Softball defeats Detroit, loses to Notre Dame

Winter session will push graduation back two weeks

Discussion underway for campus solar array

In the midst of dead week, students are buckling down for long nights of studying. | PAGE 5
On-campus solar field on the table

By Sam Nicholas
Reporter

On Friday, the office of campus sustainability hosted a tour of DG AMP Solar, currently the largest solar field in the state, generating 20 megawatts with a total of 85,680 solar panels. The field is located right here in Bowling Green.

The solar field is able to generate 20 MW of clean energy by using a single axis tracker system. This allows the panels to follow the sun from east to west. The city of Bowling Green subscribes to 13.74 MW of the facility’s output, or enough energy to power 3,000 homes. This increases the percentage of electricity the city uses from renewable sources to almost 40 percent, said Daryl Stockburger, the assistant utilities director and solar field tour guide.

This isn’t the first source of solar power in Bowling Green. The University campus is home to a small solar array on top of the ice arena as well as one array on the Oaks dining hall. In 2004, 572 solar panels were put on the roof of the ice arena and generate 30 kilowatts of energy. It is enough energy to partially power the arena.

The University has a growing interest in solar energy because it would work in conjunction with its climate action plan, which is for the University to be carbon-neutral by 2040. “In connection with the climate action plan and our moves toward trying to reduce our carbon footprint, one of the ways of doing that would be to utilize more renewable energy rather than fossil fuel-based energy. The idea of solar was one of the ones that showed up in a feasibility study we did,” manager of sustainability Nicholas Hennessy said.

The University has started preliminary discussions on adding a 5 MW solar array on campus. A solar array this size would utilize roughly 20 acres of vacant campus property. The Green Fund has pledged $500,000 to help with the project.

The University has hired an independent contractor, Third Sun Solar, to find possible locations and determine cost. Over spring break, Third Sun Solar visited campus to scout possible locations for a solar array. They were looking for locations that were flat and wouldn’t need much work in an effort to save on cost. Most locations were areas north of Poe Road, Hennessy said.

Once a location is chosen and the project is given a green light, construction is expected to be quick. The DG AMP solar field is 20 MW and only took six months, and at just 5 MW, the potential solar array on campus is a quarter of the size.

The office of campus sustainability would like to see the University move in a greener, environmentally friendly direction.

“The University itself uses a massive
J-session prolongs spring term

By Meredith Siegel
Columnist

The University is adding a winter session in 2019, which is pushing back the spring semester. While it is good that there are extra opportunities for students to get the credits they need, it is drastically changing the calendar that we have come to get used to.

Everything has been pushed back by a couple weeks to make time for classes to start and finish within the winter session.

As a person who will be a senior next year, I want to be out as early as possible so I can start whatever job I am doing at that point. When jobs are hiring, they want their new employees to start working quickly, because they are looking for someone to fill a role.

Graduation is on May 17 and 18, 2019 next year, a full two weeks later than the May 4 and 5 dates of this year.

Not only does this have the potential to harm my job prospects as a senior, this is way later than seniors are used to getting out of school. Most people, including myself, will be beyond checked out of school by the time exam week rolls around.

Even though everything is pushed back, the fall and spring semesters have been squished to 15 weeks, giving less time for getting lessons done, completing projects and other parts of academia that take time. This takes the contact hours and number of weeks required by state down from “exceeding” to just “meeting.”

Students who are living on campus next semester can only continue to use their rooms if they are taking classes during the session, but they must pay $480. All other students have to pay the $25 per day fee to stay on campus.

Also, the library is open during the winter session, but only with limited hours. Students will not have the same access to the resources available there. The times for the dining halls are not listed, but it would be an educated guess to assume there will be less availability for those as well.

The winter session seems nice, but students who are living on campus during it will be receiving less bang for their buck.

With all of these things combined there are many problems that I foresee with the winter session. It might be nice to have extra time at home between semesters, but it is taking away from the time during the summer and away from what we are getting from our classes.

“We’re all submissive to big tech

By Chase Bachman
Columnist

The dynamics of business are not always true. I was taught in business classes such principles as “the customer is always right” and that the consumer drives the market. Businesses center their entire operations around the consumer and their satisfaction, and in many instances that is still true. With some businesses, however, the dynamic has been reversed.

It is particularly noticeable in the tech industry, where companies such as Snap, Inc. and Apple, Inc. have made decisions that create consumers that are, at least initially, not happy. In January of this year, the Snapchat app released a new update including a redesigned interface that had many users enraged. They found the design overwhelming, confusing, and has been described as downright awful. Even I found the update to be shoddy, and for a while, I was in the proverbial picket lines protesting the update.

