11-13-2017

The BG News November 13, 2017

Bowling Green State University

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A Sit-down with Student Legal Services

Meredith Siegel
Reporter

Student Legal Services comes up when students are paying for tuition every semester, but not everyone is sure they want to opt-in with the $9 fee it charges a semester. Rodney Fleming is one of two lawyers staffed at Student Legal Services, and he sat down to answer questions about the program.

How do students go about getting legal help?

They call the office and say, “I’d like to make an appointment to see someone,” and our office associates out there check and make sure you’re a student at the University and you’ve paid the Student Legal Services fee, and they set you up with an appointment. Usually, you can get in the same day or the next day, depending on our court schedule. The office associate will ask, “tell me a little bit about why you want to talk to the attorney,” and that allows us to prepare a little bit but, you know, depending on what the issue is, typically we have a half hour appointment. Now some issues are more complex, like an OVI (Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol) for example, we’ll set aside an hour for that. Typically, it’s a half hour appointment.

What is your past experience and how does it differ from BG legal services?

I worked at a litigation firm in downtown Toledo. It’s not all about helping people. When I was in private proactive, a lot of your focus is on making money. That was sort of disheartening, when you go to law school because you want to help people, then you get into the private sector and you quickly understand you need to make money first. That’s what I really like about this job, it’s not about making money.

What services are provided?

We tell students if you ever have any legal problem, at all, come and see us. There are certain limitations to what we do, but we will sit down and talk to you, almost any subject, and then make a determination on how far we can go with that for you. There are legal limitations, and then there are programmatic limitations, right? So the legal limitations, for example, would be if you wanted to sue the University. The limitations that allow us to exist specifically prohibits us from suing the University. But then, there are also what they call programmatic limitations, just sort of the cost-benefit analysis for the $9—are we helping enough students to make it worthwhile our while to do this type of case? So, bankruptcy, for example, we’ll talk to students about bankruptcy, give them advice, but we don’t actually do bankruptcy. But, what we’re trying to do here is trying to meet all those other legal needs that many students have that they don’t have access to in the private sector.

What do you see most in this office?

For example, a traffic ticket, a speeding ticket. A student comes here, we will represent them in court on that traffic ticket, that speeding ticket, for no additional cost above the $9 participation fee that they’ve already paid. A student wouldn’t typically have access to — they’re not going to hire a private counsel — if we didn’t exist, a student would just try to deal with that on their own. They wouldn’t go and pay an attorney $500 to represent them on a $150 speeding ticket. It doesn’t make sense, but it is something that can significantly impact the student. So, we see a lot of traffic related stuff. We see a lot of criminal, alcohol related stuff. They just try to do it themselves, and they just end up getting themselves in situations that they’re not very effective. Whereas, with our $9, we can represent them in that, hopefully get them into a diversion program so that they get their case completely dismissed, and they can be successful in graduating and not having a criminal record. So, criminal and traffic are 50 percent, probably, of what we do. There is another 30 percent that is landlord tenant. So, same thing. We kind of level that playing field. We kind of level that playing field for them because this is our area of expertise.

How many students benefit from Student Legal Services?

In October, we did 151 office consultations. We went to court 92 times for students. Last year, July 1 to June 30, ... we saw over 1,700 students, you know, throughout that year. We went to court over 1,000 times for students.

Can students be helped if they are detained or ticked in areas outside Bowling Green?

We only represent in courts that students ... might be in, like the Bowling Green municipal court. We have expanded to the Perrysburg municipal court. We also have connections to other Student Legal Services offices and many times, if a student has an issue in Columbus, we have a relationship with Ohio State Student Legal Services where we can refer that student to them, and they’ll just treat them like they were an OSU student. Same way with UT in Toledo. We can refer them to the OU (Ohio University) Student Legal Services as well.
Imagine your best friends coming to you in mental anguish, full of a depression tearing their insides so strongly that they beg for any escape from the misery. Eventually, it becomes an even worse pain, one that we can’t imagine unless we’ve felt it ourselves.

Your best friend, who you love so much and want to help out of anguish, ask you to help them kill themselves.

What do you do?

