BIG GAY WELCOME

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Big gay welcome to LGBTQ+ students

By Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

The Big Gay Welcome, an annual tradition at the University, reminds students and staff alike that community is an important part of college life.

The welcome event aims to show off resources and create a friendly environment for students who identify as LGBTQ+ and their allies.

Just 25 years ago, queer and transgender students on campus felt the need to hide from the larger population, Chris Bullins, dean of students, said. The organization that is now the Queer/Trans Student Union was initially called Vision. This choice was made to keep homophobes from knowing where, when and why LGBTQ+ students were meeting. Interested students called the police to ask for the meeting location and time, for fear of what would happen if their meeting location were widely publicized, Bullins said.

In fact, it was not legal for two consenting “same-sex” adults to engage in a relationship across the U.S. until a 2003 decision by the Supreme Court in Lawrence v. Texas, according to Cornell Law.

For most of the 20th century, the only places LGBTQ+ people could exist as themselves were in gay bars, which were dangerous because they were usually Mafia-owned and were subject to frequent searches by the police, according to the Public Broadcasting Service’s American Experience website.

The queer community, the University’s culture and the disposition of the American public toward that culture has changed significantly in recent years, and the Big Gay Welcome celebrates the ability for queer students to live Big gay welcome Continued on page 7

Rosie D. Riveter, right, is a local drag queen and graduate student at the University.
What makes a good apology?

By Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

Apologizing is a necessary part of keeping a cordial relationship between pretty much everyone in your life. We all make mistakes, and the right thing to do is to admit fault and offer sympathy. However, there are many problems that arise when apologizing. Some people don't know how to actually apologize, and some people apologize too much. So, I want to go through the right times to apologize and how to make it a good one when you do.

If you grew up as a woman, you know what it's like to be expected to apologize for everything. I'm not the first one to say this — the Barbie web series actually has a great video on this — but I think it's something American women still need to adopt into their psyche. We do not have to apologize for speaking up; we do not have to apologize for their psyche. We do not have to apologize for American women still need to adopt into their point-of-view of the other person.

Many women feel ashamed for sharing their opinion, because it may encroach on someone else's idea of what is right. Many women have an ingrained feeling they should take up as little space as possible, whether it be physical or emotional. I've apologized to chairs I've bumped into. I've also said sorry for crying right after my dog died. I didn't do anything wrong in either of those instances, but I still felt like those around me thought I was doing something wrong. Don't let people, especially friends and family, make you feel like just being around is something to be sorry for. You should stop apologizing for it.

On the other hand, a lot of people apologize when they don't actually mean it. Sorry is a reflex in a different way. They know someone feels badly about something they did, so they apologize to escape accountability, to save face. Celebrities who say something stupid do this all the time.

Those who do this don't actually feel bad about what they did, or even if they do, they definitely won't change the behavior, so their sorry is meaningless. A sorry without new behavior is not a sorry at all. It's a Band-Aid, an expectation of forgiveness, which sometimes you don't get or deserve right away. It doesn't acknowledge the actual problem of the situation, and it refuses to step into the point-of-view of the other person.

In my experience, people who do this also apologize a lot. They apologize way more than needed, and they make the situation out to be way bigger than it is. If you don't placate them right after they apologize for the first time — don't tell them "Oh it's totally fine; you didn't do anything wrong" — they hound you with apologies until they feel absolved. This is manipulative and not a real apology. They did something wrong; it's their job to correct the behavior, not yours to make them feel better about it.

So, taking all of these things into account, what makes the perfect apology?

First:
An acknowledgement and restatement of what they did wrong.

Second:
A sincere "I'm sorry for what I did"

Third:
A question of "what can I do differently next time" or "this is how I'm going to change my behavior"

Fourth:
Actually taking the time to change the behavior.

A sorry without new behavior is not a sorry at all. It's a Band-Aid, an expectation of forgiveness, which sometimes you don't get or deserve right away.

