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University drug policy seeks implementation

By Paul Garbarino
City Editor

Students for Sensible Drug Policies (SSDP) has plans to get their proposed Medical Amnesty policy approved by the end of the year, which would amend the University’s current drug policies and grant certain drug abuse cases exemptions from legal sanctions.

Undergraduate Student Government unanimously voted for its implementation back in Nov. 2017. Now, current SSDP president, Robert Goldsmith, is speaking with the Graduate Student Senate and hopes to gain their vote and move the policy up through the higher administration.

The new policy would incentivize and motivate substance abusers, or those witnessing substance abuse, to seek medical help without worrying about facing legal trouble.

“It’s just saying we understand that there are times where people will be irresponsibly using substances, sometimes to the effect of people being in actual danger like emergency situations,” Goldsmith said. “In the event of emergency services necessitating an issue, you can have the peace of mind to do it without worrying about legal sanctions.”

The policy, however, does not excuse or protect those who flagrantly or repeatedly violate the University’s Code of Conduct and is only applicable to straightforward cases of alcohol/drug over-consumption.

Read the rest of the story at www.bgfalconmedia.com
Perks of being tech-savvy

By Shiva Bhusal
Columnist

I was raised in rural Nepal, a small country in South Asia, and I was completely naïve about technology until I completed high school. I was so naïve that I literally was not confident enough to turn on a computer on my own.

This helped me avoid distractions caused by the internet and allowed me to get involved in physical sports and read books, but it also kept me away from the glamour, excitement and enigma of the world outside Nepal.

It took me a couple of years to realize the power of technology and its role in improving the lives of people around the world.

One common misconception is that technology is just for the nerds. This misconception assumes most people make use of technology at a limited frequency, which may have been true ten or fifteen years back.

This no longer applies to the modern-day world that is encumbered with the internet, social media, mobile devices, smart vehicles and smart houses. In today’s world, competence with existing technology is a mandatory skill for everyone, especially students.

Imagine getting stuck while installing simple software on your computer and visiting ITS for help. Imagine getting a security-related message on your computer and not knowing what to do next. If we spent a bit of time in learning and trying things ourselves, it saves a lot of our time and effort in the long-term. More importantly, it makes us competent enough to help others who are facing similar troubles.

Becoming tech-savvy is not about knowing everything about technology. It is also not about sophisticated skills like programming an android application or knowing how to set up a server machine. Higher abilities with technology are always appreciated, however, tech-savviness is more about being confident about the basic technologies we use in our daily life.

One of the perks of being a tech-savvy is that with the right use of technology, one can complete the same task in a more efficient and elegant manner. Information theft and other cyber crimes are common these days, and a tech-savvy person may move precautions against such attacks and is also better prepared to cope with the aftermath.

Higher abilities with technology are always appreciated, however, tech-savviness is more about being confident about the basic technologies we use in our daily life.”

— Shiva Bhusal—
Columnist

Competence with technology helps us better understand the information network governing our daily life and helps us explore the learning possibilities beyond the classes offered at school.

Even most of the non-tech companies these days use technologies like machine learning, artificial intelligence and data analytics to better serve their customers. It is crystal clear that they love tech-savvy people, because a team of such people will equip them to cope with future problems.
Stop mental health jabs

By Heidi Larson
Columnist

President Trump recently received a mental exam for dementia during his routine physical examination. His physician, Dr. Ronny Jackson, declared him in excellent health.

Jackson has also examined Obama and Bush, but Trump is the first president to have a mental exam. Trump passed the Montreal Cognitive Assessment with a perfect score of 30/30. People need to stop accusing Trump of being crazy or having Alzheimer’s. Such accusations are untrue and hurtful to those who do suffer from mental health problems.

The jokes and jabs stigmatize mental health. I know of loved ones who slowly succumbed to dementia. It’s not a joke.

Now, before you accuse me of loving Trump, such knee-jerk insults distract from legitimate criticisms of Trump. We have free speech, and we should exercise it to guard democracy, not dissolve into name-calling.

We need to be better than the escalating, flaming comments section of the internet. We can and should discuss, like intelligent adults, how Trump’s behavior and language are not befitting the office of the president. If we believe the President should not use expletives, we should not use them either.