I hope your answer is to get your friend help from a doctor, not aid in their suicide, but at the rate society is moving — down a spiral of losing respect for all life — I fear that at some point in our near future, taking your friend to a doctor might result in a suicide anyway.

Euthanasia, commonly called physician-assisted suicide, is spinning out of control. In the Netherlands, there is one dedicated death clinic, and it can no longer keep up with demand. The director of the Levenseinde Clinic in Amsterdam recently said he needs to double the number of doctors he currently employs to keep up.

In 2012, the death clinic helped euthanize (and in my opinion, murder) 32 patients. By the end of this year, the center will have murdered 720.

Those numbers only represent the death clinic, but doctors across the Netherlands also perform doctor-assisted suicides. According to The Guardian, there have been 18,000 requests to die in the country. From 4,188 people euthanized in 2012, the nation’s total has jumped 67 percent, with an expected assisted-suicide count to exceed 7,000 for 2017.

For now, these voluntary, doctor-assisted suicides are reserved only for people who have unbearable suffering with no prospect of improvement or an alternative remedy. For now.

In the Netherlands, the taboo of euthanasia is gone, and that is likely to spread to other countries. In the United States, California, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Washington D.C. have legalized physician-assisted suicide. Montana allows it as well but only through court ruling.

How long is it until all states have legalized the procedure? And how long until that procedure is taken advantage of?

I fully understand that the slippery slope argument is a logical fallacy, but we’ve seen slippery slopes happen in our lives every day.

Doctors get into the business of saving lives, not ending them. You can argue all you want that they get into the business of improving quality of life, and when there’s poor quality, it’s okay to end that person’s life, but when we start choosing when it’s time for someone to die, we start demeaning the concept and respect for life.

How do we guarantee that euthanasia is always voluntary? While it is required that the person receiving a doctor-assisted suicide gives consent with a signature, I’ve seen first-hand elder abuse watching my grandparents and great-grandparents in nursing homes. They’ve signed things because their doctors said they should without even knowing what they were signing.

Even if doctors don’t become corrupt enough to do this and can’t stand to see their patients in the type of pain they are in, families might. Seeing a loved one in pain is hard, and we may want to see that misery end by convincing a loved one to consent to physician-assisted suicide without the parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or great grandparent even understanding what is going on. If we slide down the slope further, some families may see their elders as a burden and coerce the signature as well.

Now, back to the initial scenario where your best friends in the entire world asks you to help them die. Who is to say this mental pain is less gruesome than physical pain? How can we deny these individuals a physician-assisted suicide while offering it to those we deem more in pain?

You could argue that mental health is reversible, that there are alternates like medication and therapy, but some people struggle with depression and mental health disorders their entire lives.

When we start normalizing death by choice, we start normalizing suicide. We start saying to the person with no hope for a better life they can end their life on their own, not assisted by a doctor, because what is the real difference? We start encouraging our struggling friends to take their own lives when they deem it fit because they have that right. We stop encouraging respect for life. We stop encouraging well-being. We stop normalizing support.

I used to be an avid supporter of the death penalty. Some people just didn’t deserve to live after the things they’d done, I thought. At some point during my college career, I realized that life in prison is a much bigger punishment, and more importantly, that killing even murderers continued a cycle of demeaning life itself. We don’t get to choose when someone will die.

Ohio held its first execution in several years back in June. This execution was a big deal for Ohio, because it came after the state halted executions for nearly three and a half years after Dennis McGuire struggled, coughed and gasped for 26 minutes of death on Jan. 16, 2014.

Lethal injection drugs in the state of Ohio are made of 500 milligrams of midazolam hydrochloride, a strong sedative; 1,000 milligrams of rocuronium bromide, a muscle relaxer; and 240 milligrams of potassium chloride, used to stop the heart.

I imagine similar combinations are used in physician-assisted suicides. While governments claim this leads to a pain-free death, others are skeptical, myself included. With such strong muscle relaxers and sedatives, it’s possible that those being killed by lethal injection are experiencing an excruciating amount of pain, but they are paralyzed from the sedative and muscle relaxers, making them unable to show it.

