UNITED BY CULTURE
Student unions offer safe spaces, belonging

Former Falcon, rockstar dies
Page 5

Twins reflect on volleyball careers
Page 9

2020 candidates vie for poll leads
Page 11
Student unions uplift multicultural student inclusion

Olivia Metcalfe
Reporter
Finding a group in which students feel they belong remains an integral part of the college experience. Various student unions strive to create these groups for all students.

One of these organizations is the Queer-Trans Student Union, whose meetings take place on Tuesdays from 9-10 p.m. in the LGBTQ+ Resource Center in Room 427 of the Bowen Thompson Student Union.

Vice President of QTSU, Emily Latham, discussed a typical meeting.

“We start with introductions so everyone feels comfortable and the executive board initiates what we’re doing that night, whether it be conversations or game nights, and general members continue forward,” she said.

Latham also mentioned upcoming events the group feels most excited for. “Queer Carnival with the Multicultural Greek Council and Trunk or Treat with other multicultural organizations are coming up. Queer Carnival is always a huge hit among students and Trunk or Treat is a new development,” she said.

Latham mentioned what she wants students to think of when they think of QTSU. “It is a place where people, especially those in the queer and trans community, can feel safe. We are always striving for a loving and safe environment,” she said.

The QTSU is not the only organization striving for such an environment. Xavi Boes, president of the Latino Student Union, spoke on similar goals.

“When people think of the Latino Student Union, I want them to think initially a safe space for Latinx students, but then a safe space for all,” he said.

With meetings every other Wednesday at 9 p.m. in Room 314 of the Union, Boes said they have structured and topical meetings.

“We officially start the meeting with an icebreaker to build community within our safe space. After that, we go through some announcements about upcoming events and then segue into our topics we discuss for the night,” he said.

Boes also showed excitement about upcoming events for LSU.

“The one I am most excited for is our event named Dia de Los Muertos, ‘Our Culture is Not Your Costume,’” he said.

The event focuses on cultural appropriation and what it means in relation to an incident that occurred last year, where nine members of Pi Kappa Alpha posted photos of themselves in racially insensitive costumes on social media with the caption “your culture is my costume.”

Boes continued to elaborate on the meaning of the event and clarified that there was no ill intent behind the name, stating it focuses more on a learning experience.

“It’s not in the form of retaliation but in education to teach others on what it is,” Boes said.

Black Student Union is coming off a busy spring semester full of advocating for the change of the Gish Film Theater — now the BGSU Film Theater. BSU is looking forward to celebrating the organization’s 50th anniversary this year with events such as its annual family reunion, a block party on Sept. 19 at Mac Beach and a gala.

“Our goal this semester is to honor and carry out our mission to create an environment of unity, scholarship, diversity and political awareness (among) the black community and overall community at BGSU,” junior and BSU Political Action Chair Jonae Williams said.

“If I had to think of one word, it would be solidarity. This is student run. Nobody is going to do this for us but us,” she said.

Another organization standing in solidarity with Asian students is the Indian Student Association. Shubham Sundriyal, president of ISA, described the Asian Student Union’s idea to associate and collaborate with all student unions.

“India stands with a slogan of ‘Vasudeva Kutumbakam,’ which is a Sanskrit phrase meaning, ‘the whole world is a family.’ This is what ISA also stands for,” he said.

Typically meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at the ISA desk on the fourth floor of the Union, their meetings involve planning for upcoming events.

“ISA meetings generally involve cabinet members discussing all the things primarily related to the upcoming event hosted by the association. We also plan the dates for other meetings,” he said.

The biggest event the organization holds, Diwali Mela, takes place in late October. Sundriyal elaborated on what they are looking forward to specifically.

“Every year, we work really hard to make that event a success. A lot of attention is always given to the performances, decoration, and food so that we can give an apt glimpse of India’s colors,” he said.

Students with questions about these organizations or any of the other student unions can contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs or the LGBTQ+ Resource Center.