Taking things a step further, we could argue the President of the United States should not use Twitter. There’s plenty of evidence to support that argument without running to ad hominem attacks about Trump’s alleged personality disorders and mental illness.

If ever there was a time when it was easy to criticize a leader without resorting to falsehoods, it is now. We can use logic and deconstruct public figures’ actions and policies without questioning their sanity. For example, instead of asking if a politician is insane, we should ask if they have financial interests motivating their bizarre behavior.

Let’s avoid being armchair psychiatrists who “diagnose” people we’ve never met in person.

Not even psychiatrists should weigh-in on Trump’s mental health without examining him in person. Psychiatrists who are members of the American Psychiatric Association are actually forbidden from commenting on the mental health of public figures in what is known as the Goldwater Rule.

The Goldwater Rule was created after Barry Goldwater ran for president. Psychiatrists accused him of mental disorders. He lost the race, and he successfully sued the psychiatrists for libel.

People who are unfamiliar with dementia may think that Montreal Cognitive Assessment tasks like drawing a cube, identifying a lion and remembering five words are easy. They are easy for people with normal cognitive function, but not for people with dementia. This goes to show mental health is misunderstood.

Fear of N. Korean threats

By Kevin Michel
Columnist

Naturally, people are inclined toward instincts of survival and preservation. There are other ways to view our ultimate end, but for the purpose of this column, it is useful to acknowledge the fact that, deep down, humans tend to strive for preservation. With this in mind, let’s turn our attention to North Korea, primarily its leader Kim Jong-un, and make the claim that he may not be as insane as the majority of Americans say he is. No, I am not defending him, but maybe we can paint him in a different light that would help us understand why we are in this war of words.

Since 1948, the Kim dynasty (also referred to as the Mount Paektu Bloodline) has seen the dominant force in the West intervene with rulers such as Fidel Castro, Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi. While the majority of the regimes the U.S. has intervened with have been quite recent, the Kim dynasty was still built upon a fear of democracy and progression. Keeping and consolidating power is the ultimate end for the Kim dynasty. However, fear is the important concept here, because operating out of fear leads to irrational decisions.

Now, contrast that with a leader whose actions can be interpreted as always acting in accordance with a fear of losing power, with a leader fearful for the longevity of his power in Donald Trump. If we are primed to act for our own preservation, but are reacting to fear, then as stated before, irrational decisions will follow. And, with the entirety of world diplomacy at the mercy of one man’s Twitter feed, it is not wholly implausible to see a global conflict, whether involving nuclear weapons or not, come into existence. But this will not be the case.

The root of every news headline we see involving the U.S. and North Korea is fear. Each government is not fearful of each other, but fearful of losing its governance and power over the people they rule. This explains the escalation of verbal threats between these two states. Each government sees the other as an opportunity to show how strong they can be. A recipe like this is a disastrous one, and people will be affected. But again, I do not see any further conflict between the U.S. and North Korea escalating above the sanction phase. We can calm down and relax about full scale nuclear war for now, but we do need to remember that fear will lead to irrational decisions. If we have two states operating in accordance with fear, naturally there may be irrational decisions as a result.
Although the days are getting longer, many of us still have the winter blues. The characteristics of the colder, dark seasons of fall and winter can bring forth something more serious than the case of the winter blues: Seasonal Affective Disorder.

The terms define a number of depressive symptoms that are brought on by changing seasons. It is more common in the winter, however, symptoms can be present in the summer.

“Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that comes and goes with the seasons, typically starting in the late fall and early winter and going away during the spring and summer,” the National Institute of Mental Health states on their website. “Depressive episodes linked to the summer can occur, but are much less common than winter episodes of SAD.”

Symptoms resemble other mood disorders, like major depressive disorder and manic depression. Many people self-diagnose themselves with Seasonal Affective Disorder.

“In my opinion, I certainly do have SAD. But I’ve never been diagnosed with it,” Greg Archer, former University student, said. “My depression tends to get worse in the winter and my mood improves in the spring.”

The NIMH states that the disorder is easily self-diagnosed, though. While other mood disorders are hard to diagnose and require a qualified mental health professional, SAD has symptoms easily identifiable by those affected.