This is likely what happened with McGuire. He was given a wrong dose of the sedative, so he was able to show the anguish the drug that stopped his heart caused. What might seem like a painless way to die, rather than dying after being in pain from cancer or disease, may not be as painless as we want to imagine. We could actually be ending our loved one’s lives on this planet in a much more painful way.

Don’t be a part of the spiral away from respect for life. Don’t contribute to a world where suicide becomes a norm. Save lives by showing your support for life, and your distaste for euthanasia.
The sexual assault task force presented the idea for an on-campus center where advocates and other staff would be available for students who have sexually assaulted. This is a fantastic idea, and I think it really shows support for survivors on campus.

However, there is talk that this center would be a "virtual" center for survivors to access. This is a terrible idea and defeats the entire purpose of having a center in the first place.

When people are sexually assaulted, they are scared and lost. A physical space on campus would offer guidance, support and privacy, something that would greatly benefit survivors.

Those who feel unsafe on campus should have a space where they do feel safe, and those who have been physically assaulted will feel the most unsafe in places that are supposed to be home.

An online center, which is hardly a center at all, does not offer the security or the same level of individualized care survivors deserve. An advocate from the Cocoon could help students decide what to do when they are assaulted and help them deal with the strong emotions they are feeling. If the advocate is not easily accessible on campus, this is putting an unnecessary burden on survivors.

The Counseling Center, while a great resource for students, is far away from campus and has limited hours. This limits the care the center can provide.

The same goes for the proposed Sexual Assault Prevention Center. If this space is not easily accessible for all students, then it limits the care that can be provided.

Prevention is also an important part of the center, and having a physical space for survivors shows the University supports them. This can do a small part in changing campus culture to be safer and to further condemn sexual assault.

Having a space where people are working on prevention efforts is also very important.

The task force and implementation team is doing a lot for students and survivors, but there is always more to be done. Having a physical Sexual Assault Prevention Center would greatly benefit students and the University’s culture.

This center is still in the works and nothing is confirmed as of now, but it is something important enough to be talked about, so that’s what people should be doing.

Sexual assault is a heavy and a complicated issue but is something that affects many people across the country and on campus.
## Hot topics at the Undergraduate Student Town Hall

### Grading Policy
- The plus/minus grading scale might go into effect next school year if it’s approved. As of right now, the potential grading policy is still being discussed, said Andy Alt, assistant vice provost of academic affairs.
- Under the new policy, low As would yield a 3.7 GPA rather than a 4.0, USG president Richie Racette said.
- “This could either really help you or really hurt you,” he added.

### Off-campus Housing
- “There’s somewhat of an issue with the landlords and tenants,” Bates said. Health and safety issues with apartments in BG came up at the candidate forum before the Nov. 7 election.
- USG is seeking more involvement with the BG City Council, because council wants to hear more student voices, he added.

### Tobacco-free Campus
- “Health and wellness is trying to accept a grant... making tobacco products not allowed in residence halls or on campus,” Racette said.
- In actuality, the University already accepted a grant of $20,000 from the American Cancer Society.
- The majority of USG does not want to support it because tobacco products are legal in the U.S., Racette said.

### Underaged Drinking
- “The lack of things to do in Bowling Green” is a leading problem behind underage alcohol consumption, Bates said. “It’s either you party, or you study.”
- Bar owners in downtown Bowling Green have not been responsive to USG’s attempts for conversation about the problem, Bates said.

### Medical Amnesty Policy
- The Drug and Alcohol Task Force is a leading force behind a draft for a new University medical amnesty policy, USG vice president Jauntez Bates said.
- The policy would allow students to call police if they overdose on drugs or alcohol without breaking the University student code of conduct.
- “It’s typically used at the University,” Racette said. It is just not a written policy.

### Student Organization Allocation Board
- The SOAB allocates funds to a limited amount of organizations each year.
- Currently, only one undergraduate member serves with the board. USG wants to increase that number to make sure students are being appropriately represented, Racette said.
New COD puts boots on the ground, but little else

By Connor Evans  
Pulse Reporter

The Call of Duty series is the cool kid on the block everyone is waiting to see fall. However, there is no sign of it coming down any time soon. It's a media giant guaranteed to sell millions of copies year after year, so what reason does Activision have to stray from their blueprint? None.

