“我们不仅仅是一种文化
我们还有很多文化”
“No somos solo una cultura;
somos muchas culturas”
“Nous ne sommes pas qu’une culture;
nous sommes plusieurs cultures”
“We are not just one culture;
we are many cultures”

—Sarah Seal
on why foreign language education is important
Students defend learning foreign languages, despite funding cuts

Michael Pincumbe
Reporter

According to a recent report from CNN, researchers found 651 foreign language programs have been cut over the last five years. At BGSU, foreign language students are using the resources on campus to prepare for life after college, while helping other students trying to learn a new language.

Graduate student and Spanish teacher, Sarah Seal, believes learning a foreign language is one of the many ways to learn more about the world.

“I think that foreign language education is important because it gives a very different perspective on the world around you. We are not just one culture; we are many cultures,” she said. “It’s more than just understanding grammar rules but also understanding the cultures behind why we choose to say the things we do. For me it’s a passion, and it’s something that I have been interested in since high school. While I understand that there is a risk of unemployment and lack of funding, I think that it is worth the risk to be able to provide that for the next generation.”

“I think that foreign language education is important because it gives a very different perspective on the world around you. We are not just one culture; we are many cultures.”

— Sarah Seal —
Graduate Student and Spanish Teacher

The reasoning for this lack of funding includes the 2008 recession, increased funding for STEM classes and a lack of interest in foreign language. The only languages to see an uptick in enrollment are American Sign Language, Hebrew and Korean.

Due to the current decrease in foreign language funding, students have turned to alternative ways to learn a new language outside of the classroom. Graduate student and Spanish teacher, Tyler Anthony, believes the best way to learn a new language is by immersing yourself in the culture.

“The best way to learn is not really the commercialized resources like Rosetta Stone. It’s authentic material, like literature, children books. Even picture books are a great way to start learning. My favorite ways to learn would be TV, music or movies,” he said.

Regardless, Seal believes there are beneficial websites for students to learn a new language.

“There are a lot of very helpful websites that will connect you with someone who speaks a foreign language. Study abroad is also another important way to learn a foreign language; I feel like I didn’t gain fluency until I spent time abroad,” she said.

According to an Modern Language Association study, 129 of the 651 cut programs were French classes. With the current decline in enrollment in certain foreign languages such as French, some students have had growing concerns over the potential for future opportunity after college.

“It’s deceiving to say that just because it’s not used in the U.S. they’re not going to find a job. French especially is one of the top languages recognized by the United Nations and is one of the languages used in government, international trade and diplomatic relations,” Anthony said.

French student and sports management major Ephraim Bacquet decided to take on a new language to challenge himself and learn more about his family history.

“I chose to learn French because I am part French, and I wanted to learn more about the language and the culture of my ancestors. I think it’s important to learn a new language because it’s a great way to build a resume and get a job; you can basically work anywhere,” he said.

With the ever-growing developments in technology and education, foreign education students at BGSU largely believe it is important to not only learn a foreign language but to immerse yourself into the culture of the language you want to study.
5 things I’ve learned living alone

Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

I’ve been living off campus for almost three years now. It’s super different than living in a dorm, and it’s much closer to adult reality. Many people choose to stay in the dorms for longer than they need, but I took a summer class just to have enough credits to move off campus as soon as possible. Here are five things I’ve learned from living on my own.

1. Eggs are cheaper than you think.
Learning how to go grocery shopping is a necessity. On campus, your money is pre-set for you, and there’s only so much choice when it comes to eating on campus. Even if you did the grocery shopping at home, you were probably spending your parent’s money on a list your mom made you. Making decisions on what to get, what to make and how to budget can be an adjustment. The thing most shocking to me was how cheap a carton of eggs is. This number will differ depending on location, but in BG, 12 entire eggs cost less than a dollar. That’s amazing.

2. Time off campus is a blessing.
As students, and people who may work or do extracurriculars on campus, we spend a lot of time here. But spending all of our time at a place that can feel like we’re at school or at work can be a little suffocating sometimes. Having space to yourself off campus gives you a break from your work, whatever that may be. It makes it easier to have a healthier work-life balance.

3. Closet space is essential.
It may feel like the dorms are small, and they are, but you’re not expected to keep everything you own there. You don’t need to stash a vacuum somewhere; you can just check one out at the front desk. If you need to leave your winter or summer clothes at home, you can. But once you move into a house or apartment, there’s an illusion of more space.