Symptoms include:
- Having low energy
- Hypersomnia
- Overeating
- Weight gain
- Craving for carbohydrates
- Social withdrawal

“I found myself going out less during the winter. At first, I thought it was just because of the weather,” Archer said about his Winter Seasonal Affective Disorder. “It’s not like I wanted to drive in bad weather. But I noticed it happened a couple winters in a row, and my depression got much more pronounced.”

There are several ways to treat SAD which are similar to other mood disorder treatments. For example, people with SAD should partake in more physical activity, participate in talk therapy and practice mindfulness. In severe circumstances, people with SAD can seek out medications to help improve their mood.

While Winter and Summer SAD are similar, Summer SAD is less common and presents different symptoms.

“I found myself going out less during the winter. At first, I thought it was just because of the weather. It’s not like I wanted to drive in bad weather.”

Greg Archer
former University student

Summer Symptoms
- Poor appetite with associated weight loss
- Insomnia
- Agitation
- Restlessness
- Anxiety
- Episodes of violent behavior

Those with summer SAD are usually people who are more susceptible to heat or are used to living in colder climates. The symptoms are basically the opposite of winter SAD, but the effects of each are equally serious and require similar treatment.

Anyone who suspects they have SAD can contact their primary care provider for more guidance. The University’s counseling services can be reached at (419)-372-2081.
Nintendo evolves, keeps play interesting

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

Nintendo is the Disney of video games. This is represented in the way it crafts its games, hardware and outside peripherals. Some of these did not pan out as well as Nintendo had hoped, such as the Nintendo Wii U or the Virtual Boy. However, even in these failures, and especially in its successes, Nintendo shows what no other console manufacturer has, and that is pure, unadulterated joy. Their games may not be the best looking in terms of photorealism, but if you ask me, I’d prefer to have fun playing the game rather than looking at pretty visuals any day.

One of Nintendo’s more famous ways of making games is creating the game play style first, then seeing if it will work with an established franchise. For example, “Kirby’s Epic Yarn” was originally designed to be a brand new franchise. But Nintendo thought the game would be a good addition to the Kirby franchise, so Good-Feel, the developers of the game, changed the game. This way of creating a game is perfect for Nintendo’s mantra: the game should first be fun to play, then look at everything else.

The newest Nintendo product that was just unveiled, Nintendo Labo, is a perfect embodiment of their love for creating things for all people. Nintendo Labo looks to be a new way to play games and in a way that has not been created before. The new creations revealed by Nintendo last Wednesday were different, and that is why Nintendo is great. It tries to find the new thing before it’s there, and this has led to some of the failures mentioned above, but it also led to big successes, like the Wii.

Sometimes to a fault, Nintendo creates most of their games with all ages in mind. For games like Mario and Kirby, this is perfect. Platformers are great entry-level games and ramp up the difficulty well, allowing many people to enjoy them. It doesn’t hurt that Nintendo is the best in the business when it comes to making games in this genre. Then, Nintendo has franchises like Metroid and the Donkey Kong Country games for people that enjoy a challenge. “Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze” is one of the most difficult games I’ve played, and it was created by Retro Studios, a second-party subsidiary of the oft-considered kiddy company Nintendo.

Nintendo is one of the best video game companies in the world because of its willingness to change their games, and rethink the conventions of a series. Look at the 3D Mario series. Nintendo created one of the most important and innovative games of all time for the Nintendo 64, “Super Mario 64,” and then didn’t release another one in the 3D Mario series for six years. Even then, it was radically different from “Super Mario 64,” and that game is “Super Mario Sunshine.” The game was not as lauded as Mario 64, but did bring many new things to the franchise like the FLUDD and full voice-acting, other than Mario. But, Nintendo didn’t stop there. In 2007 and 2010 respectively, they released two of the highest-rates games ever made, “Super Mario Galaxy” and “Super Mario Galaxy 2,” which changed the series again. Then, the series went smaller with the underrated “Super Mario 3D Land” and “Super Mario 3D World.” It all culminated with the 2017 release of “Super Mario Odyssey,” that brought back some of the things fans wanted, like an open-world type game, but also added the capture mechanic, changing the way players go around the level. Look at all of the changes which have been made in just a seven-game span.

The Nintendo Switch looks to be the reinvigoration of Nintendo.