— Meredith Siegel –
Forum Editor
Tibbetts’ death will be politicized

By Chase Bachman
Columnist

When I heard University of Iowa student Mollie Tibbetts’ suspected killer is an undocumented immigrant, my mind immediately knew where the fallout was headed. A young, white, innocent college student murdered by a Mexican with unlawful immigration status. Her death was moving straight into world of politics, whether we wanted it to or not. Images of Donald Trump asserting that Mexico sends rapists to the U.S. played over and over in my head. I knew this wasn’t true, of course, but for many people this was confirmation of what they believed they already knew.

It didn’t take long before Fox News had “illegal immigrant” and “illegal alien” plastered on every lower third and ticker graphic of every one of their programs for the next several days. They struck gold. I’ve never spent more than a few minutes at a time scrolling through my Facebook feed, watching their spewing the same sort of ignorant thoughts. A white American citizen murdered by an undocumented Mexican immigrant was the real example they needed to substantiate their bogus ideas.

I’d hope we could all sympathize with the Tibbetts family and not look for the political angle in this tragedy, but the truth of the matter is, it’s no longer in their control.

— Chase Bachman —
Columnist

So when I read the collom Mollie Tibbetts’ father Rob column published in the Des Moines Register Saturday, in which he asked for politicians, media and others to show decency and not use her as a political prop to advance an agenda, I had two thoughts.

First, Rob Tibbetts is able to speak with an admirable amount of clarity in the wake of losing his daughter. Second, his request is completely fair but unrealistic. I’d hope we could all sympathize with the Tibbetts family and not look for the political angle in this tragedy, but the truth of the matter is, it’s no longer in their control. The death of Mollie has become a national news story. When a story becomes so public, so widely known, it can no longer be kept to a grieving family.

It’s in the American news cycle. It’s there for us all to report and discuss and debate. This is not just a tragedy for a family anymore; it’s fodder for Fox News and all media. If I were in Rob Tibbetts’ position, I would hope my daughter’s death was not politicized. But even I am part of the politicization: using this column as a way to challenge Fox News is advancing my own agenda.

When an event enters the news canon, the narrative cannot be contained by the individuals it personally affects. When the story is used to advance political agendas, we can ask for it to stop, but it’s like squashing water. For many, this murder is a referendum on how America should view undocumented Mexican immigrants. For others, this is about contesting the misconceptions about those immigrants. Whatever conclusion you wish to draw from the Mollie Tibbetts murder, you can do so. As much pain as it may bring the Tibbetts family, the narrative of their daughter is no longer in their control.

Taking care of Tamagotchis

By Bea Fields
Guest Columnist

Picture this: it’s 2004. Don’t remember what that was like? Me neither. The main thing here is I have an artifact, a morose, a physical memory of daily life from that ancient and desolate era. A generation one Tamagotchi. Many people, when they see it sticking out of my pocket, ask me, “Is it alive?”

“No,” I say with shame, “the batteries died way back in ’06.”

However, now that I am 22 with my own job, apartment and cooking skills, I thought this year would be the year I welcome my sweet baby back to life!

So, I did what every good parent does when they are expecting: went to CVS. I picked up a three-volt battery and rushed back home. I got the ol’ egg, unscrewed the back cover and popped in the battery — y’know basic baby-making 101. This was all just in time to witness the miracle of early twenty-first century infrared technology.

I’ll admit, my palms were sweaty, and I was breathing fast. What if I don’t connect with my child? What if class gets in the way of parenting or worse: I forget about this and end up killing it.

I’ll admit, my palms were sweaty, and I was breathing fast. What if I don’t connect with my child? What if class gets in the way of parenting or worse: I forget about this and end up killing it.

— Bea Fields —
Guest Columnist

The stats also show me that the “gender” is “girl.” Now that I think about it, I am a progressive parent, and I’m going to try my best to raise Billboard in an un-gendered environment. I’ll let Booger make Beanbag’s own decisions when Bratwurst reaches the adult setting, which, if I am as good as a parent as I think I am, will be in about five days.