4. My mom was right.
I’ll probably never get an “I told you so” from her, but she sure did tell me so. When she complained that I didn’t put the dishes away while I was home all day and she worked, she was right. I should have put the dishes away. When she told me to search for loose dishes before putting on the dishwasher, she was absolutely right. I understand her frustration. Keeping a household clean is just a series of little, easy tasks that just need to be completed right away. It’s only clear when you’re the one keeping track of all the tasks.

5. Everyone is still learning how to be an adult.
Regardless of who you are or how old you are, you’re still developing as a person. There are still things to be learned at any time. I think, in reality, being an adult is just recognizing this while still having enough knowledge to pull from when being put into a situation. But nobody is always right. Everyone will make a mistake, including the people who seem like they know everything there is to know about mundane adult stuff, like taxes or the right decision to make about car repair or applying for jobs. We’re all just trying to make it work.
Columnist discusses how reality television differs from real life

Mary Ross
Columnist

I didn’t realize how much I love reality television until I started watching “The Bachelor” this past January. The drama, the romance, the fights, the beautiful humans, the incredible dates, the great fashion senses of the girls and literally everything about “The Bachelor” pulled me in. I found myself wanting the incredible dates, the great fashion sense and the experiences all the people in this show were getting.

But taking a step back, I realize there is a big, distinguishable difference between reality television and reality. Most of the things we see on television are all set into motion by producers looking for good ratings.

Looking at “The Bachelor,” he starts dating thirty women, all of whom have had extensive background checks and gone through the most intense job interviews of their life, just to get their hearts broken. He takes them on extravagant dates all over the world, taking the remaining women with him wherever he goes.

In real life, people don’t start dating thirty other people. People don’t put themselves through months of extensive background checks that include filling out documents that disclose everything about their lives to date another person who will likely break their heart. People don’t quit their job and put their entire lives on hold just for the opportunity to date someone else. At least, most people don’t. I wouldn’t.

But then again, it’s very easy to become so encapsulated in the reality show that we start wanting what they have. I find myself wanting to be on “The Bachelor,” so I can have a love like Colton and Cassie have. Then I remember, I’m not Cassie, and I probably wouldn’t last very long if I ever appeared on the show.

Plus, statistically speaking, the likelihood of couples formed on “The Bachelor” or “The Bachelorette” staying together are low, so the love and relationships on television that I (and many other people) so desire are not the kind of love and relationships that last.

This makes it important that viewers know where to draw the line. Most of what we see on each show is fake. This doesn’t mean we can’t root for our favorite people and laugh at the stupidness of some. But it does mean we can’t base our meaning and desires in life based on the fictitious world portrayed in reality television.

What we can base our meaning and desires on, however, is lessons pulled from these shows. When we laugh at petty girls fighting, we can decide to not be like that and rather pull meaning from being nice to those around us. When we see the incredible trips people go on, we can decide to save our money and pull meaning from being able to budget well so we can go on those trips.

No matter what lessons we pull from reality shows, it’s just important to remember in the end, it’s all for entertainment and reality television isn’t reality.
Students discuss texting and driving dangers

Courtney Brihan
Reporter

Texting and driving becomes a bigger safety concern as each year passes. According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, texting and driving is the leading cause of death in teenagers. Forty-two percent of teenagers have admitted to doing it themselves.

Sophomore Kaitlin Mendenhall, a human development and family studies major, explained what goes through her head when she chooses to text and drive. “I don’t really think about it while I’m doing it, and when I am in a familiar area, it makes me feel more confident,” she said.

Many students do not realize the risk they pose when they decide to take out their cell phones.

Junior Haley Hoffman, a history major, was on a bicycle on her way back from Lot 12. Around midnight, she was at a four-way intersection. A car was approaching from across her, but she assumed the car would stop. To her horror, the car continued right on through the stop sign without even looking up, she said. She narrowly avoided being hit.

“To think that someone is that distracted that I could have been seriously injured or even dead right now was one of the scariest moments of my life,” she said.

Safe Communities Coordinator Sandy Wiechman has considered how to combat distracted driving for years. Her main job is providing training and education to prevent distracted driving.

Distracted driving is only considered a secondary offense, which means officers cannot pull you over unless you commit a different offense. There are no points put on a license for distracted driving, and the judge may or may not choose to issue a fine for it. Wiechman considers this nothing more than a slap on the wrist, which is not going to stop drivers from doing it over and over again.