After years of taking clues from “The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time,” “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” changed so much about the Zelda series that it almost feels like it is not even a part of the same series. The game is all about being able to do whatever the player wants, whenever the player wants. The series hasn’t had that since the original game in the series, and even that game had some linearity. Breath of the Wild allows the player to do anything in any order they choose, or to not do them at all. If the player wants, they can skip all the dungeons and go straight to the final boss. Maybe I’ll try that in my next run through the game.

In the days of countless sequels that release year-after-year, Nintendo the company that keeps changing what it does, even after something succeeds. Nintendo still has similar games. The New Super Mario Bros. series has been fairly criticized for being too similar to each other, but the way Nintendo creates is something gamers should cherish now. The company may not be here forever.
Jeff Rosenstock’s “Post-” timely and anthemic

By Connor Evans
Pulse Reporter

Sometimes you need an artist to put everything into context for you. On Jeff Rosenstock’s new album, “Post-,” he does just that. With all the confusion and noise that is going on right now in the world, it takes a Jeff Rosenstock album to make everything fit into place. A New York rocker formerly of Bomb the Music Industry fame, he surprise released his latest album, “Post-,” just over a year after his breakout album “WORRY.” It was hard to imagine Rosenstock living up to the high bar that he set for himself back in 2016, but he clears the bar with distance to spare as he comes through with keen one liners, power pop anthems and a magnetic album unlike any other.

No track better exemplifies this than opener, “USA.” “USA” is a seven-minute, multi-phased opus that keeps you on your toes from beginning to end while setting up the rest of the record. The track kicks off with him essentially shouting the lyrics at the listener. He has never been a fantastic singer, but the way he throws himself into a performance is engaging and enthralling. The track eventually swirls into an ambient drone around the mid-way point that is melodic and beautiful. It lets the track build to the magnificent end of the track. As the song comes back in, it ramps up with Rosenstock murmuring the lyrics, “We’re tired and bored” over and over again. As the guitars start to pull back in and the track gets louder, it’s almost impossible to not sing along as he shouts, “et tu USA, et tu et tu USA.” Many people have some pent up anger when it comes to the current state of affairs in the United States, and Rosenstock plays into that with this ferocious opener.

The album then goes into a slew of shorter tracks that keep the energy high and continue to take jabs at the establishment. “Yr Throat,” “Powerlessness” and “TV Stars” are all highlights in their own right that range from breakneck tunes to soaring power ballads. It seems as if he went into each track with a message in mind and finds the best way to say it in the short time he has. Each track is unique in its own right, but they all fit into the theme of the record, making it a cohesive masterpiece.

The production is another aspect worth mentioning, as it can make or break a punk album. Often it can be too muddy or too pristine. It’s important to find a middle ground, and I think Rosenstock and Co. found that here. When an instrument needs to shine through, it steals the show. From the punchy drums on “Beating My Head Against the Wall,” to the smooth guitar solo on “Yr Throat” everything sounds meticulously in place all while keeping a grimy tone that is necessary for this kind of record.

The last two tracks, “9/10” and “Let Them Win” close out the album in a grand and fitting conclusion. “9/10” is a plucky ballad that pulls at the heartstrings. As he sings about a girl that he just can’t seem to get out of his head. Rosenstock even brings on long time partner Laura Stevenson to sing along on the chorus and to play into the love stricken tone the track brings.

The album closer, “Let Them Win”, is the perfect bookend. It is defiant, uncompromising and powerful. As Rosenstock and friends howl, “We’re not gonna let them win,” It’s near impossible to not get caught up in it and sing along. It is the cherry on top of an already phenomenal album as it fades at the end into a serine melody of melodic synthesizers that puts the capstone on a masterclass in what a punk record should be in 2018. “Post-” is a great way to kick of the year in music and leaves me excited to see what Jeff Rosenstock has up his sleeve in the future.

Rating: 10/10
Hockey sweeps Alaska Anchorage

By Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon hockey team swept the Alaska Anchorage Seawolves, defeating them 3-2 on Saturday night after winning 6-2 on Friday night.

In the first period of Saturday's game, Alaska Anchorage was able to get on the board first with a goal from forward Tad Kozun at the 7:22 mark. The lead remained the same until late in the period when Alaska Anchorage forward Alec Butcher scored with seven seconds remaining in the first to give them a 2-0 advantage heading into the locker room.

Despite being down early, the team was still satisfied with the way they played early on.

