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Plastic Shatner finds fit in comedy

Max Hess
Reporter

The Plastic Shatners is one of the improvisational — or “improv” — comedy groups at the University. Sebastian “Sebo” Harshbarger, president of The Plastic Shatners, said the challenge of having to make up lines is not just a normal part of improv but also an important part of the overall experience for the audience. “People enjoy seeing others struggle because it humanizes them. Some of our funniest scenes and shows are ones that use guessing games,” Harshbarger said. “The funniest things in life are also some of the most mundane because people really connect with those.”

Harshbarger had no involvement with live comedy before college. His “preparation” for The Plastic Shatners came from being in high school plays. “I joined my freshman year, fall of 2015, and I did a lot of theater in high school. Coming here, I knew I still wanted to dabble with that,” he said. “I didn't want to do full shows anymore, but I still wanted to have some of those experiences.”

Choosing improv over other University organizations was not an instant choice for Harshbarger. “I was either going to do an improv team or a cappella maybe, and my cousin suggested I do improv. I looked at all the teams, went to the auditions and got on the Shatners,” he said. At practice, which is in Olscamp 208 Mondays and Thursdays, The Plastic Shatners play games to build character work, scene work, teamwork and environment-building skills. One game called Switcheroo involves two actors keeping each other on their toes by switching characters.

“We were playing this game in practice where we were pretending one of our team members was stranded on an island, and throughout the scene it turned out the island was Manhattan, and they had just gotten lost in Central Park. They didn't know about Xbox One, they missed out on the Cubs winning, all these major events that happened in the last five years. It was fun to joke about some pop culture stuff,” Harshbarger said.

According to the improv group’s Facebook page, they’ve been performing for over 16 years, striving to “provide comedy, merriment, and awe to the students of BGSU and its surrounding community throughout the academic school year.”

Membership of The Plastic Shatners is primarily geared toward undergraduates according to their OrgSync page, and the opportunity isn’t meant to be available year-round, Harshbarger said. “We have auditions at the beginning of every school year. Usually fall semester, four or five weeks into the year, but we only have auditions once per year. That way, the team can grow and bond, and our comedy can get better,” Harshbarger said.
MeToo Movement catches up to Bowling Green councilman

Hannah Lanfear
Columnist

Daniel Gordon may have resigned from his position as Ward 1 representative on the City Council citing his move out of the ward for the resignation, but he also resigned amongst accusations of sexual assault. The survivor came forward with a Facebook post on Sept. 29 which stated, “I was sexually assaulted by Daniel Gordon. … Bowling Green, you have a rapist and abuser on your city council.” She ended her post with “#metoo.”

The MeToo Movement was created in 2007 but went viral in 2017 following the sexual assault allegations against film producer Harvey Weinstein. Since then, the hashtag has remained popular, having been used millions of times by survivors sharing their stories and calling attention to the prevalence of sexual assault in the U.S. In fact, the movement has become international, spreading to countries such as France and Japan.

Not only has the MeToo Movement provided a space for survivors to speak, it has also created a new platform for resource providers to educate survivors about the resources available to them, as well as provide the general public with education about sexual harassment and assault.

Though Gordon’s case is not taking on major media attention, it does speak to the relevance of the MeToo Movement in that this case is so close to the Bowling Green community. The BG Independent News published an article on Oct. 17 discussing these accusations against him. However, the article itself brings up yet another issue in the media discussion of sexual assault.

However, this should not come as a surprise. We have seen several major cases, such as the case of Brock Turner in 2015, where survivors have come forward with their stories and the accused are defended and cited for having great character, thus undermining the fact that they committed sexual harassment and/or assault. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, out of one thousand rapes, only six rapists will be incarcerated.

Gordon has yet to comment on these accusations, but according to the BG Independent News article, the Bowling Green Police Division is conducting an investigation. Cases such as Gordon’s remind us how serious and prevalent the issue of sexual assault is and serve as a reminder of how close to home these issues are.

The MeToo Movement has revamped the discussion of sexual harassment and assault, brought major media attention to the issue and changed the way we discuss it. However, this isn’t to say we do not have a long way to go. Though we have seen cases such as those of Bill Cosby and Larry Nassar receive jail time, we have still seen two accused men be confirmed to the Supreme Court and men like Louis C.K. make a comeback after accusations against them catching media attention, not even to mention the effect race has on these issues.

