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PHOTO BY REGHAN WINKLER
Students hurting from bias incident

Brionna Scebbi
Copy Chief

As a Latina, senior Megan Miner knows what discrimination looks like. So when pictures of nine Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike) members dressed as Latino gangsters for Halloween — with the caption “Your culture IS my costume #CholoGang” — hit Instagram, she was furious.

“I am physically angry,” Miner said at a joint meeting between the Latino and Black Student Unions on Nov. 7. The student unions met to discuss what they wanted to see the University’s administration do beyond the email President Rodney Rogers sent out on Nov. 6 addressing the incident. Like Miner, many students expressed their frustration in the LSU/BSU meeting, held just hours after Pike posted a statement on Twitter.

A student read the statement aloud, which apologized to “all organizations on campus as well as any individuals who were offended” by the “offensive, arrogant, and insensitive” costumes.

The reading of the statement prompted a student to blurt out, “Well, why aren’t they (Pike members) here?”

Across the room, four Pike members — President Troy Henricksen, External Vice President Shawn Ragland, senior Jon Dorcely and senior Kendall Brodie — raised their hands while several members of the student unions gasped at the uninhibited fraternity brothers. LSU President Sadi Troche tried to reign in the murmuring crowd as Henricksen leaned forward in his chair to speak.

“I want to formally apologize for the actions taken by some of my members during Halloween. I just want you to know that’s no way that our chapter is supposed to be portrayed. Those members do not represent our pillars that most of the members of our chapter do represent every single day,” he said.

He said the fraternity is working with the University to investigate while also disciplining the nine members involved internally. Those members are suspended until further notice and are “frozen, not with Pike or affiliated with us right now,” Henricksen said.

His words caused some to voice their thanks, while others in attendance went on to accuse the Pike members of not doing enough, citing past offenses from the fraternity as reason to not trust this apology.

Miner did not vocalize her gratitude for the Pikers being there. Instead, she shared her own experience with discrimination, especially in the current political climate.

“That is my culture, and I have seen it be appropriated in so many ways. I’m mad about the way people are talking about Latinos in this country. They treat us like we ain’t people, but we are people,” Miner said, on the verge of tears and visibly shaking. “So, yeah, I’m furious, and I’m sure you can hear it in my voice.”

As she spoke, those in attendance clapped, snapped and yelled out their support. They shouted, “Go ahead!” and nodded in agreement while Miner expressed the pain she was feeling from this bias incident and its reflection of the national rhetoric directed toward Latinos.

“I think there needs to be punishment. I don’t care if the people in those pictures are expelled; I don’t care if that ruins their future,” she said, beating her hand against her chest between words. “I’m tired of the way this country’s talking about my people, how they call us all illegals, how I’ve been told to go back to Mexico so many **** times when I was born here! Where they treat my mom like she’s stupid because she’s brown.”

Several people in the room were in tears when Miner finished, and the Pike members broke the silence to ask if they should leave. Coordinator for Diversity and Retention Initiatives and LSU Adviser Ana Brown gave them the choice.

The fraternity brothers chose to stay to respond to questions, one of which was why they chose to join Pike.

Dorcely said, as a black man, he joined Pike because they accepted him, something he hadn’t experienced much before college. He was born to Haitian parents in a “black and Hispanic community” in Maryland, and his best friend growing up was from the Dominican Republic, he said. When he moved to Michigan, he attended a predominately white school where he felt he didn’t fit in with the white students because he was too black, but he also felt excluded by black students because he “talked too white,” he said.

Pike members were “guys I wanted to be around,” he said.

“I never saw any instance where I’d seen where they thought that they were better than certain cultures or they thought that certain cultures were a joke. This whole situation to happen, it’s embarrassing. For the first time, I feel embarrassed wearing my letters on campus because I know when people see my letters they go, ‘Well, he’s in Pike, and they’re that racist fraternity,’” he said.

As a final statement from Pike, Dorcely shared how mad he was at the individuals who dressed that way for Halloween.

Once the Pike members left the meeting, the student unions continued their discussion about what they want to see happen moving forward. Undergraduate Student Government Vice President Marcus Goolsby was also in attendance and said he would address the issue with members of administration.

Some of the ideas discussed and planned to be presented to Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Gibson and Title IX Coordinator Jennifer McCary include:

• A pause on alumni donations to the fraternity while the investigation is going on.
• Increased cultural sensitivity training for Greek organizations.
• Increased community service in primarily Latino communities.