"I thought we were skating and creating chances, I didn't dislike our first period at all," Bergeron said. "I didn’t like the second goal, we can’t have a defenseman get walked like that with under a minute left in the period, but I thought our team had a decent first period, with the exception of scoring."

The second period saw the Falcons cut the lead in half as junior defenseman Chris Pohlkamp scored at the 6:48 mark. However, Alaska Anchorage still held a 2-1 lead at the end of the period.

The team also felt they were able to create scoring opportunities throughout the second period.

"You’re in a situation where you win a period and you win the game," Bergeron said. "We were obviously creating opportunities, whether they be power play opportunities or five on five opportunities, we were creating chances around the other team’s net. We weren’t executing around the other team’s net, we were missing the net too much, we were not hard enough on pucks, whatever it may be."

The third period was a turning point for the Falcons, however, as just over a minute in, freshman forward Max Johnson capitalized on a power play chance to tie the game up at two apiece. While the Falcons continued to outshoot Alaska Anchorage through the third, the game remained tied until just under seven minutes remaining when freshman forward Brandon Kruse found the back of the net for the Falcons to give the team their first lead of the game.

"I chipped it to Casey (Linkenheld), who made a great play. He passed it back to me and I was just trying to get my stick down because I saw it coming and I was trying to get anything towards the net."

Brandon Kruse
Freshman Player

"I liked our group’s resiliency. I think we were skating and I think we were creating pretty much most of the night."

Chris Bergeron
Falcons Head Coach

"The third period was a turning point for the Falcons, however, as just over a minute in, freshman forward Max Johnson capitalized on a power play chance to tie the game up at two apiece. While the Falcons continued to outshoot Alaska Anchorage through the third, the game remained tied until just under seven minutes remaining when freshman forward Brandon Kruse found the back of the net for the Falcons to give the team their first lead of the game."

"I chipped it to Casey (Linkenheld), who made a great play," Kruse said. "He passed it back to me, and I was just trying to get my stick down because I saw it coming. I was trying to get anything towards the net."

While Alaska Anchorage eventually pulled their goaltender for the extra attacker with roughly a minute and a half left to play, they would be unable to make a comeback as the Falcons took the 3-2 victory to complete the sweep.

"I liked our group’s resiliency," Bergeron said. "The pucks obviously didn’t find the net consistently until the third period and even then it seemed like there were chances that seemed like could have gone in very easily, but I thought we defended pretty well for the most part, obviously going down 3-0 would have been very difficult, but we didn’t allow that to happen."

On Friday, the Falcons got off to a hot start as freshman forward Cameron Wright scored at the 6:43 mark of the first period to give the team a 1-0 lead, followed up just less than three minutes later with another Falcon goal as freshman forward Max Johnson scored to double the team’s lead. That wouldn’t be all of the scoring for the team. That wouldn’t be the end of their scoring, as just past the halfway point of the first period, senior forward Brett D’Andrea tipped in a shot to make it a 3-0 game. This prompted Alaska Anchorage to pull starting goaltender Olivier Mantha for Brody Claeyss.

"He’s kind of their rock back there," Senior forward Mitch McLain said. "With the last four years playing against him, he’s a good goalie, but you get that momentum going and they have to make a switch to kind of change things up. It’s a confidence thing for us and everyone wants to contribute and play offense and get in the O-zone and that’s exactly what we wanted to do."

The goaltending switch may have rallied the Alaska Anchorage offense, however, as forward Nathan Renouf scored at 14:09. The Falcons responded with under two minutes remaining in the period with a goal from McLain to give the team the 4-1 lead going into the second period.

In the second, the team again jumped off to a good start with a goal from center ice courtesy of junior defenseman Adam Smith just over a minute into the period. The offense cooled off for both teams with the Falcons maintaining a 5-1 lead heading into the third period.

The third saw Alaska Anchorage defenseman Mason Anderson score at the 4:48 mark as they attempted to make a comeback, but that would be all the offense they would get as senior forward Tyler Spezia sealed the win for the Falcons with another goal at 15:38 to make it a 6-2 win.

"With the exception of a few D-zone shifts where I thought they just played faster than we did, I thought we played the game basically the way we wanted to play it," Bergeron said.

