Access to public records tested in audit

An audit of the compliance of Ohio public universities with state public records law found access to records was often obstructed. Read about the results on PAGE 3 and what happened at the University on PAGE 12.

AIMING FOR SAFETY

Professors don’t want to avoid sensitive topics due to concealed carry | PAGE 2

Columnist discusses why America still needs feminism | PAGE 5

Hockey looks to advance in WCHA playoffs | PAGE 11

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By Tiffany Jackson

Professors at the University of Houston are being cautioned about teaching topics that will upset students carrying firearms, but University professors don’t see controversial topics as the root problem.

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently posted an article about a presentation that was being shown to faculty at the University of Houston. The PowerPoint suggested that teachers alter their behavior concerning their curriculum and the discussion of sensitive topics.

The presentation also gave guidelines as to what professors can and cannot say and the discussion of sensitive topics. Professors at the University of Houston. The Faculty Senate Chair Allen Rogel. “It would be censorship to not talk about them.”

One of the biggest concerns is whether or not professors should alter their curriculum and censor controversial subjects, and if this is necessary to be safe. Rogel said it’s important to have these conversations in constructive ways so that people do not feel threatened by them. Discussions are covered by free speech, he added.

There’s already pressure on professors to not teach controversial subjects,” Newman said, “They’re concerned if they upset a student, the student will take a gun out and shoot somebody.”

Newman said that the controversial topics aren’t necessarily the problem in this case. “I’m more concerned about the emotional stability of students and not so much the controversial subjects in the classroom,” he said.

Newman said that when it comes to the training necessary to obtain a concealed carry permit, eight hours doesn’t seem like enough.

Campus Police Chief Monica Moll is uncertain about whether or not the University will implement further training for faculty and students if the bill is passed and the University decides to allow concealed carry on campus.

“I would like to see the final version and then go from there,” Moll said. “We'll make sure to take a reasonable approach and enforce the law.”
Public record access often obstructed, audit finds

By Will Drabold, Danielle Keeton-Olsen and Annie Furia
Post Staff/BG News Staff

At Ohio’s public universities, nearly half of employees who were asked for public records failed to follow state law, according to results of a public records audit conducted by student journalists.

In January, student journalists across Ohio requested the same five public records at 12 of Ohio’s 14 public universities. They asked front desk employees for records and did not identify themselves. State law does not require those who request records to identify themselves.

Of the 60 total requests auditors made across the campuses, school employees followed the law for 34. The vast majority of those requests were directed to universities’ legal offices without immediately providing the records, a technically legal response. Records were provided in only seven instances.

The remaining 26 requests were denied or obstructed, meaning university employees asked auditors to identify themselves or otherwise made it difficult to obtain a public record.

In direct violation of state law, nearly half of auditors were asked to identify themselves. Some were directed to legal offices after refusing to identify themselves, while others were entirely blocked from access to public records.

The results show that state university officials have some work to do to ensure they readily comply with open records laws,” said Dennis Hetzel, president of the Ohio Coalition for Open Government and executive director of the Ohio Newspaper Association. “I was particularly distressed to see so many requests obstructed by asking the requesters to identify themselves. That’s clearly against the law.”

Sean FitzGerald, general counsel at Bowling Green State University, said the university is committed to transparency and said records requests should go through the Office of General Counsel, which has the legal training to handle public records.

AUDIT continues on Page 6
March is National Women's History month and I think it’s important to use this time to reflect back on the women that made it possible for others to vote, go to school, start to penetrate the glass ceiling and even bring awareness to the cause. It is also important to note what struggles women are still facing today and how we can band together to make a difference.

It all began in the middle to late 19th century with the Suffrage Movement when women fought for the right to vote, which they gained in 1920. Having gained this right allowed women a bigger presence outside of the home, or a voice in the “public sphere” of society.

Some years later, Margaret Sanger made it possible for women to start working outside of the home and to better their health and well-being by introducing oral contraception in the 1960s and creating Planned Parenthood for affordable care. With control on their families and bodies, women were now freer to work outside of the home and attain a higher level of education before getting married, if they did at all.

In the 1990s, current presidential candidate Hillary Clinton gave her famous “Women's Rights Are Human Rights” speech in Beijing. Her speech discussed how women's rights are not just women's issues, but also apply to men as well. She emphasized that change will not occur until everyone gets on board to make the lives of women around the world better.