“We are not going to let this fall on the wayside, and we are not going to let it fall in the cracks because you got to be messed up if I’m not going to be in the Office of the Dean of Students and Student Affairs letting (Thomas) Gibson, Jennifer (McCary) … all of them know what’s up. Because I’m not going to tolerate it no more,” Troche said.
5 ways to support indigenous people this Thanksgiving

Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

Thanksgiving is usually presented as a celebration of pilgrims and Native Americans coming together at a feast. As we know, Native Americans have historically not been treated with respect and have not gained support from the American government. I don’t think we need to stop celebrating Thanksgiving, but it would be better to support Native Americans on that day. So, here’s how:

1. Donate.
   There are many organizations founded by Native Americans that work to support Native Americans. Some good ones that could use your support are the Native American Heritage Association, the First Nations Development Institute and the Native American Rights Fund. In most cases with charities, giving money is better than giving supplies.

2. Talk about native issues.
   Let people know about past and current oppressions Native Americans face. Native people still exist, despite what some people may believe, and making sure your family and friends aren’t ignoring them and issues affecting them is a little thing you can do.

3. Educate yourself.
   Many people believe all Native tribes are a monolith, but this is not true. Each tribe is distinct in many different ways. Know the basics of the tribes that lived, or continue to live, in your area, and maybe donate to those tribes specifically.

4. Contact your representatives.
   When you educate yourself on problems Native Americans face, find out key legislation happening and contact your representatives about it. It only takes a few minutes to make a phone call or write a letter, and your voice could make a difference.

5. Continue to speak out.
   Don’t let Thanksgiving be the only time you support indigenous people. Being an ally should be a constant thing, but Thanksgiving is a good reminder.

Although it is true that due to colonialism, Native populations in America are smaller, there are still natives all across the country.
New Title IX regulations are dangerous

Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

Betsy DeVos announced new rules for Title IX procedures in primary and secondary schools and colleges. These rules are not aiming to better serve and protect survivors of sexual violence but to ease regulations on what schools have to do when a student reports and to reinforce the due process given to people accused of sexual assault.

Very few people lie about being sexually assaulted. According to FBI data, only about 2 percent of accusations are false. While I don’t believe innocent people should be punished, it’s more likely that an accuser is telling the truth.

Survivors usually don’t report their assaults for a myriad of reasons, including the backlash they will receive, the fact that they usually know their rapist and a fear of having to relive the experience over and over again.

This is why I think changing the Title IX rules to bolster the rights the of the accused will backfire. Less people will report; those who do report will receive less support, and it’s adding to the culture of distrusting survivors. Or, maybe, that’s what DeVos wanted all along. She may not care about the well-being of survivors.

However, the worst part about these rules includes allowing accusers and accused to cross-examine each other. No question, this will allow rapists to go face-to-face with the people they raped and ask them questions about the rape that occurred. This will absolutely re-traumatize some victims. Imagine being robbed at gunpoint and the person who robbed you was allowed to ask you questions about it in court, except worse.

I don’t believe allowing this cross-examination will yield any more results for survivors or those accused—except that less people will report. It will only create uncomfortable situations at best and traumatize survivors at worst.

Survivors deserve to be supported and respected. We need to work to ensure they are.

Columnist shares story of displacement

Shiva Bhusal
Columnist

In 1999, my family migrated from the western hilly region of Nepal to the plains, seeking fertile land, good education, better healthcare facilities and an easier life in general. Many other neighboring families from the same region migrated to the plains, selling their land and property or leasing them at a very low price.

During the ‘90s, the price of land in the plains was cheap. The immigration increased the population in the plains and the price of land at an alarming rate. The high price of the land has now become one of the checking factors of the migration. Not all the families can now afford the similar boom of the early and late ‘90s. I feel these days, population has become stable in the plains.

I feel migration is like the search for happiness that never ends in one’s life. Even people who have migrated to sophisticated places tend to move to more sophisticated places, and it becomes a never-ending process.

I first moved with my family from the hilly region to the plains and then moved from plains to the city of Kathmandu, and in fall 2016, I came to the United States for my university education. I don’t know in which part of the world I will end up in the next 5 years in pursuit of my professional and creative endeavors.

The process of migration is usually fueled by the need of employment education or personal business. Sometimes, wars or some sort of tribal conflicts may also be the reason for migration. People will stop wandering only in an ideal world with all sorts of facilities and in which people’s desires, aims and aspirations also remain the same throughout their life.

I was very young when my family moved from the village in the western hills of Nepal to the plain lowland. During the time we lived there, we didn’t have electricity in the village. It took around four hours of walk from the roadways to the village. The only school in the village conducted classes until the third grade.

After the third grade, the students joined another school in the Bazaar area, which was about a two-hour walk away.

I visited my village in the western hills in 2016 and found many things had changed. The village was now fueled by electricity generated through local hydropower. The roadway still didn’t connect to my village, but now I no longer had to walk for four hours; about an hour of a walk would take me to the village. The path to the village, which once upon a time had small plants and was mostly clear, was now a jungle with giant trees around. The bushes had grown denser, which indicated that only a few people walk through that path. There were not more than 50 people in the village.

