Six tips to improve speech from debate team

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Falcon Forensics and Debate Team wins national title
Team’s coach shares tips for stronger public speaking skills

Jacob Clary
Sports Editor

The Novice National Forensic Association held the National Championship at BGSU from March 8-10, and the Falcon Forensics and Debate Team won the title. This is the team’s 15th National Championship since 2001.

Not only did the team win the National Championship, but many of the team members also won individual national championships. Sophia Walcher won for Impromptu Speaking, Sophia Stockham for Impromptu Sales Speaking and Poetry Interpretation, Mikey Ragusa for Dramatic Interpretation. Multiple performers won for Reader’s Theatre: Sophia Walcher, Emily Rice, Mikey Ragusa and Julianna Walker.

Jewel White, a former team member on the Falcon Forensics and Debate Team, now the coach, talked about what it takes to get to this level.

“It took so many months of just practicing and coaching in order to get our novices to the point that we needed to get them to and at this point in the season it was incredible to see how many wins that we got and how our team just took on first place,” White said.

She also went into detail about the way the novices train and how the coaches work with them.

“We definitely try to bring them up, so starting from the bottom-up,” she said. “We definitely like to instill just the basics that they need and then from there we kind of build on it. We definitely try to promote a little bit of healthy competition between our novices and their teammates just so they can try to build-up and showcase how their events are going well and what they can do at those events. So, all of those in combination has really helped them to push themselves forward and make it into out-rounds and finally become national champions. So, it’s pretty exciting.”

White also gave some tips and tricks to help people who are looking to strengthen their public speaking skills:

1. **Do your best.**
   “When you’re first trying to get into any public speaking, you need to get it into your mind that, one, you’re not going to be the greatest, but you need to do your best, and I think that’s the number one thing you have to go into it thinking, because if not, you’ll disappoint yourself and you’ll psych yourself out.

2. **Breathe.**
   “Breathing is the most important thing that you can do. A lot of people get really nervous, and psych themselves out, and stop breathing and just rush through their speech.”

3. **Relax.**
   “Relaxation is the most important part when you’re talking. You want to make yourself seem as natural as possible. You don’t want to seem forced, so having those breathing techniques and also having a relaxed posture really helps you.”

4. **Maintain eye contact.**
   “If anything with public speaking, eye contact is a really big thing because you want to be able to connect with your audience. If you’re not connecting with them through your eyes, you’re not looking at them, they don’t feel like you’re talking to them, and they tend to start disengaging, and you don’t want them to disengage with you. You want them to see that you are talking to them one-on-one. So, even if you’re in a room of 500 people, well, you can easily make 20 people feel really special at that point in time just by looking at them and giving them something more instead of just staring off into space giving a speech.”

5. **Show your personality.**
   “Every person’s different. You don’t want to put on some fake persona about who you are and who you’re not … You have to show who you are and not take on a persona that’s not yourself because it’s going to come off very fake and unnatural.”

6. **Know what your body is doing.**
   “There’s a lot of individuals that walk back-and-forth or move their hands a lot. But, in reality, that’s just making you even more nervous. So, if you really want to speak well, something that I learned to kind of help you stop moving back-and-forth is that you plant your feet on the ground, shoulder-width apart and you kind of bend your knees a little bit. That’ll keep you planted, and as you’re talking, think about where gestures are actually needed. Sometimes we gesture a lot just to gesture. But, in reality, they’re not needed in all aspects.”
Columnist discusses line-crossing pranks

Mary Ross
Columnist

Coming from a family full of pranksters, April Fools’ Day is one of our favorite days of the year. Each year, my sister thoroughly enjoys pranking my parents, brother and I as well as swapping stories with my cousins who also thoroughly enjoy pranking each other.

However, each prankster in my family knows when a prank they want to pull crosses the line to be quite offensive and hard to get past. In honor of April Fools’ Day, here are some pranks that cross the line between pranking and bullying and should not be pulled by anybody.