Safe Communities works to prevent distracted driving in Bowling Green.
Women taking lead in more powerful positions

Lauren Salkiewicz
Reporter

“Women historically have had a harder time winning executive office than legislative ones,” according to the Los Angeles Times.

However, this may change in the near future. It starts in small towns, much like Bowling Green.

Women are slowly starting to gain higher positions in both City Council and the student body government.

Sandy Rowland took a position on Bowling Green’s City Council seven years ago. She was one of the first women to be elected onto City Council and have an at-large position.

“At first it was very difficult; I felt like no one listened to me, but as time went on, my voice was slowly being heard. It was very hard to have my voice in a roomful of men stand out,” Rowland said.

While campaigning for her position on campus, senior and President of Undergraduate Student Government Hannah Cubberley decided to step it up a notch. She reached out to different groups on campus, and instead of creating her own platform, she went out with student groups and learned what they wanted to see and shaped the campaign platform off that. She knew it would be harder for her as a woman, so she took a different turn to grab the appeal of the BGSU student body.

Since 1789, the U.S. has been running under the control of male figures. Since then, the world turned from a time when women had no voice in the public to a time when five women are running for the 2020 presidential election.

“There has never been more than two women competing at the same time in the Democratic or Republican primaries,” CNBC News reported.

Since the U.S. has never had a female president, it may be hard at first for the public to gain trust.

“The leadership styles will differ, but the women will have to navigate the double-bind that women tend to be more relational. In the position of president, the women will be held to more masculine qualities but at the same time portraying the feminine aspect,” Cubberley said.

Even though there are five women running, they will need to do more than use their voice.

“We are moving toward a more representative body in our government, and having more women in politics shows where we are pushing our country to,” said Zachary Schmidt, a philosophy, politics, economics and law graduate.

“By having more women and minorities involved with the government is moving the country in a more positive direction.”

With smaller cities, like Bowling Green, taking opportunities to make change, women will be in positions of power and have louder voices in their communities and around the country.

“It was very difficult, I felt like no one listened to me, but as time went on, my voice was slowly being heard. It was very hard to have my voice in a roomful of men stand out”

— Sandy Rowland —
Member of City Council

APARTMENT & HOUSE LISTINGS AVAILABLE IN OUR RENTAL OFFICE OR ONLINE

We have Efficiencies/Studios.
1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments.
1 House Available.
Flexible Leases.
Furnished/Unfurnished.

319 E. Wooster Street | Across from Taco Bell
Monday to Friday - 8:30 to 5:30 | Saturday - 9:00 to 3:00
419.354.2260 | www.johnnewloverealestate.com

PHOTO BY KEVIN MENSAH
Primary races approach Bowling Green

Adam Gretsinger  
City Editor

Bowling Green voters will help pass or reject different candidates and issues this year in a primary election.

The Wood County Board of Elections recently released its list of candidates and issues for a May 7 primary election. Though none of the elections will affect issues on the national or state stages, a few votes will change the political environment of Bowling Green.

The point of a primary is to help parties choose candidates for general election races in November, and this primary is no different. It offers two races for Democratic candidate positions.

The largest-scale race in Bowling Green will be between three candidates for the 1st Ward Democratic candidate. The 1st Ward representative on City Council is meant to reflect the interests of that section of the city, a section that contains many of the BGSU student residents.

One of three candidates will be chosen for the Democratic ticket in November:

Madison Stump, a BGSU junior and the Undergraduate Student Government governmental relations director who has run for Council before in a special election. She advocates for more environmentally friendly policies in city government, speaking at the city’s debates on plastic bag bans.

Mark Hollenbaugh, the incumbent 1st Ward representative.
He had served on Council as a member prior to his current membership, has lived in town for about 35 years and has received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from BGSU. He looks to revitalize neighborhoods through land use plans and cooperation between citizens, governments and businesses.

Connor Goodpaster, who has lived in Bowling Green for five years and has earned both his undergraduate education and graduate public administration degrees from BGSU.
His press release said he wished to make Election Day a public holiday in the city and ensure the town diversifies its economic environment, among other issues.