Day 1

My first day of single parenthood, and everything is going great! Boppit is asleep and fully fed and happy. Also, I have figured out how to pause my child. They always do grow up too fast, y’know?

Day 2

Today I made a bone-chilling discovery. Even though I “paused” my child overnight, my child has been still active — behind my back? Is this allowed? I have also found the option to “discipline” or “praise” Beetlejuice. Even though I am hurt that my child disobeyed my “pause” orders, I still don’t have the heart to yell at Beano. Also, the time set on my Tamagotchi is all wrong, so in reality my child is a night owl who is only active around 4 a.m. (my time) — I’m sure I can fix this issue tomorrow.

Day 3

I can’t figure out how to fix this.

Day 4

HELP THE TIME STILL READS 4 A.M. (their time); BURNINGMAN IS ASLEEP AND THERE ARE NO TEXT OPTIONS TO WAKE ‘EM UP!!

Day 5

I have no time for this child, and I will pause Bakugan indefinitely. If this experience has taught me anything it’s that you should always remember to set your clock to the correct time or else your digital pet will suffer. Thank you for reading about my many mistakes, and please don’t ever bring this up to me in person.
Men’s soccer gets a win and draw over weekend

Jacob Clary | Sports Editor

The Men’s soccer team played two games over the weekend, getting a 0-0 tie Friday night against Wright State and their first win, 3-2, Sunday afternoon against Western Illinois. After a rough start to the season with two losses, the team needed to get positive results in the weekend’s matches to get back on track.

The first match of the weekend was Friday night in Bowling Green. The team was able to keep Wright State scoreless for the whole match, including overtime. This is the defensive match the Falcons are capable of, and it was good to see the team play to their potential. The back line and Anthony Mwemba, the goalkeeper, played stellar in the match. Head Coach Eric Nichols talked about one of his favorite parts of the team, which was on full display in this match.

“Today wasn’t about soccer as much as it was about a desire to win,”

Eric Nichols
Falcons Head Coach

In terms of what I like about my team, it’s their character and willingness to work that sets it apart,” Nichols said.

Friday’s match was the first positive result of the season for the team, and helped give them confidence going into Sunday’s match.

Sunday’s match was the team’s best match of the season. Both the offense and defense played well. The offense scored three goals. Two of the goals came from offensive players, which is good for their confidence and more goals moving forward in the season. Moe Mustafa, a defender for the Falcons, also scored off of a set piece. The team’s defense also shut Western Illinois down for the first 75 minutes of the match. The Leathernecks did end up scoring twice, but the team’s work in the first 75 minutes of the match couldn’t be undone, and the Falcons ended the day with a win. Nichols said he has seen improvements, but still sees things the team can do better.

“I think winning today was really important,” Nichols said. “We’ve gotten better in each of our last three games, and the game today had some unique and substantial challenges. Today wasn’t about soccer as much as it was about a desire to win.”

The Falcons’ season has only gone up since its beginning. After two losses, the team has a tie and a win. It has moved up in the MAC standings and looks to continue its good form against Michigan State Friday night at Cochrane Stadium.

Volleyball wins two of three matches in tournament

Zane Miller | Sports Reporter

The Falcon volleyball team took two of three matches in the Duquesne Tournament in Pittsburgh over the weekend. They lost the first match to the Duquesne Dukes on Friday morning 3-2. Then, the Falcons won 3-0 on Friday night against the Youngstown Penguins and defeated the Nevada, Las Vegas Rebels 3-1 on Saturday afternoon to close out the tournament.

The Friday morning matchup saw Duquesne take the first set 25-20, with sophomore outside hitter Jacqueline Askin, sophomore middle blocker Katie Kidwell and senior outside hitter Isabel Kovacic leading the Falcons with three kills each.

