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Bowling Green State University

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ANIMARATHON TAKES OVER BG

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Japanese comic fans flock to University

By Adam Gretsinger
Copy Chief

Bowling Green is a fair distance away from San Diego, where America's most famous comic convention is held yearly; for those unwilling to make the trip, the University has a convention of its own.

Animarathon XVI was held in various parts of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union from Feb. 10 and 11. The convention, though focused on the community around anime and Japanese media, also caters to audiences of video games, comic books and Western film and TV properties.

The convention, organized by Anime in Northwest Ohio, drew a varied audience of adults, teenagers and accompanying children from surrounding areas, including Toledo and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The event's main feature was its "Dealers Room & Artists Alley," held in the ballroom for general access from 11 a.m. til 8 p.m. on Saturday, and til 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. A staple of many fan conventions, the event gave various businesses that sell niche community merchandise a condensed space to sell wares to attract customers.

Businesses selling Japanese anime and related merchandise were greatly represented. Multiple vendors sold season DVD box sets of translated anime shows in large troughs that could rival a store's entire collection, while others offered similar content in more rare formats, such as in LaserDiscs. Others offered stacks of figurines, plushies, posters and wall scrolls inspired by properties such as "Dragonball," "Pokemon" and "Jojo's Bizarre Adventure." Fans could also buy Pocky and other Japanese snacks.

Joe Peters, one of the vendors, said he makes all his income by selling such materials at conventions through his business, Otaku Joe's.

“It's a hard job,” he said, explaining he does not often make enough to pay for living expenses. “I'm not rich, but I'm getting by.”

Peters, who has sold at Animarathon for the last 6 years, said one of the main challenges he faces is the competition from other businesses and vendors, especially those who do business online. Different competitors

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Reversing Snapchat’s update

By Stepha Poulín
Forum Editor

Is the latest Snapchat update really that bad? It’s not necessarily the worst update an app has gotten (like Instagram’s decision to not show posts chronologically), but this Snapchat update definitely deserves the backlash it has received.

The update gave the app a complete visual and operational overhaul. Rather than having all your stories in one place, there is now one place for your inbox and stories. If you aren’t mutual friends with someone on Snapchat, like a celebrity, then their story will appear on the “Discover” page.

What really grinds my gears is the fact that stories aren’t really in chronological order now. I like being able to see what my friends are up to in the original chronological order the app used to have.

The new update really makes stalking people a hassle. Now, I see the stories of the people who I’ve snapped most recently. Those people might be the people I talk to the most, but I also already know what most of my best friends are doing regardless of the app. I have to scroll down through old chats to view acquaintances’ stories.

Fret not, fellow Snapchat users. There is a way to get rid of this hideous update. Just follow these steps.

1. Delete the app
The Appstore will warn you that all data will be deleted, but it’s no big deal. All your snaps and contacts will still be synced to your account.

2. Open your phone settings. Go to iTunes and App Stores, then turn off “automatic downloads” for Apps and Updates.

3. Re-download Snapchat
Leave a 1-star review while you’re doing this step. Maybe Snapchat will get the memo that this update is utter garbage.

4. Type your username — BUT DON’T LOG IN! Tap on “Forgot your password?”

5. Now, Snapchat will ask you how you want to reset your password. Reset your password via PHONE, not email.

6. Prove you’re not a robot by clicking pictures of ghosts.

7. Snapchat will ask you for your number at this point. Don’t sweat it, though. You’re already using Snapchat filters that track your facial structure. What’s the worst they can do with your number?

8. You’ll receive a text from Snapchat with a confirmation code. Put that code in the app.

9. Choose your new password. Try not to forget it.

10. Re-open the app, and the old Snapchat has returned!

Snapchat is easily one of my favorite apps, but you shouldn’t fix something that isn’t broken. There are a lot of features Snapchat could have that would be useful, like sending notifications when a streak is about to end. This update seemed too drastic for an app that has already changed so much since its inception.

So, get out there and complain. Leave horrible 1-star ratings and get your old Snapchat back.

How fiction shapes our lives

By Shiva Bhusal
Columnist

For someone like me who grew up in a community where Nepali was the only means of oral communication, writing in English has always been an art of enigma and experiment. Before coming to the United States in 2016, my writing process in English was a form of translation. Ideas came to my mind in Nepali first, and before I wrote them down, my subconscious mind unknowingly translated those ideas into English.