"Call of Duty: WWII" may seem like an overhaul to the series that has progressively gone further and further into the future, but the only difference this change of setting comes with is a lack of jetpacks. Fans of the series will slip right into this year's entry, as the shooting mechanics and overall gameplay remain virtually untouched even in the drastically new setting.

"Call of Duty: WWII" is really three games in one. You have the short, single player campaign, a robust multiplayer suite and a spooky-themed Zombies Mode. Each mode has enough content for one game and are all equally worth your time.

The single player campaign sees a squad of soldiers fight their way through key events of the war. From storming the beaches of Normandy to participating in the Battle of the Bulge, players fight their way through some of the most horrific, yet exciting battles of the war. These events are nothing new to games, but seeing them fully realized on current generation hardware makes them a visual treat. Over the six-hour campaign, however, after all the game's attempts to make me care about my brothers-in-arms, I was unable to recall the names of all but one character. The overall story isn't fantastic and feels all over the place as you are thrown from one major location to the next, but each individual scene is gripping and invigorating.

The horrors of war are on full display in this overly cinematic campaign. It's a by-the-numbers take on the World War II setting, but an enjoyable one at that. From train chases, buildings crumbling around players, and high speed car chases, the entirety of the campaign feels like playing through a big budget blockbuster movie.

The gameplay itself is as sound as ever. Shooting World War II-era guns feels great, as the crack of a shotgun and the ping of an M1 Grande play beautifully with an added level of nostalgia for players who played these games when they were kids. One welcome change to the gameplay is a lack of regenerating health. Players are tasked with picking up health packs from around the map to heal when damaged. The packs, however, feel like a missed opportunity, because at least on easier difficulties, these health kits are laughably abundant.

Each mission is broken up by setting and type of mission. Some missions are more gun blazing where players are tasked with taking a position with sheer force. Others take a forced stealth approach as players quietly sneak around an area taking guys out. These missions are a nice reprieve from the over-the-top set pieces but are rather shallow. No matter the mission, players are forced down narrow areas with little player choice on how they want to tackle objectives. It feels like a step back from recent Call of Duty campaigns that made considerable strides in the right direction in this department.

The short campaign is a pleasant, predictable romp but does little to reinvent the series outside of the new setting. It's definitely worth powering through for the awesome action scenes and for the rock-solid gameplay, but overall, it's nothing to write home about.

Even though the campaign falls flat, a large chunk of players will skip it altogether and head right to the multiplayer. It's the crown jewel of the Call of Duty series and the reason so many people are able to sink hundreds of hours into each year's entry. "Call of Duty: WWII" plays to the strengths of the series while adding in some welcome changes to freshen up the multiplayer with a new mode and player hub.

The main change comes from a hub mode called Headquarters. In this area, players are able to interact with others in between matches and customize your character. It's a nice area to make players feel like they are a part of something bigger, even if the hub area is a straight rip-off from the tower in another Activision game, "Destiny." This is also the area where players are able to open up loot boxes in front of their friends. These loot boxes give random drops that fortunately remain purely cosmetic. They can feel a little obnoxious for players who are not interested in these loot boxes, as they are literally shoved in your face by other players.

The other big addition to multiplayer is the new War game mode. In this new mode, kill/death ratio is thrown out the window, as it is impossible to win if players don't work well together with teammates. It's an objective-based mode that sees each team either attacking or defending a particular area. Being on the attacking team and having to build a bridge to advance as snipers attempt to pick teammates off is an invigorating and sweat inducing experience. Every time I went into a game of War, I was shocked at how different each experience was, as each objective can be tackled in a drastically different way depending on how my squad wanted to handle it. One mission tasks players with guiding three tanks, and they can choose to do them each at a time or spread a team out between the three. It's up to the player to choose and adapt to each situation.

Aside from these two changes, the multiplayer is a familiar addition to the package. Class customization is broken up between different divisions that each have a specific perk attached to them. The expeditionary class comes with incendiary bullets for shotguns whereas the airborne class gets a suppressor for sub machine guns. Each class goes with a certain gun or playstyle, but you are not forced into using them in that way, allowing for more depth in customization.