Black Student Union and Latino Student Union – Meghan McKinley – President Asian Student Union

Another organization that has events ahead is the up-and-coming Asian Student Union. The founder of ASU, Meghan McKinley, discussed more on what can be expected of them in terms of meetings.

“We want to make sure Asian American students have that space to hang out because that never happens on campus. We are waiting to see what has the most interest moving forward,” she said.

Other ideas on events for ASU to host were trips to Toledo’s various Asian markets, monthly movie nights and collaborations with other multicultural groups.

McKinley discussed an upcoming collaborative event currently being developed, which will be run by ASU and host other diverse organizations.

“The biggest thing we are planning right now is a multicultural arts festival for the spring semester. We are going to involve every multicultural organization on campus, including queer groups, Greek life, and more. We want a place for these students to showcase their artwork and creativity,” she said.

McKinley provided insight on what she wants BGSU students to associate with the Asian Student Union.

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Columnist expresses fury over congressman’s dangerous remarks

Mary Ross  
Forum Editor

Last week, during the Democratic debates, Beto O’Rourke responded to a question about taking AR-15s away from the public with a fierce, “Hell yes, we’re going to take your AR-15, your AK-47.”

In the room where I sat watching the debate, there were cheers and clapping for this remark, including some from me. Having grown up in a time where school shootings have become more and more prevalent and suffering from the same vivid recurring nightmare of being in a school shooting, gun violence and preventing it has been at the forefront of my mind for quite a few years now.

However, I was shocked when scrolling through Twitter a few hours later, I saw a Republican Congressman from Texas by the name of Briscoe Cain tweet out to Beto, “My AR is ready for you Robert Francis.”

This tweet was malicious in intent, for some, myself included, it’s comparable to a death threat. This tweet appears to incite violence due to the insinuations behind it. When I read it, I thought, “He’s going to shoot Beto with his AR and for what? All that would do is prove the necessity for gun control laws in order to prevent gun violence. Like is this representative stupid or something?”

And though I greatly appreciate my right to free speech – I mean, it’s let me do what I love – it’s times like these when I question if we should have slightly stricter free speech laws. That way, people won’t be able to make comments like Cain’s, because they could inspire people who would become violent to protect what they view as their rights.

In current-day United States, a person’s free speech is protected until they incite violence, but there has to be an obvious correlation in order for the person to actually get in trouble.

What Cain said cannot be proven to incite violence, but who is to say it didn’t reinforce an idea in a gun owner’s head that they should shoot and possibly kill other people to protect their right to own a gun? And then, in a few weeks or months down the road, we are reading yet another news article about how a gun owner went on a rampage at a student-led protest against current gun laws?

The worst part about what Cain said is he is in a position of power. He is setting an example to future men who are going to be put into power that this is acceptable behavior, when it is not.

This behavior is unacceptable by every standard I have ever created for people, and it should be seen as unacceptable by all people.

We are lucky to have free speech, but we have to be smarter about how we choose to use that right.

— Mary Ross —  
Forum Editor

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Forum Editor

—
Columnist discusses link between video games and violence

MK Donisi
Columnist

We are currently locked in a blaming game between video games and violence. Who is to blame?

Hint: Not video games.

The most recent shooting has had people, including our president, pointing the blame finger at video games. Since we struggle to understand the mentality of those killers, we blame an easy target. After the Columbine High School massacre, Marylin Manson and music were blamed for the crimes. Now, it’s video games like “Call of Duty” or “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate” or even “Pokémon Sword & Shield.”

“What a shame” to blame video games, Andrew Przybylski, an associate professor at the University of Oxford who studies digital media, said in an article for CNN in 2019. The author of the article, Arman Azad, wrote there is more to violent acts like mass shootings. Unfortunately, this world has been plagued with violence long before the creation of video games.

“By blaming video games instead of digging deeper into the root causes of violence, we reduce the value of the political discourse on the topic, because we’re looking for easy answers instead of facing hard truths,” Azad wrote.