Though we have made a lot of progress since the beginning of the 20th century, there is still much work to be done. Women are everyday losing access to reproductive rights and health care, and fighting the wage gap, along with other work place discrimination.

Though more women are rising through the ranks of the business world and doing work that would’ve been considered “radical” for a female to do, they are still paid less. Combining the wage gap with a decline in places for access to affordable women's health care, we get a rise in poverty.

According to New York Magazine, single women made up 23 percent of the electorate in 2012 and a quarter of the vote cast in the last election were by unmarried women. We need to harness this power and make a change for the betterment of not just women, but everyone.

Without the exceptional women who worked hard for our rights, I know I would not be where I am today. I would not be able to attend college and gain a degree, start working towards working in management and I would not have the right to voice my opinion on political issues by casting my vote in the upcoming election. I’m a very proud feminist and I’m proud of the women who came before me who fought for my rights that I enjoy today.

Respond to Brianna at thenews@bgnews.com

Brianna Grooms
Columnist

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

If you were running for office what politician/celebrity would you choose as your running mate and why?

ASHLEY MANIA
Freshman, Music Performance

“Jennifer Lawrence because she's flawless inside and out, aggressive and knows how to use a bow and arrow. It'd be like good cop, bad cop.”

KATIE MARTIN
Freshman, Education

“Beyonce. She would tell everyone to get in formation.”

ALEXANDRIA WHITE
Sophomore, Pre-Med Nursing

“Morgan Freeman, because not only is he knowledgeable about events around the world but also in his own community.”

ALAVYOUS NAPPER
Senior, Theater/Acting/Directing

“Donald Trump so he could be my slave.”

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HANNAH BENSON, CAMPUS EDITOR
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TABITHA HOLOWKA, FORUM EDITOR
ERIKA HECK, IN FOCUS EDITOR
KRISTEN TOMINS, SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
ERIC BURGASSER, PHOTO EDITOR
ALYSSA ALFANO, COPY CHIEF
The 21st century still needs feminism

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first woman elected to Congress, Jeannette Rankin.

Progress has certainly been made since her time, as there are now 104 women in Congress, but this progress might seem slow moving when you consider that these women still make up less than 20 percent of congressional seats available. Given that the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote in 1920, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission formed in 1965 protects women from workplace discrimination and Title IX has been protecting women’s rights to education since 1972, it may seem that not much more needs to be done to further the rights of women and that women are now in an equal playing field with respect to their male counterparts.

Given these legal remedies, it may seem that we’re in a post-feminist era, thereby prompting the question, “What’s the point of feminism in the 21st century?”

To think that feminism is only about procuring legal rights is to miss both the point of the movement, as well as that which it reflects back to us about our current society.

Historically, a vocal minority made the term feminism synonymous with misandry, causing many women and men to become apprehensive about associating themselves with the movement. Yet, this has been changing as strong women like Maya Angelou, Malala Yousafzai, Emma Watson, Jennifer Lawrence, Audre Lorde and Beyoncé continue to step forward to demonstrate the importance of modern day feminism. At its heart, feminism is about social and economic equality for women, as well as their rights as individuals to self-determine.

Feminism is concerned with everything from fair pay, to being taken seriously as leaders and experts, to having control over their medical choices. Despite the aforementioned legal victories, women still earn roughly 79 cents for every one dollar earned by men, only 4.6 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women, we have yet to see a woman lead our proud country, and women still are fighting against social stigmas attached to their appearance and sexuality.

Women are considered less competent if they don’t wear mascara, if they dress too sexy or if they don’t dress sexy enough. Yet men are rarely ever denied opportunities based on their physical appearances, because looks have nothing to do with measures of competency.

At the same time, members of Congress continually fight to repress the sexual freedoms of women by limiting their reproductive choices regarding birth control, emergency contraceptives and abortions while simultaneously attempting to dismantle the social services that help these women take care of the resulting children. What’s more, we’re the only industrialized nation without paid maternity leave.

Problems unique to the 21st century have also arisen.

It is disproportionately women who lose their jobs and social standing when ex-partners or hackers release unauthorized nude images of them, demonstrated by the recent cases of Erin Andrews and Leigh Anne Arthur. Once made public, these images continue to victimize women, with few legal protections offering recourse.

And outdated stereotypes still persist today: a nurse is a woman while a doctor is a man, a law clerk is a woman while a lawyer is a man, a school teacher is a woman while a professor is a man, a cook is a woman while a chef is a man, etc.

