HILLBILLY ROOTS

Author J.D. Vance shared his inspirations and perspectives on *Hillbilly Elegy*, this year’s common read. |PAGE 2

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PHOTO BY IAN CAMPBELL
“Hillbilly Elegy” author shares his inspiration

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

The author of the New York Times Bestseller “Hillbilly Elegy,” J.D. Vance, spoke at the University yesterday for its common read. “Hillbilly Elegy” is a memoir about Vance’s life in Appalachian Kentucky to Southwest Ohio all the way to Yale Law School. There is also a movie in the works, and will be directed by Ron Howard. Vance spoke about many aspects of the book and his life in Kentucky and Ohio. One thing he talked about was why he wrote the book.

“I wanted to write the book because, really, I found myself, when I was in my late 20s at Yale Law School, and for really the first time in my life I felt a bit like a cultural outsider... And, no matter who I encountered and wherever I had been up to that point in my life, and I had spent four years at Ohio State, I always felt like I belonged... I didn’t feel that way at Yale Law School... This sense of belonging and of doing things that had really been hidden mostly to the people who had grown up like I had. You know, I remember people were already...about the jobs they were going to be doing after they graduated from law school. They were confident that they expected to earn six-figure salaries when they graduated from high school, something that nobody really in my family or that I knew of, had ever earned. Then they would already be worried it wasn’t going to be enough. How could I possibly afford my five-figure daycare for my child not even yet born on a six-figure salary?”

Josh Tejkl, class of ’14, read the book, and said Vance’s experiences mirrored his. “I think it was just a relatable situation and my background wasn’t as hectic as anything he describes, but I’m from a small town in Michigan, and I kind of can relate to that,” Tejkl said. “Not a lot of my family went to college, and then kind of being that first generation too, and going through those similar situations.”

Hunter Traugh, a freshman sports management major, said he learned some things from “Hillbill Elegy.” Traugh said, “I am definitely spoiled. I know that some people down in Kentucky don’t have what I have. This book made me learn that stuff.”

Vance’s speech talked some about his book, but much more about his process of writing the book, and what he took from the experiences.

The three aspects that the University wanted to inspire in the common read challenge were perseverance, resistance and grit — and Vance’s story had all of them.
What Hillbilly Elegy got wrong

By Lynzee J. Murray
Guest Columnist

J.D. Vance's Hillbilly Elegy is this year's common read at BGSU. In the book, Vance provides a personal account of his experiences living in southern Ohio and eastern Kentucky. Growing up, Vance's family struggled with poverty, drug addiction, conflict and violence issues that are all too familiar to those living in southern Ohio. While his life in Appalachia was turbulent, Vance eventually went on to join the Marines, attend Ohio State University and Yale Law School.

In the book, Vance examines the issues that those in Appalachia face today and the culture that he feels contributes to the distress in that area.

I happen to be from an area fairly close to where the author was raised: Portsmouth, Ohio. It's located on the border between Ohio and Kentucky. My three years as a graduate student here at BGSU have been my first years living outside of Appalachia. Like Vance, I was raised by working-class parents. There were many times during my upbringing where my family really struggled. I, like Vance, had a front row seat to the "opioid epidemic" that has ravished parts of Appalachia and many other areas of our country. My family has been impacted by drug addiction in ways that I'm still not comfortable speaking about.

Vance's story is vivid, entertaining and, at times, heart-wrenching. With that being said, I found some parts of Elegy's central themes to be damaging to the image of Appalachia and at odds with my own experiences.

Outside of his personal narrative, Vance examines Appalachian poverty and distress through a "personal responsibilities" lens. He critiques the present culture in Appalachia as one that undermines a person's sense of agency, or their belief that their choices matter. He also claims that Appalachians are heavy on rhetoric about the value of hard work but that many people living in Appalachia do not live up to this standard. Instead, he claims that Appalachians frivolously spend their way into debt through purchasing "large TVs and iPads" and are incapable of seeing their own laziness where it exists. Without thoroughly analyzing how the area became so economically distressed in the first place, Vance presents an incomplete picture of Appalachian poverty.