1. Asking someone else out as a joke.
   College is a time when people are still trying to figure out their personality, sexuality and exactly what they want out of a romantic relationship, among other things. While some people aren’t looking for anything, some people are looking for long-term and serious relationships. Nonetheless, getting asked out is both nerve-racking and exciting. By asking someone out, they probably will become excited and nervous, as well as have a new sense of confidence. By saying “April Fools” after their response, the new confidence and excitement plunder, often times leaving the person asking, “Am I good enough?” The bottom line – just don’t do it.

2. Breaking up with someone as a joke.
   Let’s face it. Relationships can be difficult in all circumstances. But getting wind that your significant other may break up with you is poison for any relationship. Even as a joke, the idea that the other may leave is terrifying and causes a person to question their worth yet again. I speak from experience when I say it is not fun and ultimately signals that even if it’s a joke, the other person is thinking about leaving you.

3. Following people you don’t know.
   In this day and age, being followed is terrifying, especially for women. I almost stabbed my brother this year on campus with my keys after he started following me and getting closer accidentally (we just happened to be going the same direction). The person being followed has no idea why they are being followed and starts thinking about all the different scenarios that could happen as well as how to defend themselves in these possible scenarios. At least in my experience, my heart begins racing and I breathe heavily. As someone who used to experience anxiety attacks a couple times a day during high school, being followed can trigger one of these. However, being followed is terrifying in any situation and should never be done as a joke.

4. Exposing something embarrassing about another person.
   Almost everyone has skeletons in their closets, but some are best to remain in the closet to the public. If you know something about a friend that has the potential to embarrass them for months or years to come, DO NOT EXPOSE IT. Not only will it most likely ruin your relationship, it will probably haunt a person for a while to come, minimally among their friend group, but could also be heard by potential employers and acquaintances, which could possibly ruin job opportunities and relationships.
The rise of a religious left?
How one Democratic candidate is defying Christian, political norms

Brian Geyer
Columnist

When it comes to religion, more than likely, the political party that comes to mind is the Republican Party. Republicans are more conservative. It makes sense for people to assume that the party is more likely to be religious than Democrats, who tend to get a label for being agnostic, atheistic or even anti-religion. Republicans tend to keep to the values that they have learned as a child and throughout their lifetimes, while Democrats tend to have a progressive mindset that tends to put other values in a place of religion.

However, this could very well change with candidates such as Democratic candidate Pete Buttigieg who is married gay man. Besides being an openly gay candidate, Buttigieg has often quoted the Bible to help support a majority of his policies and values. To some, especially those who are more likely to be unsupportive of the LGBTQ community, this may seem morally wrong and taboo. How could someone be democratic, gay and a Christian?

Pete Buttigieg represents a portion of the population that is often misrepresented in the media. As stated in the beginning of this column, the Democratic Party can’t say that they have a strong religious base like the Republican Party can. What if Pete Buttigieg could change this? I know I’d be supportive of it.

It’s not uncommon for my friends and I to hear phrases that consist of harsh words regarding Democrats and religion. I have often been told that subjects such as transgender people and religion simply do not go together. However, if I think about how everyone is created in God’s image, why can’t something like a gender spectrum be real? I know I believe in it!

Pete Buttigieg isn’t alone. Celebrities in pop culture such as Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Avril Lavigne and others have come out about their religion. This is a move that could easily be considered a bad public relations technique. By outing their religion, these celebrities are opening themselves up to harsh criticism from non-religious fans or fans of different religions. Regardless, I know that they’re people like me who are happy to see celebrities with faith backgrounds opening up about their progressive beliefs as well. Lady Gaga and Katy Perry were early supporters of the LGBTQ community and continue to be so. Lady Gaga, during the years of Pres. Barack Obama, came out against laws such as the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that encouraged LGBTQ military members to keep quiet about their sexual orientations. This does not stop her from releasing a song on her recent “Joanne” album that addresses her Catholic faith, though.

Where does the progressive and religious left see themselves in the future? Truly, it’s hard to say. But as a Democrat and a Christian, I find myself in a happy place. A place where all of my values are represented. A place where I can speak with my Christian heart and a democratic mind.