When I look back at my village in the western hills and my hometown in the plains, I observe that the entire people of the hills have been displaced to the plains. When I look back at my village in the plains and start searching for the youths of my age, I feel the entire youth is displaced abroad, especially in the west.
Students discuss vegan dining options on campus

Elizabeth Clark

Some vegan and vegetarian students think the University’s plant-based dining options could be improved.

Veganism is defined by The Vegan Society as a “way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing, or any other purpose.” These are people who often care about animals, have food allergies or just want to see if they can do it.

One member of this community is junior environmental science major Jashan Singh, a vegetarian for the past three years. For her, this was not a difficult decision at all but rather an easy moral one.

“I mean, I didn’t really eat much meat at the time, and as I did more research about the meat industry I became more and more grossed out. So, I made the choice to go vegetarian because of that,” Singh said.

According to a 2016 Pew Research Center survey, 12 percent of U.S. consumers between the ages of 18 and 29 identify as vegan or vegetarian. The survey included a total of 1,480 respondents.

Singh believes more people are being drawn to vegetarianism and veganism.

“I think that (the vegan diet is) popular because slaughtering animals is messed up, and people are starting to realize,” she said.

This is a similar reason as to why junior history major Remi Rosen became vegetarian. When she came to the University from California, it was not easy to keep up her vegetarian eating habits.

“I was a vegan for ten months and have been vegetarian for over three years. I just wanted to save animals after I read one vegan saves 15 animals every year. I had to stop being vegan once I came to Ohio, because I didn’t have many options,” Rosen said.

Food diversity is an increasing trend among college campuses; Peta2 considers the University vegan-friendly. The University labels vegetarian and vegan options in dining halls and sometimes solely offers non-meat options. Despite this, both Rosen and Singh find faults with on-campus dining options.

“I don’t think BGSU does a good job with food diversity, because there is only one place on-campus where you can get real vegan food, and it’s so important to have diverse food options. Some people don’t eat meat for religious purposes, and so I think we should do a better job at recognizing that,” Singh said.

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Vince Staples continues to make strides at his own pace

In 2015, Vince Staples was positioned amongst his generational peers as a part of the XXL Freshman list. However, during this year, many would not see the cover as his biggest accomplishment — that would be Staples’ 2015 debut album, “Summertime ’06,” a 20-song and near hour-long album with much critical acclaim. The album proved Staples to be a mainstay in rap and only built higher anticipation for his next release.

But while delivering a body of work each year since 2014, it became clear his 2015 release was a bit abnormal. After this, Staples’ releases under the Def Jam label would thin, his 2017 release not even lasting past 40 minutes.

On “FM!,” Staples follows this formula once again but more strictly, making it questionable if the 22-minute runtime justifies an album or an EP. It doesn’t matter all that much though, and Staples is fully aware of this. As long as he fills his small runtime with quality music, the listener will want to replay the album multiple times over. And much like his previous projects, this album accomplishes just that.

Staples’ third studio album is set up to play like recorded segments from a radio show, specifically “Big Boy’s Neighborhood.” The album contains voice-overs from the hosts, including Big Boy himself, guiding the album from track to track.

Though a standout feature, the real ear-catcher, lies in the concept itself and how well Staples is able to execute the idea. With “FM!,” it has highlighted the notion of how his area of Long Beach, California, can often feel like summer year-round by how the city’s streets operate. The opener, “Feels Like Summer,” perfectly captures this, depicting friends together at someone’s house and separately getting involved with gang violence for a polar opposite comparison of the analogy (not to mention Ty Dolla $ign delivers a hell of a performance on hook duty).

But instead of attempting to preach to listeners on what is right and wrong, Staples opts for his expected powerhouse move of telling it like it is, giving the listeners facts of gang violence whether they make them smile along or make them crawl in their skin.

“Everybody say it’s lonely at the top/ I want my homies at the top, my little homie he got shot,” Staples rapped, opening his second verse on “Don’t get Chipped.”

With only a few lines, Staples is able have a connection with the listener through finding solace in friendship, but he smacks listeners for thinking their hardships could amount to his own. Much of the album operates in this fashion, delivering beats and verses, acting as though they have a playful tone, but filling songs with lyrics packed with forbidding street knowledge. “FUN!” with E-40 also serves as a perfect example of this.

A listener should prepare themselves for heavily gangster-inspired music, but beyond this are expertly crafted verses that tell cautionary tales. Despite doing this for all his career, Staples is able to repackage his style in a way that can seem brand new, much like his inspiration Snoop Dogg.

“FM!” finds Staples letting go of his more serious album-making technique, answering the question of what an album would sound like if it was all made like his song “Big Fish:” catchy but not without heed of past decisions.