Elegy largely focuses on one type of poverty: one that is willful, in which people depend solely on government aid and do not seek out gainful employment. But according to a 2017 report by researchers at Policy Matters Ohio, nearly 46% of those living in poverty are working. Unfortunately, Ohio has also seen a decline in blue-collar work, which has been the economic backbone of the state. With the disappearance of blue-collar jobs, more Ohioans are forced to turn to lower paying jobs in the hospitality and service sectors, contributing to the area's economic hardship. These problems are amplified by wage stagnation and an unfair state tax policy that benefits corporations over poor, working-class and middle-class citizens. Today in Ohio, out of the top ten most common occupations in the state, seven pay wages so low that full-time workers still qualify for government food assistance (Ohio Blue Collar Jobs Report: Shifting Sectors, Falling Earnings, 2017). These trends are concerning, but they do not seem to support Vance's image of a general lack of work ethic in Appalachia.

Not only does Vance's silence on Appalachia's current and historical economic climate concern me, he also seems to perpetuate certain negative stereotypes about Appalachians in the language he uses. I've seen numerous interviews where he has been called on to interpret the political motivations of the average Appalachian. I'm afraid that Vance's popularity may lead people to form a simplified and stereotyped view of Appalachian life and its culture, based solely on one man's opinions and experiences.

I am happy that Vance has renewed interest in Appalachia, and I don't believe that he purposefully portrayed Appalachians in a negative light. But in emphasizing Appalachians' work ethic and values as their reason for poverty, Vance is doing a disservice to the people he wants to help. To quote Vance, "I believe that we hillbillies are the toughest goddamned people on this earth, but are we tough enough to look ourselves in the mirror and admit that our conduct harms our children? Public policy can help, but there is no government that can fix these problems for us."

While I agree that Hillbillies are the toughest people on this Earth, even tough people need a leg-up. A sensible approach to Appalachia's problems doesn't begin at the bottom but starts at the top by fixing unfair laws that disadvantage poor and middle class families living in this region. This approach will hopefully aid the majority of people struggling in Appalachia.

“Vance has saturated both the left- and right-wing media with his beliefs about Appalachian culture and issues.”
Hollywood scandals aren’t new

By Addie Rivero
Guest Columnist

The illusion of Hollywood glitz and glamour was something I fantasized as a little girl. I practiced my Oscar winning speech when my parents weren’t watching, and I’d write stories about that unattainable life.

Now, I don’t think that young girl would want what Harvey Weinstein’s victims had experienced.

As of Oct. 27, Mr. Weinstein had over 78 accusers, mostly actresses from films the man produced, come forward with similar stories of sexual harassment and in some cases, assault and rape. I took the time this evening to read through the names myself, and I recognized so many of their names such as: Gwyneth Paltrow, Cara Delevingne, Lupita Nyong’o and Angelina Jolie. These women all had a lot of pull in the media, people watch them and hang on their every word and wait for their actions. They all stayed quiet; they didn’t say a thing. I wondered why none of them had come forward to talk about this.

Then I started to figure it out. Trying as best as I could to put myself in their shoes.

Harvey Weinstein is a man that has used the empire of film, theatre and television to turn himself into a powerful and feared producer. His names are on dozens upon dozens Oscar nominated and winning films. He was a god in pop culture; with one snap of his fingers he could ruin an aspiring actress’ career if things didn’t go in his favor.

This power has been going to his head for the past 30 years; he realized when his fame and notoriety among the academy grew the more he could terrorize actresses that come through Miramax projects. Nobody says a word.

But it’s not just Harvey. As time went on, we realized that this same system of predator behavior was happening all over Hollywood with actors and comedians like Kevin Spacey and Louis C.K. who were also accused. Then it spread from Hollywood to the news industry to politics.

The more you read it, the more the story sounds too familiar, portrayed in films in television as the trope of the boss trying to or seducing the subordinate. Other than that, it’s a story I hear so often from my friends: creepy bosses hitting on my friends while they’re working hard flipping burgers.