My fascination with English was solely because of the books I read—especially works of fiction. During my freshman and sophomore years at college, I was extremely fascinated with the works of Ernest Hemingway. One of the things I learned from the author of “A Farewell to Arms” was its ultimate simplicity—the art of conveying the deepest realities of human existence using modest and unadorned prose.

Books of non-fiction provide an eye to critically analyze and understand the world. Meanwhile, fiction helps us fit ourselves into the shoes of the characters and experience their emotional and psychological tension which we would have otherwise never experienced in our life.

The exact story depicted in fiction may not be true, but it is not groundless and perfectly imaginary. Even the fantasy fictions have some indirect connections with the realities of human life. In other words, fiction is an “untrue” way of understanding the truth.

I consider most of the religious texts depicting the lives of gods and goddesses to be fiction masterpieces beautifully woven with symbolism, faith and mythology.

It is debatable whether the stories are true. It is certain that the same form of devilish, good, and characters exist in human life. The sufferings of the characters in the religious texts are also inevitable in our own lives. The power of fiction in religious texts is such that the symbolism has now evolved into a strong form of belief, and the characters have now lived beyond the stories inside people’s consciousnesses.

The oral tradition of storytelling has now been replaced by the digital form, but this art was very rich and viable in my village when I was a kid. I grew up listening to folktales from my grandmother like other kids in my neighborhood. In other parts of the world as well, the oral form of storytelling may have been a child’s first introduction to literature in the pre-digital era. I think nothing in the world teaches a child the moral and ethical issues of life as good as the oral tradition of fiction.

We all love stories and we all consume them in various forms including books, movies, television serials and even in the form of daily narratives from our closest friends. The stories we consume have a big impact on our understanding of the world and the faith we believe in.

Fiction opens a door of boundless perspectives on human life. Besides serving as a healthy form of entertainment, it also helps us understand another unfamiliar part of the world and find fascination in an entirely new language and culture.

For instance, from V.S. Naipaul’s “A House for Mr. Biswas”, one can understand the social consciousness of the people living a colonial life on an agricultural island. Naipaul’s and Hemingway’s works are enough to give us the glimpses of the jazz age and the lost generation respectively. Khalid Hussein’s works take us to the life of people in war-stricken Afghanistan.

A good work of fiction never loses its significance, and it is never confined within one geographical boundary, language or chapter of history. The ancient tales of the Mahabharata, Iliad and Odyssey, Don Quixote and the works of Shakespeare are still relevant, and they never fail to justify their aesthetic superiority.

In a rather personal context of an author’s writing process, Naipaul says, fiction never lies. I agree with his assertion because I too feel a great work of fiction is the truest possible reflection of our own lives.
Every student should exercise

By Heidi Larson
Columnist
February. The month New Year’s resolutions go to die. If you were all fired up about exercise last month but your enthusiasm has flickered to die, or if you were never excited about exercise, welcome to the club.

Before this year, I was not a gym-goer at all. I made all the excuses. “I don’t have time.” “I don’t have a gym membership.” “Membership cost money.” “I don’t have equipment.” “I don’t know how to use the equipment at the gym,” and on and on.

A good friend of mine told me, “Even a good excuse is a bad reason.” My friend encouraged me to see if the rec center was included with my tuition. I looked into it and at our University full-time students automatically have a free gym membership. There go two excuses - I have a membership and it’s free!

Also, when I looked on the gym’s website, I noticed they offer free equipment orientations where someone would teach me how to use the equipment at the gym. I emailed the contact person to set up an appointment. At my free exercise orientation, a personal trainer talked to me about my fitness goals, showed me around the gym and walked me through a workout. She had me do cardio to warm up, then weights, then a walk around the track to cool down, followed by stretches.

She taught me how to adjust the machines for my needs. For example, she made sure the exercise bike seat was the right height so my knee was at the correct angle, and she showed me how to adjust the gear for difficulty. She also showed me how to adjust the various knobs and weights on the weight machines.

After my orientation, the personal trainer emailed me my personal exercise plan with the cardio, weights and stretches that I did so I could follow the same routine on my own. She also encouraged me to email her with any questions. If I get bored of my routine, I can set up another free equipment orientation to learn more machines. Now that I know what to do, that takes away another one of my excuses.