Due to the great popularity and attention given to the movement, survivors’ voices are finally beginning to be heard and to be taken more seriously. We should commend the bravery of survivors in coming forward with their stories and the MeToo Movement for creating a space for survivors to share their stories. It is also an amazing example of how globalization and the use of technology has truly connected people all around the world and the immense impact that can have.

People must think outside the box

Faith Hufford
Columnist

You're standing in front of two doors. Both look exactly the same, down to the intricate detailing of the grain. The handles are both identical. Even more intriguing, two guards stand in front of these doors. They also look exactly the same. You've heard the stories, and you know what you must do.

Behind one of these doors lies endless wealth. Behind the other, utter doom. They are your only ways out of this empty room — you must choose. You may ask the guards one question to decide which door to take, but this knowledge lurks at the edge of your mind: one guard always lies, and one guard always tells the truth.

Which question do you ask?

Disclaimer: if you want to solve the riddle yourself, take some time to ponder the answer but don't read any further! I am about to reveal the great secret.

The answer you will find plastered across the interwebs, should you be fortunate with searching for the answer yourself, is this: “Which door would the other guard tell me to choose?” The answer I came up with: “Is the liar in front of the door with the treasure?”

I took this answer to the riddle poser, and was immediately given a brisk “no.”

Shattered, I gave up on the riddle, until my friend asked me, “so what was your answer again?” I explained, to the point of drawing a diagram with a stray pen and an unused napkin. My friend became belligerent at the riddle poser, took our art museum worthy depiction of the situation to him, and began arguing my case.

Turns out, I broke the riddle. There are two reasons I wanted to share this story.

First, always remember the “correct” answer may not, in fact, be the only answer. We live in a world which encourages us to think in ways that align with the majority. One answer is all that is sought to questions. This is known as convergent thinking. However, the opposite of this, divergent thinking, encourages creativity and critical thinking.

If you’ve come this far and have learned to thrive in a box: don’t accept that box any longer.

If you’ve come this far and have been put down for thinking outside the box — my second piece of advice is for you.

Persist. You may be put down the first time or the second or the third. But that does not mean your idea is wrong. It simply means others don't want to hear. So don't give them the option. Make your voice be heard.
4 reasons editors seem crazy

Stepha Poulin
Editor-In-Chief

People say “print is dead” a lot nowadays — in reality, editors are the ones who are figuratively dead.

Whether you use news media to read feel-good stories, find political arguments or take Buzzfeed quizzes, there is someone in charge of editing the content you consume. The editors — and reporters — working behind the scenes are some of the strangest people you’ll encounter.

Here are four things that might make you question an editor’s sanity.

Each editor has a peculiar pet peeve.

This is probably a trait of anyone who has expertise in something. But it’s particularly common in editors.

Whether it’s using the wrong style of lead for a story or using the word “like” instead of “such as,” a lot of editors have one thing that just really grinds their gears. Their reporters try to avoid their pet peeves, but mistakes are inevitable.

This is why a lot of people leave the reporting side of journalism. It’s not that every editor is inherently mean; some editors are just horrible at giving constructive criticism.

Journalists have to develop thick skin to deal with this. But times are changing. Newspapers — and even broadcasters — can’t really afford to stick to their old pet peeves. Some things will always be necessary to produce good content, like being consistent and reporting the truth. Though in today’s media climate, editors can’t afford to be hung up on old stylistic pet peeves. Deviating from these norms might be what saves journalism.

Editors don’t clock out.

This is something we should commend countless editors and reporters for. They often take their work home with them or use their free time to do work.

In newsrooms, editors’ and reporters’ work tasks change so rapidly it’s hard to complete everything in one workday.

It’s something almost expected of people in this profession, which is why a healthy work-life balance is a prevalent issue. Even as a student journalist and editor, I find myself not wanting to do much in my free time when things get hectic with the paper. Doing things I enjoy can seem too draining with all the time spent on work.

Checking their email (usually) isn’t a way to pass the time at work — they might be checking the newswire or responding to tips … or dealing with unhappy readers.

Customer service is part of the job description.

I think we all know journalists aren’t exactly loved by everyone. Readers’ opinions matter a great deal — after all, journalists are producing the news for them.

Readers notice the small things. If a weekly columnist isn’t featured, then some angry person is probably going to call, even if there was a warning in the paper last week. If an editor allows a viagra ad to print next to a story about a summer camp, they’re probably going to get some (well-deserved) angry calls.

But sometimes, people go past the point of voicing valid opinions.

Again, this is something editors and reporters must deal with. It’s easier for readers to tell a reporter how dumb they are with the internet.