Letter to the editor: Gretchen L. Gaige
Gish not responsible for ‘Birth of a Nation,’ its impact

I understand a Task Force is discussing the possibility of eliminating the Gish Memorial Theater. It’s interesting to note that while it is decried that Lillian Gish was somehow responsible for D.W. Griffith’s admittedly one-sided account of the KKK because she plays a role in his film, few would bother to pillory someone, say, like Margaret Sanger. Her view of the value of Black American lives was so low that she brought her eugenics plan to the Klan for their support! She saw blacks and poor whites as merely social problems and advocated the death of their young in the womb as a “Final Solution” — OUR young!

Please, guys, let’s retain our perspective! Let’s not trash Gish’s career in film — an art form that is subjective. She was an actress, not a social activist. Many of her roles portrayed the fragility of the human condition.

Respectfully,
Gretchen L. Gaige, Alumni
Falcon Family Study Night provides closer community to student parents, children

David Escobedo  
Reporter

BGSU is host to many student parents attending classes on campus. Nontraditional and Military Student Services looked to provide a tighter sense of community for student parents with the Falcon Family Study Night.

The event took place in the Jordan Development Center Wednesday evening. It was initially thought of when Gabriel Dunbar, program coordinator and advisor for Nontraditional and Military Student Services, went and saw a similar pilot program at Kent State University last spring. The program was a collaboration between Nontraditional and Military Student Services, the Center for Women and Gender Equity and Human Development and Family Studies.

The program started off with a community-style dinner for student parents and their children. After the dinner, some education majors provided childcare while the parents got some study time for themselves. The event went from 5 to 8 p.m. with student parents coming whenever they could if they had busy schedules.

According to “The Challenges of Parenting While in College” by Elizabeth Dorrance Hall, nearly 5 million undergraduate students within the U.S. are also parents. Only 26 percent of those student parents earn their degrees within six years. One of the reasons cited for this statistic is the lack of support for student parents. This is part of why the Falcon Family Study Night was planned.

“The main intent is to provide a sense of community for this student population. A lot of times, if you think about it, a traditional age student is coming to college … and that becomes their whole life. They’re taking classes, maybe they’re working on campus. But you have everything surrounding that experience. For a nontraditional student, they have at least two, maybe three, different things they’re trying to blend in together. So, they have their school work, maybe they have their family, maybe they’re working full time,” Dunbar said. “We’re trying to provide an opportunity for them to blend two of those things: their academics and their family.”

“I think it’s great. I wish they would do more stuff like this for nontraditional students, especially. It brings everyone together.”

— Jenna Hogrefe —  
Student parent and nursing major

Further programs like this one will be considered in the future. Student parents are busy, so more times will be considered for future events. The helpfulness of the event to student parents will also be evaluated before going forward with more study nights.

Dunbar said that he doesn’t want the event to just be something else student parents could do. He wants it to be something that would actually be convenient for them. Dunbar wants to get the message across that BGSU supports student parents as a family and will do anything they can to support their academics.

“I think it’s great. I wish they would do more stuff like this for nontraditional students, especially. It brings everyone together,” Jenna Hogrefe, a student parent and nursing major who was in attendance, said. “Being an older student, you don’t feel like you get that support as much. … I’m happy to be here.”
Pollution, agriculture behind Lake Erie rights debate

Adam Gretsingner  
City Editor

Lake Erie's changed in the past month legal status as an entity has. Toledo voters gave Lake Erie legal rights in a special election with a 61 percent "yes" vote. These protections allow citizens to sue on the lake's behalf in cases where it is severely ecologically harmed by pollution.

Bowling Green is 29 miles from the shores of Lake Erie, but it still is greatly affected by the lake's status.

“We still draw our drinking water from the Maumee River,” said Tim Davis, a researcher for BGSU’s Lake Erie Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health. The water quality in the river, a tributary of the lake, can still be “harmed by algal blooms,” he added.

The Western Basin of Lake Erie is no stranger to explosions of algae. The microscopic life emits toxins, which cut Toledo's drinking water supply severely in both 2014 and 2017.