It’s time that women are held to the same standards as men, are provided the same opportunities as men, and are given as much respect as men. Until this happens, feminism will have a place.

Women and men alike should be proud to be feminists. Fixing these issues will require changing social attitudes, especially on the part of men. Women already know they’re strong and fierce, it’s a matter of showing others that women are capable in every realm, that they are more than their sexuality, that they’re deserving of equal respect.

Social justice requires the participation of everyone in society, not just the oppressed. In the words of the Notorious RBG (Ruth Bader Ginsburg), “I’m sometimes asked when will there be enough (women on the supreme court)? And I say when there are nine, people are shocked. But there’d been nine men, and nobody’s ever raised a question about that.”

Respond to Tatiana at thenews@bgsnews.com

As it stands, our choices for president are either going to be two demagogues, people who sway the populace with idealistic jargon, or a demagogue and someone who has shown herself to be utterly incapable of professional leadership positions.

Regardless of who our two choices will be, it must be stated that we do not only have two choices.

It is too easy to scoff at the idea of a third party. People say inane things like “you’ll waste your vote” or “a vote for a third party is a vote for the dominating party.”

Neither of these ideas is true. For one thing, a vote for a third party is simply a vote for a third party. Secondly, importantly, if every person who says that they’d be wasting their vote on a third party were to actually vote for the third party, then that third party would surely win.

And we need a third party to win. We need to overcome the mentality that we have to choose between the lesser of two evils. We need to overcome the idea that we must vote for evil at all.

We need to choose the good.

And good is available. I’ll spend my next column advertising for the Libertarian Party and Gary Johnson, so I won’t do that here.

My point here is to make it clear that there are other options, and it’s about time we use them. Nor should the idea that the presidency is the only office distract us from the other persons we are able to vote for this election. Several seats in Congress, both in the House of Representatives and the Senate, are up for election. Not only are there fresh faces in the two big parties available for election, but there are also third party options there as well.

Congressional elections might just be more important than the presidency this election. No matter who is elected into the chief executive position, they will not be able to get much accomplished if there is resistance in Congress.

If you don’t want Trump building his wall, then let’s get more people in Congress to oppose him.

And so on.

More importantly, as we should have all learned in our first twelve years of schooling, the laws we follow are created in the legislature. The president has the power to veto these laws, of course, but there is still a loophole that the legislature can override a veto with another vote.

Do you know where the power is in our government? It is not with the president.

His or her job will ultimately be to merely enforce laws signed into existence. But the real power lands in the lap of those sitting in Congress. They have the power to change things in our country. They have the power to make things happen.

As much as I urge you to consider voting for a third party to keep fascist demagogues from the two dominating parties out of office, I also urge you to put your vote into the actual power house of our government.

When you enter the polling booth this year, or when you fill out your absentee ballot, keep in mind the other choices you have to make.

We’re not just electing a president this year. We’re electing the entire government.

Respond to Bryan at thenews@bgsnews.com

SUBMISSION POLICY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Letters are to be fewer than 300 words. They should be in response to current issues on campus or in the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS: Guest Columns are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES: Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Forum page permits. Additional Letters or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS: Send submissions as an attachment to thenews@bgsnews.com with the subject line marked “Letter to the Editor” or “Guest Column.” All submissions are subject to review and editing for length and clarity before printing.
AUDIT continued from Page 3

requests.
Spokespeople at the offices of Ohio Auditor Dave Yost and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, both of whom have units dedicated to open government and public records, declined to comment on the results of the audit.

To view a detailed methodology, results from each campus and more about the public records audit of Ohio's public universities, visit OhioAudit.org.

Obstruction and denial

At Miami University and Cleveland State University, all requests were either obstructed or denied. Central State University was the only institution that was fully compliant, directing all requests to its legal department. No university provided all records that were requested.

At Bowling Green State University, one record was granted, one was directed to legal affairs, one was obstructed and two were denied.

In one of the most severe interactions in the state, an auditor at Ohio University was reportedly told "nothing in our office is public" by two administrators when she requested the names of students who committed a violent crime. The auditor said she was told the records are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, more commonly known as FERPA.

"Given that there has been extensive nationwide publicity to the need for greater transparency in how colleges handle sexual assault, the fact that university employees ... are incorrectly citing (FERPA) to conceal violent crimes is simply inexcusable," said Frank LoMonte, executive director of the Student Press Law Center, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that protects the First Amendment rights of student journalists.