As much as Hollywood has their hands full with cases like this, we need to look beyond the silver screens a little bit. Something has to change, because it’s not just Hollywood. In just about every industry and every walk of life there is a form of systematic compliance with these kinds of heinous acts. This can travel all the way up to the White House itself. As absolutely terrifying as it is, this is a societal issue that is going to take a lot of time to fix.

I’m asking you to wake up.

Expect a diverse royal wedding

By Anna Bolone
Guest Columnist

I am a self-proclaimed Anglophile. To be more clear, yes, I like Shakespeare; yes, I admire the ‘90s version of David Beckham, and yes, I love scones.

In fact, in 2011 when Kate Middleton married Prince William, my mother let me stay home from school just to watch the royal wedding and eat said scones. There was nothing better than dipping my scone in Earl Grey tea while watching the elegant and soft-spoken commoner walk down the aisle of Westminster Abbey to become the Duchess of Cambridge, with her husband Prince William becoming the Duke of Cambridge. The royal wedding was beautiful in how it was marked by centuries’ worth of tradition, by youthful faces representing a generational monarchical update and by the unity the UK witnessed on that day. Mind you, this is all before Brexit.

On Nov. 27, Prince Harry, the younger brother of the Duke of Cambridge, announced his engagement to the American actress Rachel Meghan Markle, and once again my royal family obsession cast its light immediately. This time it’s different, though. Meghan Markle is not a British-born citizen who hails from an upper middle class family. She is not white and Prince Harry was not her college boyfriend. Instead Markle is biracial and is a divorcée. Markle is a prominent American actress. These are elements the royal family has shunned in the past not once but twice.

The first being with the infamous American actress Wallis Simpson (who Markle is frequently compared to) and how her love with King Edward VIII was so great he decided to step down for her. Simpson was a divorcée. Or that time when Queen Elizabeth’s very own sister Princess Margaret was head over heels in love with the much older Peter Townsend, but because he was also divorced, the Queen had to put an end to the relationship.

I am a huge fan of the Duchess of Cambridge, but Markle is simply in a different position at a different time. Simply by Markle’s ability to discuss what may otherwise be sensitive topics in the eyes of royal family members (such as Markle’s ethnicity, her ‘divorced’ status, etc., etc.) as well as Markle’s dominating conversation shows me she is truly going to make history as a powerful woman. In Kate Middleton’s BBC interview footage with Prince William, it is William who does the majority of the talking without even touching on current international events. I am not saying the Duchess of Cambridge keeps silent on important issues, but what I am saying is that Meghan Markle certainly does not. Her character stands true to how much positive and necessary change the British monarchy is going through.

Kensington Palace’s press release claims that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will be married in Spring of 2018.
Giving the gift of blood

By Megan Pettit
Reporter

As natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey, and catastrophic events like the Las Vegas shooting keep piling up, medical organizations say the number of needed blood donations continues to rise.

On-campus organizations have gone the extra mile to reach students about the blood shortage going on around the country.

“BGSU holds a blood drive about every two months so about four to five a year,” said Kari Anderson, University American Red Cross intern and sophomore marketing student. “We are really trying to get the word out this year by having tables in the Union, doing advertisements around the school and online and putting reminders in Campus Update.”

The need for blood is always there, according to the Community Blood Center representative, Teresa Winner.

“Blood is always needed, sometimes more than others. It depends on the area, the type of blood and even the amount of disaster happening, but you can never have enough supply.”

According to the American Red Cross website, someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds and approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed each and every day.

With numbers like these and the recent events in the United States, donors are always needed which is why the University sponsors organizations like the Red Cross Club.

