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Big Gay Welcome ushers in community

By Jennifer Verzuh
Digital Managing Editor

Students at the University witnessed Oreo races, poetry, live music and drag performances in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom on Thursday night. These activities were part of the University’s annual Big Gay Welcome, an event which introduces LGBT students to the resources and organizations available to them.

“As the name implies,” Dr. Krishna Han, assistant director of Multicultural Affairs said, “(The event) is to welcome LGBT community, but the program is also to empower our students, staff and community members about LGBTQIA culture.”

The LGBT Resource Center, which sponsored the event, is currently in the process of searching for a new resource coordinator. In the meantime, Han has stepped in to help facilitate the LGBT Resource Center’s programs and services. The event is one of the many programs and organizations available to LGBT students, said by Han. The LGBT Resource Center has diversity outreach programs, safe zone training, a LGBT leadership series and is holding its very first LGBT Homecoming in October.

Additionally, there are several LGBT student organizations that took part in the Big Gay Welcome.

“It’s been a privilege and honor to be working with LGBTQIA organizations,” Han said. “They’ve been wonderful.”

One of the student-led organizations who had a big part in the Big Gay Welcome was Vision, an umbrella LGBT group on campus focusing on service and community. Their president, junior Bea Fields was one of two MCs at the event.

Fields sees Big Gay Welcome as an important resource for LGBT students, whether incoming or returning.

“It shows that the University has a community on campus,” she said. “It gives queer students a voice. It says we’re here, we’re unafraid and we’re going to work together.”

She said she was happy with the turnout and engagement of the audience.

“I think it was a success because everyone had fun,” Fields said.

Sophomore Emily Gray agreed.

“It’s very informational and also fun,” Gray said of the event. “It’s a very safe place for everyone to come.”

Gray went on to say Big Gay Welcome is necessary, as it not only provides a supportive space, but showcases the resources available for LGBT students.

Cassper Baughman, a second year
How to create and run your own “Fempire”

Back in April, I read an article that said Lifetime, the television channel that’s known for damsel in distress programming, was looking to rebrand its image. They wanted the image of women not being able to save themselves and needing a man to do anything and everything to be taken out of their programming. Instead, they wanted to be able to portray women in a better light and to show that women are able to do anything they set their minds to.

They wanted to usher in a new era: the era of the “fempire.”

Even the word sounds amazing.

But it got me thinking. Why does a fempire only have to exist for a TV network? Why can’t a fempire be for the general population?

Oh wait. Fempires can be for anyone. Not just for television networks looking to fix their image.

So, why not come up with some basic rules to follow when someone goes to create their fempire?

“...They wanted to be able to portray women in a better light and to show women are able to do anything...”

Lauren Fitz
Columnist

Of course, not every person in your life can be a part of your fempire. In my mind, it’s a highly selective group of people who should be allowed in your fempire. The members of your fempire are the ones who are going to have a huge say in the big moments that happen in your life. You don’t want to overwhelm yourself with too many opinions.

You also don’t want someone to be a part of your fempire who isn’t going to stick around for the good and for the bad. You want your fempire to be full of your ride or die friends; the friends who are going to hold you up when you’re feeling low and be there to congratulate you when things are going well.

But you also want the members of your fempire to tell you when you’re starting to become a little too full of yourself. You want a variety of yes people and no people in your fempire.

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Society’s influence affects individual behaviors

Being confident and loving yourself is easier said than done. It’s completely natural to walk in a room and automatically start thinking, “Did I put enough makeup on? Is it too much? Did I cover up that zit? Is everyone starting at me?” or, “Am I laughing too loud? Should I have not told that joke? Am I talking too much? Are people judging the way I’m acting right now?”

But the truth is, no one is paying that close attention to you. Actually, everyone is most likely going through the same self-conscious thought processes that you are, which in turn creates a room full of people who are simply just concerned with themselves and how they appear, instead of enjoying themselves and engaging in each other.

In a recent New York Times op-ed piece, columnist David Brooks asked college professors about the ways that students have changed over time. He discusses their answers, saying that he often received something along the lines of them describing students today as more accomplished than students in the past, but along with being more accomplished, they are also much more “emotionally fragile.”

Have we created a society in which we’re afraid to be ourselves, due to this supposed emotional fragility? I once heard someone say, “Loving yourself isn’t vanity, it’s sanity,” and it really got me thinking.