The final hurdle for me was finding the time to go to the gym. My goal is not to go to the gym five days a week. For my fitness level, going to the gym two or three times a week is sufficient. It’s way more doable for me, especially when I consider working out a study break. Often I take breaks by sitting on my phone or computer using the internet, and I end up spending more time than I should sitting still.

After exercising, I feel way more productive than after scrolling through social media. I should not have to remind you that exercise is good for your brain and body. It helps you feel better and sleep better. Every student on campus should give the rec center a try. If you don’t like weights or cardio machines, you can shoot hoops or go swimming.

If you feel the need for accountability, or you want to take a class, the gym offers many group classes for a small fee. Paying a bit might motivate you to go to the gym. In my case, I tell myself that I am paying all this tuition, so I should take advantage of the fabulous facilities the University has to offer.

“In my case, I tell myself that I am paying all this tuition, so I should take advantage of the fabulous facilities the University has to offer.”

— Heidi Larson — Columnist
MAC Mental Health Awareness Week

By Brionna Scebbi
Reporter

Amanda Washko balances physical health in one hand and mental health in the other, but this juggling act can be difficult for even the most agile student-athletes.

As a senior swimmer, Washko’s schedule is hectic. Any given day, she and her teammates spend hours practicing, receiving treatment, working to prevent injuries and meeting with sports psychologists. Student-athletes also attend classes, complete homework and make time for a healthy dinner before an early bedtime to prepare for a meet the next day. But Washko says despite the crazy schedule, being a student-athlete is worth it.

“I love having the opportunity to always have something to do, to represent BG and do a little bit more than what most people get to do on a daily basis,” she said. “But because of the demand sometimes, there isn’t room to express the need to have a break or to express the need to not be okay.”

Emphasizing that it is okay to not be okay, the Mid-American Conference Mental Health Awareness Week focuses on managing both physical and mental health as a student-athlete.

During this week, colleges in the conference organize activities, show support for student-athletes and provide mental health resources. MAC continued on page 10
“Celeste” a mountain worth climbing

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

Indie games are in a kind of golden age right now, with classics being released seemingly each year. Last year, games like “Hollow Knight” and “Cuphead” succeeded by being amazing games even though they were created by small teams. “Celeste” is in the same boat.

The game has an 8-bit-like style during gameplay, but the backgrounds look gorgeous. The gameplay is also fun and challenging, however, the challenge is part of the fun. The story is also interesting and helps lead into the gameplay, too. The characters in the story help complement the game and was fun to see in its entirety.

“Celeste’s” 8-bit style is similar to many indie games that have released in the past couple years. This style has gotten a bit old due to the number of games using it.

However, the way the game uses this style makes it different. The backgrounds have a variety of colors, and there are some times the game has different things in the background.

For example, the player is going through a cave in chapter one, and the background is a different part of the cave which looks almost 3-D.

This style was fun to look at. I really enjoyed seeing what was next in terms of visuals. Each area felt different from the last, even though the whole game is set on one mountain.

“Celeste” may not appear so, but the closest comparison is “Super Meat Boy” when it comes to how challenging the game is.

The crux of the game is the player has a double jump and they have to use it to get to the other side of the screen. This is a fairly simple concept which leads to a fairly simple game. However, just because it is simple, does not mean it is easy, quite the opposite in fact. In my first climb up the mountain, I died over 2,000 times, and there were only a couple of times where I didn’t know what to do. It’s easy to know what to do in “Celeste,” but actually doing it is something else entirely. I liked this about the game, causing the player to have to come to grips with the way the game works to succeed.

The game also changes some of the mechanics a bit. Instead of only using the double jump mechanic, the game introduces new concepts in some of the later chapters to help diversify the way the game works, which was a breath of fresh air after a couple of hours of doing the same thing. For example, one chapter focuses on the wind, and this changes the way the player uses their double jump. I liked these chapters a lot because of the change in the game’s mechanics.

The game already has an amazing foundation, with the great controls and levels, and the addition of other mechanics makes it even better.

There are also a couple of collectibles in the game, too. There are strawberries for the player to collect and a way to access even more levels. The strawberries are usually accessed by the player solving the screen puzzle in a more difficult way, or are on a screen all by themselves. These were the most difficult part of the game, but they were fun to collect.