The project falters in very few spots, but that also alludes to a greater issue. Because Staples only made the album 22 minutes long, it could easily still be expanded. The concept of a radio show album centered around the West Coast proved to be in the wheelhouse of Staples, but there is the possibility of cutting it short.

While an Earl Sweatshirt verse is always welcomed, his appearance on the album feels like cutting corners with the idea that radio shows normally broadcast song snippets as such. Likewise, the Tyga preview fits sonically but seems more like unneeded padding.

The short runtime also brings out songs in the tracklist that aren’t as strong as Staples songs in the past. “Run The Bands” feels more like an uninspired version of “Homage” off his 2017 LP, and “Relay” is simply a song that has a hard time being memorable outside of some stand-out lyrics.

Still, for less than 25 minutes Staples is able to engage an audience with West Coast rap culture at no expense other than speaking the truth. For anyone looking to delve into this style, Staples offers a suitable album to get the general idea.

“Tryna get rich, get everybody fed/ But everybody dead,” Staples rapped as his closing lines to the project, and truly no better words summarize the experience.

Staples currently stands in a position to be a success story of how to make it past one’s upbringing, no matter how brutal, but he’s self-aware enough to know that in the process of doing so, there will people he will be unable to help. The imagery of Staples being too late to financially save the people he cares about because of their own choices is grim, but it delivers the kind of realism listeners all need once in a while, even when listening to an album designed around fun.
New Pokémon games nostalgic for veterans but not for newcomers

Jacob Clary
Sports Editor

The 2016 release of "Pokémon Go" led to a renewed love and fervor for the popular franchise that had not been seen since its beginning in 1998. Alongside that, it was not a radical thought that some of the features introduced in the mobile app would manifest themselves in a main-series game.

So when Gamefreak, the core developers of the series, announced "Pokémon: Let's Go, Pikachu!" and "Pokémon: Let's Go, Eevee!," I wasn't surprised, but I also wasn't thrilled. I have been a fan of the series since the early 2000s, and have played each game in the franchise, so you could say I'm a hardcore fan.

I'm going to say that — right out of the gate — these games are not for the hardcore fans, withholding the obvious nostalgia factor of course. These games look like they are for fans of the franchise, but the game play is like the series has taken 20 years of improvements and went back to the basics.

I'll start with the catching and battle mechanics. The catching mechanic in previous Pokémon games had the player weaken the Pokémon and then try to catch it. However, in this game, there is no weakening the Pokémon.

It's the same catching as "Pokémon Go" that I honestly hate. I don't like how the Pokémon can run away whenever it feels like it, and I also don't like the way they make it more difficult to catch the Pokémon by having them move around the catching terrain. It also frustrates me to no end that the player is required to use motion controls to try and catch Pokémon, and because of the added emphasis of catching in these games, they lessen the amount of experience given in trainer battles.

Catching Pokémon has always been the reason I play the Pokémon games, and for it to be stripped down to the bone is a crime. The only change the games made that I enjoy is there are no more random battles. The player can see the Pokémon before they encounter them. This is a change I adore and hope it makes it to the next generation of the main Pokémon series.

The battle system in the game has also been stripped of many of its essentials, like the catching system. The game takes away held items and abilities, which are some of the best ways to strategize in the games. It was weird to battle and to have a move hit a Pokémon — in other games, the move wouldn't have affected them.

This made me, as the player, feel like all I was doing was hitting the button to attack. There was no strategy other than type effectiveness, which I was happy to see hadn't been stripped away either. I was surprised to see the new types, which were introduced after Generation 1, were actually in the game because of how many features were taken away.

Something else about limiting the battling is the fact it is only the first 151 Pokémon in the game, with the addition of two brand new Pokémon.

It was shocking that some of my favorites, which are evolutions of Generation 1 Pokémon, like Steelix and Electivire, were not in the game. I know the reasoning for this is because they wanted to keep the game small for the new players, but as someone who has played the series for years, it is disappointing they weren't in the games.

Besides battling and catching, the games are gorgeous. I love the look of the game, and it was amazing to see the Kanto region remade from scratch. Many of the artistic liberties in the world were welcome, and the team was able to fill in details where none were present in the original games. I don't know how much more I can gush about the graphics in the game. I hope the next Pokémon games look somewhat like these. The music harkens back to the original games, and it made me feel like I was playing in my old Gameboy Advance. It's really just too bad the inner part of the games are such a disappointment.

I know it sounds like I am utterly destroying the game, but that isn't true. I liked my time with the game. I think it would be very difficult for me to not enjoy playing Pokémon. However, acknowledging that bias, the changes they made to some of my favorite parts of the series do not sit well with me.

It's something I genuinely worry about — that these changes will make their way to the real Pokémon games. I don't consider this a game in the main series, and I hope Gamefreak doesn't either. I think if you are someone who has been a fan of the series for years, I would go into this game knowing it is not for you at all. It's for the people who were reintroduced to the series after "Pokémon Go" or younger people who haven't touched it. I just hope the next games are for me.