Another Democratic candidate at-large position will be decided in May. Candidates are incumbent Bruce Jeffers and Neocles Leontis.
Jeffers has served on Council since 2012, currently serves on the Council’s Planning, Zoning and Economic Development and the Public Utilities committees and looks to continue supporting the town’s job creation and alternative energy initiatives.
Leontis, a BGSU chemistry professor, looks to revolutionize the town’s approach to both rental properties and environmental sustainability, heavily supporting universal access to modern insulation and energy installation services.

Two issues are on the ballot: a renewal of taxes relating to the McComb Local School District and a resolution allowing Kroger to sell alcoholic beverages from 10 a.m. to midnight on Sundays.
Registration for this primary and special election is April 8, and polling stations are listed on the Wood County Board of Elections website. Check out the website for BGSU Votes on guidelines for how to register.
Men’s Basketball lose big to Akron

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

On the road Tuesday against Akron, the Bowling Green men’s basketball team entered James A. Rhodes Arena looking to wrap up the end of the 2019 conference schedule strong. A strong showing against one of the worst shooting teams in the MAC would be an added bonus with a trip to Cleveland for the 2019 postseason tournament already clinched.

But fueled by an uncharacteristically brilliant night shooting the ball, Akron was able to take advantage of a poor shooting night from the Falcons to secure a blowout win. The Zips made 14 3-pointers on the night and saw three different players score 20 or more points, all while holding Bowling Green to just 32.4 percent shooting from the field and a season low 30 second-half points to run away with the contest, 91-67.

“This is that time of year; they’re fighting for a position. They’re still fighting for their lives, and we’re kind of relaxed. We have our seed; we have our positioning,” head coach Michael Huger said. “So when that’s happening and you’ve got one team fighting for their lives and one team that’s kind of already set, that was the difference in the game today.”

For the third time in their last four games, the Falcons (20-10, 12-5 MAC) fell to a team with a losing conference record. Bowling Green is now tied for second place in the conference with rival Toledo, and will be either the second or third seed in the 2019 MAC postseason tournament. Their quarterfinals match will take place on March 14.

Redshirt sophomore guard Justin Turner led the Falcons with 21 points on 9-18 shooting from the field and making two of his five 3-pointers. Junior guard Michael Laster was the only other Falcon in double figures, scoring 12 points and grabbing five rebounds. Akron guard Loren Cristian Jackson scored a career high 31 points, while forward Daniel Utomi and guard Tyler Cheese scored 21 and 20 points, respectively.

The Falcons shooting was cold from the field and a season low 30 second-half points to run away with the contest, 91-67.

The Zips’ lead increased to as much as 15 in the opening five minutes of the second half, but an 11-0 run over a three-minute span saw the Falcons pull within 4 points, 60-54 on a 3-point play by guard Antwon Lillard. Akron would close the game on a furious 31-11 run, making five 3-pointers and burying any chances the Falcons had of coming back.

“We fought hard, so all credit goes to them. They played extremely well; they shot the ball extremely well. The guys that played out there, they played hard,” Huger said. “You’re always disappointed in a loss, but we fought hard.”

The Falcons will travel to conference leader Buffalo Friday, March 8 for their final game of the season. Bowling Green will need a win there and a loss by Toledo to Eastern Michigan on the same night to clinch the second seed in the postseason tournament. While Bowling Green has lost three of their last four games, the Rockets have been riding a four-game winning streak since losing at Eastern Michigan in February.

The tip off for Friday’s road game against Buffalo is scheduled for 6 p.m., and the match will be broadcast on ESNPU. The quarterfinals of the MAC postseason tournament take place as previously mentioned on March 14 at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, with the semifinals on March 15 and the Championship on March 16.

The Curious Case of Anthony Davis

Max Lewton
Sports Reporter

Anthony Davis is one of the NBA’s most talented players and would be a cornerstone player for any franchise in the league. His combination of height, athleticism and skill sets him as a matchup nightmare for any team going against him. The Pelicans have had the honor of having him play for their team for the past six seasons and had hopes of resigning their franchise player once his contract was up in the summer of 2020. However, on January 28 the Pelicans’ star player told the front office that he wanted to be traded from the team. This decision by Davis sent the NBA world into a frenzy, with him being an MVP caliber player who was finally put on the market.