The story and characters of the game were surprisingly interesting. The story starts with the main character Madeleine deciding to climb the mountain, which is called “Celeste,” hence the name of the game. But, in between the beginning and the end of the climb, there are things which occur that not only change the story in meaningful ways, but the way the game works as well. The characters also have a meaningful part in the game too. I won’t spoil anything, but I liked how each character added something to story, as well as the gameplay.

There are only a few characters of note in “Celeste,” but the ones who are there are a lot of fun. These characters help lead the player through the journey up the mountain, and their words are sometimes worth a laugh, and other times worth just a thought by the player. I loved the dialogue in the game and felt it added a lot to the game.

“Celeste” is about the climb and how the player gets there. I loved everything about the game. It was fun to play, and also fun to look at. I also thought the characters and story were surprisingly great, and they added a lot to the game’s mechanics as well. Hopefully I remember how much I liked this game at the end of this year, because it definitely deserves some praise.
Shadow of the Colossus - still a masterpiece

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

“Shadow of the Colossus,” released in 2005 was one of the first video games to begin to try to be considered a form of art.

These types of games were not popularized until the release of “Flower” and “Journey.” They’ve gained popularity “Shadow of the Colossus” has been fully remade for the PlayStation 4. The setting of the game is gorgeous thanks to the updated visuals and the music is unchanged. The bosses in the game are some of the best I’ve played, most of them puzzles all by themselves.

The setting of the game is great. I love the way the game places the player where they are all alone. It is just the player, and the multitude of bosses. There are a few other species of animals, but there are no notable people or enemies to interact with other than the bosses. This aloneness the player feels makes the trek to each boss even better, because it makes the player think about what they are about to do, and also collect their thoughts before the next boss.

The loneliness is complimented by the outstanding soundtrack the game has. Every track is perfect for the gamer’s situation. There are a couple of different tracks for the bosses, and they are great. One track in particular is amazing, and one of my favorite boss themes ever. I’ll let you play the game to find out which one I’m talking about.

The bosses are the crux of the game and every single one is a puzzle all by itself. Each boss has two aspects to them; how to climb onto them and then how to attack them while on top. I liked the bosses in the game because they all felt unique and the game has the perfect number of bosses. There aren’t too many to make the player tired of the game, but there are enough for the player to grasp the concepts of the game.

The only problem I had with the game is the controls are a bit finicky and sometimes it was a bit difficult to control the horse. I didn’t like the way the game had the horse mechanic work but it is a minor complaint about an overall fantastic game.

“Shadow of the Colossus” released 13 years ago, and was considered a masterpiece then. The years have been kind to the game, and I am glad to say it is still as amazing a game as it was when it released for the first time.

Artist spotlight: Discount Nostalgia

By Lindsay Haynes
Pulse Reporter

Discount Nostalgia has spent the majority of their career as a Howard’s mainstay and hometown favorite, but the impending release of their debut album promises even more on the horizon.

The four-piece rock band spent time this past December in Nashville, Tennessee, recording music for their upcoming debut album, the name of which has not yet been announced. Though they’re no stranger to recording music, the band’s bassist, Michael Stram, said that recording in the Nashville studio was “vastly different” from recording at Stone Soup in Maumee, Ohio.

“One of the biggest differences is that The Bomb Shelter is a fully analog studio,” Stram said. “We recorded directly on to tape and the only computer in the building was used for email and converting tracks to digital format. It provides a different, more vintage and live feeling to album which we love! Recording analog definitely comes with some struggles too though, because mistakes are harder to correct due to that fact that punching in had to be done by hand so big mistakes usually meant that we restart the whole song. Also, Stone Soup is fantastic too. Eric Sills, the guy that runs Stone Soup is amazing as well, but

The Bomb Shelter just had more of what we, personally, were looking for.”

Discount Nostalgia is already known in Bowling Green for their blend of classic and indie rock, which makes the analog studio setting perfect for the band. Furthermore, Stram promises there is more in the works than just the album. A release show will take place on March 23 at Howard’s and will be free to the public, the first of many shows to come in the near future.

“Long story short is we’re going to promote the heck out of the album,” Stram said. “Interviews and stuff like that are super important (thanks for interviewing me!) and we’re going to be playing a ton of shows in the future. Also, we’re definitely going to get the album up on Spotify, YouTube and pretty much every platform that will have us. We also have a few music videos cooking and some more secret stuff that we have in the works.”