Davis said most of the fault for these algal blooms comes from agricultural run-off. Nutrients from local farming operations get into water sources like the Maumee River and enable bursts of algae reproduction. Bowling Green, which also lies in the watershed of the Portage River, is connected to the Lake Erie ecosystem and requires a water treatment plant to protect against toxic water.

He said, however, that it is important not to “demonize” those who pollute – that it is more important to “work with agricultural communities in our region” to protect water sources.

Davis described his work at the center as research conducted to inform policy. He and other researchers at the center, like George Bullerjahn, work to research how “robust management practices ... mitigate” against negative environmental consequences.

Davis declined to speak about the nature of the Bill of Rights itself.

The bill, pitched by Toledoans for Safe Water, will exist as an amendment to the city's charter, with language emphasizing the lake's ability to "exist, flourish and naturally evolve." This could help ensure the law itself is protected more than other standard city resolutions.

However, different challenges to the amendment appeared soon after its passage. Drewes Farms, a soy, alfalfa, wheat and soybean farm, sued the City of Toledo one day after the passage, claiming the bill and its adoption into city law to be unconstitutional and harmful to their operations. The partnership's filing added that similar local laws have been struck down in different parts of the country.

The group also said though city legislators and the bill's supporters treated it as an environmentalist message, “the City of Toledo's ‘message' has very real and significant consequences for farmers and other businesses throughout northern Ohio.”
Advent of 5G

Max Hess
Reporter

5G will be more than just a speed upgrade to 4G, which currently powers much of the world’s mobile internet. This gradual infrastructure overhaul is expected to affect not only computers, but electronics and machines in all sorts of fields, essentially bringing together the ‘Internet of Things,’ according to BGSU computer science professor Hassan Rajaei.

The ‘Internet of Things’ is the term for the network of devices that use data about their environments and how they are used, collected through sensors, to improve overall efficiency.

“The Internet of Things, or IOT, has been around for two decades, 20 years. You need to have a huge amount of data collected and passed through to the cloud to be crunched. These technologies get together to give us a better service, which includes smart cars, smart homes, smart buildings, smart education, smart healthcare,” Rajaei said.

5G has a high bandwidth that would support several downloads in short amounts of time, but another important development is that its connections have almost no latency. Latency is the amount of time that a connection takes to respond to commands. This has been demonstrated to allow vehicles to communicate with each other while driving and surgeons to operate on patients over great distances, using robots.

David McDonald, information technology manager for the city of Bowling Green, believes that 5G will potentially render Wi-Fi obsolete.

“5G is basically going to better than Wi-Fi can ever be. Sacramento, California, is one of the few cities that already has 5G throughout, and they’ve been advertising that they have it everywhere to attract business. It’s really quite a thing,” he said.

Though some areas of the country have set up 5G infrastructure proactively, there are instances of false marketing and confusion over what 5G actually is. Tech enthusiast Audrey Weaver warns that the ‘5GE’ presently offered by AT&T is deceptive.

“AT&T has optimized and streamlined 4G and they call it ’5GE.’ The power between 4G and 5G is a night and day difference. Based on the research I’ve done, we’re still at least a year off from having true 5G,” she said. “AT&T had this update, this patch if you will, where they changed the 4G icon ‘5GE.’ The ’E’ is supposed to disclose that it isn’t actual 5G, but usually consumers don’t see or think about the ’E’ at the end of the icon.”

One downside of 5G is that the installations need to be set up in close proximity to each other for consistent coverage. Current cell towers cover several miles radius, but they are the size of tall trees. In contrast, 5G cells only cover a couple thousand feet radius, but they are easier to install because they are small.

Chinese industry titans Huawei and ZTE have been making good progress with their country’s own 5G infrastructure, thanks largely to having close connections with the government itself. Rajaei predicts that 5G will be somewhat widespread in the U.S. five or six years from now.