Jon Minniear, who owns Rock Em Sock Em Retro located in downtown Bowling Green, said, “Humans are not wired to be violent. There has to be something else to cause the violence ... If video games were truly the cause, then how come people don’t want to join the military because of ‘Call of Duty’ or becoming a racecar driver like in ‘Mario Kart?’” Minniear said.

Video games are like books or movies. They’re entertainment for many people. This particular medium is a little easier to blame because it is newer, only joining the entertainment realm as early as the 1970s. As the world grew, video games grew alongside us. We started from an 8-bit plumber running across pixelated platforms to save a princess to a human falling into a monster underworld in more complex games like “Undertale.”

“With video games, instead of imagining the reality (like in books), you are in that reality.”

— Jon Minniear —
Owner of Rock Em Sock Em Retro

Personally, I think there is a complex issue that we, as a society, are experiencing. We can blame video games, music, movies or even parenting styles all we want, but playing this blaming game won’t stop a shooter. In order to stop these tragedies, we have to come up with a solution. But what is the solution? Teaching more compassion and love? Banning violent video games and guns? The answer, for now, isn’t clear.
Plastic Shatners reflect on history, make plans for semester

Andrew Addessi
Pulse Reporter

Comedy is a serious business. Whether it is writing an hour-long show or setting up a funny story at parties, there is always that risk of a joke falling flat. Then what? According to one of the golden rules for the Plastic Shatners, the BGSU improv comedy group, you have to “keep things moving.” And they haven’t stopped moving since they started around 20 years ago.

“They were a loose group at a festival,” junior Danielle Bender, the new director of the group, recalled. When it first started out, the team didn’t even have a name.

“They said ‘OK, everyone empty your pockets.’ And one of them had a little plastic Captain Kirk figure with them.”

From a loose improv group to the main collaborators with BGSU’s long-form and female-exclusive improv teams, Bad Genetics and Lady Parts, respectively, the Plastic Shatners have continued to grow year after year, with both younger and older members joining their ranks.

They’re always on the hunt for new talent. Earlier this semester, they held workshops and auditions open to any student who was interested. They introduced their methods and rules for good improv comedy such as always saying, “Yes, and …” (a phrase that encourages them to build off their stage partners rather than shutting them down), helping everyone and taking risks. Then they let others give it a try, introducing games and skits.

Whether they introduce simple call and response games or made participants get creative by coming up with scenes, they made sure everyone was able to take part, no matter their background or interests.

“I never did theatre or speech or anything in front of a crowd ever,” Bender said. “I saw a flyer for Lady Parts workshops and it said, ‘Are you a funny gal?’ And I was like yeah, I’m kind of funny, so I went and just had a really good time.”

Among the Plastic Shatners, there certainly is a strong emphasis on teamwork and positivity. With new members coming in and leaving each year, this challenge can be hard to keep up. During auditions, they make sure to look for not only talent, but the level of energy someone brings to the table. The more energy a person brings, the bigger their characters are, which makes it all the more entertaining to see them work off scene partners.

The auditions are held each year toward the beginning of the semester, and each year, everyone including hopeful newcomers and veterans have to clear the same hurdles. After the initial auditions, all the contestants gather at their emails and await callbacks. If they find themselves lucky enough, they have a shot at joining the team.

“We look for a number of things: character work, environment work and scene work. Basically, we want to see that you can be different characters, build a world around you and play with its elements and keep a scene moving in a positive direction,” Bender said.

Obviously they need to be on top of their game, especially when it comes to performing at festivals. Every other weekend, the Plastic Shatners are performing a show in the Education Building around 7 p.m. or going to festivals.

“Festivals are so amazing because we get to not only see professional improvisers and learn from them, but we also get to know each other better and bond so much on trips,” Bender said.

On Nov. 15 and 16, the Plastic Shatners are planning their own festival, Falcon Fuse. They invite improv groups from all over the area for two nights of performances where they perform with their own teams and even shuffle members from different teams to experiment. Even against competition, the team sense of community holds strong.