The Community Blood Center website illustrates sometimes people are unable to give blood because of various reasons. This can be because of visiting certain countries, taking certain medications or underlying medical conditions. The Red Cross Club

Blood Continued on page 10
Bowling Green named best hometown in Ohio

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

The Ohio Magazine selected Bowling Green as the best hometown in Ohio, alongside four other cities. These cities are Marietta, Milford, Mount Vernon and Wooster. Ohio Magazine said Bowling Green won because its “strong connection between campus and community and a shared vision for the future.” Wendy Chambers, executive director of the Bowling Green Convention and Visitors Bureau, played a big part in getting Bowling Green Convention and Visitors Bureau, awarded the award.

“You actually are able to submit online, and there’s all kinds of categories. From everything from business industry, community spirit, your schools and obviously education with the University,” Chambers said. “There’s all kinds of categories that all of those things fall under, and a couple of the things we highlighted was Not in Our Town, the fact that the council passed us as an all-inclusive community. So those are the kinds of things (the Ohio Magazine) are looking for. A progressive downtown, we’re very lucky with all the restaurants and retail that we have in our downtown. We’re pretty vibrant for a community our size.”

This isn’t the first time Bowling Green has won the award. Bowling Green was awarded best hometown ten years ago as well in the Ohio Magazine.

About the difference between the 2007 and 2017 Bowling Green, Chambers said, “I think it’s a lot of things. Our green energy, it means, look at the BG wind farm. We were the first in the state of Ohio. Look at our recycling program… I think it was first in the state of Ohio… The solar fields, green energy is one of the things I’m very proud of and the Not in Our Town and the all-inclusive community.”

Junior broadcast journalism major Parker Kern has reasons to believe Bowling Green is the best hometown.

“I think BG is the best hometown because it’s just a very welcoming and warming atmosphere,” Kern said. “There’s a lot of great people that live in this city. You go out to the store or just walking around town; there’s a lot of smiling faces here. And I think that goes hand-in-hand with the number of students that live off-campus that are also very friendly faces. I feel very comfortable walking around at all hours of the day in this wonderful city. And I know that I’ll be safe, and that I have a lot of great people that live around me, not only in my apartment complex but in the neighborhoods and other places around the city.”

Junior sports management major Matthew Hards also knows why Bowling Green was selected as one of the best hometowns in Ohio.

“BG, in my opinion, is a good hometown because downtown, Main Street, is a beautiful place to be at,” Hards said. “All the stores and shops on the storefront are great, and at times it just makes me want to walk downtown and take some time off… Another reason why is because of the sports that are here. Football has been my favorite sport since I was young, so going to football games has been out of this world.”

Bowling Green was selected as one of the five best hometowns in Ohio because of its connection between the community and the college and its progression from what it was. There will be features in Ohio Magazine about Bowling Green, and the other cities, in the November, January and July editions.
The Giving Tuesday service event this year harbored 557.5 service hours, more than double the 217 hours from last year’s event.

President Mary Fleck of the Student Philanthropy Community said this increase could be because the event hosted more community partners than last year, and recurring participants likely contributed to the number. The 340.5 hour increase came despite the number of participants only increasing from 125 to 218.

Fleck said it is important to have the community partners in an accessible place for students. The event took place in the multipurpose room in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and students were free to come and go as they pleased.

Fleck said, “(Students) don’t have to go too far or take too much out of their day to make a huge impact.”

Haley Weis, a biology major and pre-dentistry University sophomore emphasized the importance of doing things other than for oneself. “I think after Black Friday, Cyber Monday and different events like that where we are kind of indulging in ourselves, it is important to give back to the community and give back to people who are not as fortunate as we are,” she said. She hopes to go back to her home of Chicago after college and work in a lower income community as a dentist.

Some activities at the event included making dog toys and food bags, writing holiday cards and letters to veterans and penning motivational letters to young kids in school. Participants and the Cocoon Shelter’s table made 340 holiday cards.

Students of the University participating in Giving Tuesday emphasized the importance of giving back at this time of year.

Hannah Ryan, a pre-occupational therapist and psychology University sophomore, said, “Especially around the holidays, you realize how blessed you are. It is important to realize that not everyone is as blessed, and to give back and make sure that everyone has a great holiday.”

