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Backlash online leads to recasting

Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

The University Department of Theatre and Film is facing controversy after the casting of mainstage play “Little Shop of Horrors.” Posts with #WhiteWashedBG are being shared on various social media platforms.

“Little Shop of Horrors” is a musical based on a 1960 black comedy film with the same title. The show features three women named Crystal, Ronette and Chiffon, a group of women who act as a “Greek Chorus.” They are commonly referred to as “the urchins.” In the 1986 movie musical version and the Broadway version, the urchins are black women.

One casting call from Music Theatre International based in New York City specifies the urchins are played by “African-American women.” Another, from The Professional Theatre at Southern Utah University, based in Cedar City, Utah, only says “female.”

Theatre department at the University cast all white women as understudies for the urchins. Many students believe the University should engage in color-conscious casting; characters who are intended to be people of color should be played by people of color, so the decision has led to online backlash.

The tag used was “#WhiteWashedBG,” which refers to whitewashing, a term used when a character of a marginalized race is portrayed in an adaptation or reboot by a white actor. Many people believe characters of color should always be portrayed by actors of color because media is so dominated by white characters. According to National Public Radio, just 28.3 percent of speaking characters on screen are non-white.

Other people believe there is no need for color conscious casting, and the best person for the role should be chosen.

Students at the University have taken to social media and made signs to show the theatre department how they feel about the casting. This call to action received a response from the Department of Theatre and Film, who sent out emails to students involved in the department.

On Oct. 11, Lesa Lockford, the chair of the Department of Theatre and Film, said she is hearing the concerns and frustrations from the students.

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7 reasons why people get inked

Hannah Hawk
Columnist

Ever see someone who has a tattoo and wonder why they decided to get that tattoo? Tattoos have become a popular trend among this generation. It’s not uncommon to see someone with ink on their body. There are many reasons why someone would want to.

1. The meaning
For a lot of people, getting a tattoo means representing something that means a lot to them. People get tattoos for self-expression and memories. Some people get tattoos, such as a name or symbol, expressing their love for someone else. Others get tattoos representing a family member or friend who may have passed away, which could be represented with dates. Tattoos can become daily reminders of the people in your life that mean the most to you.

2. Showing support for an artist
That interesting ink you may spot on someone’s body may just be because they liked the artist’s work and wanted a piece done by them. This is more common than you would think. Some people may just walk into a shop and tell the artist to do whatever they please, because they saw their work online and thought it was cool. For a lot of people, this could be a very scary thing, but to others, it’s a way to support the art of tattoos.

3. Just because
There are some people who just want a tattoo, so they get one. There may not be any particular reason besides just wanting one. There are people who just get a dot on their body just to say they got a tattoo. Others may just get one to fill in a spot for a sleeve of tattoos.

4. To cover something up
Some people may get a tattoo to cover up something on their body, like a stretch mark or scar. There is actually a new trend in the tattoo world where some people get the color of their skin as a tattoo to cover up stretch marks. Other people may just want to cover up another tattoo — maybe the name of a person they don’t affiliate with anymore.

5. Some people just like the pain
This is a weird one, but some people get tattoos because they like how it feels. Although that may not be the only reason, a lot of people love the pain of the needle when getting a tattoo. This may be because it’s a whole different pain than going to a doctor’s office and getting a shot, which a lot of people fear. In the end, it creates a work of art on your body. This can lead to people becoming addicted to tattoos.

6. Addiction
There are some who say they’re only going to get one tattoo but then end up changing their mind because of how much they love it. I am definitely one of those people. What becomes addicting is the feeling and excitement of getting a tattoo and then also the artwork that comes out of it after. Some people just think it’s super cool to go and get a tattoo and love the feeling of getting one.

7. To become someone else . . . or something else
Another way people use tattoos is to become something else. This may sound a bit strange, but some people get tattoos to look like an animal or other people. There are people who get face tattoos in the pattern of a lizard or a cat and go through surgeries to make themselves resemble that animal. I’ve also seen some people who go through surgeries and get face tattoos to mimic the look of their favorite famous person.