Eventually, though, these same consumers (including myself) gave up the fight, sensing the uselessness and lack of progress in voicing our concerns. Snap recently released new updates for their app, and the number of times I notice complaints on my Twitter feed are basically none. There is practically no continued fight with a company whose app they are going to do virtually nothing to change. Because they control us.

Snap can make a change to its product that is almost universally loathed by its consumers, and they’ll still be popular. Snapchat still averages north of 20 million daily users. Over time, the outrage by users has essentially blown over, as Snap had hoped, because the consumers never really hated the Snapchat update; they really just hate change.

The update is a reminder that we as consumers are not in control of our apps: that power still belongs in the hands of the tech giants making billions. We can be mad when companies “fix” an app that was never broken, but eventually we got used to it.

The truth here is we as consumers (myself included) bow down to companies when they have a product that’s so dominant. We all pretty much hated the new Snapchat, but what were we going to do, use a competitor app as a way to run Snap, Inc. out of business? I’m not even sure there’s an app like Snapchat on the market.

The same is true for Apple, Inc. and their admitted strategy of deliberately slowing down older iPhones to prompt users to buy the company’s new phones. Apple users have been postulating this (correctly) for years, and Apple just came out and admitted it. Partly because they want to be honest and there is a government investigation, but largely because they know they won’t lose any business.

We love iPhones so much, we’ve become slaves to whatever they sell us. They’re speeding up the selling process by deliberately diminishing the effectiveness of their old products and moving us to buy their products when we don’t need to and shouldn’t have to. It’s because Apple knows how much consumers stick to iPhones. I know Apple slows my 5s down because they want me to buy an 8 Plus, but I’m not gonna buy an Android for the same reason I’m not downloading an app to replace Snapchat.

We may feel like there is no app to replace Snapchat, and that nothing could take the place of our beloved iPhones, but these two companies are at a point of weakness if they leave their consumers unsatisfied for too long. If companies with their own version of Snapchat or iPhone really want to infiltrate the markets dominated by Apple and Snapchat, this would be that time.
Facebook hate speech rules

By Meredith Siegel
Columnist

Facebook has been in a lot of hot water lately, mostly for selling a “creepy” amount of information on its users to influence elections in other countries. Mark Zuckerberg, the founder and CEO, was on Capitol Hill for questioning about the ethics of the site.

Facebook has always been a topic of discussion; there have been a huge amount of articles written about how Facebook, and social media in general, impacts our emotional states and mental health.

These things have sparked discussions on whether it’s time to abandon the site altogether, and after a recent article from ProPublica, I think it might be the time. Or at least Facebook needs a huge makeover on just about every aspect of the site.

ProPublica wrote an article titled, “Facebook’s Secret Censorship Rules Protect White Men From Hate Speech But Not Black Children.”

It discusses the ways Facebook regulates speech, specifically hate speech, on their site from rules posted in “a trove of internal documents.”

Free speech, and determining what is hate speech, is an extremely complex issue, with hard to answer questions. The main problem Facebook is having with their rules, however, is that they apply them equally, across person and circumstance. While this might not seem like an issue, it is causing big ones.

Black women, like Leslie Mac, who wrote: “White folks. When racism happens in public—YOUR SILENCE IS VIOLENCE” was locked out of her account. She does not even know what rule she violated because Facebook does not tell users for what reasons they get banned.

Many people have expressed similar concerns, particularly from people who post about race or social justice, calling the banning of their account “getting Zucked.” These rules feel arbitrary, and pointed, especially if no one knows exactly why their post was deleted or their account was banned.

“Facebook does not publish the rules it uses to determine what content to allow and what to delete,” according to ProPublica.

On the other hand, a white U.S. representative called for violent revenge on “radicalized” Muslims, literally calling for people to go out and murder, and his account, and the post, was not touched.

Facebook, and their team of thousands of content moderators, do not count posts as hate speech when they include a descriptor that is not protected under their site regulations. This is why “black children” are not protected but “white men” are. Both race and gender are protected, but age is not.

Obviously, violent threats should be taken down.

But it’s also important to acknowledge the experiences of a black child and a white man are extremely different. These two situations should be treated differently; the way these people experience life are not equal.

Facebook is operating in a “color blind” mentality, where they do not recognize the different experiences people have based on their identity. Pretending as if the world is “post-race” is not going to benefit anyone, except those who already benefit from their “color blind” mentality.

Equality, as in treating everyone the same or treating every circumstance as if it is the same, can still work to benefit the already privileged. Following “equity” can reduce this problem.