“All my best friends are people in the improv community,” Bender said. “I don’t know where I would be if I hadn’t joined.”

The Cars lead singer dies, has connections to BGSU

Andrew Bailey
Pulse Editor

Lead singer of The Cars Ric Ocasek died in New York City on Sep. 15 at the age of 75 from natural causes. He was most known for founding and performing lead vocals for the famous new wave rock band in 1976.

Ocasek took classes at BGSU during the summer of 1963, but did not receive a degree, according to the Director of BGSU Marketing and Communications Sarah Bednarski.

The lead vocalist also attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, for a brief period of time, but he ended up dropping out of college to pursue a career in music.

This decision proved to be fruitful for him as he formed various bands and grew his connections in the industry. He met many of the members that would eventually form The Cars with him during this time period, those being Benjamin Orr, David Robinson, Elliot Easton and Greg Hawkes.

They released seven full-length LPs as a band, the last one being “Move Like This” in 2010 after Orr’s death.

Ocasek also had a notable career outside of The Cars, releasing seven solo albums as well as a collaborative spoken word album, “Getchertitkz,” with Alan Vega of the band Suicide and poet Gillian McCain.

During and after his music career, Ocasek also built up an impressive resume of producer credits. He helped produce three albums for Weezer, an album for Bad Religion, an album for No Doubt and many more.

The Cars were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2018. Despite Ocasek’s death, both his legacy and the legacy of The Cars will live on in music history.

BGSU gave an official statement on Ocasek’s death: “Bowling Green State University joins the world in mourning the loss of Rock-and-Roll Hall of Famer Ric Ocasek, a BGSU student in the ’60s. The music of the Cars was an indelible part of the soundtrack of the ’70s and ’80s and lives on forever. He’ll be missed.”

**Photo Credit:** Provided by Zach Davis
We invite you to worship with us and look forward to meeting you soon!

FREE FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL!
THURSDAY EVENINGS
6:00 pm Homecooked Supper
7:00 pm Compline
7:45 pm Roundtable Discussion

WANT MORE?

ST. THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY PARISH
JOIN US FOR MASS
SATURDAY 5:00PM
SUNDAY 10:00AM
5:00PM
9:00PM

Bridges-Episcopal Campus Ministry at BGSU
FREE FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL!
THURSDAY EVENINGS
6:00 pm Homecooked Supper
7:00 pm Compline
7:45 pm Roundtable Discussion

For more info, find Episcopal Bridges on Facebook
ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 1505 E. Wooster at Mercer
Sunday Service at 10 am

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
worship services
Saturday @ 5p
Sunday @ 8:30a & 11a
on-campus small group
Wednesdays Noon-2p | bgsu union
Look for the Tourquoise Table!
315 S. College Dr. | stmarksbg.org
Students of all backgrounds come together at H2O to engage in worship, Scripture-based teachings, and connection with others. Serving the campus for more than 30 years, H2O Church is dedicated to coming alongside students as they explore what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ or those who want to go deeper in their faith, while connecting them with an authentic community of other believers. H2O is a contemporary campus ministry that involves more than 500 students in a host of worship services, campus fellowship opportunities, and service and outreach activities.

“The big thing that we're about is sharing and learning about Jesus and we're about welcoming people to have a conversation about their faith,’ says Pastor Joe Kaloger, who works with H2O's small group ministry. “We really try to be considerate of those that are seeking and maybe just checking it out. Maybe they didn't grow up in a Christian background—that's totally fine! We love to welcome all people to come check us out.”

H2O has an 11:30 a.m. on-campus worship service every Sunday during the school year in the Union Ballroom. They also offer services at an off-campus venue in downtown Bowling Green at 252 S. Main St. with similar contemporary services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Students can expect to find an atmosphere that is friendly and comfortable, teachings that are Biblical, challenging and honest, and music that is loud, upbeat, and always about Jesus.