"These laws need real teeth and real consequences for noncompliance."

Not all universities, or units within each university, responded illegally to requests.

At Shawnee State University, the athletics office promptly fulfilled a request through email shortly after it was requested. At Bowling Green State University, the President's office directed the auditor to the Office of General Counsel as per the university's policy.

But overall, a large number of auditors ran into roadblocks to receive simple records and some legal experts questioned the trend toward directing auditors to legal offices.

"(That) seems inefficient, and frankly, can be rather intimidating to many people who are not trained journalists," said Aimee Edmondson, associate professor of journalism at OU and a media law scholar.

"I'm not sure you need a lawyer to fill all requests. In terms of time management, it's the most expensive way to comply with the law."

Call for training

This audit's results stand in sharp contrast to a 2014 audit of Ohio's cities, counties and school districts. That project found roughly 90 percent compliance among public employees, an improvement from over a decade ago.

This audit's results were an improvement over a similar audit of Ohio's public universities a decade ago. Then, public officials were compliant only 41 percent of the time — about 15 percent lower than this year's audit results.

Sean FitzGerald, general counsel at Bowling Green State University, said his university should provide more public records training.

But he added an employee that did not comply with the law was not necessarily trying to hide something.

"In this instance, it's not a matter of a lack of transparency so much as it is individuals in operating units not adequately directing a requester to the General Counsel's office," FitzGerald said.

LoMonte, Edmondson and Hetzel echoed the need for more training.

"The Ohio Attorney General's Office has excellent training on public records," said Hetzel, the Ohio open government leader.

"These schools should assess if refreshers are needed, especially at Miami University and Cleveland State, where auditors reported all requests were obstructed."

Patricia Newberry, a senior lecturer of journalism at Miami University and director of the Society of Professional Journalists region that includes Ohio, hailed the collaboration of student journalists through the audit.

She said it is important for student journalists to keep the pressure on university administrators to comply with open records laws.

"Across the state, we have inconsistent (student) media pushing" on university leadership, she said. "Some students newspapers push hard to get officials to abide by the law. And others don't. They ignore that as a means for deeper reporting."

Will Drabold and Danielle Keeton-Olsen are students at Ohio University. They coordinated the public records audit of Ohio's public universities.
Public Records Audit Fact Box

Records requested at each university:
- The most recent performance evaluation of the university’s Provost;
- The operating budget for the university’s College of Education during the 2014-15 academic year;
- The names of university students found responsible for a violent crime during the 2014-15 academic year;
- The total amount of money brought in by selling tickets to home football games during the 2014-15 season;
- The amount of money the university development office spent on travel to raise money for the university during the 2014-15 academic year.

Student newspapers that participated in the audit:
- The Post at Ohio University, coordinated the audit and audited six universities;
- The Miami Student at Miami University;
- The Lantern at Ohio State University;
- The Jambal at Youngstown State University;
- The BG News at Bowling Green State University;
- The Cauldron at Cleveland State University;
- The Independent Collegian at University of Toledo.
By Lauren Fitz
Reporter

For students who may feel the stresses of daily life, there’s a club that may be able to help. The Mindfulness Club is a meditation club that was started as a place for students to have a youthful place to relax, Jake Musal, president of The Mindfulness Club, said.

“I feel like it’s a cool thing to create a community of peers that are engaging in spiritual practices just on their own. I feel like a space was needed for that to happen,” Musal said.

The Mindfulness Club does one specific form of meditation that usually involves sitting with your legs crossed, eyes closed, focusing on breathing and releasing the thoughts from your mind.

“There’s a million correct ways to meditate,” Musal said, adding that people find running or playing an instrument as a way of meditation.

Fourth year student Hollie Baker joined The Mindfulness Club her freshman year at the University and has been a member since then.

“I joined Mindfulness Club when I was a freshman at Bowling Green and a friend brought me to Mindfulness Club to kinda try it out,” Baker said.

Baker added that the meditation she was familiar with before joining the club was more prayer-based because of her Christian background.

“It was a practice to get into to become relaxed … and explore the inner self. That’s what really appealed to me; the inner exploration and that’s why I’ve continued it for four years,” Baker said.