The team will next play on Friday and Saturday nights on the road against the Lake Superior State Lakers.
Women’s basketball falls to Ohio Bobcats

By Brendan Kramer
Sports Reporter

The Falcon women’s basketball team fell to the Ohio Bobcats 70-63 on Saturday afternoon, ending the team’s two game winning streak. The Falcons were led by senior guard Haley Puk with 14 total points, while junior guard Sydney Lambert added 13 points. Carly Santoro provided 13 points along with 9 rebounds.

Ohio showcased a balanced offensive attack with six players scoring seven points or more in the contest. Cierra Hooks led the way with 20 points and eight rebounds and Gabby Burris contributed 12 points.

The Falcons played the Bobcats tough for the majority of the contest. The score was all tied up at the end of the first. The third quarter was much of the same with Ohio coming out that period only up one point.

“Starting off, we pushed tempo and got open looks, hit the passes and made our shots,” Puk said. “We really played well as a team. But then their defense picked up, and it really slowed down our tempo. We just didn’t get the looks we got in the first half.”

The Falcons suffered from a 5 minute scoreless drought which eventually led to Ohio sneaking out of Bowling Green with a crucial conference win. This loss drops Bowling Green to 10-8 overall, while Ohio draws even with the Falcons with the win at 10-8 overall as well.

“Stuff we were able to get in the first half, we were unable to get in the fourth quarter,” Falcons head coach Jennifer Roos said. “We went scoreless for five minutes. We can’t go scoreless for that many minutes. I thought it would go back-and-forth, and they had the last ‘back.’”

This loss also dropped the Falcons to 2-5 in the MAC.

“We really wanted to get this win so we could be 3-0 against the (MAC) East,” Puk said. “But we’re not going to put our heads down. We always keep fighting. So we’re going to keep pushing.”

The team will next play Wednesday night on the road against the Ball State Cardinals.

Men’s basketball falls to Central Michigan

By Jamison Terbrack
Sports Reporter

The Falcon men’s basketball team fell to the Central Michigan Chippewas 84-75 on Saturday afternoon, as they now sit a 3-3 in the MAC.

“We blew a 15 point lead,” Falcons head coach Michael Huger said. “We relaxed and we thought the game was over. We didn’t finish and that was the ball game.”

A key factor that worked against the Falcons was foul trouble, primarily when their best player picked up two fouls within the first three minutes. Junior forward Demajeo Wiggins had to sit and cheer on backup center junior Jeffrey Uju for the final 18 minutes.

“I think it would have been a much better game if we were able to play him for the first half as well.”

Michael Huger
Falcons Head Coach

Uju along with freshman forward Derek Koch picked up the slack early for Wiggins.

Huger also talked about how important it is for him to have a veteran presence like senior guard Matt Fox coming off the bench.

“He is our smartest player. He’s our highest IQ guy,” Huger said.

The team will next play Tuesday on the road against the Northern Illinois Huskies.
Graduation success rate at all time high

By April Leygraaf
Reporter

Bowling Green was recently named the tenth school in terms of student athlete graduation success rate out of all Division one schools. This ranking also puts the University at the top of the Mid-American Conference. Graduation success rate is the percentage of student athletes at a university who graduate within six years. The University’s rate was 92 percent last year, which is up three percent from 2016.

“I think it speaks to the university at large and the support the University gives to its students and the opportunities it gives students to succeed,” assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Communications, Jason Knavel, said. 10 university teams have a 100 percent graduation rating, and two more have ratings in the 90th percentile. 78 percent of the teams also have a rating that is at or above the national level for the sport. The University is hoping to maintain or even improve this ranking in the next few years.

“Our graduation success rate continues to be exceptional and goes up every semester and every year,” Knavel said, “when you get to a point that it’s really, really good, like it is right now, there’s just little tweaks you do that make very tiny, incremental improvements.” Other schools ranked in the top 10 include Stanford, Notre Dame, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Boston College, Wake Forest and South Carolina. Students are also proud of the ranking.

“It feels good knowing they have our backs and they give us a lot resources so [the ranking] makes sense,” freshman cross country athlete Kyle Hibinger said.

Student athlete success rates at the University provides resources for the athletes to achieve academic and personal success that include tutoring, networking events, community engagement and various workshops. Student-athlete GPA at the University is also worth noting with 259 athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or more and an average cumulative GPA of 3.268.