It is a wild request by Davis to request a trade with so much time left on his current contract, but honestly, I do not see a problem with it. Had he waited to make this request after the season had ended, then this would just be a normal case in today’s NBA of a star who wants to move on. However, with there still being a year and half of a season to be played he gave the Pelicans more time to receive the best possible offer for him instead of him just leaving the following summer. The Pelicans had no obligation to trade him before the February 7th trade deadline and they ended up doing what was best for the franchise and holding on to their star for the rest of the season. The Pelicans can receive much better offers from NBA teams once everyone knows where they are drafting, and other contracts can be settled (aka the Boston Celtics). Not only did he notify the team early, but he even offered to keep playing the rest of the season even though he could risk further injuries.

At the end of the day, all Anthony Davis wants is to win just as every other competitor wants. He is not doing anything much different than other stars who changed teams via trade request such as Jimmy Butler or Kawhi Leonard, only he let his team know earlier than usual. His decision is not solely based on the potential $205 million contract extension he could sign if he is traded and then re-signs with his new team. He wants to team up with players that he knows will complement his game and give himself the best possible chance to win an NBA championship, which is a norm in the NBA today.

The trade request made by Anthony Davis may have rubbed Pelicans fans the wrong way, but it was the best decision he could make for his own career. He went about it in a professional manner and did the Pelicans a favor by informing the team of his intentions for the future earlier than expected. The NBA is a business, and players and front offices will ultimately do what they think is best for their own teams and careers. I hope that Anthony Davis finds his desired team and wins the title that a player of his caliber deserves.
Women’s basketball loses to Buffalo

Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon women’s basketball team lost to the Buffalo Bulls 75-61 Wednesday in their second-to-last matchup of the season.

The Falcons dropped to a 2-15 record against MAC opponents this season, while also falling to a 2-11 overall record in road games so far this season and taking a 0-8 record on the road against MAC teams, with just one game remaining to grab a win for the category. Buffalo jumped to a 12-5 conference record to tie for third place overall in the MAC with the Miami RedHawks, as well as taking a 9-3 record in home games at this point in the season.

The first quarter saw the teams tied 10-10, as freshman guard Morgan McMillen and sophomore guard Madisen Parker each had 3 points to keep the Falcons even with Buffalo in the first 10 minutes.

In the second quarter, however, Buffalo was able to pull away significantly as they outscored the Falcons 25-14 to take a 35-24 lead into halftime. The Falcons had key 3-point shots made by a number of different sources during the quarter, as junior guard Cierra Dillard claimed 27 points on the game to lead their team offensively, while junior forward Brittany Morrison added 14 total points. Junior guard Theresa Onwuka also had a strong performance with 8 points.

The third quarter would see Buffalo add on to their lead as a 24-17 effort would see them go up 59-41. The Falcons were able to cut the Buffalo lead down to just 4 early on in the third quarter, courtesy of 8-consecutive points from McMillen on a pair of 3-pointers and a successful jump shot, but it wouldn't be enough as Buffalo was able to pull away in the remainder of the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Falcons had a strong start as they outscored Buffalo 8-3 in the first five minutes of the fourth, cutting the Buffalo lead down to 10. However, Buffalo was able to pull back ahead and restore their advantage as they went on to take the 75-61 victory, despite the Falcons having their best offensive quarter of the game, outscoring Buffalo 20-16. Lambert finished off the fourth with 12 points to lead the Falcon offense in the quarter.

McMillen and Lambert each finished the game with 18 points in total to lead the Falcon offense, as sophomore center Angela Perry also added 8 points and senior forward Maddie Cole earned 7. Buffalo senior guard Perry also added 8 points and senior forward Brittany Morrison added 14 total points. Junior guard Theresa Onwuka also had a strong performance with 8 points.

The teams will conclude the season splitting the two games that they have played against each other, as the Falcons took the first game at home with a 78-72 win.

The team will finish off their season on Saturday afternoon on the road against the Ohio Bobcats, before heading into the offseason.

Falcon gymnastics approach Program Records

Kerstie Shaw
Sports Reporter

Falcon gymnastics took third in a tri-meet Friday evening with a final score of 189.500. No. 15 Oregon State and Alaska Anchorage topped the Falcons with scores of 195.825 and 193.450, respectively. BGSU had to make some lineup changes prior to their trip to Oregon and did not have their full depth for the competition. Despite the loss, junior Jovannah East continued to make strides and tied the program record while the team posted a season-best score on vault.