“What we're about is authenticity. We want to be a Christian community built on genuine relationships.”
— Jill Beebe —
H2O Staff Member

Engaging with people and developing relationships are core principles of H2O Church. “After the services, we invite people to our small groups during the week,” says Joe Kaloger. “Those usually meet in dormitories, houses or apartments. That's where people really get to know some of their best friends.”

H2O offers Groups, consisting of 15-20 individuals, for people in every season of life including traditional students on or off campus and students already meeting within specific communities (specific majors, athletes, Greek life, international students, etc.). H2O also offers city groups for graduate students, recent graduates transitioning to life as young professionals, as well as community members and families.

H2O has many other ways to get involved, in addition to Sundays and Groups. There are opportunities to serve within specific areas such as music, video, hospitality, H2O Kids, and more. Perhaps more importantly is a culture within H2O focused on connecting with the University and with the city of Bowling Green through volunteering for campus events and collaborating with other University and city organizations. Joe Kaloger continues, “We feel like partnering with other organizations is one of the coolest things we do. We have a great partnership with the University. We really enjoy engaging and helping students spiritually, but also just enjoy having fun and meeting people.”

It takes a team of dedicated staff and student volunteers to accomplish the level of involvement H2O has on campus and in the community. If there is one thing that H2O Church hopes to express is the importance of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the value of building authentic relationships with students and community members of Bowling Green.

“What we're about is authenticity,” says staff member, Jill Beebe. “We want to be a Christian community built on genuine relationships. We want students to know that they are not just a number or that they are coming to see a show on Sunday morning. We want them to know that we care about them as individuals.”

If you want to find out more about H2O, stop by one of their many events this week or check out their website at H2Ochurch.com.
Pros and cons of on-demand streaming services

Last week, we discussed the different forms of streaming services for people looking to cut traditional cable and switch to a more efficient live TV provider. What was not covered in that article was the also popular on-demand streaming services available. On-demand services cater more toward people interested in less live TV and more binge-watching. There are four major on-demand streaming services worth noting.

**Netflix**
With prices ranging from $8 to $12 after a one-month free trial, Netflix provides thousands upon thousands of hours of content with no ads in sight. Netflix has got you covered whether you want to watch TV shows, movies or maybe even some original programming. The service is also easy to use, well organized in terms of categorization and even allows you to download content to watch offline. However, Netflix isn’t 100% perfect like Twitter might have you think. For one, the library isn’t updated as well as other services are. If you are the type who needs constant new content and frequent updates, Netflix may not be up your alley. Therefore, before you decide to jump on the whole “Netflix and chill” ideology you’ll want to keep reading to see if there’s something else that works better for you.

**Hulu**
Starting as low as $5.99 and equipped with an impressive library of content, Hulu gives you the option of watching ongoing TV shows almost as soon as they’ve come off the air. The biggest selling point for college students is the student bundle. In the bundle, Hulu provides itself, Spotify and Showtime all for just $4.99 a month. Not to mention, Hulu with Live TV could be a great upgrade when you get used to the service on its own. Hulu, however, doesn’t provide the most expansive library when it comes to movies. Also, you will have to sit through ads unless you’re willing to pay some extra money to not see them. If you like commercials and don’t watch that many movies, Hulu and you should get along just fine.

**Amazon Prime Video**
Amazon Prime Video, or just Prime Video, is another fine service. Prime Video is trickier to access than the other streaming services listed. Prime Video comes by itself at $8.99 a month or in a package deal with all of Amazon Prime that includes shipping benefits, their own music streaming service, a free Twitch subscription and plenty more for $12.99 a month. Depending on how much you shop, this could be either a pro or a con for you. Once you get to the video service itself you’ll find another well functioning product. Plenty of quality original content to binge on and a somewhat expansive library to dig into. The downsides here are lower quality videos compared to Netflix or Hulu and that you can’t watch on more than two devices at a time.