This customization consists of a basic loadout system that allows players to choose guns and perks to their liking. It's not as deep as it was in previous games, as the "pick ten" system that became a staple of the series is nowhere to be found and is replaced with a more streamlined approach. Still, I felt I was able to get a class that fit my playstyle and felt all my own.

The score streaks that are a staple of the series are here all the same, but feel lackluster. I don't know if this is a product of the lack of options that come along with the World War II setting, but it's a noteworthy disappointment, as these score streaks have become a predominant aspect of the series.

The multiplayer comes with nine maps and nine game modes that are all varied and enjoyable. The gameplay is solid, as each gun has its own feel and accompanying playstyle. The series didn't lose much in the change of setting when it comes to gameplay, as the shooting mechanics of the Call of Duty series remain the top dog of all first person shooters on the market. Players still kill and die at a comical rate, but the way you can instantly respawn and get back into the fight keeps them moving and heart rates up until the end of each match.

The last piece of the Call of Duty puzzle is the cooperative Zombies mode. If people played this mode in previous entries of the series, they will slip right in here. The great thing about this entry in the zombie series is it is exactly as complicated as one wants it to be. If players want to just go for high rounds with a friend by opening up the map and mowing down zombies, they are able to do that and have a blast. Or players can get more complex by attempting to unfold the many secrets the map has to offer while fending off hordes of the undead. It doesn't reinvent the wheel in any way, but is still as addicting as ever and the premier coop mode of the series.

The Call of Duty series has been doing the same thing for over a decade at this point and shows no sign of stopping. "Call of Duty: WWII" is just another example of this. Players who have grown tired of the series will not find the refreshing restart to the series that they may have hoped for, but fans who love Call of Duty year after year are in for one of the best entries in the series.

Rating: 8/10
A mystery worth the price of admission

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

Murder mystery novels are difficult to transition to the big screen, but “Murder on the Orient Express” does it very well. Many aspects of the movie are great. The entire cast of the movie performs marvelously, with not one part looking bad. The cast in mystery movies is very important to get right, and “Murder on the Orient Express” is able to balance a big group of characters with great dexterity. The mystery itself was good as well, and I did not expect the ending.

The focus of murder mysteries is the cast of characters in that movie or novel, and “Murder on the Orient Express” excels in that regard. The movie stars Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot, the world-famous detective. Branagh’s performance as Poirot is one of my favorites of the year, and that is because of his ability to make viewers feel like they are watching an actual detective.

I consistently forgot I was watching a movie during his scenes; that was how real Branagh’s performance felt.

The other members of the cast were great too, with a couple of them standing out. Michelle Pfeiffer as Caroline Hubbard and Daisy Ridley as Miss Mary Debenham are the two main standouts from the rest of the cast.

The mystery in “Murder on the Orient Express” is one of the more interesting ones I have seen or read. I won’t go into too many details here because I don’t want to spoil it, but the movie has one of the best conclusions for a mystery that I have seen in a while. I really enjoyed the road to the end of the mystery as well, with the detective aspect of the mystery being fun to watch.

It was interesting to watch Poirot question all of the passengers, as well as hear their answers. These interrogations also go a long way to helping the viewer feel like they are solving the mystery alongside Poirot, which I really enjoyed.

“Murder on the Orient Express” is a great experience from start to finish. I loved the performance of the cast, especially Branagh as Poirot. The mystery is also interesting, going places that I didn’t expect.

If you’re looking to see a movie this month that isn’t another superhero movie, make sure it’s “Murder on the Orient Express.”

Rating: 9/10
Hockey sweeps Lake Superior State

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team defeated the Lake Superior State Lakers in both games Friday and Saturday nights, winning 3-2 in a shootout Friday night before taking it 5-2 on Saturday.

The first period of Friday's game saw the Falcons take the lead early on a goal from freshman forward Max Johnson less than three minutes into the game, allowing the team to take a 1-0 lead going into the second. The team was able to also outshoot Lake Superior State 11-4 in the first period.