‘HITMAN 2’ a stellar evolution from 2016 reboot

Jacob Clary
Sports Editor

‘HITMAN 2,’ a sequel to the award-winning reboot of the popular HITMAN franchise, is as good, if not better, than the reboot. It adds a few things like the briefcase, which allows Agent 47 to carry an illegal item with him, and foliage — which 47 can hide in to get away from enemies — but mostly, it's just more of the game I adored from a couple years ago.

The star of the game is the locations, and even though there are less of them in the sequel compared to the first — six and eight respectively — the main locations in the new game were much more fun than those in the first. “HITMAN” had six main maps with two maps that were tutorial areas, while the sequel has five main maps and one tutorial area. This is definitely disappointing, but I like the maps in the new game more than those in the original. I am not going to spoil the areas in the game, of course, but I will say that my favorite map overall is in “HITMAN 2,” and it spins the series’ conventions on their head with the way it uses this map. The maps are also stunning, which makes it even more fun to explore the maps and see the different ways players are able to take out the targets.

The situations 47 is able to get himself into are also hilariously amazing, and I was grinning ear to ear whenever I successfully killed a target or did basically anything in the game.

Just a couple examples for different targets are the player disguises themselves as a tattoo artist and then takes the target out that way, or the player dresses up as a master cultist and leads a ritual to take out a cult leader. Each situation is both varied and hilarious. Whenever I got onto a new map, the first thing I did was see the ways I could take out the targets. I loved seeing the ways I could hilariously kill these terrible people.

The gameplay may seem pretty basic, but that works in the game's favor. By not asking too much of the player at the beginning, it allows the player to feel like they are already good at the game, which makes them want to try anything possible, and that's fun. Experimenting with the systems in the game is what it wants from the player, and I loved it.

The only thing about the game I could consider a negative is the terrible always-online part of the game. It requires there to be an online connection to play any part of the game, and I think that is something I wish would stop.

Overall, I love everything about the game except for the online functionality. The maps are gorgeous, and the game play is stellar as well. Also, if you owned the first game, it comes free with “HITMAN 2” with all the game play and UI improvements from the sequel, and it was great to see those maps in this new light. If you enjoy messing around with a game's systems, then I can't recommend “HITMAN 2” enough. However, if you don't have a good online connection, don't even touch this game because it will not be a fun experience.
Black Friday shopping can have effects on mental health

Courtney Storey
Reporter

Every year, people across the country go Black Friday shopping. In fact, according to The Balance the average amount a person spends is $1,007.24. Along with fighting for deals comes stress and a change in personality if there’s a limited amount of one item everyone wants.

Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving when stores all throughout the U.S. have one-day-only deals. Many deals have a first-come-first-serve basis due to popularity. When it comes to that rule, waiting in lines for long hours, tiredness and competitiveness are factors that add in.

“Flash sales like Black Friday can place great stress on people’s shopping experience. Periods of poor mental health can in some cases be accompanied by impulsive decision making, or anxiety and worry about the future,” according to Money and Mental Health Policy Institute.

People also have a fear of missing out because the good deal may never be offered any other day.

Money and Mental Health Policy Institute also reported people have a fear of not taking advantage of an item and the deal disappears, so they buy it even if they don’t necessarily need it.

Junior broadcast journalism major Danielle Kane shops on Black Friday every year with her mother.

“Before we go out for the night, we make a plan of which stores to tackle first, and we base it off of which have the best deals on stuff we need to buy. It is stressful, especially when you drive by a store with a massive line,” Kane said.

She also talked about how Walmart has some items in the middle of the aisles wrapped up tight and people stand by the items guarding an area so less people have the opportunity to get them.

Shopping has also been called “retail therapy,” Black Friday can also be viewed as retail therapy because it allows people to have a budget and spend the money they need to fulfill their Christmas list.

With spending money comes the stress and worrying about finances. The Balance reported the total amount spent last Black Friday as $682 billion, and around 137 million people went to stores on Black Friday and the following days to complete the weekend.

Angela Danler, a mother of two children under the age of 12, goes every year to get deals on toys.

“I will say, stress and being overwhelmed is an understatement. I am mentally drained after the night of shopping because there is so much on my list that if I don’t get what I need, it will stress me out,” she said.

Danler is currently looking through ads to see what the deals are this year. She is planning her shopping trip out financially this year as well.

“One thing I want to improve on for my own well-being is my financials. I need to have a stronger budget, so I don’t feel stressed and empty of money. It will allow me to have more peace at mind after I am done,” she said.

On Black Friday, many shoppers go the whole night for deals because deals are offered at different times throughout the night.