In the second set, however, the Falcons grabbed the 25-21 win, as Kovacic led the team with four kills. The third set saw Duquesne jump back in front with another 25-20 win, with Kovacic again leading the team with four kills.

In the fourth set, however, the Falcons were able to tie it up again with a 25-18 win, with Kovacic again getting four kills to lead the team. In the fifth set, Duquesne won it 15-7 to take the 3-2 match victory. Askin led the team with two kills in the final set.

“It was kind of an up-and-down match,” Falcons head coach Danijela Tomic said. “In the first set our offense was an issue. We couldn’t score and couldn’t terminate. In the second set, we were actually behind, but we just worked point by point and got it back, and we were able to close the set, which was a good sign, and we gained some momentum there. But in the third set, we just made too many errors and (Duquesne) was more efficient. It was kind of the story of our season. We were making too many errors and couldn’t score.”

On Friday night against Youngstown State, the Falcons scored a 25-20 victory in set one, with Kovacic leading the team with six kills. The team came back to win the second set 25-18, with Kovacic and Kidwell each getting five kills to lead the team. The Falcons won the third set 25-14, with sophomore outside hitter Macie Linne leading the team with four kills as the Falcons took the match 3-0 for their first win of the regular season.

“(Kovacic) put two well-played matches in a row, which is a positive sign,” Tomic said. “That’s something that you want your seniors to do. We can’t count on our freshmen to carry the team, I think that’s the role of the seniors and Isabel stepped up and played smart.”

The team faced UNLV on Saturday afternoon, giving up the first set 25-14, while Linne led the team with three kills. However, the team quickly recovered in the second set with a 25-18 win, as Linne led the team with four kills. They jumped ahead in the third set with 27-25 victory, with five kills from Kovacic. The team took the fourth set with another close victory, winning 26-24 as Linne and Askin each led the team with four kills and the Falcons took the 3-1 match victory.

“We were smart and aggressive when we needed to be aggressive,” Tomic said. “We took care of the ball when we needed to, Linne made some nice swings, she was very good in the first two sets, struggled a bit in the third but came through in the fourth set for us. Askin also played a very smart match hitting-wise, she didn’t make too many errors and took care of a lot of out-of-system balls for us.”

The team will play next in the Cleveland State Tournament, facing the Illinois Fighting Illini and the California-Irvine Anteaters on Friday and the Cleveland State Vikings on Saturday afternoon.
Louis C.K.’s return shows comedians get lengthy leash

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

The #MeToo movement has taken down many powerful men in Hollywood this year, finally giving those in the industry who have experienced abuse a platform to take down their abusers. Professionals in fields ranging from media to film production to comedy have seen their careers crumble in the face of allegations.

With all of the good the movement has done, many have been waiting to see what the long term implications of such actions would be on the careers of these men. We might have finally got the beginning of what might be an answer to that question when Louis C.K. returned to stand-up comedy this past Sunday night, just nine months after he was accused by five different women of sexual harassment.

C.K. took the stage at the famed New York Comedy Cellar, performing a 15-minute set of “typical, Louis C.K. stuff,” covering topics such as racism, tipping waitresses and parades, Comedy Cellar owner Noam Dworman said. The sold-out crowd reportedly gave him an ovation before he even started his set, according to the New York Times.

A Vulture article released two days after the surprise performance described an overwhelmingly supportive audience for the disgraced comedian, but reports by women in attendance cited a rape whistle joke as “uncomfortable” and acknowledged a divide between the way men in the audience reacted as opposed to the women in the crowd. Women in the crowd reportedly felt tense watching C.K.’s unscheduled performance surrounded by men.

This reaction should have been expected. Comedy has long been a male-dominated industry, and C.K.’s material has always toed the line between acceptable and offensive. But in light of his admission to harassment last year, it’s amazing to see C.K. return this early and receive so much support.