The dedication that would take is amazing. The next time you want to get ink, think about the reasoning behind it. Are you getting one for the meaning behind it, or is it a spontaneous decision? Do you want to jump on the bandwagon and face the needle, or are you trying to cover up something? Whatever the reason, tattoos can be a fun but permanent way to express yourself through art, which is pretty rad.
Cats make pretty cool pets

Keralynne Frederick
Columnist

I feel like cats deserve more credit than what they are given. After all, cats are amazing. Cats are often compared to dogs, which is a weird comparison, considering they are two totally different animals. Cats and dogs are both equally great pets in their own unique ways. However, when cats are compared to dogs, cats get a bad name and reputation. So let's talk about how cool cats are in their own way.

I love cats. I grew up with cats, and I have a million memories with my fuzzy friends. Cats also live forever, so as long as they are healthy, tons of memories will always be made with cats for years to come.

My childhood cats are Moe and Lilly Truscott (yes, that's right, from Hannah Montana). Moe is still living his finest life at 15 years old, and Lilly acts like the Queen of England at the age of nine.

Moe currently has the personality of an old man, which is understandable — he's ancient. He takes long afternoon naps, watches Jeopardy regularly, meets with his friends for euchre club every Tuesday and at night, he likes to settle down with a hot bowl of cat kibble designated to help his kidneys function properly. Every cat aspires to be Moe.

When I was little, Moe had a very busy schedule, because I would dress him up for photoshoots most days. His go-to look was a purple tiara, which was always very classy. Moe has since retired from modeling.

Lilly, on the other hand, has lived a much simpler life. Lilly kills moths to keep down the population, takes naps on her throne (a sofa) and for fun she likes to pretend she can climb trees. She likes to keep her weekends open to meet single cats in her neighborhood.

Overall, every cat has its own personality, just like Moe and Lilly. Some cats like to go swimming; some cats like to travel in cars; some cats even like to be walked on a harness. I talk about my cats like they are my own children, and I hope everyone gets the chance to have that experience with a cat. Cats definitely require more patience than a lot of pets, but once we connect with a cat, it is an unreal experience in the best way.

Why I love reading literature

Shiva Bhusal
Columnist

I admit I didn't read that many books in my high school days — well, apart from my textbooks. I can remember, though, sitting on the lawn inside my school garden during winter days and reading some Nepali books. I can also recall reading adapted editions of "Sherlock Holmes" stories, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "Hunchback of Notre Dame." I completed high school in a rural village in Nepal, and we didn't have a library at school. My English teacher used to bring adapted editions of English literature books from Kathmandu — the capital city of Nepal. He gave me those books to read during vacations. I read them hoping my English vocabulary would improve. Aesthetic pleasure was never the reason behind my attachment with books. I got one or two books from my Nepali teacher as well, but the books he gave were more related to grammar and technical understanding than literature.

My father also used to bring home the Nepali monthly magazine Muna. Muna was intended for children of lower grades. Once I reached the eighth grade, I started finding Muna boring. From eighth to 12th grade, I rarely found any English literature books that perfectly fit my interest and reading ability.

I wasn't a great reader and couldn't find any great literary work of the West I could comprehend during that time. The adapted editions were intended for children of lower grades and were too plain to read. So, I mostly read the Nepali books available to me.

My life changed when I moved to the city of Kathmandu to pursue my undergraduate studies. In Kathmandu, I not only found more books to study but was also able to meet some authors and listen to them speak about their works.

I also started reading English fiction in their original versions, and my comprehension skills improved. I started enjoying the works of Hemingway, Chekhov and Naipaul the most. Chekhov is still my all-time favorite writer, and his short story collection stays on my bookshelves irrespective of where I live. I am deeply intrigued by Chekhov's artistic genius in capturing the triumphs and failures of his characters.

I carried the reading habit I developed in Kathmandu along with me to the United States. I am still a passionate reader and enjoy reading a variety of books. These days, I read a lot of nonfiction books, mostly related to history and human development. Currently, I am reading Yuval Noah Harari and am fascinated by how the author brings a unique perspective about human evolution and presents the entire history from the archaic age to the present-day world.

My reading process is no longer driven by the urge to improve vocabulary but by the aesthetic pleasure and also the desire to better understand the world through different perspectives.
Backlash online  Continued from page 2

“Please know that I, and I’m sure the rest of the faculty and staff, want to address those concerns, hear the frustrations, and find a way toward healing the pain and better serving our students,” Lockford wrote.