**HBO Go**
Game of Thrones may be over, but HBO Go is much more than one series. HBO Go is free on its own, but you’ll need an HBO subscription ($14.99 a month) in order to use it. HBO Go provides plenty of movies to watch and maybe the most celebrated catalog of any service there is. Not to mention, if you live on campus you can get HBO Go for free. Where HBO Go suffers in relation to other services is the small library it provides. You’ll get less content, but the content will actually be higher rated. If you would rather binge-watch critically acclaimed content instead of taking your chances with a larger library, this is the service for you.
Iacobelli twins share unique bond on and off court

Shayne Nissen
Sports Reporter

Identical twins Paulina and Victoria Iacobelli have played volleyball together their entire lives. Unfortunately, their careers are coming to a head as Falcons.

Seniors at BGSU, both play the role of defensive specialists for the Falcons and have played on the same volleyball teams since the age of eight, with the exception of two years in high school where they played on different club teams.

Through it all, the twins have enjoyed each other's presence on the court.

"It's fun, you always have a familiar face. You always have a little piece of familiarity is always with you. We are very competitive with each other so it helps us build our competitiveness within the team," Paulina said.

Playing at Novi High School in Novi, Michigan, the twins led their school to four straight league titles from 2012 to 2015 posting a 55-2 record. In their senior seasons they helped lead the school to a Michigan Class A State Championship as well.

When it came time to make the decision as to where they would continue their careers, it wasn't always set in stone that the two would go to the same college. But after a while it became clear that BGSU was the best choice for both of them.

"We weren't always planning on going together, there were some schools that we were looking at that were different and some that were together. We talk to each other into everything so just going through the decision process, we just kind of made the decision together to come here," Paulina said.

Playing on different club teams for two years in high school helped them experience something they never had before. They enjoyed the unfamiliarity, but it helped them to further decide whether they wanted to move forward together or not.

"I think at the time playing on different teams was odd for us, but I think we both really liked that experience. In the grand scheme of things I think it gave us a sense of individuality within volleyball, like having our own teammates and our own coaches and to be able to build our skills separately. I think through that experience we kind of knew that we were good either way," Victoria said.

Family factors in too, as having to follow volleyball careers at two different schools can be difficult.

"It made it easier for our family too obviously, we are about an hour or two away from our hometown so when you go through those decisions it was just a lot easier to decide as one," Victoria said.

In the end, the twins felt lucky that they were able to share the court together and will miss a lot of things about playing with each other. What they will miss the most however, is the unfiltered criticism they gave each other that couldn't be replicated with anyone else.

"I'm going to miss having that person that you can say whatever you want without any sort of filter. Whether it's good whether it's bad you can't even talk to your best friend like that. So just being able to say whatever you want without thinking about it. We are lucky that we get that because who else gets that opportunity on a daily basis," Paulina said.

The twins have had plenty of fun playing with each other over the years and there are plenty of moments still to be had with their entire senior year in front of them, but when reflecting on their decision to come to BGSU, they know that they made the right one.

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Email: snissen@bgsu.edu

BGSU Volleyball
UPCOMING SCHEDULE

at Xavier University
Queen City Classic
Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 20, 6 p.m.

at University of Cincinnati
Queen City Classic
Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 21, 12 p.m.

at Ohio University
Athens, Ohio
Sept. 27, 7 p.m*

at Kent State
Kent, Ohio
Sept. 28, 5 p.m.

vs. Akron
Stroh Center
Oct. 4, 6 p.m.

vs. Volleyball
Stroh Center
Oct. 5, 5 p.m.

at Miami
Oxford, Ohio
Oct. 10, 7 p.m.

at Western Michigan
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Oct. 12, TBA

vs. Central Michigan
Stroh Center
Oct. 18, 6 p.m.

vs. Eastern Michigan
Stroh Center
Oct. 19, 5 p.m.

at Toledo
Toledo, Ohio
Oct. 25, 7 p.m.
Men’s soccer optimistic for season ahead

Ashley Kimmel
Sports Reporter

BGSU men’s soccer may have been picked to finish fifth in the Mid-American Conference this season, but their unwavering confidence continues to aim for first.

