the publishing of the recommendations from the Sexual Assault Task Force, changes are coming to Bowling Green in how sexual violence is handled.

College campuses can choose how they carry out sexual misconduct cases, and they now follow a question and answer document to make those choices, according to a U.S. News article.

Thomas Gibson, president of student affairs, said that at this point there will be no changes to how the University handles sexual misconduct cases. Until these guidelines are changed to stricter regulations, there is no need to change procedure.

But, the implementation team is still working to improve the culture surrounding sexual assault on campus, and the care that is given to victims of assault.

They are meeting to make the Task Force recommendations a reality. They are working within three categories, said Julie Broadwell, a member of the implementation team. “They are prevention, care and process.”

One big change that is coming is a new employment of University alum Jennifer McCary, who is being hired on as the vice president to student affairs and the Title IX coordinator. She will also oversee the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the TRIO program and The Women’s Center.

McCary is a “national expert on sexual violence prevention,” Gibson said. “She has been a part of national conversations about Title IX.”

“She will have responsibility for the Institution’s Title IX compliance obligations. As well as training and education and awareness efforts around Title IX, reporting, as well as doing annual reviews and assessment of our efforts and making sure that we are being fair and equitable in our practices as well as ensuring that there is a high degree of care,” Gibson said.

She will start working for the University Jan. 1, 2018, Broadwell said.

Other future hires include a coordinator for case management which is currently posted for recruitment. This person will work very closely with McCary.

They will also do “intake,” which is the first initial meeting with students who may have been sexually assaulted to gather information and provide resources for students to utilize. These resources include University reporting, the Bowling Green Police and the Cocoon.

This person will also continue to do outreach with students, Gibson said.

Other new positions include an increase in case management which is currently post-ed for recruitment. This person will work very closely with McCary.

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Other new positions include an increase in deputy Title IX coordinators from five to 12. These people will also do intake to be sure there is “always someone available” when a person wants to report or needs resources, Gibson said.

Other suggestions from the Task Force that the implementation team are working on include a “sexual violence center.” This would be a place where students could report and go for resources.

Hanna Modene, student member of the implementation team, described the proposed center as “crucial” for students and survivors of sexual assault.

This center is still in the works, and the implementation team is considering location, staff and programs that would be offered.

A male engagement coordinator is also being discussed, though this position will be posted after the case manager position is filled.

The male engagement coordinator would possibly work closely with It’s On Us, a national sexual assault prevention initiative, to provide administrative support as well as increase male involvement. “Any time men are being engaged is a step in the right direction,” Gibson said.