With this band’s foray into new territories, new projects, and high goals, there are certainly big things to come for this band. The debut album drops on March 23, but their single “Pageantry,” released May 3, 2017, can already be found on bandcamp.

“We’re definitely going to get the album up on Spotify, YouTube and pretty much every platform that will have us. We also have a few music videos cooking and some more secret stuff in the works.”

—Michael Stram —
Discount Nostalgia bassist
Softball sweeps five game tournament

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcon softball team swept the CSU Dome Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio on Sunday, Saturday and Friday. They won Sunday's game against the Robert Morris Colonials 8-1, the pair of Saturday games against the Niagara Purple Eagles and Canisius Golden Griffins 4-0 and 8-0 respectively, and a pair of Friday games against Niagara and host Cleveland State Vikings 4-0 and 10-3 respectively.

On Sunday, the Falcons were able to start off the game with a bang, as freshman infielder Sammy Dees hit an RBI double to lead off the scoring in the first inning, followed by senior shortstop Aspen Searle, hitting a two-run homer to give the team the early 3-0 lead.

The team would not look back, as junior infielder Kaylee Parker had two RBI, Dees had a solo home run and junior outfielder Alex Sorgi and senior Laine Simmons all had RBIs throughout the course of the game. Junior pitcher Meredith Miller had a perfect game going through the fourth inning and finished with a complete game. She mixed it well throughout the seven innings and finished stronger than she started. In the third we ignited a sense of urgency with the offense by hitting good pitches early in the count and when we stay aggressive good things happen.

The team finished the Saturday doubleheader against Canisius and started strong with an RBI single from freshman infielder Sarah Gonzalez in the second inning and an RBI fielder’s choice from Simmons in the fourth. In the fifth inning, however, the offense exploded for the Falcons as Dees hit a solo homer, followed up by Holcomb with a two-run shot, making it a 5-0 lead. Holcomb would later add a pair of RBIs, and junior pitcher Kiley Sosby tacked on another RBI as the Falcons took the 8-0 win after six innings due to the mercy rule.

Saturday’s game against Niagara saw both teams go scoreless until the third inning, when Searle hit an RBI triple for the team to capitalize on the defensive mistakes. It’s great to see the freshman stepping up in big opportunities early this season. They are a very capable group and eager to make an impact.

On Friday, the team faced Niagara in the first game of the doubleheader, where both teams went scoreless until the fifth inning, where Holcomb got an RBI single to put the Falcons ahead 1-0. In the seventh, the team was able to increase their lead as Dees had an RBI single. Holcomb had an RBI double and Gonzalez hit an RBI sacrifice fly to put themselves ahead for good as they took the 4-0 win. Miller allowed only one hit over all seven innings to take the complete game shutout.

“We had some hard hits early in the game but couldn’t string them together until late in the game,” Willis said. “We had a lot more disciplined at the plate in our second game. Holcomb’s grand slam was a build up of quality at bats throughout the day and disciplined hitting. She went up to the plate with a plan and executed it well with her focus. By the end of the day our offense was producing from top to bottom. Hitting is contagious and the team did a great job putting at bats together.”

The team will next play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday against the North Texas Mean Green, Elon Phoenix, Rhode Island Rams and the Mount St. Mary’s Mountaineers in the Elon Softball Classic in Elon, N.C.

“The team did a great job picking up defensively and offensively from yesterday’s games.”

Sarah Willis
Falcons Head Coach

“We had some hard hits early in the game but couldn’t string them together until late in the game.”

“The team capitalized on Canisius defense and had some hits fall to our advantage,” Willis said. “Our base runners did a great job being aggressive which allowed for them to capitalize on the defensive mistakes. It’s great to see the freshman step up in big opportunities early this season. They are a very capable group and eager to make an impact.”

“The team did a great job working ahead in the count. Starting off with a win is always huge for confidence and momentum into the season. It is early so we are just trying to focus on one opponent at a time.”