According to an article on the University’s athletics site, “The Graduation Success Rate was designed by the NCAA as part of its academic reform initiative to more accurately measure the success of Division One student-athletes and it takes into account the many different academic paths followed by today’s college students.”

Student athlete graduation rates are measured using two rankings: federal graduation rate and graduation success rate. The difference between the two is that graduation success rate counts transfer students, mid-year transfers and is calculated for each sport individually. The University hopes to use this ranking as a key selling point when recruiting potential athletes.

“From a coach’s standpoint, when they can go into a kid’s home and talk to their parents and say 92 percent of the student-athletes who come to BG end up getting their degree, that’s a huge thing to be able to say,” Knavel said.

After years of improvement, the University does not plan on giving up this high ranking anytime soon.

Council on diversity and inclusion

By Briona Scebbi
Reporter

The President’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion is evolving to meet the needs of students and faculty on campus.

“Historically, (PACODI) really served in an advisory capacity… this year we decided to make it more action-oriented,” PACODI Chair Christina Lunceford said.

In this new role, the council will determine not only the needs of students and faculty but also ways to address those needs.

Some needs were described in the Black Minds Matter course Lunceford coordinated during the fall semester. The course was offered for free through San Diego State University. Guest professors with expertise in various areas of diversity and inclusion in higher education spoke about the challenges facing students and faculty of color.

A common challenge for students is “both very visible in terms of making mistakes…but also invisible in terms of some of your concerns and needs,” Kimberly Griffin, associate professor at the University of Maryland, said during the online course. Griffin explained this lack of belonging occurs when students do not see professors or many other students that look like them.

Other challenges include retention and graduation rates, because students of color are shown to graduate at a lesser rate than their white classmates, Terrell Strayhorn, CEO of Do Good Work Educational Consulting LLC and guest speaker for Black Minds Matter, said.

Students are not the only group to face challenges connected to their race or ethnicity; faculty members are also affected by these issues.

Griffin said representing a racial or ethnic group is a weight many professors of color carry. She said administrators often call upon these professors to provide support to students of color and uphold a university’s diversity mission.

While Griffin and Strayhorn referred to these challenges at a national level, Ethnic Studies Instructor Jessica Birch said students and faculty at the University face similar difficulties.

“It applies as well to BG’s campus as it does to any predominantly white institution,” she said.

Birch said that students who are “visibly identifiable as not the norm” often feel the stares and averted gazes that Griffin described in the Black Minds Matter course.

Students in her Women of Color in the U.S. course also spoke to the problems they have faced a people of color at the University.

Sophomore Corryn Freeman said she has had classes where she was the only black girl in a class of about 60 students. Freeman said while she does not see the University making obvious steps toward increasing diversity in the student population, she does find students will often speak out for women of color and insist that they have a voice on campus.

In contrast, freshman Alexis Ray said she had “not experienced anything horrible” on campus.

PACODI currently addresses these issues through faculty diversity training and informative events such as their annual Inclusive Pedagogy Summit and conferences on having difficult dialogues about diversity.

The council wants to establish benchmarks with the data it is currently collecting. It hopes to better respond to questions brought up by faculty, establish a connection between the students and the president’s office and create strategies for inclusive teaching methods.

“We need to be more mindful of how our spaces are designed for dominant populations and what that means for people who are not part of those dominant groups,” Lunceford said.
Sports management group to visit Super Bowl

By Parker Brown
Reporter

The Sport Management Alliance (SMA) is sending 32 University students to Super Bowl LII. Come February, they will spend a week in Minneapolis, getting a first-hand glimpse at what it takes to execute the entertainment spectacle.

On Feb. 2, 2014, 112.2 million Americans tuned in to watch the Seattle Seahawks defeat the Denver Broncos in a 43–8 affair. It remains the last time SMA had student representatives working the Super Bowl until this coming year.

But it’s not just the game that matters to SMA and the students. The game presents the student with an opportunity.

“This trip provides the opportunity for our members to get experience in the field, build their resumes and network with professionals,” Courtney Burson, Travel Coordinator for SMA, said. “Ultimately though, the goal is to help them with professional development.”

The organization is founded on the belief that providing students interested in the sports industry with real life opportunities to pick the brains of executives and employers benefits the student.

This aspect goes beyond graduating seniors; SMA’s opportunities extend to underclassmen who may have little to no professional athletic experience.