Ryan plans to achieve her doctorate after graduating from the University. She hopes to open up her own practice and work with children with autism.

A volunteer from The Cocoon Shelter said it is important to give back even when others do not know we are giving back. She explained it is important to care about them even if we don’t know them.

Fleck said both University organizations and community partners were involved in the event’s coordination. The community partners that came to the event included the Cocoon Shelter, Red Cross, United Way, Meals on Wheels, The Wood County Committee on Aging, Food for Thought and the Humane Society. Organizations involved in the planning of the event included the Student Alumni Ambassadors, the Panhellenic Council, the Resident Student Association, the Alumni Laureate Scholars, the National Residence Hall Honorary and a few Greek organizations.

“It is important to realize that not everyone is as blessed...”

— Hannah Ryan —
BGSU Sophomore Pre-occupational Therapist and Psychology Major
Women's basketball defeats Valparaiso

By Brendan Kramer
Sports Reporter

The Falcon women’s basketball team took on the Valparaiso Crusaders on Tuesday night at the Stroh Center. The Falcon's picked up a thunderous home victory over the Crusaders by a score of 90-77 improving their record to 6-1.

The Falcons were led by junior guard Carly Santoro once again when she put in yet another thrilling performance Tuesday Night. 23 of Santoro’s 29 total points came in the 3rd and 4th quarters. Those 29 points came in the form 8-of-11 shooting from the field and an impressive 13-of-16 shooting from the free-throw line. She also added 13 rebounds and 6 assists to the stat-sheet picking up her 6th double-double in just 7 games. Junior guard Sydney Lambert also came up with 17 points on 6-of-11 shooting with 5 of those 6 buckets being three-pointers.

The Valparaiso Crusaders got contributions from Dani Franklin in the form of 17 points and from guard Nicole Konieczny with 13 points. Those performances just did not appear to be enough to knock off the Falcons at home in front of one of the loudest crowds the Stroh Center has seen this year.

It wasn’t a smooth flight for these Falcons though. In the very first five minutes, the team was staring down a 7-0 deficit and it was beginning to look bleak. That is until Falcons head coach Roos called a timeout.

“I told the team (during the timeout) that this is exactly the way this team opened up against Miami,” Roos said. “Valparaiso was much louder than us during warmups and I knew we would be a little tired to start considering we’ve had three games in five days. I told them, hey I feel really confident because I can recognize when we may come out a little slow. And I hope you feel just as confident in me knowing what I’m going to say next. I told them that we don’t have a seven-point play. You get two consecutive scores and two consecutive stops and then its seven to six and we’ll be fine. They bought into that idea.

The team truly did step up following the timeout. The Falcons did something quite uncharacteristic for this year’s team. They had an exceptional third quarter. BGSU opened up the third with a 14-4 run which brought them to a 53-34 lead with 5:40 remaining in the period.

“I wrote on the board, we're playing two fourth-quarters… period,” Roos said. “I was trying to get the scorer's table to put four up there instead of three. I mean we have to look at the third quarter differently. It was nice to see that our second and third quarters were really strong compared to previously.”

This offensive push in the third helped them coast their way to victory and pick up their sixth win already this year. Having six wins this early on in the season is eye-opening due to the fact that the 2016 squad could only gather eight wins in total by the end of the year.

The team gets to enjoy some well-deserved rest and will see action next on Wednesday night. The Falcons are set to face a tough challenge against Big East opponent Xavier Musketeers at home. The team looks to continue their early season success in what looks to be a competitive contest.
Hockey set to face Bemidji State

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcon hockey team will face the Bemidji State Beavers on Friday and Saturday night, as the Falcons will look to outlast Bemidji State's top returning players.

“I’m expecting a very difficult weekend,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “I know that they have respect for us and we have respect for them, so they’re not taking us lightly because of where we were picked or where they were picked (in preseason polls). I’m looking for it to be a good, hard WCHA weekend, which is very similar to every other WCHA weekend.”