The Falcons began on bars and earned a team score of 46.4. This set them behind both Oregon State and Alaska Anchorage in the first rotation, who posted a 49.075 on vault and a 48.575 on floor. For the Falcons, senior Leslie Delgado posted a 9.6. This is the eighth of nine meets in which she has posted at least a 9.6 on the uneven bars.

In the second rotation, the Falcons struggled on beam with a couple of competitors below the 9 mark. East led BGSU with a 9.8. The event dropped the Falcons nearly 5 points behind the competition.

“The team had some challenges at our competition, particularly on beam. We had many uncharacteristic mistakes.”

Kerrie Turner
Head Gymnastics Coach

“In the second rotation, the Falcons struggled on beam with a couple of competitors below the 9 mark. East led BGSU with a 9.8. The event dropped the Falcons nearly 5 points behind the competition.

“The team had some challenges at our competition, particularly on beam. We had many uncharacteristic mistakes,” coach Kerrie Turner said of the meet.


Refocusing for the final rotation on vault, BGSU was able to scratch the surface of two program records. The Falcons finished strong with a season-best 49.075 – barely missing the program record of 49.125. East posted a career-best and became the second Falcon in history to achieve a 9.95 on vault. She marks her name in the record books again next to former Falcon gymnast Marny Oestreng, who was a national champion at BGSU. Five of the six BGSU vault competitors posted scores above 9.750, including Katie Morsefield, Taylor Worthington, Elena Lawson, Laura DeMeno and East.

East took first place in the all-around, with three of her four scores above 9.8. Her final score, 39.175, was her second-highest of the season. Although BGSU rallied in the final event on vault, the earlier challenges of the meet left them in third place. Their overall record drops to 1-13, but the Falcons have two competitions to go in their 2019 stretch.

Turner is proud of the focus and character of her squad, and the team continues to hope for improvement in their last two meets of the regular season.

“This week, we need to get back into the gym and train efficiently. We can make a drastic improvement in one week and I know the team wants to get to work to make that happen,” Turner said about the team moving forward.

The Falcons travel to Ohio State on Saturday, March 9 for their next meet. They return home to Anderson Arena on Friday, March 15 to face Western Michigan for Senior Night.
Gamers find competition at BG Battlegrounds

Jacob Clary
Sports Editor

Video games can bring people together, and BG Battlegrounds sets that stage for BGSU gamers. BG Battlegrounds is a bracket-style, split-the-pot competition where student gamers play “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate,” a 2018 fighting game that lets players brawl against characters from other video games.

“Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” may be a fighting video game, but is also considered a party game by Nintendo, the game’s publisher. Unlike other fighting games, it doesn’t have a health bar to indicate the amount of life a character has left to continue fighting. In Smash Bros., when the player’s character gets hit, it becomes more likely to be launched off the side of the arena and lose a life. Each character gets three lives, and once those are gone, it’s game over.

Competitors pay $3 to enter the pot and $2 for a venue fee but bringing a personal gaming setup waives the venue fee. A setup includes the television, a game console, the game and controllers. The event, held in the Business Administration building or the Student Union every Friday, has three setups for players to practice. When the tournament starts, the setups are used for official matches.

Players who aren’t competing in matches become spectators, gathering around other screens to get a look at the competition. Audible gasps could be heard when a competitor completed a flashy move or beat another player handily. Some of them talked to each other and others didn’t interact at all. They were competitive, but if they lost they didn’t complain or whine. They knew they were beat fair and square.

Joshua Warren, a freshman digital arts major who also goes by “Neon,” competed at the event. Warren made it to the loser’s bracket finals in Friday’s tournament.

“Depending on how you play, you could either be extremely good or extremely bad, but everyone has a fair chance because you don’t have health bars to worry about,” he said. “It’s just a kid’s game but you can play it competitively, so everyone’s invited.”

Keaton Smith, a senior computer science major, is the former president of Falcon eSports, but solely runs BG Battlegrounds now. He is known by the in-game name, “K-TON” while competing at the event. He said this year there’s an average of 10 or 15 people at the event.

Smith said advertising is an important factor in making the event happen. The organization puts up posters on campus and posts on local Super Smash Bros. Facebook groups.

Similar events were held when he was a freshman, but the organization disbanded after that president left. This led Smith and his roommate, who he met at the tournaments, to try and create a new organization, but somebody had already created a new organization called Overleveled Gaming.

After about a year, Smith took over as president and changed the name back to Falcon eSports.