Lockford is organizing a town hall to “hear these concerns and clarify what practices we have begun to put in place, and allow us all to think collectively on how we might better serve our under-represented students.”

The time and place has not yet been picked for the discussion.

On Oct. 12, Associate Professor Michael Ellison sent out an email letting students know the urchins would be recast.

“My deepest apologies to our students, especially our students of color. I did not mean to be disrespectful. I do not take you, your opinions, or your experience for granted. Apologies also to the women I cast as understudies for putting you in such an awkward position,” he wrote. The women will now be performing in the ensemble.

“‘Little Shop’ is only one issue out of many that the department needs to work on, and we’re going to keep pushing for change,” Meghan McKinley, theatre student at the University, said.

This situation at the University falls into a larger debate about representation in Hollywood and the arts. Scarlett Johansson has previously received criticism for playing Major in the “Ghost in the Shell,” which was based on a popular anime. Many fans believed, because there is so little Asian representation in Hollywood, Asian actors should play Asian characters.

“‘Little Shop’ is only one issue out of many that the department needs to work on, and we’re going to keep pushing for change.”

— Meghan McKinley —

Theatre Student

There are many other instances of whitewashing in Hollywood, on Broadway and in many smaller productions of shows done in community theaters, colleges and high schools.

PHOTO BY MEGHAN MCKINLEY

Meghan McKinley posing with a sign in response to the casting decision for “Little Shop of Horrors.”

PHOTO BY CAMILA PINERO

Camila Pinero sharing her opinion on white washing with a post on Facebook.

PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

I’m very disappointed and embarrassed by the actions that our University's Department of Theatre and Film have made towards casting. When will we learn that REPRESENTATION matters? #WeRespectPOC #WhitewashedBG

Cameron Endly shared his opinion about white washing through Facebook.
‘Super Mario Party’ return

David Escobedo
Reporter

Sifting through my oldest memories of gaming and my most recent ones, I have come to the conclusion that I am a very social gamer. Whether it be a single-player game or multiplayer, I have always wanted to experience games with others.

“Super Mario Party” was made to be played with others. Sure, anyone can play the single player mode, but that’s not exactly how it was intended to be played. Playing with others elevates everyone’s experience with the game.

The “Super Mario Party” franchise were more about teamwork to win the game. This was a big factor in its return. The previous few entries in the “Mario Party” franchise were more about teamwork instead of competitive play. Competitive play was always what the “Mario Party” franchise was known for, and with its return to this original formula, this entry was very much anticipated.

Luckily, this board game style of gameplay is pretty fun. What makes this entry somewhat unique is that the characters you can play as have their own special dice. It creates a new risk-reward dynamic when picking characters and their dice and adds a bit of strategy to the mostly luck-driven game. And yes, luck is quite a determinant of how things will play out on the board. While this isn't necessarily a bad thing, it can get a little irritating when the new star location moves closer to the person already in first place.

Where the game completely shines, though, is the minigame selection it has to offer. Some are better than others, but overall, they are a blast to play. The minigames come in different styles; they can pit all four players against each other, three players against one or two players against the other two. Regardless of style, most of the minigames are amusing to play or watch others play.

The second mode “Super Mario Party” offers is a cooperative mode where everyone is on a raft going down a waterfall, working together to survive with enough time left. While the players move down the waterfall, occasional balloons will appear, signaling a minigame challenge that can add to players’ time.

This mode of gameplay is okay. It’s not a bad way to play, but the board game section of the game is way better. The cooperative style displayed in this mode can be enjoyable. Having to survive the waterfall and navigate the challenge together with other players is kind of entertaining.

The final mode in the game is a rhythm style game where players shake along to a beat. This mode is easily the game’s weakest offering. The mode offers nothing really special and might be a one-and-done mode for many.

Overall, Super Mario Party is a fun game, and that’s what is most important. If it can offer a fun, local multiplayer experience, then it will have succeeded in its goal. And really, the experience is all down to who you play the game with. So, grab your closest friends, get a copy of “Super Mario Party” and have a good time.