Bemidji State senior goaltender Michael Bitzer and senior forward Gerry Fitzgerald have been their best players, with Bitzer starting nearly all the games this season with a save percentage of .897 and goals against average of 2.79, while Fitzgerald leads the team in points with 13, scoring four goals and nine assists along the way.

Bemidji State is also coming off of a series split against the Princeton Tigers; however, they feel that the playing styles of the two teams are completely different.

“This is a team that we’ve played a bunch over the last few years,” Bergeron said. “Their top guys are really good, Gerry Fitzgerald and Myles and Leo (Fitzgerald) are playing at a high level as well, obviously Michael Bitzer is the returning player of the year or, arguably, goalie of the year for sure.”

Despite Bemidji State winning the regular season championship last season, they have gotten off to a difficult start this year, going 2-3-1 in the WCHA and 5-5-2 overall.

“Their only really poor weekend on paper was against Minnesota State,” Bergeron said. “But Bemidji is really good and what happened last year I think the stars did align and we were a victim of that the very first weekend of the year and got swept up there, so it’s almost hard to match what went on from Michael Bitzer out, as good as Michael Bitzer was last year, but you talk about capable, this group is absolutely capable.”

Bemidji State senior goaltender Michael Bitzer.

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

Senior forward Brett D’Andrea looks to shoot in a game earlier this season.

The styles of Princeton and Bowling Green, they’re opposite,” Bemidji State head coach Tom Serratore said. “We’ve played Bowling Green enough, we know what to expect and we know how we have to play, the biggest thing is that you have to have good special teams, and we’re going to have to execute.”

With the Bemidji State goaltending being so good, the team believes that they will have to be consistent offensively for the two games.

“I think it puts pressure on our offense,” Bergeron said. “Our offense has been hit or miss, we think that if we can give up less than three goals, that’s the focus, Michael Bitzer doesn’t change that. Where the issue becomes is if you’re only going to give up less than three and that’s a good thing, then we have to score more than two and haven’t been consistent with that, so I think the pressure is on our offense.”

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

Senior forward Mitch McLain looks to pass against Miami.

Sophomore goaltender Ryan Bednard faces Miami earlier this season.
A lot of people think the process is going to be painful when that isn’t the case at all.

— Teresa Winner  
Community Blood Center representative

Another way to help the cause is simply by donating. According to the American Red Cross website, donations can sound scary, but they are very safe. The webpage gives a better understanding of the actual donation process for first-time donors.

The donation process starts with a short registration process, followed by a mini physical to ensure donors are healthy enough to give blood. After the donor is cleared, the donation process is ready to begin. The donation process itself takes about 8-10 minutes for a whole blood donation. This equals about one pint of blood. After the donation process, the donor receives refreshments and some snacks to allow the body to adjust. Donors can donate blood every 56 days when their blood supply is replenished.

Winner believes some are afraid to donate because of some common misconceptions about the donation process.

“A lot of people think the process is going to be painful when that isn’t the case at all. Probably 80 percent of our donors, even those who have donated over a hundred times, think the finger prick to test hemoglobin levels are the worst part. The rest is a breeze,” she said.

Winner also pointed out that many people confuse giving blood for having a blood test.

“Some patients think they need to fast before coming because they confuse giving blood with taking a blood test for a doctor. They are completely different, and the experience will be much better with having enough to drink and eat before the donation,” said Winner.

Students such as Rachel Rusk, a freshman business administration major, understand the fears but never look back when it comes to donating blood.

“We’ve always just thought it was a great thing to do, not to mention your blood will regenerate so you’re literally not doing any harm to yourself. Might as well save people who need it,” she said.

Students may not see just how much their donation can really do.

According to the Community Blood Center website, one donor can save up to three lives by donating just a pint of blood.

“Part of me feels like people don’t understand how much one blood donation can really do. I mean, you get to sit down for like 20 minutes, get free food and save a couple lives in the process. It also makes you feel really good afterward,” said Rusk.