Why has loving yourself become something that isn’t accepted in society? Why is it that every time anyone seems to be selfless, someone comments, or says, “Well, you can’t be selfless, they are a little bit conceited or confident in themselves or what they are doing, we automatically jump to the conclusion that they are “selfish”?

We give the word such a negative connotation and start to see ourselves become more careful in what we do or say out of the fear that someone will think we’re some self-centered, overly confident person. I think that it’s time to change this demeanor once and for all.

When you’re doing things because YOU want to do them, you start to see yourself becoming an overall happier person. Tina Fey once said, “Do your thing and don’t care if they don’t like it.” As cheesy as all of this advice sounds, I really do believe that it’s something that makes you a happier you.

With as many people as possible adopting this state of mind, I believe that we can create a more positive, uplifting world.

Let’s stop judging people for loving themselves and being confident. Let’s put an end to this hateful world that we live in.”

Sarah Smith
Forum Editor

When you create your fempire, make sure that most, if not all, of the members of your fempire are able to get along. Nothing can tear a fempire apart more than an internal struggle between two of your friends.

Above all else, you want to make sure the members of your fempire are people that you can have a good time with, regardless of what you’re actually doing. Just because you’re in a fempire doesn’t mean you have to go out and party all the time. Sometimes, you and your fempire need a night in where you all are wearing pajamas and watching romantic comedies or romantic dramas if you’re just needing a night to relax.

That being said, make sure the members of your fempire are down for the occasional night where you want to go out. After all, what’s better than a night out on the town with the closest people in your life?

Even if going out isn’t your thing, planning a night where all of you go out for a nice dinner is always a good idea. Of course, a nice dinner can mean anything from burritos at Chipotle (or Qdoba, if that’s your burrito place of choice), to soup and bread at Panera. If you’re feeling really fancy, have a night out at a nicer restaurant.

Basically, balance is key when it comes to fempires. Taylor Swift, you can keep your girl squad. I’m starting my own fempire.

Sarah Smith
Forum Editor

Let’s stop judging people for loving themselves and being confident. Let’s put an end to this hateful world that we live in.”

Sarah Smith
Forum Editor

Reply to Sarah at thenews@bgnews.com

Reply to Lauren at thenews@bgnews.com

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

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Student love letters lift spirits

By Keefe Watson  
Campus Editor

At this time last fall, University sophomore Amanda Sandstrom was a new student getting used to college and seeking involvement around campus. Now, she is the President and co-founder of a new and growing club – Campus Cursive.

Campus Cursive's purpose is to create and distribute hand written love letters with the intent of making a difference around campus and the Bowling Green community. The group became an official University sanctioned organization in February 2016. Campus Cursive is found at other colleges around the country, and is a sister organization of More Love Letters.

The love letters written are not the type found in romantic novels or those intended for a boyfriend or girlfriend – they serve to encourage, give thanks or uplift their readers.

Campus Cursive often leaves letters around campus and the community for anyone and everyone to find. Popular places around campus for the group to leave letters include bathrooms and the library.

“In between books is my favorite because I love the idea that a letter could sit for years...and maybe in three years someone will find one in the library that I left,”

-Amanda Sandstrom  
President

They've been doing well so far; Campus Cursive was the first organization to register for Campus fest, and the hard work payed off – over 150 students added their names to the email list for Campus Cursive on Thursday.

Although the officer board has the goal of expanding the group's membership, numbers are not soley what they're after.

“It's okay to have a smaller group if it's a group that's dedicated and it's a group that really cares about it,” Vice President of Campus Cursive Katelyn Eisenmann said.

Members need not to attend weekly meetings, but can join in by writing love letters in their free time and leaving them around campus or submitting them for letter bundles.

“The group has the chance to be spontaneous,” Eisenmann said.

The spontaneity of the group, such as organizing a birthday letter bundle with zero notice, is one of its unique characteristics in comparison to other campus organizations.

Last semester the group became aware of a student celebrating her birthday alone, as her roommate had left for the weekend. In response, Campus Cursive gathered up a team and slipped a letter bundle underneath the student's door – never knowing if she received it.

Part of the spontaneity of the group stems from the structure of its officer board, which as Eisenmann described is that of a team, and deliberately not hierarchical.

Faced with the reality of knowing some of their letters are thrown away or never found, Sandstrom and Eisenmann remain extremely optimistic.