‘Man in the High Castle’ improves plot in new season

Jacob Clary
Sports Editor

“Man in the High Castle,” one of Amazon’s banner shows, released its third season around a week ago. This season is the series’ best season for a couple reasons.

For those unaware of the premise of the show, it takes place in an alternate reality where the Allied Powers lost World War II, leading the Nazis and Japan to take over the United States. The show is based on the 1962 book of the same name by Philip K. Dick.

The storylines in this season were all varied and also started intersecting with each other. Additionally, the series has started to change more from how history really happened and using that to its benefit to make interesting things happen. Overall, I liked this season of “Man in the High Castle” a lot.

Going back to the first point I made, I love almost all of the storylines in this season. This is a big departure from the past two seasons where there were only one or two enjoyable storylines. This obviously made the show more enjoyable to watch, just because I liked what was happening more.

The most interesting character of the series for me is John Smith, who is played by Rufus Sewell. Smith is one of the high-ranking members of the Nazi party in America. His storyline became very good this season, and it was able to go in some wildly different places than I thought possible.

I also enjoyed Juliana Crain, played by Alexa Davalos, who is one of the other main characters in the show. In past seasons, her arc wasn’t fun to watch, but in this season it was great. I also mentioned how some of the arcs actually intersected this season, and that’s one of the big reasons I like the third season the most. In past seasons, it felt like the characters all existed separately from each other, because I don’t think many of them even mildly interacted with each other. This is the biggest positive for me.

The other reason I liked this season was because of the way history has continued to separate further away from what we know in reality. I always liked the premise of the show just because I love history and thought it was really interesting, but I felt like the show never did anything radically interesting with the amazing premise it had, except for at the very end of the second season. However, that changes in this season, and I was blown away when it started to diverge more from the history we know.

Overall, the new season of “Man in the High Castle” was a treat to watch. It was chilling, sure, just because of the subject matter in the show. The brutality of some of the things that happen in the show was shocking to me, but for me, this is what makes the show great. It isn’t afraid to show those things to the viewer and make them think about what happens to the characters in the show.

If you haven’t watched “Man in the High Castle,” right now is the best time to start.
Kanye West revels in bad publicity

Out of everything Kanye West has been a part of this past week, it’s unbelievable this ranges from promoting the abolishment of the 13th Amendment to a performance on Saturday Night Live where he and Lil Pump were dressed as brands of water bottles.

This, of course, isn’t all that came about of Kanye, with the addition of a new album being released on Black Friday, just a small mention of him being a god and again, defending the wearing of the “Make America Great Again” hat.

Yes, these are all a string of out-of-line actions, especially coming from someone of high celebrity status. However, anyone that’s paid even small attention to Kanye over the years knows this is typical. Usually centered around the release of new music, it’s normal of Kanye to do and say a series of questionable things in waves, presumably to give an extra boost to people curious how this translates to his music.

The barrier Kanye may not realize he has come to, though, is one of the public adjusting to how he operates. Now backpacking on efforts for mental health and political awareness, Kanye took it upon himself to elevate the use of his wave cycle. Instead of using exposure during the cycle to promote his music, Kanye now uses his music more as a secondary backing element to what else he is trying to accomplish.

After Kanye had revealed he would have voted for Donald Trump by showing support for his work and meeting with Trump back in 2017, he had embarked on arguably his grandest amount of exposure yet. In doing this, more pressure than ever has been set in place for a time like now, where Kanye feels he needs to be seen before heard.

It isn’t numbing witnessing what Kanye is up to when he unconventionally takes center stage, but what he is doing doesn’t shock modern society. A portion of our culture has flourished from being unconventional; Kanye is just the most obvious case.

Most rock musicians from the 60s saw an audience in people who supported their rebellious behavior, one that was atypical for society at the time. However, gradually, as the sound and behaviors of rock culture were accustomed to, it led to the genre falling out of popularity by the early 2000s.

Kanye is in a state of limbo with a serious urge to be widely acknowledged but also attempting to find new ways to deliver the most catching form of his message. By setting the standard to be seen by millions, Kanye seemingly is unaware his actions are growing more and more stale.