For more information and statistics about donating blood or to learn how to volunteer at a blood drive, visit the American Red Cross website at www.redcrossblood.org or join the Red Cross Club on campus. Follow BGSU Blood Drives on Twitter to get up to date information for on-campus blood drives as the need never stops.
On-campus housing will stay consistent next year

By Meredith Troxel  
Reporter

This year came with many differences around campus. One big change was in the office of Residence Life. Last year, the University decided to close Harshman Hall, after many complications with the building that would leave a health risk to future occupiers.

This closure caused less room on campus for the ever-growing incoming classes. Over 100 first-year students are housed in Falcon Heights and Offenhauer Towers, which are usually all upperclassmen dorms.

In some halls, including Falcon Heights, three students are in a room that was previously for fit two. This does not stop with first-year students.

According to the University’s rules, second-year students are required to live on campus. With new students taking rooms in upperclassmen dorms, sophomore students are living in extra classes. Over 100 first-year students are housed in Falcon Heights, three students are in a room that was previously for fit two. This does not stop with first-year students.

Another big change was that rooms were self-picked, but the students were given times randomly. According to Interim Director of Residence Life, Joshua Lawrie, the self-selection process started three years ago, and has increased the satisfaction students have with their rooms.

In the past, these times were given out by class standing and credit hours. Seniors choosing to live on campus were allowed to choose first, followed by juniors and then sophomores.

Lawrie explained that housing next year will be similar if not the same as this year. Residence Life is not looking to change anything big, to keep logistics smooth and to increase overall on-campus students’ satisfaction.

To see what current students felt about the changes this year, a survey was given to their respected class Facebook pages, in which 125 responses were collected. Ninety-one of these students said that they live on campus. Thirty-four percent of those who responded said that they are concerned with the current on-campus housing situation.

When students were asked about their biggest pet peeve of living on-campus, the most common responses were price, parking and overall cleanliness of the residence halls.

Living at an apartment complex such as Falcon’s Pointe for a full school year is cheaper or comparable to a dorm with meal plan. Some students were concerned with the cleanliness of their communal bathrooms and the laundry facilities in their hall.

Almost all students who responded to the survey believe the best fix for housing is to build a new residence hall, but this comes with many other decisions. For the University, this takes a few years of deliberation and is a big expenditure.

“There are some preliminary conversations (about a new hall). People are always talking about what the future of our campus will look like, but no shovels are being put in the ground or anything at this point.”

— Joshua Lawrie  
Interim Director of Residence Life  
Bowling Green State University

“If someone has a question about housing, their roommate or where they are going to live next year they should always email us, call us or stop up.”

— Joshua Lawrie  
Interim Director of Residence Life  
Bowling Green State University

His advice to students that are having problems with their living arrangements? Seek help from Residence Life.

“I think what the biggest thing is people will have a road block or something they are not sure of, and they don’t know where to go. If someone has a question about housing, their roommate or where they are going to live next year they should always email us, call us or stop up. We will work individually with folks to try and find a solution,” Lawrie said.
Meet your Morale Captains: Tewana Smiley

BY BRIONNA SCEBBI

What inspired you to become a Morale Captain?
My freshman year of college I went to ZiggyThon as a support system for some of my friends not knowing what it was and fell in love with everything and everyone that the organization literally and figuratively stands for!

What goals do you have for ZiggyThon?
A personal goal I have this year is to finally hit the comma club; I’ve always wanted to, but I have yet to do it since I’ve joined Dance Marathon. My goal is not only comma club but the Kalie club, in which I raise $1,600 in honor of our miracle child, Kalie, who passed away recently. Also, I would like to branch out more and get other people to love Dance Marathon as much as me. This organization has given me so much and helped me grow spiritually and emotionally, and I only want others to experience it.

What are you most excited about for this year’s Dance Marathon program?
I’m so so so excited to be a Morale Captain this year but also to grow closer to the miracle families. I’m excited to dance with the other Morale Captains and make as many miracles as possible this year. This may be my last year in Dance Marathon— if I graduate on time—and I just want to make the most out of it all while I’m here.