“Today most of the providers, let’s say Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, they said that they have it available right now. There are a lot of problems that need to be solved though. The wide use of 5G will probably be in 2023. The prediction is that in 2025 it will be everybody’s.”
MLB Opening Day games to watch on TV

Parker Kern
Sports Reporter

MLB spring training wrapped up Tuesday, and the regular season started Wednesday. This is the earliest Opening Day ever in the history of the MLB, beating out last season’s start by one day. This season unofficially commenced last Thursday in Tokyo, Japan, with the AL West’s Oakland Athletics and Seattle Mariners facing off in the Tokyo Dome. This was the first series of the 2019 MLB season, the next coming June 29-30 when the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees will face off in London – the first MLB series to ever be played in Europe.

There is lots to be excited about for this season and for Opening Day. ESPN will be broadcasting a tripleheader of games beginning the afternoon of March 28, so you can binge watch Opening Day baseball to your heart’s content. If your team isn’t playing on the national stage today, it’s likely they’ll be playing on a regional network. Check TV listings to see when and where your team is playing.

The first game of ESPN’s tripleheader begins at 1:05 p.m. with the Baltimore Orioles visiting their divisional foes, the New York Yankees. Baltimore is coming off a very disappointing 2018 campaign, where the team won a mere 47 games and lost 115. Manager Buck Showalter’s contract was not renewed for 2019 and the team lost outfielder Adam Jones to free agency in the offseason, as he eventually signed with the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Yankees, on the other hand, went 100-62 last year, but finished 2nd in the division, behind the eventual World Series champion, Boston Red Sox. The Bronx Bombers will look to win the division this year and have kept the core nucleus of their 2018 team together while adding pieces in the offseason via free agency. Both teams will walk into Yankee Stadium with a chip on their shoulder. A nice appetizer for this slate of Opening Day games, if you asked me.

For the main course, the NL West enemies Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers face off in LA at 4:05 p.m. in a battle of teams trying to remain in contention for the division after numerous players departed both teams. Arizona had more glaring departures, with All-Star first baseman Paul Goldschmidt headed to the St. Louis Cardinals and outfielder AJ Pollock trading in his Diamondbacks hat for a Dodgers one. The Diamondbacks also lost starting pitcher Patrick Corbin to the Washington Nationals.

The Dodgers gained AJ Pollock, but lost outfielders Matt Kemp and Yasiel Puig and starting pitcher Alex Wood in a trade with the Cincinnati Reds, and also lost infielder Manny Machado to their division rivals, the San Diego Padres. Shortstop Corey Seager will return following Tommy John surgery that ended his 2018 season after just 26 games. His return will help the Dodgers on both offense and defense, but this game will be interesting to see how the teams bounce back and fill the voids left by players who now play elsewhere.

Dessert will feature the 2018 World Series champion Boston Red Sox visiting the 2-0 Seattle Mariners at 7:08 p.m. Seattle is coming off a sweep of the Oakland Athletics in Tokyo, and Boston will look to avoid an early World Series hangover. Boston recently inked ace starting pitcher Chris Sale to a 5-year, $145 million extension, and he will undoubtedly begin the season on the mound for the Red Sox. Boston retained a good deal of their 2018 championship team, but after coming off a hot start in Tokyo, Seattle will look to have Boston’s number at T-Mobile Park.

I hope you enjoy the games as much as I do today. If you need me, I’ll be on my couch enjoying America’s pastime.

Baseball continues undefeated home streak

Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon baseball team defeated the Youngstown State Penguins 15-5 on Tuesday afternoon, continuing the team’s undefeated home streak.

“Tipo’s got about the last four years, so it’s nice to get these guys finally,” Falcons head coach Danny Schmitz said of Youngstown State. “It’s the first time our seniors have beaten these guys, so I’m real happy about that; there’s no doubt about that seniors have beaten these guys, so I’m real happy about that, and there’s no doubt about that because it’s not a very good streak. We needed to win this one today, I wanted this game really bad.”

The team got on the board first with senior shortstop Neil Lambert hitting a two-RBI single in the first inning, then followed up in the second with sophomore center fielder Dylan Dohanos getting an RBI double, senior designated hitter Brad Croy driving in 2 RBI on a single and senior second baseman Riley Minorik knocking in two more RBI with a double, giving the Falcons an 8-0 lead.