Out of the 32 students who will be heading North to Minneapolis in late January, just under half are freshmen or sophomores. Juniors lead the way by overall numbers with 15 attendees.

Some may be getting the opportunity early or late in their college careers, but learning how to put on a sporting event is an underlying theme that unites them all.

What better way to get a crash course in event management than watch the professionals do it at one of the largest sporting events in the world?

“First off, I think they will realize how tough it is to organize an event like this,” SMA president Brian Lobban said. “This is something the Host Committee has been working on for probably over two, three, maybe even four years.”

Lobban, who has seen multiple iterations of SMA through his years as a committee member, leader and president, is hopeful the trip will help inspire some to take the industry a little more seriously.

“I think the big lesson you can learn is that there are so many things that go into an event,” Lobban said. “When people think of the Super Bowl, it’s not just the game that you see on the field. All these things that lead up to it, like fan events, that people don’t think of but are just as important.”

There is one unfortunate side effect in undertaking such an ambitious endeavor: the cost.

Sending 32 students to Minnesota for a week is a financial burden on SMA. Early predictions for attendee costs were hovering around $270.

While university funding through the Office of Campus Activities may help to alleviate the cost, Burson and other SMA executive members opted for a more proactive approach in reducing that sum.

On numerous occasions, the organization has issued a call of arms of sorts to its members in the effort to drive down the cost. After some Falcon football and hockey games, SMA volunteers clean the littered stands of Doyt Perry Stadium and the Slater Family Ice Arena. During the games, volunteers help in the concessions stands.

These volunteer activities provide a boon to help decrease costs. Working with athletics also gives the volunteers a foot in the door to other University sports opportunities.

SMA members see one bright, exciting light at the end of the tunnel.

“It’s a dream come true,” Cory Radebaugh said, junior Sport Management major and one of the members who will go to the Super Bowl.

Radebaugh, the oldest member going on the trip, only recently returned to pursue his bachelor’s degree after spending years working. For him, trips like these are what makes his decision to return to school worth it.

“Not only did I come back to school to work toward a career in sport management, but to be involved in SMA and be able to build the relationships I have and get this opportunity is seriously going to go down as one of the best opportunities I have ever had in my life,” said Radebaugh.

Many sports fans dream of attending the Super Bowl, but few get the chance to go behind closed doors.

Super Bowl LII will premiere around the globe on Feb. 4, 2018 at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. Kickoff time will be announced closer to the event.
Austin Gilbert and Natasha Flesher were revealed as members of SICSIC, their identities remaining a well-kept secret until Saturday night’s University hockey game. Removing their masks in public for the first time in three years, Flesher and Gilbert completed their mission to do all in their power to “help make BGSU a better place by promoting school spirit and goodwill among the students and faculty.”

Since 1946, two senior members of SICSIC are unmasked and revealed to the student body each year. Gilbert spread BG spirit under Captain Planet’s mask for three years. Flesher was Groot.

Gilbert works in the Center for Leadership as a Student Leadership Assistant, was a 2015 and 2016 Orientation Leader, a member of the Interfraternity Council Executive Board, a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and a part of the 2017 BGSU Homecoming Court. Flesher works in the Office of Campus Activities and the Learning Commons in the Jerome Library. She is an Honors Ambassador and involved in Chemistry Club, Mortar Board and Global Medical Brigades.

Austin’s Favorite SICSIC memory:
While in mask, Austin would see a girl at almost every sporting event. He found out her name was Jillian and that she was a theater and film major. He went to her performances and supported her from the sidelines, just as she supported University athletes and students. He had to look up her last name to invite her to the reveal.

“That’s what it’s about,” Gilbert said about SICSIC. “It’s about building relationships with people and supporting people in a way that maybe is unconventional and different. It was never about me wanting to know Jillian. It’s about a BGSU student wanting to support another BGSU student.”

Why Natasha picked the Groot mask:
She was looking for a female mask, but most had already been chosen by SICSIC alumni. Instead, she went for a unisex character: a tree. She wanted her character to mean something. “If I’m going to be something for three years, I better like it, and I better enjoy having it on my head,” she said.

She said wearing the Groot mask gave her an opportunity to talk to students about their environmental footprint, encouraging them to recycle and to plant trees.