Money and Mental Health Policy Institute reported, “You can still schedule a break or a pause from shopping for either a short breather or to double check you want all those items in your basket. The short breather can help avoid impulsive purchasing during a stressful shopping experience.”

The shoppers, however, are not the only ones affected by stress and anxiety. The workers at the stores can be put on shifts throughout the whole night with only small breaks. Many people also seek a job during this time, so they have extra money to spend for holiday gifts.

“The National Retail Federation (NRF) reported that stores hired between 500,000 and 550,000 seasonal workers in 2017,” according to The Balance.

The workers also must help with crowd control and watch for arguments made by customers over an item.

Frank Lagodich, a worker at Dillard’s, worked on Black Friday last year.

“We don’t do any huge deals on Black Friday; however, you can definitely see a personality change and focus. It amazes me because we just celebrated what we are all thankful for on the day before, and now people are fighting over the last item there is,” he said.

He also talked about how one time he had to break up an argument over a pair of dress shoes because there was only one size left.

According to HuffPost, shoppers can avoid overspending, since overspending can lead to stress and anxiety, as discussed above. A few ways include ignoring the hype, thinking about the future and learning from the past.
Women’s basketball takes down Robert Morris with last-second shot

Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon women's basketball team defeated the Robert Morris Colonials 61-60 Saturday. Freshman guard Kadie Hempfling made a game-winning layup with just one second remaining in regulation time.

"Morgan (McMillen) was taking it to the basket; it was a flat ball screen for Morgan," Hempfling said. "We let Morgan create it because she's obviously an amazing player and can do that. She went up for the shot, and I saw it, and the big slid over to help, and she blocked it. They both were going out of bounds, and she threw it. I intercepted it, and I knew I had to get a shot off. ... It was just a reverse layup, and it went in."

The game started out with the Falcons getting off to a tough start, falling behind 16-10 late in the first quarter before coming back on a pair of three-pointers to tie 16-16 at the end of the first with junior guard Andrea Cecil getting 5 points to lead the Falcons' offense. However, Robert Morris would later pull away in the second quarter, taking a 37-33 lead going into halftime as Cecil earned 9 points in the second for 14 total points on the half.

In the second half, Robert Morris outscored the Falcons 15-13 in the third quarter for a 52-46 lead going into the fourth; however, Cecil continued to lead the team's offense with 6 points in the third.

In the fourth, the Falcons would turn the game around as they started outshooting Robert Morris and decreasing the deficit. However, late in the game, it looked as though the Colonials would be able to put the game out of reach as they were given two free throws with 16 seconds remaining and a 1-point lead. Both free throws were no good, but Robert Morris had a second chance as another foul awarded them two more free throws, this time with 14 seconds left. Again, both free throws failed to go in, keeping the Falcons within reach. As the Falcons took the ball up the court, a missed shot by freshman guard Morgan McMillen went to Hempfling, who put in the layup to give the team the lead. Robert Morris would be unable to come back in the final second, and the Falcons claimed the 61-60 victory while McMillen led the team in offense in the final quarter with 6 points.

However, the team also found there are still some things to work on with the offense. "Offensively, we've got to do a better job with having consistent ball movement and getting the ball inside out," Fralick said. "I thought we really got away from that, and Robert Morris is a great team. They're a 25-win WNIT team from last year; they're very good defensively, and we struggled with that."

Cecil led the team in offense overall with 20 points throughout the game.

Football wins third game of season

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

For one of the first times this season, the Falcon football team gave its fanbase something to celebrate.

The Falcons — currently 3-8 overall and 2-5 in MAC — are currently riding a two-game win streak after an impressive defensive effort against the University of Akron that saw them win 26-6 Saturday. After an impressive showing against Central Michigan, the defense continued its turnaround by holding the Zips to just two field goals.

"It's nice because I said this a few weeks ago: I thought we were close. And then the light bulb went on. The execution was great. Players are playing faster, and I think that's the biggest thing: the speed of the defense is an intellectual thing. They understand more what they're doing. There's no hesitation, and I think that's starting to show," Head Coach Carl Pelini said.

Bowling Green has gone the past six quarters without allowing a touchdown and has held back-to-back opponents scoreless in the second half. The defensive effort against Akron saw the Falcons hold their opponent to 54 yards and no points in the second half, which was all the more impressive considering the team was down to just four defensive linemen due to injuries.

"A lot of guys are down, unfortunately, but we had the four guys who were in and stepped up," sophomore defensive lineman Kyle Junior said. "The whole defense stepped up for us; the whole defense did their jobs. DBs covered, linebackers filled their gaps and it made our jobs easier."

A offensively sluggish first half saw the Falcons claw their way to an early 14-6 lead, largely on the strength of the defense.

Two turnovers in the second quarter, an interception by quarterback Jarret Doege and a fumble by backup quarterback Grant Loy set the Zips up with consecutive possessions.

