SOMETHING’S COOKING

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The Oaks offers new cooking space

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

When students return to campus in the fall of 2017, they will find a new space at the Oaks Dining Hall – the Culinary Studio.

The studio, according to its recent advertising, will serve as a test kitchen and host pop-up events, classes and demos.

“The inspiration was borne of our Executive Chef Marissa Riffle,” Director of Dining Services Michael Paulus said. “As BGSU Dining has continued its commitment to culinary excellence, we really needed to create a space that allowed for continued development and education of our culinary staff.”

Currently, there is no designated space for dining staff to be trained. Training occurs after hours and while students are on break. Once the studio opens next fall, dining staff will have a more convenient space in which to be trained.

The studio will offer “classes for students and the community,” Riffle said.

Fees attributed to these classes will be nominal and will reflect the true cost of the class, Paulus said. Demos will be of no cost.

Classes will include a basic cooking class that will help prepare students to cook for themselves once they no longer have a meal plan. That way students won’t have to have a diet of solely Ramen noodles, Riffle said.

The studio will be fitted with audio and video technology, which will provide a cooking show atmosphere, allow spectators to more closely watch the chefs and allow chefs to record their demos for future playback.

“We will also now have a dedicated home for our Mommy & Me class, Beer Tasting classes, Wine 101 and our Chef’s Club educational series,” Paulus said.

The studio will host pop-up restaurants, too. The space will be capable of testing the University market with various ideas. Paulus compares this with an example of a New York City McDonalds that popped up in Manhattan for a day to test a new product.

“It will be a great way to test a concept,” Riffle said. Using the space will provide an “opportunity to work out some of the kinks (of an idea).”

The studio will also host dining events including the historic gingerbread house workshop, which occurs around the winter holidays.

The new studio is being created in the space that formerly housed Pinkberry at the Oaks Dining Hall. Pinkberry’s five-year contract ran out at the end of last school year, and a decision was made to keep the space for programming.

Pinkberry was moved to the Oaks in the middle of its contract in hopes of bringing in more community customers like Dunkin’ Donuts – 38 percent of the Ridge Street Dunkin’ Donuts’ business is from community members.

Riffle is also experimenting with an urban cultivator – an indoor gardening appliance used to grow herbs for cooking. Currently the Oaks has a small cultivator being utilized by the Shoots section, but Riffle hopes to have a full-sized cultivator in the studio, too.

Renovations to the space have yet to begin as the estimates are finalized. In addition to the audio and video technologies and vents, an exhaust system and gas hook-ups are among a few of the renovations that have to occur before the studio can open.

WED., OCT. 26
1:43 A.M.
Ryan T. Garland, 26, was cited for possession of marijuana within the 1000 block of East Clough Street.

8:58 P.M.
Lori M. Trinko, 33, was arrested for burglary and trespass within the 2000 block of East Wooster Street. Trinko was lodged at the Wood County Justice Center.

THURS., OCT. 27
1:47 A.M.
Carol A. Smestad, 62, was cited for theft within the 100 block of North Main Street.
The art of being “snarky”

Sometimes, a little snark and a little sass can go a long way, especially if you’re in a situation where a snarky comment can get your point across. It’s even more effective when it’s used in the right situation.

I like to consider myself the queen of all things snark and sass. I like to think I’ve gained these talents in all my years of putting up with people’s idiosyncrasies, the fact that I was very much a drama queen when I was younger and because I constantly have an inner monologue running through my head à la certain scenes from “Glee” (after all, I did consider myself Rachel Berry in high school).

But I realize there are those who aren’t blessed, or cursed, with the same amount of snark and sass I have. So, I’m going to relay all the tricks I’ve learned over the years of snark and sass. I like to think I’ve gained these talents in all my years of putting up with people’s idiosyncrasies, the fact that I was very much a drama queen when I was younger and because I constantly have an inner monologue running through my head à la certain scenes from “Glee” (after all, I did consider myself Rachel Berry in high school).

But I realize there are those who aren’t blessed, or cursed, with the same amount of snark and sass I have. So, I’m going to relay all the tricks I’ve learned over the years to try and help out those who just want a little more snarkiness in their lives.

First off, one of the best ways to let your snarkiness and sassiness out is to try and emulate the way some people talk. Expressions, sit down in front of a mirror and practice them. But try not to laugh. You don’t want to be giving someone your signature sassy look and burst into laughter. It kind of ruins the whole moment.

And, while this may seem minor, finding your go-to sass song is almost as important as snappy comebacks and signature looks. This one is a lot easier, though. For me, the easiest way to find your sass song is to scroll through every playlist you have on your phone or streaming service and find the song that fits you the most. It may be Taylor Swift, it may be Beyoncé or, like me, it might be Alanis Morrissette. Find your sass song and you’ll be golden.