As a whole, the team is focusing on the future; dialing in on their leadership skills, mentality and team culture. As for where they see themselves at the end of the season, seniors Charlie Maciejewski and Chris Brennan are aiming for the stars, in the form of the MAC Championship and the NCAA Tournament.

They’ve been here before: a strong start to the season that leads to a slump as games pass by. But this year, the men’s soccer team is ready to make an impact.

“We just need to focus on keeping a level-headed mindset... We haven’t achieved anything yet,” Maciejewski said.

And despite losing four talented players to graduation, everyone has stepped up to the challenges ahead. This year’s team is strong and in the way they work together; egos are nonexistent.

“Everyone cares about winning, which makes us more organized because we all share that common goal,” Brennan said.

And what they may have lost in talent, they gained in character from this year’s freshmen. Even their reserve players are pushing to get 1% better every day. The team knows they’ll be playing their best soccer at the end of the season — and it’s that mentality, paired with the confidence in their abilities, that will take them to those playoff games.

“We just need to focus on keeping a level-headed mindset. ... We haven’t achieved anything yet.”

— Charlie Maciejewski —
Senior Soccer Player

Men's soccer still holds a strong senior class. Head coach Eric Nichols defined them as natural leaders who put the team first and noted they had been working on leadership skills in the spring and summer. As a main focus, being intentional about leadership is something that will help them in the long run.

“We've had to make sure our personal boxes are checked before leading outwards,” Maciejewski said. “But the entire team is bought in, and they're becoming leaders themselves.”

Adopting this mindset has helped them become more organized than last season as well. They’re becoming more cohesive, as opposed to relying on the defensive athleticism that started at the goaltender. And they know their goals are attainable, as long as they keep their motions in check and continue to push themselves.

This year’s ranking is unimportant in the long run. The MAC is one of the toughest conferences in the country, but Brennan and Maciejewski remain unfazed.

“We've been picked fifth every year for the past couple of years, and obviously we placed second the past two years,” Brennan said.

“Rankings are just numbers, and they don’t really bother us.”

Nichols agreed, pointing out they knew things about their team MAC officials didn’t.

“From the outside, it looks like we've lost a lot of talent and productivity. But from our perspective, we can see the amount of character and quality we have as a team,” Nichols said.

And while the two seniors felt disrespected by continually being picked to finish fifth, they pointed out that they were more focused on themselves and their game.

“Obviously, there’s always room for improvement. Adversity is going to come, and we need to focus on how we deal with that... but mostly we just need to fine tune what we’ve been doing,” Maciejewski said.

At the end of the season, the MAC Championship should be just another challenge the men are ready to take on.
Competition for presidency stirs debate

Patrick Dearwester
Reporter

With the 2020 presidential election just over a year away, the primary elections are beginning to develop along with the candidates aiming to topple Trump.

The Democratic party has three major candidates at this point: Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. Biden is first in most polls, but more recent surveys have shown Warren tying up with him and Sanders following behind in third.

“Make America moral again,” Biden said in an interview with ABC News.

That is the core principle of his campaign and a common theme throughout every campaign preparing to challenge Trump, regardless of political affiliation. However, Biden’s main priority seems to be keeping Trump from returning to the White House for a second term. Biden insists that when it comes down to winning an election, no other candidate is more qualified than himself.

Warren, a former teacher, is advocating for the improved education of every child. Other aspirations the senator has includes ending a wealth-biased Washington, strengthening the middle class and creating a foreign policy that will ease the lives of military families.

After his close competition and ultimate loss to Hillary Clinton, who is not expected to run in the upcoming election, Bernie Sanders is back with his familiar plans of health care for all, eradicating student debt and social justice. In a recent stab at Biden, Sanders asserted that while it is necessary for Trump to be beaten, it is imperative for whoever beats Trump to be looking past the election and have plans that will make America a land of opportunity for all classes of people, not just the one percent.