In the second game on Friday against Cleveland State, the Falcons pulled ahead early as Alex Sorgi scored on a wild pitch and Searle hit an RBI single and while Cleveland State would get a run of their own in the fourth, the Falcons would come back with RBI singles from sophomore outfielder Kendyl Wheeler and Nikki Sorgi. Cleveland State closed the gap back on a two run home run, however the Falcons offense once again got on a roll late as Gonzalez got a solo home run and Dees hit an RBI single, finished off by a grand slam from Holcomb to make it a 10-3 victory for the Falcons.

“It was great to see our offense make adjustments early in the game and to get on the board sooner,” Willis said. “We were a lot more disciplined at the plate in our second game. Holcomb’s grand slam was a build up of quality at bats throughout the day and disciplined hitting. She went up to the plate with a plan and executed it well with her focus. By the end of the day our offense was producing from top to bottom. Hitting is contagious and the team did a great job putting at bats together.”

The Falcon softball team bats in a game last season.

PHOTO BY IAN CAMPBELL
**Men’s basketball defeats E. Michigan**

By Jamison Terbrack  
Sports Reporter

The Bowling Green Falcons took down the Eastern Michigan Eagles by a score of 70-63 in a tremendous overtime game.

The game featured everything from the Falcons being down by 17 at the half, to junior forward Demajeo Wiggins suffering a scary-looking injury, to the Falcons not attempting a field goal in overtime. When all was said and done and the clock struck zero, the Falcons had more points and cinched the win.

“Great second half by my guys, we were able to stick in the game with our defense,” coach Michael Huger said. “We were able to play really good defense in the second half, and that was what got us back into the game and got the lead for us. We were able to win in overtime with our defense.”

At halftime, the score was 38-21 with Eastern Michigan leading. Bowling Green could not find a way to penetrate the Eagles’ zone defense and was having their own struggles on defense as well.

Coach Huger took his team into the locker room and told the team that the players that would give the most effort would play. Those words turned into gold as the team played magnificently in the second half and in overtime.

Although the team did not attempt a field goal in overtime, they made 10 free throws and played stout defense to come out on top.

“The first thing I said to the team after the win was go to the crowd,” Huger said. “Go thank the crowd for coming out. They don’t have to pay their money to come see us so make sure you thank the crowd and we will talk about the game later.”

Several players stood out in this game, but it was Demajeo Wiggins and senior guard Matt Fox who made the biggest plays of the night. Fox made a game-tying three point shot at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime. Fox finished the game with 12 points and scored four of five shots.

Wiggins was the team’s catalyst, as he scored 17 points and 15 boards while playing tremendous defense on a very tall and long Eastern Michigan squad. At one point midway through the second half, Wiggins collided knees with an Eagle player and could not put any pressure on his leg as he was helped off the court and into the locker room.

Coach Huger’s initial reaction when Wiggins went down was “Oh goodness. Is he alright? Is he going to come back in the game? Who am I going to sub in right now?”

Everything like that went through my mind. Is it season-ending? I did not know what it was. He is a guy that has not been hurt in three years and now he has been hurt twice in two games. He doesn’t know what to do. He doesn’t know how to react to that because he has never been hurt so those were my first thoughts, just thinking is he alright, is he out for the season, is it just a bang, is it something like that, who am I going to sub in? Those are my thoughts right there.

Eventually Wiggins would jog back onto the court and was in the game just moments later. After the game he said it was just a knee-to-knee collision and he is alright now.

The Falcons outscored the Eagles 39-22 in the second half and 10-3 in overtime.

The Falcons play Tuesday, at home, against the Western Michigan Broncos.
Solidarity shaves for childhood cancer

By Brionna Scebbi
Reporter

What: St. Baldrick’s Foundation Shave-A-Thon
Where: Bowen-Thompson Student Union
When: Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Who: Any student, faculty, staff or community members
How: Register or show up the day of to volunteer or shave at https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/BGSU

The University and the community. Donations go to childhood cancer research, fundraising efforts and St. Baldrick’s administration. St. Baldrick’s mission is to address the concentration.

More than 900 volunteers have raised nearly $120,000 over the past six years in Bowling Green’s fight against childhood cancer. This year, the St. Baldrick’s Foundation Shave-A-Thon hopes to add $25,000 to their total with the help of volunteers and shavees from the University and the community.

Solidarity is also the goal of the University Police Department, which has raised the most money of any fundraising teams so far. The department’s team captain, Officer Clay Myers, said the event is for a good cause and allows the department to meet students and members of the community.