“Even if one accidently gets thrown away, maybe the person that's going to find it is a trash picker,” Sandstrom said. Eisenmann added they have faith that sometimes a letter “gets to that one place”

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A Falcon’s career comes to a close

By Kaitlyn Fillhart
Reporter

After 28 years of dedicated work for Bowling Green State University, assistant athletic director for development Jane Myers retired on Aug. 31.

Myers first started out at Bowling Green as a student in 1983. She remained at the University and worked in the admissions office before she was offered a job to head the Falcon Club.

Head hockey coach Chris Bergeron has felt Myers’ impact in the athletic department. From 2008-2010, there was uncertainty about the hockey program continuing. Bergeron stated that Myers got the necessary connections to keep and build up the hockey program into what it is today.

“The community needed a reminder that hockey does matter,” Bergeron said. “Myers and alumni came together for one collective effort and I’m very grateful.”

While Myers has had a hand in managing to raise millions of dollars for athletics from generous alumni, where she really has made an impact is the connections she has made.

Bergeron recalled Jane’s retirement reception earlier this year. The coach was amazed by all who came out to show their support for her.

“Even though I’ve only been here six years, you can see the impact she makes,” Bergeron said. “The range of people that came, not just donors, but past and current staff members (that attended) put her impact in perspective for me.”

Myers’ absence will truly be missed, but she will still be around campus. She is excited to get to be a spectator at events,

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The Bowling Green State University football team took a lopsided loss to Ohio State University (OSU) this past weekend after leading 7-0 early in the game. The Falcons were only able to put 10 points on the board while the Buckeyes scored 77 points by the end of regulation.

The loss was one for the record books as OSU set a school record for total offense with 776 yards. Junior OSU quarterback J.T. Barrett also set a record himself for most touchdowns by an individual player in a game, scoring six in the air and a seventh on a rush. Barrett threw a career high 349 yards, only his second career game breaking 300, and rushed for another 30.

“It’s hard to take positives out of a butt-whooping like that,” Falcon head coach Mike Jinks said. “We’ll go back and evaluate the video and what I want to see is that the kids keep playing hard, because at the end of the day, that’s all you can really ask for.”

The lone touchdown for Bowling Green came on a Buckeye possession with Barrett facing five yards on second down at the Falcon 41. Barrett’s attempted pass was intercepted by sophomore defensive back Brandon Harris, who returned the football 63 yards for the score. It was the first pick-six for Bowling Green since the 2014 season.

Outside of that interception, the Falcons had trouble covering receivers while stopping the run game.

“When you stop the run and you put everybody in that box, you put some of these young corners man to man on some guys that can fly,” Jinks said. “I think we all saw that those corners gave good effort but they have some really talented outside that can really run and it was a mismatch.”

In addition to the defensive struggles, the Falcons had trouble getting anything going on the offensive side of the ball. Bowling Green had one of the most explosive passing offenses in college football last year but were held to just 175 total yards in the air against the OSU defense. They were also only able to score three points and were forced to four three and outs in non-garbage time.

For veteran quarterback James Knapke, this was his first game back as a starter since the return of star quarterback Matt Johnson last year. Knapke completed 12 of his 33 passes for 110 yards in the season opener. He was intercepted and sacked twice before redshirt freshman James Morgan came in for relief.

Though Knapke struggled against OSU’s nationally ranked defense, he was not fazed at the end of it all.

“I didn’t think (starting again) was that difficult. I thought we came in with a game plan and I think they just made more plays than we did,” Knapke said. “I thought they did exactly what we thought they were going to do. There were plays out there to be made and we didn’t make them today. They did. That’s what happens when you play a quality opponent and you don’t make the plays that are necessary.”

Following the loss, the Falcons now look ahead to their home opener at Doyt Perry Stadium against North Dakota. Kick off for that game will be this Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and will be broadcast on ESPN 3.

“What I want to see is that the kids keep playing hard.”

-Mike Jinks
Falcon men’s soccer remains undefeated

By Elias Faneuff
Sports Reporter

It was another dominant performance by the BGSU men’s soccer team as they remain unbeaten following their 3-0 victory over non-conference opponent Marshall. The team got a goal and two assists from their starting lineup and the bench also contributed, giving the team two goals and a couple of assists.