Supplying more tame anecdotes would allow Kanye to be a helping force by whatever means he chooses to whatever entity he desires. Additionally, he could be in the public eye in promotion of his less-publicised efforts. Still, the need to be seen with every move eliminates this possibility, and while this method may show good results, it can only pique an audience’s attention for so long.

Yet, a coinciding issue lies within the idea that Kanye thinks he is doing nothing but good with every action. Kanye is convinced his role is greater than life; yet in believing so, he misses smaller opportunities that could aid with the same problems he stresses. Though non-comparable in amount of popularity, similar motives can be seen comparatively with rapper Logic.

The efforts are clear in recent outputs since Logic’s “Everybody” album where multiple tracks are independently dedicated to themes such as depression and anxiety. Despite possibly too much repetitive coverage of topics, it shows an artist using their platform to reach out to an audience in a way that isn’t jarring and can actually connect with people.

Due to Kanye being at a higher status of fame, he has the resources to promote his message effectively without being a blatant annoyance. Kanye himself even understands this, despite ignoring it for a greater spotlight.

This past summer, Kanye released two projects that alluded to mental health issues and getting past them. “Ye” saw a more personal Kanye using each track to peel back a layer of his personality, while his collaborative “Kids See Ghost” with Kid Cudi served as an acknowledgement of inner demons and relief from fighting them off.

Quality aside, both projects at their core are meant to bring awareness to a mass audience Kanye knows he has. There are a number of other organizations he can help promote and messages he can deliver by using the different platforms he has access to, but choosing this route rarely comes with large publicity reportage. Because Kanye’s ego has been stroked with only a growing audience, not being in the public eye with what he’s doing is hardly a possibility.

There is needed room for more positivity. With every day passing with negative and positive occurrences, it’s a certain comfort when others express they feel the same way. Kanye has the ability to be that person for millions of people, and while he has for some, there’s still others that could be simultaneously reached with less ego involved. Hopefully age will slow the hyperbolic nature of Kanye, but looking over the past few years, this probably won’t be the case.
The women's soccer team beat the Kent State Flashes 3-1 Friday night. This makes the team's record 9-3-2 on the season and continues their undefeated streak in the MAC, where the Falcons are 7-0-0.

The Falcons are also on an eight-game winning streak, so the team is in top form. Head Women's Soccer Coach Matt Fannon talked about the win.

"Just with the rain and how slick the field was, I was very very happy with the result … We feel really happy to have won on Friday," he said.

The match Friday was immediately going the Falcons' way due to Chelsee Washington scoring within the first three minutes. This set the tone for the Falcons during the match. Even though they had less chances to score – Kent State had 18 shots compared to the Falcons' 12 – they were able to capitalize on the chances they did have. Later in the first half, Nikki Cox extended the lead with her goal.

In the second half, Washington got back on the score sheet with her second goal of the match. She scored with a header after a free kick. Kent State got on the board in the 83rd minute with a free kick from Paige Culver, making the Falcons lose their clean sheet.

Fannon commented on the team's performance Friday and why the team has been able to play as well as they have.

"We really like to have the winning streak that we're on," he said. "We feel like we deserve it. We've been playing well enough to keep winning and that attitude every day at training is that they're hungry, and they want to improve, and they want to get better, and they want to work hard. We hope that we can continue to win, but honestly, we don't look anywhere but Sunday. … Our only focus right now is to try to make that eight in the conference and nine in a row, simple as that. Just Sunday. Then, whatever the score is tomorrow, we'll look at the game after that, and I think that's kind of the reason we're able to be so successful. We're not looking past games. … We're not worrying about postseason, or what's going to happen next or what might happen. … We just worry about Sunday and try to show the best we can then."

The Falcons play Thursday night at Akron and look to continue their successful season.
Cross country team finds more success during the Bradley Pink Classic

Jacob Morehouse
Sports Reporter

The cross country programs found more success at the Bradley Pink Classic in Peoria, Illinois. The programs faced elevated competition in their last meet before the Mid-American Conference Championships.

The women were paced again by senior Rachel Walny. Walny finished third out of 298 total runners with a 6k time of 20:44.4. Walny fought for her spot and finished just shy of Toledo’s Athena Walsh; these two are likely to compete for the MAC title later this season. Following Walny was freshman Katerina Shuble, finishing 90th with a time of 22:05.2. This time is about 24 seconds faster than her previous 6k time. In 121st place, Sarah Hunsley crossed the finish line with a time of 26:00.0. Nathan Bostelman finished not far behind in 17th place with a time of 26:06.6.