Today’s political climate is a catalyst for online hate, and journalists aren’t the only target of anonymous, online insults. It’s hard to publicly share an opinion without setting someone off, and when a news story is viewed thousands of times, someone will find something wrong with it.

It’s something journalists have come to expect.

But it doesn’t excuse harassment of any kind. Some people might say journalists are exaggerating the controversy making headlines today. A lot of blame is placed on journalists for political matters.

I don’t want to be preachy — but consider the following: journalists are real people. They may do things you could never imagine doing, and they may have different opinions from you. Real people are producing the news we read and watch. You might not like them as a person. Luckily, you don’t have to hang out with them.

Just like anyone else, journalists deserve respect.

Free time is not part of the job description.

This goes along with never clocking out. Editors can’t afford to idle sit at their desks, especially as daily publications.

Regardless of a news outlet’s publication method or schedule, it’s important to quickly get news out. This means editors can’t put things off; they really have to work ahead. Editors obviously can’t predict headlines, but they can assign reporters newsworthy stories ahead of time or check the newswire for feature stories to fill the weekend edition.

In any profession, you need to be aware of how much time you devote to work. If you find yourself too drained to do things you once loved, there is no shame in taking some time off. Set boundaries about how much you can take on.

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Students to begin Hatch registration

Michael Pincumbe
Reporter

Applications for The Hatch are open to student entrepreneurs. Based off the hit television show “Shark Tank,” students present their business idea to a group of distinguished alumni investors in hopes of receiving funds to launch their businesses.

The Hatch was founded in 2013 by Ray Braun, dean of the College of Business, and Kirk Kern, director of the Paul J. Hooker Center. The two have been informing students and former participants — referred to as “Hatchlings” — about next year’s events.

“We have been out making classroom presentations with past Hatchlings who have been talking about their past experiences and getting them excited,” Kern said. “The main goal of The Hatch is the emergence of students into entrepreneurship, taking an idea and making it into something of value.”

When a student is accepted into The Hatch, they are paired with an alumnus mentor who works hand-in-hand with them for ten weeks as they prepare their presentation. The goal of mentors is to be supportive and helpful to the student entrepreneurs with the limited time each student has to make their idea the best it can be before it is presented in front of the alumni panel.

Next year’s alumni panel includes the lead investor, Earle Malm, along with Mark West, Nico Cottone, Dr. Michelle Drerup, Matthew Yourkvitch and a secret addition to the panel, whose name has not been revealed yet.

By the time preparation for The Hatch is complete, hundreds of people will gather in the Perry Field House to watch the event play out. Last year alone, over 7,500 people livestreamed The Hatch on various platforms.

“I don’t plan on presenting anything to The Hatch panel this year, but I love to support my fellow business students,” junior Katelyn Chapman said.

Students who have business ideas and want to present at The Hatch panel can go to www.bgsu/TheHatch to fill out the required information. Applications are due Nov. 2 by 5 p.m. The Hatch takes place April 11, 2019, at the Perry Field House from 6 to 8 p.m. and is free to everyone.

In 2018, The Hatch was streamed by more than 7,500 people.

PHOTO BY MICHAELA DAVIS

In 2018, The Hatch was streamed by more than 7,500 people.
Remebering legend Danny Leiner

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

The world became a little less funny this past Thursday when it was reported that Danny Leiner, film and television director, had died after an extended battle with lung cancer. He was 57.

The film director was the leading vision behind cinema classics such as “Dude, Where's My Car!” and “Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle.” He also directed several episodes of TV shows, including “How to Make It In America,” “The Office,” “The Sopranos,” “Freaks and Geeks” and “Arrested Development.” He was also active as a commercial director.

Longtime co-producer Ross Putman first announced Leiner's death on Facebook with Deadline Hollywood later confirming it. Putman expressed deep sorrow at the loss of one of comedy's lesser known bright spots.

“If there's one thing I can say about Danny the professional, it's he refused to let us settle for anything less than our best,” Putnam said in his Facebook post. “He pushed us to do what he knew we were capable of.”


That movie, while received poorly by critics, launched Kutcher's feature film career and became a cult classic. The title phrase alone has become a minor pop culture expression, parodied endlessly during the early 2000s.

Leiner often brought the best out of his actors, and Kutcher and Scott are prime examples of this. Kutcher would go on to star in the films “No Strings Attached” and “Jobs” while also becoming a venture capitalist and philanthropist. Scott would go on to dispel his goofy-frat-boy persona in movies such as “Role Models” and “Goon.”

“Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle” was then released in 2004, spawning two sequels that Leiner did not direct. The stoner comedy became one of the seminal comedy movies of the 21st century and was named as one of Rolling Stone's fifty best comedies of the 21st century.

Stars Kal Penn and John Cho have also gone on to do great things, both in and outside of cinema. Cho has portrayed Sulu in the “Star Trek” reboot series and became the first Asian-American actor in history to headline a mainstream thriller film in Hollywood with 2018’s “Searching.”

Penn has held roles on TV classics “How I Met Your Mother” and “House.”

Artists purposely make albums long

Michael Schossler
Reporter

With hundreds of songs being released each week on various platforms, sometimes it can be a challenge to aimlessly shuffle through your library to decide on just one. Of course, this struggle is natural. Many people pursue music as a career and, in doing so, put out a lot of music for fans to get familiar with. The recent floods of music from artists may not serve fans as much as they appear to.

Generally, releasing an album with well-structured promotion is a promising method. However, a new way to generate more wealth from album releases has arisen for some artists. With the proper fanbase, some are able to use their promotional means to not only garner excitement for lengthy albums, but also keep as much of their audience as possible.

In some instances, an artist may present a long album in a way that justifies the length, sparing them some backlash but also helping them looking to boost sales, individuals streaming an album either a single time through or multiple times back can definitely be seen as a temptation.

On Friday, Migos trio member Quavo dropped his anticipated solo album, “Quavo Huncho,” that uses the over-stuffed project formula. Comprised of 19 songs and sprinkled with eye-catching features, the album was destined to do big numbers, selling over 100,000 units.

Through the blow-up success of his group — who have used the same strategy — Quavo was able to release music to an audience already infatuated with his sound. No matter the average quality, the profit speaks for the new structure.

Even earlier this year, with the release of “SR3MM” by Rae Sremmurd, the duo advertised that the three-disc album would showcase each of their respective talents on two separate discs in addition to one joint disc. With 27 tracks of material, the group was able to cover a significant amount of ground stylistically and ultimately sell 57,000 copies its first week, according to Complex.

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Horror TV show captivates and terrifies

Jacob Clary
Sports Editor

Netflix released a new horror show around a week ago titled “The Haunting of Hill House.” The show is loosely based on the book of the same name by Shirley Jackson, written in 1959. The basic premise of the show is the Crain family is being haunted by spirits that originated from the Hill House. The show is absolutely amazing. Everything about it is perfectly crafted to make a phenomenal show that doesn't only look to scare you with jump scares — there is legitimate horror, which is great. There are a few things the show does really well: the camera work and visuals, the story and the characters.

First, the camera work and visuals make the show as phenomenal as it is. The way the camera is used in the show makes each scary moment even better. Many times, the camera is in a slow pan, showing the viewer the room or area the characters are in. The slow pan allows the show to feel more tense than it actually is. “The Haunting of Hill House” utilizes the camera, which allows for some nice moments and acts toward the show’s benefit.

“The show is absolutely amazing. Everything about it is perfectly crafted to make a phenomenal show that doesn’t only look to scare you with jump scares — there is legitimate horror.”

— Jacob Clary —
Sports Editor

Overall, “The Haunting of Hill House” is one of the greatest shows in horror media ever. The way it brings together the great parts of the genre (like the terror and gorgeously scary visuals) with things I don’t associate with the genre (like a good story and interesting characters) makes it a can’t-miss horror show. The only thing I have left to say is what are you doing reading this review? Go and watch the show right now.

Along with the camera, the visuals in the show are gorgeous. The way the house is used — not only as a haunted house, but also to take the viewer back to the past by showing what the house used to look like — gives the viewer insight into the way the characters feel. The visuals of the show are really what makes the show as scary as it is, because there aren't many of the typical horror tropes like jump scares.

The story of the show is also one of its strong points, which is surprising for the horror genre. Most of the time when I am watching a horror movie or a horror show, the story feels like an afterthought, mostly just a way to transport the viewer to the next jump scare they are trying to set up. However, this is not the case with the Netflix show. The story uses jump scares but gives them a purpose. They aren't there just to scare; they are another vessel through which the story is being told, which makes the viewer see the content of the show in a different light. The story actually has interesting twists and ways it subverts some of the biggest horror tropes (which I won’t mention here), but I loved how different it felt from the genre it so obviously fits in. One difference is the way the story is told, moving back and forth from the past to the present or vice versa. It allows the story to deviate from chronological storytelling but with some fluidity to it, and this allows the show to focus on each of the characters instead of only one or two.