MEDITATE continues on Page 15
By Erika Heck
Reporter

Last semester, black players on the University of Missouri’s football team called for the university president to resign from the administration after slowly responding to a number of race-related incidents on campus. A campus-wide initiative at the University is hoping to also bring sports into the discussion of social justice, but with collaboration of university organizations.

We Are One Team is an initiative that “brings together a strong group of advocates for positive social change who are united by their mutual love of sport,” according to their Facebook page.

President and doctoral student, Yannick Kluch said when he first came to the United States from Germany to participate in the master’s program, he noticed how major sports were in the U.S.

“We don’t have sports in college or high school,” Kluch said. With an academic background in feminist studies and a love of sports already, he decided to combine his two passions.

“Our goal is to promote social justice by using sport,” he said. “Sports can be a very meaningful place to start discussions of gender equality or other social justice issues.”

According to their identity statement and vision, WAIT uses sports as a platform to not only raise awareness about social injustices and promoting inclusiveness, but also hopes to bridge and create friendships between stereotyped groups on campus. The idea took form in January 2015, but became active in the fall and has been a productive initiative ever since it launched. WAIT has 12 different collaborators, including the Women’s Center, BGSU Athletics and the Intrafraternity and Panhellenic Greek Councils.

“Everybody was really excited about it,” Kluch said. “We want this to be successful at BGSU ... We want to take it to other campuses too. We really (don’t) want this to be a one year thing.”

The initiative has had events already both this semester and fall semester, and is currently holding a year long photography campaign for the initiative.

Last semester, WAIT held a panel discussion and speaker event called “What Does it Mean to be a Transgender Athlete?” where 160 people attended to hear University cross country member Brent Darrah speak about his transition and how it has impacted his athletic career.

Currently, WAIT is having events all through the month of March for Women’s History Month, including more panels and speakers.

Kluch emphasized that people don’t have to love sports in order to be involved with the initiative.

“You don’t have to be crazy about sports to be part of We Are One Team. Our message is that as Falcons, we are all one team.”

WAIT’s next event for Women’s History Month will be Wednesday, March 16.

To find out more about We Are One Team, you can visit their Facebook page at Facebook.com/weareoneteambg.
The Falcon hockey team defeated the Bemidji State Beavers in the first round of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs in a three game series at BGSU Ice Arena, losing the first game on Friday 3-1, but coming back to win 7-2 on Saturday and 3-1 on Sunday.

“We obviously had two do-or-dies this weekend and we came out on top,” senior forward Mark Cooper said. “Hopefully us seniors and juniors who have been in these situations before ... we can get to the final and win it this year.”

Bemidji State scored the only goal of the first period in Friday’s game at 6:51, and went on to score two more in the second, the first on a power play, then capitalizing on a short-handed chance to gain a 3-0 lead. Freshman forward Stephen Baylis scored his first collegiate playoff goal for the Falcons at the 14:30 mark of the second, but it would be the only goal the team would get, enabling Bemidji State to go up 1-0 early in the playoff series.

“That was as poor of an effort as we’ve had in a while,” Falcons’ head coach Chris Bergeron said. “Our process has to be way better and our level of intensity and (competition) has to be way better. That’s what our program is based on.”

The team would fare much better in Saturday’s game, however. Bowling Green scored three power play goals in the first period, the first from junior defenseman Sean Walker at 11:08, the next from sophomore forward Brandon Hawkins at 11:33 and the third from junior forward Kevin Dufour at 17:03.

“I thought we had good zone time,” Bergeron said. “I thought there were some pretty good plays made by individuals and pucks ended up going into the net. There was no special secret, no major changes.”

Bemidji State also scored a goal in the first, but it tallied the only goal of the second period as well to make it a 3-2 game at the intermission. However, sophomore defenseman Mark Friedman scored on the power play to make it 4-2 just 27 seconds into the third period. Cooper scored at 14:23 to give the team a three-goal advantage. Friedman added another goal at 17:15 for his first collegiate multi-goal game and sophomore forward Jakob Reichert scored nine seconds later to close out a 7-2 series-tying victory for the Falcons.

“We know we can play at this level,” sophomore goaltender Chris Nell said. “We know we’re a good team and we just took last night and kind of threw it to the wind. Now it’s win or go home.”

Sunday’s decisive game began with both teams being held scoreless through much of the first half, including a Bemidji State shot that was initially ruled a goal, but was then called back due to goaltender interference. Cooper broke through for the Falcons on the power play at 12:36 of the second period.