Sure, being “color blind” may have a few benefits, for instance individuals can hold fewer stereotypes about a certain group of people or it can help otherization because we are explicitly not thinking about others as different — but this only works for individuals.

Huge corporations and the way our society functions still centers around race, in important ways, and this is a clear example of that. We have to be able to balance the understanding that one member of a group does not represent everyone, but identity still shapes experiences.

The other problem with this is Facebook gets to determine these rules, and they do not answer to anyone. There are no broader discussions about what constitutes hate speech or how these rules should apply.

What “hate speech” really means and how it should be censored is a really important discussion to have, and I don’t believe Facebook should be the leading player in it. Maybe it’s time to delete Facebook until some of this stuff is figured out.
Final exams are just days away, and students are filling the Jerome Library to start preparing. However, not every student prepares with the same studying strategies.

The Learning Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill compiled the following general strategies for smarter studying based on several academic articles:

**Study actively**

Rather than re-reading notes or attempting to memorize concepts straight out of the textbook, students should aim to engage with materials for the course. The UNC Learning Center suggests students create study guides and quizzes or explaining the information they are trying to learn aloud to a friend and coming up with their own examples. Active studying makes even quick study sessions valuable.

“Shorter, intensive study times are more effective than drawn out studying,” the website for The UNC Learning Center said.

**Know your noise preference**

Some students might be distracted by the silence while others cannot focus in a noisy environment. Evaluating what noise levels are best for their studying space can help students concentrate, according to The UNC Learning Center.

The bottom floors of the Jerome Library and the Bowen-Thompson Student Union offer more background noise for students who prefer it. Quieter study spaces are on the highest floors of the Jerome library.

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**Students share study tactics**

By Brionna Scebbi

Reporter

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Softball splits weekday games

By Travis Devlin   
Sports Reporter

The Falcons had two games in two days, in which they split the Monday and Tuesday match-ups. On Monday, in a home slate against the Detroit Titans, the Falcons dominated finishing the game prior to the allotted seven innings due to a mercy rule by the score of 8-0. On Tuesday, the Falcons went to South Bend, Indiana, to face off against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Coming into the game, the Falcons had a seven-game winning streak. However, that streak came to an end, as the Falcons fell 4-0.

In the first game, the Falcons started off red hot from the plate scoring three runs in the bottom of the first inning. It began with a walk of junior Alex Sorgi, followed by another walk of freshman Sammy Dees. With senior Aspen Searle at the plate, Sorgi and Dees were able to steal and put themselves into better scoring position. Searle ended up hitting a triple to score two runs, eventually bringing her home later in the inning on a sacrifice fly from junior Kali Holcomb.

The Falcons offense went quiet for the next four innings; although they did have a baserunner every inning, eventually tallying five runs in the fifth. However, in the time, freshman Madison French was shutting out the Titans, only allowing one hit throughout the entirety of the game. Dees began that inning with a single, Searle followed that with another extra base hit and Holcomb drove both girls in on another double. That led to a Titans pitching change, where things didn't improve much. Hit batters, errors, base on balls, a single from freshman Sarah Gonzalez and a sacrifice fly from junior Kellie Nathan all led to the final score of 8-0, ending the game in the fifth.

“We executed very well at the plate in that fifth inning, but I attribute a lot of our success in that inning to Taylor Blevins, coming off the bench and pinch-running.”

Sarah Willis   
Falcons Head Coach

“We executed very well at the plate in that fifth inning, but I attribute a lot of our success in that inning to Taylor Blevins, coming off the bench and pinch-running,” coach Sarah Willis said.

“We talk about executing at the plate, but we also talk about playing hard on the bases as well.”

The following game didn’t end with the same result for the Falcons. Junior Meredith Miller pitched the game. Miller managed to keep the Irish bats at bay for most of the game except the first inning, where they were able to put three runs on the board. The Irish only scored one more run in the game and that was in the fourth inning. The Falcons had five hits on the day, but none of them were able to come around to score, ending the Falcons win streak with a 4-0 loss.

“It was good for our program to play against a strong program like Notre Dame,” Willis said. “I thought our pitchers did a nice job in the circle, and we had some strong at-bats against a good pitcher.”

The Falcons next games will be back in conference play against the Kent State Golden Flashes with a three-game series beginning on Friday.