His performance at the Comedy Cellar was allowed because “there can’t be a permanent life sentence on someone who does something wrong,” Dworman said. This attitude has since been echoed by comedy club owners across the country, with many citing that everyone deserves a second chance.

But in light of his admission to harassment last year, it’s amazing to see C.K. return this early and receive so much support.

– Evan Hayes –
Pulse Editor

The outreach of support C.K. has received shows an industry ready to re-encourage a formally outcast star.

C.K.’s path to return to his former comedic glory is well-defined. His performance at the Comedy Cellar is the first step in a model for success in the field of stand-up comedy: testing new material at comedy clubs. After testing and perfecting new material, comedians generally then tour on tour, taping shows and ultimately selling an edited version as a comedy special to Netflix, HBO or even Comedy Central.

The level of success C.K. had reached before his fall from grace can also help him sell new material. His own personal website gives him a high-traffic mode of distribution for selling new specials and material.

With support from the stand-up comedy industry and a clearly defined path back to financial and industry success, there is a real chance C.K. can residue what one was of the greatest comedy careers of the 21st century. This return could mean disaster for the #MeToo movement.

Other disgraced professionals might see C.K.’s comeback as a chance to restart their careers, such as former NBC anchor Matt Lauer, who is reportedly already working on a comeback. Other professionals, like comedian Aziz Ansari, might continue to lay low until enough time has passed that allegations against them have quieted down.

All these resurfacing professionals speak to an industry that still harbors heavy misogyny and to a sect of entertainment business men that have learned very little from the past year. It is worrying that comedy seems to have learned nothing from C.K.’s fall from grace, and he can only continue to go up from here.

Microsoft to offer monthly bundle including Xbox Console

In a year that has seen the PlayStation 4 dominate the market with low price console options and regular exclusive game titles, Microsoft is looking to change the way gamers buy their consoles.

Aug. 27, Microsoft announced that it would be offering an all-access bundle for Xbox consoles that customers can finance over 24 months. The Xbox All Access bundle combines the hardware of an Xbox console with online access to Xbox Live Gold and Xbox Game Pass.

Microsoft will be offering two bundles: The Xbox One S bundle and the Xbox One X bundle. The Xbox One S bundle capitalizes on the console’s affordability. Customers pay $21.99 per month during the 24 month time period, coming to a total cost of $528. The retail cost of the bundle would normally be $658.78, saving customers $130.72, or about 20 percent.

The Xbox One X bundle is for those who value console performance. The bundle costs $35.99 per month, leading to a total cost of $770, about $68.76 cheaper than the retail cost of the bundle. Both bundles offer zero percent interest during the two years and no cost up front.

If you spend your time playing Xbox exclusives and a lot of indie games, this bundle deal is for you. Xbox Game Pass allows gamers to enjoy unlimited digital access to over 100 Xbox One and Xbox 360 titles, giving customers a wide array of games to play, such as “Halo 5: Guardians” or “Sea of Thieves.” Xbox Live Gold allows gamers to play online multiplayer games, also providing exclusive discounts on select games or add-ons.

This deal isn’t just a lease. At the end of the 24 month period, customers get to keep the console. Similar to how cell phone companies offer payment plans on smartphones, Xbox All Access helps you pay off your hardware at a cheaper price than retail.

The strange thing about this bundle deal is that you have to physically go to a Microsoft store to enroll in it. In an age where customers can generally get any form of entertainment downloaded to their hard drives or shipped to their door, forcing people to go to a store feels very odd. And while most states have at least one Microsoft store, 15 do not. Sorry in advance for those of you in South Carolina, New Mexico or Vermont.

If you only play a select group of games, such as console exclusives or specific genres, this deal might be a waste of money for you. Paying for the extra services you don’t use would make it cheaper to buy the console at retail value.

Ultimately, it’s a shame this deal isn’t available on the internet, or even anywhere outside the United States. This form of console financing could change the level of accessibility that consumers have to high performance gaming consoles. It is not hard to picture PlayStation adopting a service like this in the coming years as new generations of consoles release and hardware gets more and more expensive.