The defense was able to hold, only allowing a field goal on the first possession and forcing a punt on the second. Doege then led the Falcons on a 80-yard drive to close out the first half, finding tight end Dorian Hendrix in the endzone for a 7-yard touchdown pass to take a 14-6 lead.

Looking to control the ball coming out of halftime, the Falcons strategy was to control the ground game and the clock. "In fact, one of the offensive linemen said to me at halftime, 'Let's run it down their throats,'" said Pelini. "And that's what we did."

The Falcons’ final score of the game came during the fourth quarter during a drive that lasted over eight minutes. The Falcons converted on third down four times, using 13 plays to drive 52 yards. Doege capped the drive by finding wide receiver Quintin Morris for an 8-yard touchdown pass.

Doege was 19-27 passing for 178 yards and two touchdowns, while running back Andrew Clair had 12 carries for 112 yards, and wide receiver Scott Miller had 6 catches for 100 yards. Defensive linemen Karl Brooks and Nico Lautanen both had 1.5 sacks while Junior finished with three tackles for loss and one sack. The Falcons 399 total offensive yards were the third highest total this season.

The Falcons are now 2-2 under Pelini and will look to close out the season on a three-game win streak when they take on conference powerhouse Buffalo at the Doyt Friday. Buffalo is looking to advance to the MAC title game with a win.
Falcons’ hockey splits weekend series with Lake Superior State

Jamison Terbrack
Sports Reporter

After returning home from a trip to Anchorage, Alaska, the jet lag was hard to shake for the Falcons. The men’s hockey team split their weekend series with the Lake Superior State University Lakers. The Lakers took the first game, 5-0, while the Falcons took the second, 5-2.

In the first game, the Falcons spent four of the first five minutes of the game on the powerplay but could not score. This would go on to be a major storyline. The Falcons had almost 19 minutes on the powerplay and zero goals to show for it.

On the back end, Ryan Bednard was not himself, allowing five goals on the night and was out of position on multiple shots.

“I’m going to take full responsibility for the preparation,” Head Coach Chris Bergeron said. “Obviously the preparation wasn’t good enough. ... You just never know what to do when you get back from Alaska. Do you rest? Do you not practice as hard as you usually do? Obviously whatever I did was wrong, and that has to be looked at and adjusted.”

In the second game, the Falcons’ situation started looking up. The Falcons stalwart and leader on the blueline, junior Alec Rauhauser, got Bowling Green on the board twice in the first period. Assists on the goals went to sophomore forwards Cam Wright on the former goal and Brandon Kruse on the latter.

“We played better than last night,” Bergeron said. “Still didn’t feel great, but I think it’s only fair to tip your hat to Lake Superior State. ... I thought we had more energy all night long. The only part of our game that seems to be taking away momentum is the powerplay.”

After two periods, the game was tied at 2, but the Falcons stepped it into gear in the third with the young guns leading the way.

Freshman defenseman Will Cullen got the game decider, putting the Falcons up 3-2 with assists going to fellow freshman defensemen Tim Theocharidis and sophomore winger Frederic Letourneau. It was another freshman, Taylor Schneider, who buried one for the Falcons on a dish from Cullen.

The final touches were put on by Letourneau with sophomore forward Sam Craggs getting the helper.

The Falcons’ next game is Wednesday against the US National Developmental U-18 team. The Falcons return home to Slater next on Dec. 14 against Minnesota State.

Men’s basketball picks up second home win

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

The Bowling Green men’s basketball team picked up their second win of the season Thursday night against the defending MEAC champion North Carolina Central Eagles, riding a 15-4 run down the stretch to earn a 75-60 victory.

Despite holding an 18-point lead as the second half started, the Falcons saw their advantage slip to only 4 points with five minutes left to play. Locking down on the defensive down the stretch proved to be the difference maker for a Falcons team that has shown signs of increasing maturity this season.

“I thought our guys played extremely hard on the defensive end. We were able to help each other, force those guys into taking contested shots all throughout the first half,” Head Coach Michael Huger said. “Second half, I think we let up a little bit, and they were able to hit some shots and get back into the game. Then we were able to make our shots and get a couple stops, and that was the difference in the game.”

Senior forward Demajeo Wiggins recorded his fourth straight double-double to start the season while also leading the team in scoring with 22 points and 13 rebounds. Guard Justin Turner had 20 points for the Falcons, while forward Jeffrey Uju had 13 points and guard Dylan Frye recorded 8 points and eight assists.

The first half saw the Falcons lock up the Eagles offense, holding the visiting team to just 31 percent shooting from the field. The offense went on a 10-0 run midway through the opening period, leading to a 14-point lead at halftime 38-24.