In the past, BG Battlegrounds has tried to advertise to other people who played different fighting games. Smith joked that with their focus on Smash at the time, he should have called the organization Falcon Smashers.

However, branching out to other games brought problems. He found Smash was more popular than other fighting games like “Street Fighter V” and “Dragon Ball FighterZ.” There would be more than 10 Smash Bros. players and only a handful in the other fighting games. The tournament runners also needed to have multiple setups and multiple people to run different games.

“So, after a year of doing that, we just kind of were like we should just stop, because we were just spreading ourselves too thin trying to run a bunch of tournaments for stuff we don’t know about,” Smith said.

He was one of the finalists in the last tournament, and said the fun of the game comes from the improvement of players.

“A lot of people are scared to come to these tournaments” because certain players are highly skilled, and first-timers think they won’t win, Smith said.

“I’m not gonna sugarcoat it, you will get destroyed, but I got destroyed when I first showed up to a tournament,” he said. “I got destroyed the first 20 tournaments I showed up to. It’s only when you show up to these tournaments that you actually get to get better and then the game gets more fun.”

Super Smash Bros. is advertised as a party game, but those at BG Battlegrounds play it to get better and compete against others. They may lose one week, but there’s always the next week.
Plans push forward at Council

Adam Gretsingner
City Editor

City Council convened to review the progress of their city improvement plans and set others into motion.

The group met on March 4 to oversee how much had been done for the Community Action and the East Wooster Development plans in the last few months.

CAP progress was focused on actions taken since the last update in October 2018. A main update was the near-completion of initial work for revised bike infrastructure in the city. Bicycle safety commission recommendations are almost primed for action, member Greg Robinette said.

Other updates include deciding to delay action on acquiring BGSU-owned vacant lots on the west side of the railroad tracks, planning to have a contractor personally review the city zoning codes and shifting different priorities to set up a more fluid action plan.

Robinette also said a delay in approval for the East Wooster Development Plan was stalling action for the CAP, but work on approved items would move quickly after the delay was over.

Different council members looked forward to implementing CAP ideas, which include the installation of more bike-friendly services, revivals of economic areas and revamps of property policy.

Council President Michael Aspacher said he looked forward to more movement on the plans for the city.

“Action items do seem to be coming together,” he said.

Member Bruce Jeffers said, though he had admitted to putting these projects on the “back-burner,” he hoped full implementation would help the city. Jeffers highlighted the plan’s potential to protect upstanding landlords and teach “bad landlords how to be better landlords.”

City Administrator Lori Tretter reminded Council that approved parking price hikes went into effect the day of the meeting and most lots had three-hour parking limits.

However, she said Lot 2 spaces would remain free until the parking kiosks the city had ordered arrived and were installed.

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com.
SICSIC, QTSU partner for sign-posting around BTSU

David Escobedo
Reporter

Last week, the Queer/Trans Student Union teamed up with SICSIC to hang up signs around the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The partnership between SICSIC and QTSU initially happened when QTSU first reached out to SICSIC with the idea of making signs in celebration of Black History Month. It was to create a more welcoming environment for people of color and queer/trans people of color on campus. Both organizations were looking forward to doing this activity.

According to Jacob Clemens, SICSIC advisor, the SICSIC members were excited to join QTSU in their cause. They want all students at BGSU to feel welcomed and respected within the community. Additionally, he added SICSIC’s mission is to “do all in our power to help make Bowling Green State University a better place by promoting school spirit and goodwill among the students and faculty.”

The signs hung up around the BTSU were made during one of QTSU’s weekly meetings. QTSU and SICSIC members then proceeded to walk around the BTSU and scope out spots to hang the signs up.

One of the locations chosen for the signage was in front of the Gish Film Theater. There was recent controversy surrounding the renaming of the theater. To show support for those looking to get the name changed, or at least bring more awareness of the controversial naming, QTSU and SICSIC decided to hang up a sign right in front of the theater.

QTSU hopes the message they wanted to convey was understood by those who have seen the signs.

“We’d like to think that it was received positively. I mean, whether or not, it just needed to be received. ... It just needed to be said,” Olivia Behm, QTSU panel program coordinator/outreach chair, said.

QTSU is interested in teaming up with SICSIC again for signage like this in the future. The BTSU was chosen for signs because of all the foot traffic that goes through it, but other locations on campus will be considered going forward for QTSU once the weather warms up.