Lastly, like I mentioned before, the characters get a big focus. The horror genre for me is really hit or miss, but when the characters get a big spotlight instead of just scares, that's when the horror media is at its best. “The Haunting of Hill House” excels in this area. It takes time to develop each character, and when I say each, I mean all seven members of the Crain family. Some other characters are given screen time, but the main focus is the Crain family. Because of the emphasis the show has on developing the characters, the viewers want to see how they end up and are interested in the family’s well-being. This makes the show more tense because you want to see the characters achieve their goals and stay alive. The way the show is able to develop the characters well has far-reaching effects on the quality of the show.
Bobcats trounce Falcons in Pelini’s first game

**Evan Hayes**
Pulse Editor

A big program shift — like Bowling Green made last week — is supposed to set about a course for change. In their first game under Interim Head Coach Carl Pelini, the Falcons showed more of the same, putting up a fight early before falling behind down the stretch.

Bowling Green’s struggles against the run have been a topic of conversation this season, and Ohio took full advantage. The Bobcats ran for 392 yards and three touchdowns all the way to a 49-14 victory, squashing any hopes of a quick turnaround after the firing of coach Mike Jinks.

“I felt the energy all week. I thought we had a good week of preparation, but we weren’t ready,” Pelini said. “We didn’t put our best performance out there today. I apologize to all the Bowling Green fans for not having my team ready.”

The Falcons scored on two of their first three drives, quarterback Jarret Doege setting the tone early with a 57-yard pass on the first drive of the game to receiver Scott Miller. Doege would later find RB Marlow early in the second quarter for a touchdown, but the Falcons ultimately had no answers for Ohio’s dominant offensive attack.

Bobcats’ receiver Papi White scored touchdowns on all three of the Bobcats’ opening drives, while quarterback Nathan Rourke recorded four of his five touchdowns — three passing, one rushing — in the first half.

Rourke was 8-12 passing for 192 yards and four touchdowns and ran for 102 yards and a touchdown before being pulled in the fourth quarter. The Bobcats’ only punt came in the third quarter, and they scored on seven of their 10 offensive drives.

“Doege would later find RB Marlow early in the back of the net, which kept the game close, allowing Akron to capitalize on one of their chances late. Akron had seven shots during the match, with only four of those being on goal. However, they were able to get one shot in the back of the net. Akron’s goal was also quality, coming from outside the 18-yard box and going into the top right netting. Head Coach Matt Fannon talked about this part of the match for the team and why he felt they weren’t able to get on the score sheet.

“I think we forced it too much,” Fannon said. “We played as though we were trying to win the conference rather than simply trying to win the match.”

Women’s soccer clinches first place in MAC

**Jacob Clary**
Sports Editor

During the Falcons’ match against the University of Buffalo yesterday, the team was able to clinch first place in the MAC after their 5-0 win. This win also gives them home field advantage during the MAC playoffs. The offense was able to perform up to their potential, returning to the scoring form they were on prior to their match on Thursday.

This win also came after the women’s soccer team was handed their first loss in the MAC conference Thursday night when they played the Akron Zips. The Zips beat them 1-0 and scored their goal with just under two minutes left. The Falcons were previously on an eight-match winning streak in-conference and nine-match streak overall.

The Falcons controlled much of the play, having 25 shots during the entirety of the match with 11 of those on target. The Falcons were attacking but were unable to get anything into the back of the net, which kept the game close, allowing Akron to capitalize on one of their opportunities early before falling behind down the stretch.

“The effort, as always. didn’t drop in any way,” Fannon said. “If anything, we tried a bit too hard and got in our own way. But the chemistry and feeling within the team is as strong as ever.”

Even though this was the first time the Falcons had any result but a win in conference play, they have already clinched a home match in the first round of the MAC Conference playoffs.

The next match for the Falcons will be Thursday night at home against the Toledo Rockets at 3 p.m.
Volleyball beats Toledo, loses to Ball State

Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon volleyball team split their weekend series, defeating the Toledo Rockets 3-1 on Friday before falling to the Ball State Cardinals 3-0 on Saturday.

“Any time you win at home, it’s great, and I know what beating Toledo means for our fans,” Volleyball Head Coach Danijela Tomic said. “Ball State got upset at Miami. They lost in five (sets on Friday), and they had something to prove. Statistically, they beat Miami in every category but serving. We knew that this match was going to mean a lot to them and it meant a lot to us, but they needed to win this one to still stay in play for first place overall in the MAC.”