In the second, Lake Superior State tied it up shortly after the beginning of the period with a goal courtesy of J.T. Henke, capitalizing on a power play chance to extend their advantage as the best power play unit in the WCHA. However, the Falcons were able to regain their one-goal-lead at the 6:04 mark on a tally from freshman forward Brandon Kruse, making it a 2-1 game as the teams headed into the third.

As the third rolled around, the team held onto the slim lead until Anthony Nellis for Lake Superior State scored the equalizer at 8:57. Neither team scored again for the remainder of regulation time, sending the game into overtime.

In the first period of overtime, neither team was able to generate many scoring opportunities, moving the game into a second overtime period where the teams skated through three rounds. The game brought the Falcons offense back into the game, as they were able to get eight shots on net to just one by Lake Superior State. However, none found the back of the net as the teams went into a sudden death shootout to determine the winner.

On Saturday, the Falcons were able to get on the board first with a shorthanded goal from junior forward Stephen Baylis at the 3:48 mark of the first period, the team's first shorthanded goal of the season. However, with less than two minutes remaining in the first, Diego Cuglietta for Lake Superior State tied the game back up. The teams headed into the locker room evened up at 1-1.

"Stephen just skated past their guy for the first goal," Bergeron said. "Lukas Craggs made a great play at our blue line, and then just across their blue line for our second shorthanded goal. I just think our penalty kill was strong tonight."

In the second, the Falcons capitalized on another shorthanded chance, as senior forward Mitch McLain regained the lead at the 9:15 mark. Late in the period, Baylis was able to get his second of the game at 18:48 to give the team an insurance goal, which they would hold onto as the teams went into the third.

"I thought (the second goal late) was big," Bergeron said. "Everyone in the building thought a two goal lead, 'uh oh, here we go again,' so I think it was big, it was a reward for a good shift."

The third period saw the Falcons increase their lead even more, with freshman forward Cameron Wright scoring on a power play chance just over two minutes in. However, Lake Superior State would bring it back to a two goal deficit, as Gage Torrel scored at the 7:37 mark. The score would remain the same until late in the game, as Lake Superior State pulled their goaltender. It didn't take the Falcons long to take advantage of it, as McLain shot it into the empty net with less than two minutes to go in the game to seal the 5-2 victory.

Junior forward Stephen Baylis had a four-point night on Saturday.

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The team felt that being able to play in the locker room evened up at 1-1.

"Stephen (Baylis) had the game winner at Tech, Max Johnson had a good move but hit the post, Mitch made a good move at Tech and just missed," Bergeron said. "That had a lot to do with it, where the first time was just one and done."

"We just started to play the game with a better mindset."
- Chris Bergeron
Falcons Head Coach

We feel like last night we had plenty of even strength opportunities," Bergeron said. "When you've got one team on the penalty kill eight times and the team's on the penalty kill six times, that limits the amount of five on five play there is, so you've got to play the game and you take advantage of the opportunities you have, and that's what we did shorthanded. ... I think we're capable, we've just got to do it more often."

The team will next play Friday and Saturday nights on the road against the Minnesota State Mavericks.
Mens basketball wins season opener

By Jamison Terbrack
Sports Reporter

The Bowling Green State mens basketball team defeated the Drexel Dragons in Philadelphia. The Falcons won by a score of 78-69.

“I am happy we were able to earn a tough road win at Drexel,” Falcons head coach Michael Huger said. “Our second-half defense was the key to victory. We will need that same defensive energy for Monday’s home opener against a veteran South Dakota team. We will need a full 40 minutes of relentless energy and focus in order to come away with a victory. I’m excited to see all our fans back in the Stroh Center.”

The Falcons were paced in this one by freshman guard Justin Turner, who had 33 points, seven assists, four rebounds, two steals and one block, with 19 of those points coming in the second half.

“He’s a very good player,” Huger said on Turner. “He can score at all levels. Shoot the three, put it on the floor, can be a good finisher. A very good defender. He’s one of our best perimeter defenders, and he did a great job on both ends, and I told you he was special, and I’m glad he proved me right tonight.”

Sophomore forward Demajeo Wiggins had 14 points and eight rebounds in the game to help out Turner and the Falcons.