Youngstown State added a pair of runs in the third inning with junior shortstop Cody Dennis coming home on a wild pitch, but the Falcons responded with a Dohanos RBI single in the third and then a three-run rally in the fourth as senior catcher Joe McGuinness drove in a run on an error, senior third baseman Gama Martinez to make it a 12-1 advantage for the Falcons.

In the fifth, Youngstown State added a pair of runs as junior catcher Tanner Montgomery advanced home on a balk and Dennis hit an RBI single, but the Falcons restored a double-digit lead in the seventh as sophomore first baseman Adam Furnas knocked in another run on an RBI sacrifice fly.

In the eighth inning, Youngstown State again cut into the lead slightly with a 2 RBI single from senior center fielder Web Charles, but the team came back in the bottom of the inning with sophomore right fielder Nick Neibauer scoring two more runs on an RBI fielder’s choice and resulting error, allowing the Falcons to go on to win 15-5.

“I really enjoyed our first four innings, I thought our focus was there,” Schmitz said. “We jumped out to a 12-1 lead and that was huge. I enjoyed the way we were playing and then after that, it seemed like we lost our focus a little bit. We got it back a little bit, but then we lost it again a little bit, so it’s something that we’ll address but overall it’s just a good team victory. We got a lot of guys in there and got some young arms in there that haven’t pitched in a while, so I thought that was huge.”

Falcons freshman pitcher Gage Schenk picked up his first collegiate win, going 3 innings with 1 earned run allowed on 2 hits and 1 walk, while Youngstown State senior pitcher Zach Lopatka was hit with the loss after going 3 1/3 innings with 8 earned runs allowed on 12 hits and 2 walks. Croy led the Falcons offensively with 2 RBI, 2 runs and 2 hits over 3 at-bats before being pulled for rest in the fifth inning.

The team will next play on Friday night as well as on Saturday and Sunday afternoons on the road against the Ohio Bobcats.
**The class of Major League Soccer**

*Jacob Clary*

**Sports Editor**

Major League Soccer has been going on for about a month, and that means we have seen some of what each team is capable of doing. Some teams have played four matches while others have played only two thanks to the international break. This gives some teams more experience, and more points as well, so the standings are a bit skewed.

The Eastern Conference is currently led by D.C. United and former Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney. D.C. has seven points, as well as a game in hand, so they are firmly in first. They have some of the best offensive firepower in the league, with Rooney, as well as central midfielder Luciano Acosta and Paul Arriola. Rooney is also currently the league leader for goals with three of them so far. D.C. is the class of the Eastern Conference right now.

They are not alone in first place, however. New expansion side FC Cincinnati is tied for the first-place lead as well. Many, myself included, did not expect FCC to succeed as well as they have so far this season. The strength of the team is their defense and have allowed goals in only two of their four matches.

Right behind FCC is Columbus Crew SC, who is also tied for first. Columbus has a bevy of talent, such as striker Gyasi Zardes, central midfielder Wil Trapp and Zack Steffen. Steffen is one of the best goalkeepers in the league. However, he will be leaving the team later this season to go to Manchester City so that’s not really a strength. Head coach Caleb Porter is one of the best in the business and knows how to run a team. Columbus has plenty of talent to make a run, but they will need to find a way to cover the weakness at goalkeeper that will open up in the summer.

A few other teams to look out for are the Montreal Impact, New York Red Bulls and Philadelphia Union. The Impact have a great attacking side and know what to do when they get the ball. The Red Bulls have one of the best players in MLS history in Bradley Wright-Phillips as well as one of the best back lines in league. The Union are in form and have a lot of players who could win games for them, such as Marco Fabian.

In the Western Conference, LA FC is in first place. They have 10 points over four matches. They have one of the best players in the league with Carlos Vela, as well as one of the best coaches in Bob Bradley. They are tied for the most goals so far with 10; Seattle Sounders FC also have 10. They have one of the best center backs in the league with Walker Zimmerman as well. LA FC are one of the best MLS teams.