“Hawkins hit me through the middle,” Cooper said. “I actually tried to pass it to (Mitch) McLain and it went off someone and he batted it ... then I just went to the net and I think I whacked it maybe six times. Eventually it went in.”

McLain scored a goal of his own 3:20 into the third to give the Falcons a 2-0 lead. BG’s advantage was then cut in half by Bemidji State at 13:05. Bemidji State continued to pour on shots at Nell, who made 35 saves on 36 chances, but junior forward Matt Pohlkamp sealed the victory on an empty net goal with just under two minutes to play.

With the series victory, the Falcons will play the Minnesota State Mavericks on Friday afternoon at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Michigan in the semifinal round of the WCHA Final Five.
Falcons’ tournament run falls short against Akron

By Aidan Markey
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons tallied another win the following day as they edged Central Michigan, 62-59. Lillard had his second consecutive big night for BG, scoring 26 points on 8-12 from the field and 5-8 from three-point range. Lillard’s fifth three gave the Falcons a lead of 60-59 with just over 12 seconds remaining. Bowling Green’s win was sealed after an errant pass of the Chippewa’s was stolen by junior guard JD Tisdale.

For its third game in as many days, the Falcons then faced the conference’s top-seeded Akron Zips. BG was able to keep the game close in the first half, only trailing by six at the break. The Zips were able to pull away in the second, though, thanks to junior center Isaiah Johnson. Johnson scored 23 points and notched six rebounds for the Zips, including an 11-point run of his own after the Falcons trailed 56-52 midway through the second half.

Huger emphasized that Johnson’s big game was in part due to the team’s focus on Akron’s perimeter play. “We didn’t want to leave their shooters,” he said, after having mentioned that BG gave up a combined 35 three-pointers in its two games versus Akron in the regular season.

The Falcons held the Zips to only nine threes in their meeting Friday. After reaching its first eight MAC championship game in ten years, Akron fell to Buffalo, 64-61. The Bulls earned a No. 14 seed in the NCAA Tournament and will face the No. 3 seed Miami Hurricanes out of the Atlantic Coast Conference. The teams face off at 6:50 p.m. Thursday in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Falcons finished the season with a 16-18 overall record and a 5-13 record in MAC play.

And although a below .500 record this season might not have been ideal, coach Huger is excited at the prospect of next year’s team.

“The sky’s the limit for us,” Huger said of he and his team, which is set to return almost 75 percent of its scoring. “We have a lot of good talent returning for next year and (I’m) looking forward to next season.”

Although trailing by seven points at the half, the Falcons outscored the Golden Flashes of Kent State by eight in the second half to steal a 70-69 win in the first round. Freshman guard Antwon Lillard helped lead BG’s comeback, scoring all of his 13 points in the second half.

Demajeo Wiggins exits the court following BG’s loss to the Akron Zips in the MAC tournament semifinals.
Offices don’t always comply with public record policy

By Annie Furia
Editor-in-Chief

The BG News requested five public records from the University as part of the Ohio Universities Public Records Audit in January 2016, where college students from seven universities audited 12 public universities in Ohio. Of the five records requested, two were granted, one was obstructed through asking for identifying information and two were denied. The full results can be found at OhioAudit.org.

Access to public records is important to any citizen of a democracy, said James Foust, professor in the Department of Journalism and Public Relations. “It doesn’t matter whether you’re a journalist or not, any citizen should have access to the records of their government,” Foust said.

For three requests, including the two denied, auditors were asked to provide identifying information such as their name, organization or reason for wanting the record.

Sean FitzGerald, general counsel at the University, said the office could ask for a name to know where to send the record, and the reason for wanting a request could help narrow down a too broad or vague request. He acknowledged that requesters are by law not required to provide this information.

This could be a way of making people think that there’s a risk of being punished or targeted because of the records they are requesting, Foust said.

“Asking your name, why do you want this, who are you working for - those are all ways of subtly intimidating you,” he said.

The official policy of the University is to send public records requesters to the Office of General Counsel, FitzGerald said. “The University is committed to transparency in its operations,” he said. “In this instance, it’s not a matter of a lack of transparency so much as it is individuals in operating units not adequately directing a requester to the General Counsel’s office.”

Only one auditor was directed to the Office of General Counsel, where the request was granted.