“At halftime, we talked about adjustments that we had to make,” Huger said. “Williams had, I want to say, 16 at halftime, and we held him to two in the second half. We didn’t do a good job of boxing him out, and he was able to get a lot of tip-ins and put backs, so the biggest thing we talked about was that adjustment. Demajeo was doing a great job of stepping over to help, but the next guy wasn’t helping the helper, so we had to secure in the second half, and I think we did a really good job of cleaning that up, and our guys just just fought. You know the game’s never over ‘til it’s over.”

The Falcons next game is the home opener on Monday night against South Dakota. The game is at the Stroh Center.

“I am happy we were able to earn a tough road win at Drexel.”
-Michael Huger-
Falcons Head Coach

Football faces Toledo for Battle of I-75

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons football team will take on the Toledo Rockets Wednesday night in the Battle of I-75 for the Falcons’ final home game of the season.

Toledo comes into the game in a tie for first in the Mid-American Conference with a conference record of 5-1, 8-2 overall. However, they are also coming off of a 38-10 loss to the Ohio Bobcats, which the Falcons feel will give them more motivation coming into this game.

“I look for them to be a little bit ornery after last week’s performance,” Falcons head coach Mike Jinks said. “They’ve had some injuries that they’ve had to overcome, as we all have in our conference, but it shows the effect that losing one or two guys can make a big difference, but they’ve got a lot to play for. We’re playing for pride, and when you’ve got a group of guys that’s close, that can be dangerous, but they need this one to get back to the MAC championship.”

The team was also able to make it close in their game against Toledo last season, falling 42-35 after giving up a late touchdown. However, the team wants to keep the same approach time around.

“The biggest thing that I tried to do at that time was to look at it for what it was,” Jinks said. “There’s no more important ball game than the opponent that you have at hand, and the approach will be similar. If you ask the kids throughout the week, they’ll acknowledge that we want bragging rights and that it’s important to our community and our fan base, but at the same time, we’ve got to learn to focus. We’re not to the point yet where we can overlook anybody.”

The team is expecting there to still be a lot of hype surrounding the game, regardless of the records of the two teams.

“It means a little more than it did last year,” Jinks said. “Walking into the game last year, I had heard a lot about it, I feel like I’ve been in a few decent venues and been a part of some big rivalries myself and walking into the Glass Bowl last year, from the second we walked in to the time it ended, on every single play, you could just feel the energy in the stadium, so it was definitely one of the better memories that I’ve had coaching this game and playing in this game, so I definitely have an understanding of how passionate both communities are about this competition.”

“There’s no more important ball game than the opponent that you have at hand”
-Mike Jinks-
Falcons Head Coach
Social Media vs. Your Brain

By April Leygraaf
Reporter

With the ever-growing rise of social media, more research is being done on how increased use of social media is beginning to impact the human brain. Many of these studies have discovered social media can have harmful effects on mental health and can even rewire brains.

National Public Radio social science correspondent Shankar Vedantam performed an experiment on a group of teenagers to analyze how social media impacts the brain. She found when teenagers looked at images on social media sites that had a lot of “likes” or comments, there was more activity near the reward center of the brain. This phenomenon could offer an explanation as to why social media can often seem addicting.

According to the AsapSCIENCE video “Five Crazy Ways Social Media is Changing Your Brain Right Now,” “5-10 percent of internet users are actually unable to control how much time they spend online.”

Though this is only a psychological addiction and not physical dependence, like with drug use, brain scans of internet addicts and drug addicts displayed surprisingly similar results. Social media is a very low effort and instantly rewarding activity, and this combination causes the brain to crave more, which can lead the brain to rewire itself.

“Eighth-graders who are heavy users of social media increase their risk of depression by 27 percent,” San Diego State University psychology professor Jean Twenge said. She said students who have three or more hours of screen time per day are at a 35 percent higher risk factor for suicide. These statistics are repeated, as multiple studies and surveys have shown those who spend a significant amount of time on social media are less happy than those who engage in other activities. Social media can also lead to cyber bullying and lower self-esteem.

Additionally, social media use is it harms people’s ability to multitask rather than enhance it. According to Stanford professors, social media makes people more susceptible to being distracted because it can make it harder to tune out outside stimuli.