“It’s definitely a community-building event. I’d just like to see anybody who can stop out,” he said.

Some officers and dispatchers will be volunteering or working on-duty at the Shave-A-Thon while others registered to shave their heads in support of children who lose their hair during treatment. Shavees include Deputy Chief John Betori and dispatcher Megan Kuhlman, who lead the team’s fundraising efforts with a combined total of $1,382.

“That’s obviously something that kind of hits home for everybody...so we want to do the best job we can and raise as much as we can for (St. Baldrick’s),” Myers said.

Whether participants donate money, hair or time, their solidarity with young people suffering from cancer is evident.

Bowling Green’s own Ambrosia Salon provides barbers for the shavings. The support of the salon and other Bowling Green, Perrysburg and Toledo organizations allow the event to contribute to change each year, Grulke said.

“T"heir commitment to this work and the passion of the BGSU students can help change these statistics where one day, we will no longer have to shave to raise money. Until then, we brave the shave.”

MAC continued from page 5

At the University, student representatives from athletic organizations and teams are spreading awareness to their fellow Falcons with a special focus on body image.

The week’s activities include workshops, speakers and several interactive displays for student-athletes to engage with. One of the displays the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee has planned for this week is a wall of kindness.

Throughout the week, half of a bulletin board outside the Office of Student-Athlete Services will be devoted to quotes and affirmations under the label “Take what you need.” The other half of the board will be labeled “Do what you can” and filled with challenges for students to take.

Meghan Horn, a student-athlete advisor, said these good deeds can range from “telling the dining hall worker that you appreciate what they do for you everyday” to “give a high-five to everyone on your way to class.”

All of the activities aim to spread awareness about resources and decrease the stigma surrounding mental health struggles in athletes.

“That’s one of the biggest goals of the week): just to say it’s okay to have issues,” Washko said.

These mental health stigmas are still perpetuated on sports teams today, as it is often a reflex to accuse a struggling athlete of being weak, said Kohl Taberner, a senior cross country runner and president of SAAC.

“I think a lot of student-athletes suffer more than they let on, and if they were to come out and explain it and they had somebody they could go to, it’d be a lot easier on them,” Taberner said.

The University provides resources to make it easier on student-athletes. From the Counseling Center to sports psychology graduate assistants assigned to teams, athletes have several formal outlets.

Another resource the MAC Mental Health Awareness Week hopes to make students aware of is their own teams.

MAC Secretary and senior runner Elena Lancioni said knowledgeable coaches and teammates can direct students to the assistance they need.

“It is so important to recognize that you need help and go and seek the right support,” Lancioni said. “Sometimes we don’t know we need help and that is why it is important as a teammate to know how to help someone who may be struggling.”

Macie Linne, a junior volleyball player and vice president of SAAC, said a teammate helped her locate the resources she needed to improve her mental health.

“We’ve kind of been able to direct each other,” Linne said. “Then we’re able to connect even more as a team because we are able to have these open conversations.”

The MAC Mental Health Awareness Week is a way student-athletes intend to start the conversation about the difficulties many of them face while trying to juggle physical and mental health. They hope to extend this conversation beyond their respective playing fields to the greater community, Taberner said.

“MAC Mental Health Awareness Week, while it is predominantly about athletes, it’s not just related to athletes. It’s really about spreading awareness about mental health to everybody.”

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BG temperature changes

By Kari Toncre
Reporter

Bowling Green may not have been as cold as it has been in Russia, where it has been so cold that eyelashes are freezing, but BG has experienced a variety of temperature swings the first months into spring semester.

The daily average temperature on Jan. 11 was 54 degrees Fahrenheit.

Two days later, the average temperature was 14. Since then, the temperature has fluctuated 30 degrees three times in the month of January.

On February 1, temperatures dropped 20 degrees in six hours. The high for the day was 39 with a low of 11.

“It is caused by clashing air masses,” Marius Paulikas, meteorology instructor, said. “We have colder air from the Arctic and warmer air from the lower latitudes further south. We are in the time of the year now when the temperature between the equator and north pole has a weird contrast. This contrast causes stronger winds and storm systems and because we have different densities of air between the lower latitudes and higher latitudes, we can have changes in temperature like we are experiencing now.”