With a chance to get more people gaming on consoles, Microsoft’s new deal might just show us the future of gaming.

The strange thing about this bundle deal however is that you have to physically go to a Microsoft store to enroll in it.

– Evan Hayes –
Pulse Editor
Big gay welcome

openly and safely as themselves, as well as having a community to lean on.

“It is a big gay welcome on a campus and in an area that used to — people weren’t able to be big and gay about their identity. So, it is a pretty big gay deal that we’re able to have an event that’s pretty celebratory,” Jo Wilson, president of QTSU said.

However, the world is still not entirely safe or welcoming to LGBTQ+ people, and Wilson believes community can help combat some of the issues that still exist.

“I think part of that is to still uplift overall and provide hope and a sense of culture and belonging that I know a lot of marginalized people don’t always feel on campus,” they said.

Recently, a 9-year-old U.S. boy came out as gay at school, and he was bullied so badly he killed himself four days later, the BBC reported. This was a hard hit to many queer people who themselves had been bullied and who wish the best for LGBTQ+ identifying children.

“Community to me … means a lot of things. It means safety and happiness. I think also part of that safety is also sharing your sadness,” Wilson said. “Where we can unite despite the odds, kind of. To unite in that broad oppression because, obviously, there are queer kids that are being bullied until they are killed. And there are young kids of color that are being killed.”

“Part of (community) is to still uplift overall and provide hope and a sense of culture and belonging …”

— Jo Wilson—
QTSU President

Queer community on campus aims to be as inclusive as possible and to be aware of the struggles all people can face. Wilson also said.

“(We want) to try to make it as inclusive of a space as possible, to make it accepting of all identities in the queer community, any potential allies. Not just white people, people of color, too. And to really try to unite, uplift and empower our members of the community,” they said.

Many organizations and resources exist for LGBTQ+ members and their allies at the University, including QTSU, the LGBTQ+ resource center, Greek organizations and the Counseling Center. One group Wilson highlighted was Out Falcons, a support group for people who may be unsure how they identify or unsure about how to live openly with their identity.

Community is plentiful at the University for LGBTQ+ identifying students, and they can “get connected, get engaged and belong as part of our community,” Bullins said.

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Campus police chief talks safety resources

By Adam Gretsinger
City Editor

Safety is a major concern for students at American colleges, and for University students, such a concern is no different.

Chief Michael Campbell runs the University Police Department. Much of his job revolves around ensuring the safety of students, especially those living on campus.

“(Safety) is obviously a priority in this department,” he said, sitting in his office in the College Park Office Building at 715 Leroy Ave.

Different officers work various times, but otherwise the office- is a scene which does not change much. The office is open 24 hours a day all week, a rarity for a campus police office.

Campbell said though Bowling Green is a “fairly safe community,” certain crimes are more expected than others.

“We deal with crimes of opportunity,” he said, specifying that theft and alcohol-related incidents were most common. He mentioned thefts were not unusual at the department, but a use of force during them was.

The department not only looks to crack down on crime but also looks to help with personal crises students face throughout the year. He said officers are trained in personal crises students face throughout the year to encourage positive relations.

To combat these and crimes before they occur, Campbell said the office meets with freshmen near the beginning of the year, encouraging them to report both criminal and personal crisis behavior and teaching them how to recognize such patterns.

“I look at the department as a support piece” to bystander intervention, he said about personal crisis management, whether that intervention is physical or made by a phone call.

He said the force works to maintain a positive presence on campus, posting officers to residence halls and major gathering places to encourage a consistent, peace-keeping presence.

In addition to consistent presence, the office engages in different events through the year to encourage positive relations. During the first week of school, the office held “Pizza with Public Safety,” in which officers served pizza to interested students.

To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved. Just use logic to solve. Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com