The men finished strong at the Classic in sixth place overall in a 33-team field, even with adverse running conditions. Runner Noah Schaub described the course.

“The course was very muddy and was difficult for us to get a grip on the ground … It slowed us down at least 30-40 seconds,” he said. The men also saw a slightly smaller field, and recording a personal best with a time of 22:56.6. Rounding out the scoring for the University were Megan Aalberts with a time of 23:22.0, Allie Zofkie with a time of 23:22.89 and Claire Reynolds with a time of 23:33.6. The Falcons finished 22nd overall out of 28 total scoring teams.

The Bradley Pink Classic held an open race as well, and the Falcons had two runners competing in the race. Freshman Abel Nijakowski finished first in the open race for the Falcons in 14th place with a time of 26:00:0. Nathan Bostelman finished not far behind in 17th place with a time of 26:06.6.

The men finished strong at the Classic in sixth place overall in a 33-team field, even with adverse running conditions. Runner Noah Schaub described the course.

"The course was very muddy and was difficult for us to get a grip on the ground … It slowed us down at least 30-40 seconds," he said. The men also saw a slightly smaller field, with 233 total runners in the race. Schaub again paced the way for the Falcons, finishing 15th with a time of 24:50.7. Tyler Phillips placed only five spots behind Schaub with a time of 24:59.1. Cesar Arellano continued his strong freshman campaign by wrapping up a photo-finish 58th place with Marquette’s Jon Klaiber with a time of 25:33.5. Arellano talked about the team mentality heading into the race:

“After two weeks of hard training, we were prepared to go and compete in a very competitive field. Overall, we were tough, and that was a key component in the race,” he said.

Jonathan Wenning and Jonathan Voth continued the trend of Falcons finishing close to one another with Wenning placing 88th with a time of 25:53.6 and Voth placing 90th with a time of 25:54.6. The two Falcons saw Toledo’s Jake Papish in the time between them, and they will likely see Papish again at the MAC Championships. Rounding out the scoring for the Falcons were Gabe Garbarino and Raymond Berling with times of 26:04.3 and 26:13.2, respectively. Phillips talked about how this race was a confidence boost heading into the MAC Championships.

“It was a good race for us to get out there and show what we can do. We had a bunch of young guys step up and a lot of good performances,” said Tyler Phillips Runner

“It was a good race for us to get out there and show what we can do. We had a bunch of young guys step up and a lot of good performances.”

Tyler Phillips
Runner

The Falcons now head into the MAC Championships on Oct. 29 in Toledo, on a course in which the team was able to place third earlier this season.

Football coach Mike Jinks fired

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

University Athletic Director Bob Moosbrugger announced Sunday morning that Mike Jinks has been relieved of his position as head coach of the football team. Defensive Coordinator Carl Pelini has agreed to serve as interim head coach for the rest of the season.

“I want to thank Coach Jinks for all of his efforts with our football program and in the BG community. However, we felt it was time to make a change in leadership,” Moosbrugger said. “These are not easy decisions, and we do not take this lightly. This affects 11 coaching families, 112 student-athletes and numerous support staff. We wish Mike and his family the best in their future endeavors.”

The dismissal comes just one day after the Falcons (1-6, 0-3 MAC) lost their Homecoming weekend matchup to Western Michigan 42-35. In his two and a half seasons with the team, Jinks was just 7-24, going 5-14 in MAC play. Moosbrugger will begin the search for a new head coach immediately.

“Our football program has been a source of pride for our alumni and fans,” Moosbrugger added. “We need football to be successful with our football support staff. We wish Mike and his family the best in their future endeavors.”

“I want to thank Coach Jinks for all of his efforts with our football program and in the BG community.”

Bob Moosbrugger
Athletic Director

It will be Pelini’s first head coaching position since he took over at Florida Atlantic University in 2012. Pelini went 5-15 over two seasons for FAU, resigning in 2013 after allegations of illegal drug use. Bowling Green is 129th in the nation this season in total team defense, giving up 47.6 points and 503.9 yards per game.
LGBTQ+ History Month at the University

Mary Ross
Reporter

October is LGBTQ+ History Month, which means there are a variety of events all over the world dedicated to raising awareness of the LGBTQ+ community’s presence. Several organizations on campus have organized events throughout October to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month with students, faculty and community members.