After extending their lead in the opening minutes of the second half, the Eagles went on a run of their own to pull within four. Committing to defense is what ultimately allowed the Falcons to close the game on a 15-4 run.

“Basketball is a game of runs, and they went on their run,” said Wiggins. “We just had to stay poised and stay committed to defense.”

The Falcons have shown vast improvements on the defensive side of the ball this season, playing strong team defense while locking down the boards and forcing turnovers. While the Falcons were out-rebounded 32-36 by the Eagles, they forced 14 turnovers and recorded 26 points off of NC Central’s giveaways while holding them to just 42 percent shooting for the game. BG opponents are now shooting 38.5 percent on the season, and their field goal percentage defense ranks second in the MAC.

“It’s been the key to our success so far,” said Huger. “That’s why we were in the St. John’s game. We gave ourselves a chance because we defended really well.”

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Vegan Discussion Continued from page 5

Rosen works for the University’s dining services, which gave her insight to what goes on behind-the-scenes and influenced her decision to not consider the University a vegan-friendly campus.

“The Sundial in (the Kreischer Quadrangle) has so much cross-contamination. I work there, and I only get something there if I make it, so meat doesn’t touch any of my food,” Rosen said.

However, Rosen does believe the University is steadily increasing its options.

“For the last two years I went to this school, the school did not have good options for vegans. I literally only ate potatoes in the dining halls. This year is a lot better, but there is still so much room for improvement,” Rosen said.

Junior neuroscience major Olivia Romeo thinks otherwise.

“I think the vegetarian options all over campus have gotten much more inclusive as well as a lot better quality,” Romeo said.

Romeo became a pollotarian, a vegetarian who chooses to also eat chicken, for a different reason after being vegetarian for more than a year.

“I stopped eating meat because I just wanted to see if I had the willpower to control what I was eating. Also, during my freshman year, the food wasn’t the best,” Romeo said. Romeo was only vegetarian for just over a year but wants all institutions to continue to offer as diverse of a menu as possible.

“Food diversity is important no matter what kind of establishment it is because you need to be flexible for all of your consumers, especially on a college campus where there are so many different cultural backgrounds and dietary needs,” Romeo said.
Tabletop game shop welcomes players

David Escobedo
Reporter

The Stacked Deck is a small, downtown store that specializes in tabletop gaming, card gaming and tournaments for various games. The store has found a good amount of business with its frequent band of customers who are drawn to the niche store.

Starting a few months of operation, Busch put quite a bit of work into the store, being the only employee who works there. This independence takes its toll on his social life since he is the only one working the store during its hours of operation. Having no other employees is one of the few obstacles Busch has run into concerning the implementation of his vision for the store.

In its current location, the shop lacks space for customers to play games and lacks visibility for those who don’t know of it. These are some of the reasons Busch hopes to move to a larger area. He is already looking into some empty properties located on Main Street.

For now though, one of the ways the store gains space is by word of mouth. Busch says many of his new customers aren't aware of the presence of a game store in Bowling Green. Those people come in then tell their friends about the store, and so on. The shop also holds weekly events and tournaments. Mondays and Fridays are for "Magic the Gathering" tournaments, with each day holding different formats of the game. On Tuesdays, Busch holds "Dungeons and Dragons" one-shots, a limited story event with players going through and resolving the plot within the day. Wednesdays are for "Warhammer 40,000" card games. Thursdays are for painting figurines for tabletop games. Finally, on Saturdays, Busch usually just plays any random board game with visitors.

Busch said he always wants to make it apparent that he pushes for an open environment in the store. He said he willing to help others learn new games and mentioned many of his customers are very helpful with new players.

Busch also briefly touched on the negativity of gatekeeping within the gaming community. "Something that has always bothered me about this kind of hobby is that there is, of course the occasional person who gets kinda gatekeepy with the hobby. Part of the tabletop culture is the community of it. So why would you want people scared away from enjoying your hobby? ... (A) welcoming community is something that I'm really proud of has grown here," Busch said.

Busch wants his store to be known as a gathering place for geeky culture with a sense of community between those people. He wants there to be a judgment-free zone for those enjoying the various games he promotes. Bringing together the community already in Bowling Green and getting new people to check out the place are what he wants the store to be known for.

"The more people that are here, the better, Joe is the kinda guy that deserves the support," Jordan said.

The Stacked Deck

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The store opened at the end of February, but there wasn’t an official ribbon cutting for the store until May. Owner Joe Busch had been talking to the owner of Rock'em Sock'em Retro when they were still in their previous location. The owner mentioned to Busch there were a few random customers over its months of operation.

Retro. Busch took the opportunity and opened a shop there.

Business has been going well, Busch says many of his new customers aren't aware of the owner, Joe Busch.

"He's the reason that I come back. Very likeable guy, cares about his customers, cares about games in general. He's an all around great guy. That's why I'm here," Jordan said.

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