UPCOMING GAMES

APRIL 27 (FRI.) 3:00 P.M.   
VS KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

APRIL 28 (SAT.) 1:00 P.M.   
VS KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

APRIL 28 (SAT.) 3:00 P.M.   
VS KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

MAY 1 (TUES.) 11:00 A.M.   
AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

MAY 4 (FRI.) 3:00 P.M.   
VS OHIO UNIVERSITY
Baseball falls to Youngstown State

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcon baseball team fell to the Youngstown State Penguins 13-4 on Tuesday night, as the team faced its second loss to Youngstown State this season as well as its eighth in the previous four seasons.

The game was also faced with rainy and wet conditions throughout the night, prompting the game to be delayed 15 minutes from the scheduled 6 p.m. start time, however the team members believe that it was not an excuse for their performance.

“The conditions were less than ideal tonight, but we just didn’t have it,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said. “It was nice to see a number of guys come off the bench and contribute, but we’ll need a much better effort this weekend.”

After a scoreless first inning, Youngstown State was the first to get on the board with an RBI single in the second from infielder Web Charles to make it a 1-0 game. The teams again went scoreless in the third before the Youngstown State offense exploded in the fourth with a solo home run from outfielder Blaze Glenn, an RBI double from outfielder Nick Massey, an RBI single courtesy of designated hitter Trey Bridis and an RBI sacrifice fly by infielder Jeff Wehler to give themselves a 5-0 lead. As they got a solo home run in the fifth from Glenn, they continued to add to the advantage in the sixth as they had an RBI sacrifice fly by Wehler, a trio of RBI singles by catcher Austin Trace, infielder Drew Dickerson and infielder Nick LaBrasca, respectively, as well as a run scoring on a wild pitch to make it an 11-0 lead. Youngstown State would tack on a two RBI single from Glenn in the seventh before the Falcons began a eighth inning rally, starting with freshman infielder Adam Furnas who hit a two RBI triple, followed by an RBI double from freshman catcher Nick Neibauer as well as another RBI double from junior infielder Cam Daugherty. However, it would not be enough to make a comeback as Youngstown State went on to take a 13-4 victory.

The team currently sits at a 5-8 record in Mid-American Conference games and a 10-26 record overall this season, as they are ranked ninth in the MAC and still looking to make it into a playoff spot. The team will next play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night on the road against the Central Michigan Chippewas.
Avoid multitasking, but take breaks

The UNC Learning Center advises students to turn off their phones while studying because the “research is clear that multi-tasking (e.g., responding to texts, while studying) increases the amount of time needed to learn material and decreases the quality of the learning.” Research also shows the most effective study strategy is to set apart short studying times over the course of days or weeks, according to University professor Cal Newport’s book “How to Become a Straight-A Student.”

Students have started studying at the University for final exams. Here is how they are spending their study time:

Erin Coran

Year: Freshman
Major: Communication sciences and disorders
Number of final exams: 3
Study strategy: “I know for me I can get overwhelmed if I work on one subject for too many hours, so I’ll do an hour of one and an hour of another.”

Caitlin Lewis

Year: Freshman
Major: Criminal justice
Number of final exams: 3
Study strategy: “I usually take my notes that I already have, and then I type them. That way I sort them out more, and then I write them again after that.”

Sean Foster

Year: Sophomore
Major: Sport management
Number of final exams: 5
Study strategy: “I usually just go over the notes and try to put the definitions in my own words. That way I can remember them easier.”

The Daily Crossword Fix

1 “This looks like ___ for Supermant!”
2 Email option
3 California/Nevada resort lake
4 Suffix with elephant or serpent
5 Deli display
6 Chicago paper, familiarly
7 See 12-Down
8 Hold in high regard
9 Poke around the Web
10 Pleading remark
11 Racing Unsers
12 With 7-Down, “Coal Miner’s Daughter” star
13 Horseshoe-shaped letter
14 Place for a jay
21 ISP option
24 Moo ___ pork
27 Busy mo. for a CPA
29 Hex
30 Many a Pi Day celebrant
31 Big name in high fashion
32 1980s four-peat Stanley Cup champs
34 Frozen fruit-juice treats
35 “I was wrong. So what?”
36 Campus hangout
37 Yeses at sea
38 Pioneer Boone, folkishly
39 200-lap race, briefly
40 Place for posies
44 Ferris ___
45 “Shht!”
46 Brewed drink
47 Very little, in recipes
49 Put the kibosh on
50 Agenda listings
52 “Divine Comedy” poet
53 Cagey
54 “Gay” capital of song
55 Forest foragers
57 Finger of smoke
58 Ditty sharing a melody with “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”
60 New Year’s Eve popper
61 Lumberjack’s tool
62 Composting receptacle
63 PBS supporter
64 Understand

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