Marshall kicked many shot attempts to keep the Falcons on their toes. However, freshmen Anthony Mwembia didn’t let the ball hit the net as he recorded an impressive four saves to help preserve the shutout.

By senior Pat Flynn. Brennan found himself towards the upper right corner, but senior Jacob Roth rose above and knocked it away.

The final goal came from freshmen Chris Brennan which came off a wonderful assist by senior Pat Flynn. Brennan found himself all alone after getting a pass from Flynn and knocked it in with ease. The Falcons performed well under the lights giving the crowd something to cheer for.

Falcon men’s soccer remains undefeated

Head coach Eric Nichols was pleased with the performance and poise, despite Marshall’s push and pace.

“Marshall presented a lot of challenges and presented a lot of chances at goals, but we stayed locked despite their pushing and probing. We were tight and compact and this is one of our best performances,” Nichols said.

Nichols also commented on the team’s depth and how confident he is in how this team can put up points. He also wanted to give credit to Mwembia’s defense and hustle.

“We got a lot of guys that want to score at will and I know as the games go on, I’m confident some other players will score. (Mwembia) made some critical stops for us and we know how good he is as he frustrates us in practice, so it’s great to see him do that,” Nicholas said.

The Falcons will be on the road to take on their next opponent at Cleveland State University on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Nichols gave a little insight on what to expect come Wednesday, as this will be their first road game of the season.

“Cleveland State is good, so this will be a challenge for us and I feel that myself and the team are up for the challenge going on the road to their place,” Nichols said.
person who really needed it and didn’t know they needed it until they opened it.”

Sandstrom’s inspiration for the group dates back to high school, when as a junior she discovered MLL. She wrote letters by herself as part of MLL, and she wanted to bring the practice to college. Sandstrom suggested to Eisenmann that they write letters as roommates, and Eisenmann brought forth the idea of a campus organization. After further research, the two students found out about Campus Cursive, and immediately began the process to create the club at the University.

Currently, all five officers of the group are sophomores. Sandstrom said that during the next couple of years they will keep their eyes out for potential new officer board members to carry on with the group after graduation.

“It’s very important that it maintains its authenticity,” Sandstrom said in regards to future leadership of the club.

Campus Cursive meets every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Business Administration Building, room 106. All are encouraged to attend. Officer board member Audra Delaney describes the meetings as a “place for people to help other people and also help themselves.”

The group can be contacted by email, where letter bundle requests are also accepted, at bgcampuscursive@gmail.com; the group is found on Facebook at Campus Cursive at Bowling Green State University.
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fresman reiterated this.
“T’s a nice way to let people have fun, while also plugging safe spaces on campus,” Baughman said.
Baughman said they have been pleased with how the administration has treated LGBT students for the most part, but there’s room for improvement, especially in regards to transgendered students.
Although some students feel their needs still have not been met, Han assures that the LGBT Resource Center is advocating for students.
“We work very closely with many different departments across campus,” Han said. “It’s not perfect, but we are making positive change.”

PHOTO BY ISAIAH VAZQUEZ
Tayanna Sinclair struts her stuff at Big Gay Welcome
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something that she hasn’t been able to do for almost three decades. “I will enjoy being involved at my own pace. I will never not be involved,” Myers said.

Upon leaving, Myers believes that she has left the athletic department in good standing. One of her proudest accomplishments is that the University is able to give out 6.5 million in scholarships to students.

“(Our) main goal is to educate our athletes and to build them into leaders of tomorrow,” Myers said.

Moving forward, Bowling Green’s head coach for Women’s Golf, Stephanie Young, is glad to have worked alongside Myers. “The legacy she’s left makes us who we are,” Young said. “She has poured herself into her work and is extremely selfless.”

Both Bergeron and Young agree that Myers’ contributions to the University has set them up for continued success. Myers is thankful for the fulfilling life that both community and the University has given her and her family.

“Myers is glad to have worked alongside Myers. “I was a student, I have fundraised, and brought up a family,” Myers said. “I have felt part of this community since 1984. I didn’t know that (Bowling Green) would be a perfect fit. For me, I blossomed where I’ve been planted.” The connections Myers has made in almost three decades are very important to her. As she moves on to the next chapter of her life, she hopes that support will continue between college and community.

“The job may have ended, but the relationships have continued between college and community. [PHOTO PROVIDED BY MYERS]

There are twice as many kangaroos in Australia as there are people. The kangaroo population is estimated at about 40 million.