Social media, and phone use in general, can also have a harmful effect on sleep. “57 percent more teens were sleep deprived in 2015 than in 1991,” Twenge said.

One reason for this is that teenagers are staying up later because they are scrolling through their social media feeds. However, according to Medical Daily, the blue lights that smartphones emit can actually decrease melatonin production, which makes it harder to sleep. This light can also increase alertness, which also impacts how one falls asleep. One way to curb this issue is to power down the phone an hour or so before going to bed so the brain can power down too.

Social media is a relatively new phenomenon, so its long term effects are yet to be discovered, but researchers will continue to study how it affects brains.
Gender Awareness Week: A calendar of events

By Meredith Siegel
Reporter

Sundays, 8 p.m.: Queer Night has moved from Ziggy's to Howard's Club H. Drag shows, with Vivian Vendetta Sinclair and Rosie D. Riveter, are featured, as well as Deja D. Delattaro and Infiniti Sinclair.

Monday, Nov. 13, 5 p.m.: Paint the spirit rock with Queer/Trans Student Union to show support for trans and gender non-conforming students. Students who want to participate will meet at the rock.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 4 p.m.: QTSU is tie-dying shirts together on University Lawn. T-shirts are available for $5.

Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Self-defense workshop with Feminist Organization Raising Consciousness and Empowerment. QTSU and FORCE are working together to give information for students to feel safer on campus. This event is free for all. It will be held in Eppler Room 102 East.

Saturday, Nov. 18 2:45 p.m.- 2 a.m.: Leelah Alcorn Scholarship Benefit. A scholarship fund-raising event is being held at Howard’s Club H to raise money for trans undergraduate students who may not receive money from their parents. It will be a variety show, including drag, comedy and live music. Cover is $5 and all proceeds will go to the fund. Leelah Alcorn was a trans teenage girl who came out to her parents, who then chose to put her through conversion therapy, a pseudoscientific practice of trying to change the sexual or gender orientation of a person. Leelah, feeling hopeless and abused by her parents, took her own life at 17. The scholarship is to benefit trans youth like her and to keep her name alive. This is the first year the event has been put on. “This is to provide a stepping stone for a trans student,” Neiko Alvarado, QTSU president, said.
Golf course goodbyes at Turkey Open

By Abigail Shifley
Reporter

The Turkey Open Golf Outing took place Nov. 12 at the Forrest Creason Golf Course. According to Kurt Thomas, director of the golf course, this event is the last at the University’s golf course, as the course will stop operating in a few weeks.

To give a brief history of the University’s golf course, it first opened June 7, 1965. A few years after its construction, the golf course was expanded from nine holes to 18 holes to promote the sport at the University.

The course got its current name — the Forrest Creason Golf Course — from the acclaimed golf coach and professor, Forrest Creason. The University decided to put this name-change into effect to honor Mr. Creason’s service after he retired.

Kurt Thomas said 12 to 14 teams usually participate in the Turkey Open; this year, they had a full 14 teams participate.

“We’ve had good turn-out over the years. It’s just kind of a fun event.”

Thomas said the event takes the form of cross country golf, meaning the players each receive a map that scatters them throughout the course. He said the players could go from hole 1 to 5 or 3, so it gives them a new perspective of the course. Because the event is in this form, they have to limit the number of teams to 14.

Thomas said the event has one prize for the team that comes in first place — a frozen turkey. Then, they raffle off a few other turkeys so everyone has a chance to win one.

Overall, the mood on the course was high in spirits despite the cold but there was also some somberness due to the course’s numbered days.

Patricia Peters, one of the participants, said this was her first time in the event. She said her daughter, who is a sophomore at the University, told her to come out.

“We’re very sad that President Mazey has decided to close the course,” Peters said.

Merl Trumbull is another veteran of the course, who has played in every Turkey Open. He said, since his retirement, the course has been like a second home.

“It’s a shame. It’s a beautiful course. I wish they’d rethink it. I hate to see it close.”

Trumbull said he will likely have to give up golf after Forrest Creason’s closure, due to the course’s affordability compared to other courses.