One last notable Democratic candidate is Tim Ryan, a BGSU alumnus from the Youngstown area. Ryan recently released an audio album on Spotify that covers some of the issues his modest campaign will be covering, such as gun control and education. He is the first candidate to ever utilize digital streaming through the album medium, a precedent that might boost his support.

In the most recent debate, held on Sept. 12, Biden, Warren and Sanders appeared together on stage for the first time with seven of the other most prominent Democratic candidates. Many topics were discussed, such as Warren and Sanders’ all-inclusive health care plan versus Biden’s more conservative approach, former Rep. Beto O’Rourke’s passionate gun policies, a few stabs related to age and loyalty made at Biden by former HUD Secretary Julian Castro and a surprise gift to American families totaling $120,000 from Andrew Yang. Overall, the debate was not as eventful as some had hoped, but it did give lower-polling candidates a chance to win over some new votes.

The Republican primary candidates are facing a much different election than the Democrats. Trump is dominating the early polls, with some sources projecting him with an overwhelming 82% of votes, and his “Promises Made, Promises Kept” campaign supposedly hasn’t even begun. However, the Commander in Chief has already started to mock his three Republican opponents: Mark Sanford, Joe Walsh and Bill Wed.

“The Three Stooges, all badly failed candidates, will give it a go!” Trump tweeted on Sept. 9.

The next day, the president would continue his taunting by posting a sign that reads “Trump 2024,” insinuating a third term for him, which would be a direct violation of the two-term presidential limit set by the Twenty-Second Amendment.

Trump’s running mates, especially Sanford, are calling for Republicans to rethink their positions and reconsider whether the president and his personality are really the best options for the nation. If for nothing else, the “Three Stooges” are running to give Republicans a choice and challenge the political monopoly Trump has amassed.

Read the rest at bgfalconmedia.com.
Fencing club en garde for new school year

Mary Ross
Forum Editor

BGSU is home to over 300 clubs and organizations, one of which is the Fencing Club. The Fencing Club is open to all students, no matter their skill or knowledge level of the sport, and has been gaining popularity among students on campus.

The team is a member of the Midwest Fencing Conference with schools such as Ohio State, Northwestern, Michigan State, Michigan, Toledo and Xavier. They travel to four or five tournaments a year to compete against these schools, who all have teams of varying experience levels as well.

The Fencing Club also participates in several events besides just tournaments throughout the year.

“We also hold Bunny Fencing for St. Jude’s, which is you come in and pop balloons off of your friends head with swords. We also do Literacy in the Park at the BG Field House where we show little kids how to fence a little. We even let them take jabs at us. It’s heart melting, I tell you,” Vice President Chaz McPeak said.

President of the Fencing Club, Karin Jacobsen, loves fencing club for the opportunity to meet new people.

“My favorite part of fencing club is all the people I’ve gotten to meet and become friends with – people from all different majors and years I would not have met otherwise,” she said.

Chaz McPeak similarly enjoys fencing club due to the fun “family” dynamics of the group.

“The atmosphere created by everyone loving what they do is intoxicating. I love being around my fencing team because of our family dynamic and strong trust in one another,” he said.

The club practices three times a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30-10 p.m. and Sundays 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in Eppler 102C. All equipment is provided by the club and is paid for by member’s dues.

Dues for fencing club are $100 per year or $60 per semester, but the cost is never due up front.

“We like to give new people a couple weeks to try it out before they commit to paying dues,” Jacobsen said.

The club also sets up payment plans for members who can’t pay the dues up front.

Overall, the goal of the Fencing Club is for everyone to have fun while participating in a unique sport not offered many places.

“We just want people to have fun,” McPeak said.

For more information on the Fencing Club, contact Jacobsen at kmjacob@bgsu.edu or McPeak at cmcpeak@bgsu.edu.