Foust said there should be more legal training for employees at the University who may encounter public records requests. “It could be harmless. It could literally be that (the) person didn’t know (where to send the request) … but once again the fear is that you’re getting into that intimidation and just wearing you down to where at some point you just no longer have the time to do this,” he said.

FitzGerald said that a reminder will be emailed out to employees to ensure that they are aware of the University’s policy.

One record denied was the names of university students found responsible for a violent crime during the 2014-15 academic year, which universities are required to keep public records of by federal law. FitzGerald said the record would have been released had the request been made through the Office of General Counsel, as a similar record was released to a newspaper in Columbus last year.

“There’s responsibility on both sides of the request,” he said, adding that the public records policy is available on the University’s website.

Another record, the operating budget for the University’s College of Education during the 2014-15 academic year, was denied because the person with access to that information was not in the office that day.

Get a job.

Or at least a well-respected volunteer office experience where you get to read the newspaper during your shift, eat Wendy’s, wear flip-flops and still have a great portfolio of highly professional work to show for it.

Come copy edit.
thенews@bgnews.com
USG encourages voting

By Michele Mathis
Managing Editor

With the absence of Recreation and Wellness director Steve Kampf, the Undergraduate Student Government focused on the progression of the senate for next semester and the end of the year senate nominations.

The nominees for Senator of the Year are: Paige Reinhart-Anex, Amy Poffenberger and Nathan Burkholder, Executive Board Member of the Year: Ebonee Johnson and Keith Johnson and Cabinet of the Year: Amanda Dortch, Quentin McKinnon and Jason Barker.

Senate nominations will be announced at the end of year banquet on April 4.

The elections for the new 2016-2017 senate will be held April 4-9.

President and Vice President Victor Senn and Danielle Parker encourage students to vote regardless of the lack of diversity in the race.

“If this isn’t going to be a contested election, let’s dig in and really focus on what issues we want on campus,” said Parker.

Parker also said that voting is a fundamental right available to every student, and they should be utilizing it whenever they can be.

“The nature of voting in general is important,” she said.

Senn agreed that voting, whether it be in USG or in the general primaries starts a conversation about your current political situation.

Senn said that everyone wants a voice regardless of “what gender you identify with or your economic status.”

“This is your opportunity to be heard, especially in a student organization,” he said.

When asked about their current administration coming to an end, Parker called it “bittersweet” to be leaving the office.

Senn said for future leaders on campus to find the people that will support and uphold them throughout the entire time that they are in leadership.

“Never forget that you’re not alone,” he said.

The administration also reiterated the importance of students voting in the Ohio primaries on March 15.

“As millennials ... we just have a different view on things,” said Parker. “Being able to go to primaries sets the tone for the general election.”

Parker also said that she believes that millennials can be the deciding factor.

Those who are registered to vote in Wood County and are unsure where the correct voting places are can visit voterlookup.sos.state.oh.us/voterlookup.aspx or call the Wood County Courthouse at 419-352-9000.

“This is your opportunity to be heard.”

-Victor Senn, USG President
SAT., MAR. 5
12:50 A.M.
Terrance R. Bello, 20, of Fostoria, Ohio, was cited for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia near the corner of N. Main and E. Oak streets.

1:36 A.M.
Darien J. Ankney, 22, of Bowling Green, was civilly cited for disorderly conduct/public urination within the 200 block of N. Main Street.

3:04 A.M.
Dillon A. Hill, 21, of Bowling Green, was cited for operating a vehicle under the influence and prohibited alcohol content/breath near the corner of S. Enterprise and Clough streets.

11:43 A.M.
Complainant reported that her neighbors moved out and left a condom filled with an unknown substance tied to her door within the 400 block of Lehman Avenue. A unit determined it was filled with water.

SUN., MAR. 6
12:03 A.M.
Victoria L. Cluckey, 18, of Toledo, was cited for underage possession of alcohol and open container within the 100 block of S. Church Street.

1:49 A.M.
Kraig Sterns, 21, of Bowling Green, was cited for operating a vehicle under the influence and prohibited alcohol content/breath within the 100 block of N. Prospect Street.

2:46 A.M.
Michael D. Bean-Breaston II, 23, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, was arrested for disorderly conduct within the 200 block of S. Prospect Street. He was lodged in the Wood County Justice Center.

8:15 P.M.
Virginia Gee, 50, of Pemberville, Ohio, was arrested for theft/shoplifting within the 2000 block of E. Wooster Street. She was lodged in the Wood County Justice Center.