The other team in the Western Conference that is looking outstanding is Seattle Sounders FC. Seattle also has one of the best teams in the league, and are undefeated so far, having played three matches and won all of them. They have an outstanding goalkeeper with Stefan Frei, and a few great attacking players like Jordan Morris, Raul Ruidiaz and Nicolas Lodeiro. They have one of the best “teams” in the league. They’re not an individual-first team. They know how to work together.

There are others in the Western Conference, however. Sporting KC, LA Galaxy and FC Dallas are three teams that have good teams. Sporting KC are not looking good right now, but they are capable of playing like one of the best in the Western Conference. LA Galaxy have Zlatan Ibrahimovic, so they can win any match he is playing in. The only problem is it seems he likes to sit out a lot of matches. FC Dallas is one of the youngest teams, but they have plenty of good players that could help them get into the postseason and make a run.

MLS has a long season. It’s already been a month, but there’s still 30 more matches to go. It’ll be interesting to see what stays the same and what changes.

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**No longer the league’s laughingstock**

*Max Lewton*

**Sports Reporter**

The Cleveland Browns have been known as the laughingstock of the NFL for the past couple of decades. They have been the team that always seemed to make the wrong decision in every situation that they were a part of. Browns fans have stuck with this franchise through all of the losing, terrible draft picks and just the overall stupidity the team has shown over the years. However, if you are a Browns fan, all of that suffering will be well worth it.

The Browns gave their fanbase hope last season, finishing with a record of 7-8-1 and third in the AFC North. Rookie quarterback sensation Baker Mayfield filled these hopeful fans with confidence through his outstanding play that many have never seen from a Browns quarterback before. The team entered the 2019 offseason with the third most cap space in the league, giving fans hope that they would acquire some top-tier talent. The offseason frenzy began with the controversial signing of former Kansas City running back Kareem Hunt. This signing was frowned on by some due to evidence that Hunt kicked and harmed a woman in a Cleveland hotel that ultimately resulted in him being cut from the Chiefs. Current Browns general manager John Dorsey drafted Hunt when he was with the Chiefs and could not pass on signing him for his new team. Aside from his issues off the field, Hunt is a highly talented running back that was a key component of a Super Bowl caliber offense in Kansas City. This signing gives the Browns a loaded backfield of Nick Chubb, Duke Johnson and Kareem Hunt after he serves his eight-game suspension.

The Kareem Hunt signing was only the beginning of an eventful offseason for the Browns. The team then acquired Pro Bowl defensive end Olivier Vernon from the New York Giants in exchange for offensive lineman Kevin Zeitler. This trade really bolsters the Browns defensive line along with the signing of defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson from the Minnesota Vikings. Those two, along with Myles Garrett and Larry Ogunjobi, make for a very formidable front five. The biggest move the team made this offseason was trading for Pro-Bowl wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. in exchange for Jabrill Peppers and a first and third round pick in 2019. This blockbuster move by the Browns makes their already talented offense even scarier with Beckham and Jarvis Landry as their top two receivers.

The Browns have also made a number of smaller free agent signings during the 2019 offseason that can really help the team in the long run. Some of the players that were recently signed were receiver Demetrious Harris, linebacker Adarius Taylor, lineman Eric Kush and lineman Kendall Lamm. With the departure of Zeitzer via trade, the Browns needed to reinforce their offensive, and the team did just that. Also, having some depth at the tight end and linebacker positions helps when the injury bug seems to hit starting linebacker Christian Kirksey every season.

It seems that overnight the Browns went from going 0-16 to a Super Bowl contending team. They have a roster that is loaded with talent and potential while playing in a conference where pretty much every other team got worse while they got better. I expect the Browns will at least win the AFC North this season and will be legitimate Super Bowl contenders. They may not win this year due to the head coaching change and new players getting settled in, but they will still be actual contenders. The Browns have finally figured it out after decades of losing and embarrassment. Cleveland fans can actually enjoy watching their team take the field every Sunday. When the Browns finally win their first Super Bowl, I think the city will, in fact, burn to the ground.
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Co-founder of Black Lives Matter presents to students

Angelica Euseary
Reporter

Opal Tometi, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Movement, came to BGSU addressing the black experience, police brutality and the importance of allies.