Friday’s game saw Toledo jump out to an early lead as they won the first set 25-19; however, sophomore middle blocker Katie Kidwell led the Falcon offense with four kills. In the second set, the Falcons turned the match around with a convincing 25-14 victory to tie it up with freshman outside hitter Katelyn Meyer leading the team with four kills. The team then took advantage of the momentum to grab the third set with a 25-17 victory, as Meyer led the team again with four kills. In the fourth, the team won 25-21 with Meyer and junior middle blocker Celena Kanagin tied with five kills each to clinch the match victory 3-1.

“We were very flat in that first set,” Tomic said. “We had nine kills and six errors (in the first set). You’re not going to beat anybody with making so many errors. Once we started taking better care of the ball when we were out of system and attacking when we were in system, the game changed. We had nine kills and only two errors, so it was really on us just to better the ball and take care of the ball when we needed to.”

Meyer led the team in kills overall with 15. “She made smart shots,” Tomic said. “She jumps high and was aggressive when she needed to be aggressive. She took care of the ball when she needed to take care of the ball, she played smart and played poised. She definitely didn’t play like a freshman. We knew when we recruited her that she has that kind of ability, and she’s showing it now.”

On Saturday, the team fell behind early, with Ball State winning the first set 25-16, but Meyer and Kanagin each tied with four kills in the set. The second set saw the Falcons stage a strong comeback attempt with the team coming back from being behind 21-15 to tie the set. However, Ball State eventually won 27-25 to go up two sets to none. Meyer led the Falcon offense with five kills. In the third set, the team went ahead early on but eventually fell behind as Ball State won 25-20 to claim the match victory 3-0.

“We lost to a very good team,” Tomic said. “There’s no shame in that. When a good team outplays you, they’re just better, and that’s a part of sports. It’s not the same when you lose to a team you know you should beat. We had to play maybe our best match of the season to have a chance to beat Ball State.”

Meyer again led the team with five kills, with 14 total on the match.

The team will play next on Friday night at home against the Akron Zips, followed by a Saturday night match against the Buffalo Bulls.
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OCTOBER 24, 25, 26

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Festival encourages kids to read

Adam Gretsing
City Editor

Children and adults alike in the Bowling Green area got to show their love for writing in a new event for the town.

The Wood County District Public Library hosted a writing festival last weekend in honor of the National Day on Writing. The day was founded in 2008 by the National Council of Teachers of English to foster a positive writing culture for youth.

“Nothing matter what you do in life, you need to know how to write,” said Heather Jordan, event director and University general writing professor. She primarily worked with University students from her Foundations of Teaching Writing course to organize the event.

Jordan said many young people do not enjoy writing because they feel disconnected from it — that their experience with writing is mostly about being criticized for elements like grammar and spelling.

“They’ve been misinformed about what makes good writing,” she said.

However, she said the current generation was primed to gain a better appreciation of the practice because of its constant use of communication, from texting to Reddit. If students can understand the importance of good communication, they can become good writers, she added.

The festival reflected this notion with several stations: Rainbow Writing, for young children to write out colors with crayons, and Mad Libs Movement, for children to complete a Mad-Libs-style passage.

Poetry was also a focus of organizers, including Magnetic Poetry and Blackout Poetry. The former had people place magnetic words to form phrases, while the latter required them to black-out words in a magazine to create poetry.

It is “a way to get people interested in poetry (who) normally wouldn’t,” junior Moriah Garcia said.

Two stations were committed to prompt-based writing opportunities, and another asked participants to write sentences based on symbols rolled on special dice. These Story Cube sessions were manned by the director’s son, Emerson Jordan.

The festival also supplied a sit-down storytime session, gave out popcorn and asked attendees to add to a word cloud project about writing. Michele Raine, the library’s assistant director of Adult Services, said she appreciated the opportunity to host the event, not only for its relative simplicity but also for its possible effect on the community. She said she hoped it would help “cultivate the next generation of great writers” in America.

Though attendance was limited during the event, especially in its opening minutes, Jordan said she looked to see it still in operation five years down the line with an even better turnout. She also looked to see more social media presence for it locally, as a reflection of the national day’s growing digital footprint.

She encouraged participants and those interested in writing to share their thoughts with #WhyIWrite.

The writing festival was at the Wood County District Public Library.

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