8:25 A.M.
Devin M. Pierce, 22, of Bowling Green, was civilly cited for litter on private property within the 700 block of S. Main Street.

MON., MAR. 7
3:40 P.M.
Complainant reported a male urinated on her residence within the 900 block of N. Main Street.

THUR., MAR. 10
1:32 A.M.
Gregory J. Dotts, 24, of Bowling Green, was cited for nuisance party within the 300 block of N. Enterprise Street.

If you like to bug people about the tiniest details, then you’re probably a jerk.
Or a natural copy editor.

Come copy edit.
thencounter@bgnews.com
MEDITATE continued from Page 8

Tom Vasey, a fourth year student who also is a member of The Mindfulness Club, first heard about the club after hearing about it from friends and has been a member since then.

“Playing a show here (The Common Good) and met a couple people who were acquainted with Mindfulness Club and I was experiencing winter semester sort of stress and I needed to go to a place that had familiar faces and friends and said I’d take up meditation and give it a try. It’s a little hippie for my taste but I enjoyed it and kind of fell in love with the community here,” Vasey said.

The meditation has helped him in more ways than just relaxing if school and work stresses get in the way.

“I have OCD so meditation is the perfect thing for that. It gives me a moment of clarity and the goal of meditation is to make your mind blank. I certainly did help me out with school and relaxing and finding a place to go when I was too stressed out with homework and work in general,” Vasey said.

Baker agrees, saying meditation helps distance herself from the stress she’s having and problems she’s dealing with.

Musel says the best part about meditation is being able to get away from everything for an hour.

“I think it’s very important to meditate to decompensate from all the stimulation. I think we live in an extremely over-stimulated society but this is just a chance to power down and reconnect pretty groundly with your peers and really just calm down and destress. Even aside from the stimulation of society, school is stressful,” Musel said.

He also added that meditation helps practitioners destress and “fully experience life.”

The Mindfulness Club meets Tuesdays and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Common Good, which is located at 113 Crim Street.

Like to find mistakes? Be a copy editor.

E-mail: thenews@bgnews.com

Help Wanted

TEACHERS/ASSISTANTS/SUBSTITUTES
Needed ASAP for professional child care center/full and part-time. Energy, creativity, reliability required. Assistants should be experienced. Teachers must have AA or BA in ECE. Competitive wages and benefits offered. Send resume to TEACHERS, 6450 Weatherfield Court Ste. 3, Maumee, Ohio 43537

Misc help needed. Work around schedule paint/yards, etc. call 419-353-0325

Part-Time Seasonal Help Wanted for (1) Maintenance Worker and (1) Camp Store worker @ Mary Jane Thurston State Park. Minimum wage and some weekends required. Call 419-832-7662

Sitter needed for two 3 month old children starting in August for 2-3 days per week. $10/hr for both children, $7/hr for one child. Prefer:CPR certified, non-smoker, two years experience. Please call 419-341-1052

Help Wanted

The City of Bowling Green Parks & Recreation Department is seeking Programmers to conduct day camps, nature camps, and Safety Town for children aged 3 1/2 to 12 years of age. Pay is $8.10 per hour. These are part-time, temporary positions without fringe benefits. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including evenings and weekends through April with no vacations or long weekends. Employment will be through a temporary agency. Individuals hired will not be City of Bowling Green employees. Temp agency applications are available in the City’s Personnel Department at 304 North Church Street, Bowling Green, OH or online at http://www.bgohio.org/departments/personnel-department/employment-opportunities. (Resumes alone are unacceptable) Completed applications should be returned to the Personnel Department. For more information please contact the Personnel Department by phone at 419-354-6200, or by email at BGPersonnel@bgohio.org. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. AA/EEO
FALL 2016 REGISTRATION

**Start Dates**

March 28  |  Graduate Students
March 28  |  Non-Degree Graduate Students
March 29  |  Seniors
March 31  |  Juniors
April 12  |  Sophomores
April 13  |  Freshmen
April 15  |  Guest Students

**Open Registration**

April 15 thru August 28, 2016

**Questions?**

Call the Registration HOTLINE: **419-372-4444**
8 am - 5 pm  |  Monday - Friday

**Go to:** my.bgsu.edu

1. SELECT > student center
2. SELECT > enroll
3. SELECT > add

You can access everything that you need via the “Student Center” at the MyBGSU portal.