Queer/Trans Student Union is hosting an Ally Learning Lunch in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 in Room 427. This event is meant to be an interactive opportunity for students to learn how to be better partners and friends to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

“I think it’s a really good idea, and I’d be really interested in going to it and taking some more people along with me,” freshman Olivia Hedderly said. However, lack of advertisement led to some surprise when this event was mentioned.

“I think it’s a great idea, but it needs to be better advertised so that people know there is an opportunity for them to learn how to talk and treat the LGBTQ community,” freshman Chris Chandler said after hearing about the Ally Learning Lunch for the first time.

Another activity created to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, sponsored by the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, is a showing of the documentary entitled “Woman on Fire.” This documentary follows Brooke Guinan, the first openly transgender firefighter in New York City, as she transitions in the workplace. This showing will occur on Friday, Oct. 26 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union in Room 427 at 8 p.m.

Other events to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month include the following:
- Pride Night with the Women’s Soccer Team on Oct. 12 in Cochrane Stadium at 7 p.m.
- Rocky Horror Picture Show Viewing on Oct. 25 at the Rec Center, 11 p.m.
- Multicultural Dialogue Series: Coming Out on Oct. 15 in the student union, Room 427, 5:30 p.m.
- “Inclusion in Social Justice Communities,” a presentation by Nick Daily, will take place on Oct. 29 in the BTSU, Room 207, 7:30 p.m.

Adding on to these organized events, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center has created flyers entitled “Celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month Through Visibility and Pride.” On these flyers are pictures and descriptions of several students and faculty members across campus that are either part of the LGBTQ+ community or are allies with it.

Additionally, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center will continue to run their regularly scheduled events, such as the OUT(?) Falcons Support Group that meets 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Dr. Katie Stygles of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center is also available during the week for appointments.
Max Hess
Reporter

The University's planetarium attracts college students, school groups and general public audiences for the shared experience of learning more about the universe. Operated by the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the dome-shaped theater offers a wide array of educational shows and other activities.

The planetarium can seat up to 114 guests and typically has four student staff members at a given time. One of its current operators is Cody James Barth, a physics major with minors in math and astronomy.

"Right now we're running a show about the science of black holes, and after this weekend, we'll be switching over to 'From Earth to the Universe,'" he said.

Barth's position of planetarium console operator entails running the computer behind the dome-shaped theater offers a wide array of educational shows and other activities.

"Basically, we work in the background, in the dark so that nobody knows what we're doing," Barth said.

Barth happens to be studying subjects closely related to the field of astronomy, but that doesn't mean being a console operator is exclusively reserved for math and science students. A lot of the observatory stargaze staff is comprised of people from different majors.

"Essentially, the only criteria to get on stargaze staff is to have taken a general astronomy course. After that, you could talk to Dr. Smith, who does the interviewing and hiring in the spring term. You go through a whole semester's worth of training here at the planetarium. Once you're on stargaze staff, that's where he finds people for the planetarium job," Barth said.

The planetarium was constructed in 1984, at the same time as the rest of the building. It was renovated in 2013 and 2014 to display the old stuff when they do a renovation, and we worked on digitizing the old slideshows so we could show them on the newer digital system. Dr. Smith made a conscious decision to keep the old Minolta projector here in the center of the room. A lot of planetariums get rid of all the old stuff when they do a renovation, and Dr. Smith actually talks about the history of the planetarium a bit during his shows," Barth said.

This year's current and upcoming planetarium shows include:

- "From Earth to the Universe" Oct. 14 - Nov. 18
- "Secrets of the Star" Nov. 30 - Dec. 14
- "The Alien Who Stole Christmas" Dec. 1 and 8

Show times:
- Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 8 p.m.
- Friday, 8 p.m.
- Saturday, 2 p.m.
SPRING 2019 REGISTRATION

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Registration Start Dates:

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Open Registration
Nov 2, 2018 - Feb 3, 2019

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