The wind also plays a huge factor in the temperature in Bowling Green. The flat land contributes to Bowling Green’s cold through the wind chill factor because there are no large hills or mountains to block the wind gusts.

“The wind chill index is how the temperature physical feels to us,” Paulikas said. “Wind causes us to lose our body heat faster.”

The unpredictable weather means students walking around campus need to check the weather and the temperatures, including wind chill temperature, and the chance of snow or rain.

Read the rest of the story at bgfalconmedia.com

Phones on V-Day

By Danielle Kane
Reporter

Valentine’s day is just around the corner. The day is a chance for young couples to enjoy a nice dinner out and focus on each other.

Or not.

The once intimate dinner is now punctuated by social media, apps and texting.

Logan Beardsley, a waiter at Buffalo Wild Wings, often observes young couples on their cell phone during dinner.

“I believe it has hurt their communication skills,” Beardsley said. “I feel like a lot of them just send texts or other forms of communication on their phone instead of talking to the other person.”

But cell phone use at dinner may not be all that bad, according to Alyssa Fisher, a graduate assistant in Media and Communications.

“I think that young couples on their phones can be a helpful thing if it is facilitating conversation and used sparingly,” she said. “For example, if a couple is having a conversation and want to look up a fact, using their phones to find out information to facilitate the conversation can be helpful. If, however, the couple is on their phones interacting with others via social media or messaging apps, I think it can be hurtful and antithetical to spending quality time together.”

Autumn Newman, a junior visual communication technology major, said she uses her cellphone while out on a date with her boyfriend of two years.

“If he has something important to say I can tell by his tone of voice,” she said. “If he’s excited, I know it’s important I listen and support him. If it’s monotone, there’s no eye contact needed. I know it’s not something I need to be looking right at him for and focusing completely.”

Nate Tipul, a senior marketing major, thinks it is important to put your phone away on a date.

“You do not know when [what is being said] is important because you are not giving your significant other the attention they need and deserve,” he said.

Tipul has been dating his girlfriend for 11 months. Tipul said he does have plans for Valentine’s day but he wouldn’t say what because it’s a surprise.

Valentine’s Day or not, cellphones and young couples are the new normal.

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Animarathon continued from page 2

can offer anime and merchandise at cheaper prices, or can hold a greater supply. To “stand out,” he said, “I offer a lot of titles that are out of print.”

Though officially-licensed content made up a large number of products offered, many booths held fan-catered and fan-made products, including picture prints, t-shirts and framed hand-stitched needlepoints. Attendees could also ask for custom works at higher prices from both professional and amateur artists.

Similar fan products were also available for popularly-known franchises, such as plush Pickle Ricks from TV's “Rick and Morty” and prints of “Overwatch” video game characters.

Animarathon was also host to a bevy of events associated with different fan groups or school organizations. The University’s Game and Music Ensemble held a music performance Saturday, while Gaming Society hosted video, card and board game rooms on the union’s third floor much of Saturday and Sunday. Fan-made events included a dance party for J-Pop and K-Pop fans, Pokemon and cartoon trivia games and Anime food creation workshops.

Panels were also held by a variety of guests, including D.C. Douglas, who is most known for his voice acting on shows like “Transformers” and acting jobs on soap operas “The Young and the Restless” and “The Bold and the Beautiful.” Panels about other shows and media also attracted guests.

One of the yearly events, the Manga Library, was manned by Maxwell Brickner, a senior University student with a major in computer science. Brickner, said the appeal of the event was to offer a community area where fans could read Japanese comics for free, because “manga’s pretty expensive.”

Brickner, who had been a convention officer in 2016, said the appeal of helping run Animarathon was “seeing the event go off without a hitch.” He did not provide a particular fan group he was part of as his reason for joining the staff, but cited the challenges of organization as engaging.

He said, however, that not many staff members who were fans of the franchises represented would be able to enjoy the events in terms of their hobbies or communities. With “the lack of volunteers,” he said, “the officer corps doesn’t really experience the convention.”

That said, Brickner was able to engage in some creativity during the weekend: a video game-making session Saturday night that resulted in an action-packed convention simulation, found on the convention website.

The convention also attracted many cosplayers, people who costume as various characters from properties and personal fictions, from the female heroine of “RWBY” to a suited man with an old-fashioned television for a head.

read the full story on bgfalconmedia.com