“Black Lives Matter was first an internal call for our communities,” Tometi said.

In 2013, three black community organizers, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, created the #BlackLivesMatter Movement. It was a social media response to the not-guilty verdict of George Zimmerman, Trayvon Martin’s alleged murderer.

“We had to be unapologetic and name what was going on in our community,” Tometi said.

Over the past six years, Black Lives Matter has created more than 40 chapters across the country with efforts to raise awareness on police brutality and maintain the humanity in black lives.

“Being treated as though our skin is a weapon is intolerable,” Tometi said. “Even six years into the Black Lives Matter Movement, we are still treated this way.”

Black Lives Matter exercises resistance in an effort to fight the oppressors in law enforcement and the judicial system. The movement’s mission is to promote that black lives are just as important as everyone else’s.

“Quite honestly our silence was leading to more and more deaths,” Tometi said. “Our silence was leaving our community thinking that this is okay. We had to say enough is enough.”

Tometi said America didn’t get to this place overnight, stating that government and law officials have antagonized and killed black people with ill intentions for decades. She talked about her dad having to get another car because he was consistently pulled over for being behind the wheel of a BMW. She said the movement cannot progress without the help of white people and their awareness.

“It’s important to me because Opal Tometi said something about white people having to get their people,” Tulsa Fearing, McNair Scholars Program graduate assistant, said. “Because who else is going to do it. She said ‘if it wasn’t for y’all, we wouldn’t be in this mess in the first place.’ And I felt that.”

Tometi said black people have progressed, but the real change is with our allies.

“I think people need to recognize where they have privilege and power in situations and why it’s important to not stay silent if something is going wrong,” Fearing said. “People need to think about that and be aware of that. It’s critical. Being an ally is not something I take lightly. I feel like it’s a responsibility. I take it seriously. It’s an action, not just a chore.”

“Ultimately, we are fueled by love and fueled by a hope that things can be different,” said Tometi.
Fashion Week introduces spring and summer trends

Kylie Tusing
Pulse Reporter

Whether it was in Paris, New York, Milan or London, the Spring/Summer 2019 Fashion Weeks have set the mood for the upcoming seasons. There are many trends for all different decades, as well as new trends the fashion industry has never seen before.

The trends range from high-end to affordable. Designers like Calvin Klein, Marc Jacobs and Dior were featured, but shoppers can also find a mixture of styles at more cost affordable stores.

There are many new additions as well as revamps of old clothes that have been made popular by the Spring/Summer Fashion Weeks.

A glimpse into the past
This year, there were several designs and pieces that either incorporated or brought back styles from several different decades. The trend of tie-dye has made a comeback in designs from Stella McCartney, Prada and Dior. The tie-dye style comes with a lot of possibilities. People can do it themselves or shop at a cost-affordable store such as Forever 21. Though it might not be the easiest way to find tie-dye, checking local thrift stores will give that ‘60s hippie vibe that designers were going for.

Fashion influencers took pieces from the late ‘80s and ‘90s as well with several mixed patterns. Designers incorporated back butterfly details, polka dots, black and white checkers, along with a scarf print pattern. All of these designs and patterns are easy to find through stores like Forever 21, American Eagle and Kohl’s. Similar to the tie-dye trend thrift stores will give that ‘60s hippie vibe that designers were going for.

Never-before-seen looks
Several trends are being recreated into something new. The first trend is biker shorts, which are already trending on social media. Fashion influencers all around are saying something new. The first trend is biker shorts, which are already trending on social media. The last “decades” trend the runway saw was accessories. Several different accessories were added to the runway giving shoppers various styles to choose from. One comeback piece is miniature backpacks. Seen in various styles to choose from. One comeback piece is miniature backpacks. Seen in popular ‘90s movies such as “Clueless,” mini backpacks are popular accessories to add to any casual look.

Another repetitive style was crochet. Whether in swimsuits, cover-ups or purses, designers used crochet to make many styles look spring/summer ready.

"Head First" was another trend this season, with multiple appearances of bows, headbands and other hair accessories, which can be found in local Forever 21 stores.

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