But just like everything else, there is a time and a place for snark. The hardest part of being the sassy one is knowing when the sass needs to be turned down or turned off. That’s something I can’t tell you specifically because it’s going to change depending on the situation. To me, the only way you can be the true sass queen of your friend group is when you know how to turn it on and turn it off.

Reply to Lauren at thenews@bgnews.com

Lauren Fitz
Columnist
The future of male birth control

CNN recently reported that a new study, which the United Nations cosponsored, on a male birth control shot was found effective.

MALE! BIRTH! CONTROL!

I could drone on about the science behind how it functions and deals with testosterone and sperm count and a bunch of other things that I don’t really completely understand, but essentially all you need to really know is that the contraceptive method was effective in nearly 96 percent of continuing users.

This is ridiculously exciting news people. I look forward to a world where the burden of responsible contraception is not only piled on females, but males as well.

But of course with any study on a drug, there comes some risks and downsides. Participants did have some negative outcomes and a few dropped out for various reasons, but according to CNN’s article, “these risks of fertility damage are not fatal risks like the women endure with their birth control, you have to compare what women are doing in terms of taking hormones with what men are doing in terms of taking hormones. Are they taking their life in their hands when they take the hormones? Women are. And that needs to be put right up in front when considering the risk.”

They even decided to halt the study for awhile because of the negative side effects the men were experiencing. Depression, acne and mood swings were just some of these negative occurrences.

Oh hey, doesn’t that sound all too familiar though? Oh yeah, maybe it’s because those are the same side effects WOMEN deal with when taking hormonal birth control!

Hormonal contraceptives are questionable for anyone, so of course there are going to be downsides to any research study of their effects on the body, male or female. You are literally putting more hormones into a body that is already raging with hormones. Of course there are going to be problems that arise.

But let’s not stop that from continuing to keep pushing to study these new drugs and give heterosexual couples who are or are not planning families the choice to decide who should carry the load of safe sex.

More than 75 percent of participants continued using the contraceptive after the study was completed, which is a good look towards the future. So if we’re going to keep pumping ourselves with hormones, we might as well give males the choice to do so as well.

Welcome to the fun, hormonal roller coaster ride of birth control, men. We welcome you with open arms.

Reply to Sarah at thenews@bgnews.com

When a joke goes too far

Last week in my stats class my professor used “all women are human but not all humans are women” as an example of ecological fallacy.

Now, “all women are human” isn’t a radical statement or even one that can be disputed, and yet some guy felt the need to do just that. The second after class, but I’m also kind of disappointed in his failed joke until he could escape the classroom.

That professor, like a reasonable person, responded with a sort of defeated, “c’mon you know it’s true.” But the guy kept trucking on and said, “not true” again, this time louder. As a whole, the class moved on and we kept learning about ecological fallacies, because what else do you do? Though, I did quietly fume the rest of the class and I haven’t really been able to get his comment out of my head.

Now, I don’t believe that guy was trying to be malicious or mean. I think he truly thought he was going to get a laugh and a few females-are-crazy-am-I-right’s out of the male dominated class. I’m grateful no one laughed and he had to ruminate in his failed joke until he could escape the class, but I’m also kind of disappointed I didn’t get to call him out on what was blatant misogyny.

People in general just cannot get away with jokes or statements like that. Not only did it make me angry, but it also made me slightly uncomfortable. I’ve lived my life with a lot of privilege, and it’s not often I hear that I’m not human. It’s disheartening and slightly scary, no matter what the intention was.

And if he was sure enough in his opinion, that women are crazy or hysterical or out of control or stupid or whatever he was thinking, to say it out loud in a classroom, twice, then what are his actions? What is he like at parties with drunk girls? What does he act like when he’s angry at his girlfriend?

The joking women-are-crazy mindset really does bleed into real life situations. Those kinds of thoughts are insidious. They can be potentially dangerous.

This is the mindset that creates and excuses catcalling. It implies that women are lying when they report a sexual assault, and perpetuates the idea that a politician cannot possibly be president because she’s a woman. This mindset cannot be tolerated anymore.

Jokes are not pulled from nothing. They are reflective of the opinions of the person who make them. That’s why it can’t be brushed off. When jokes perpetuate negative stereotypes and toxic mindsets, we can’t just sit back and ignore them. Laughing at or excusing jokes like these lets people keep problematic opinions or even tells someone that it’s okay to think that way.

It’s important to create the change you see in the world, and not let people get away with the little things. Even by doing something as small as not laughing at their bad joke can do some good.

Reply to Meredith at thenews@bgnews.com
Tunisian revolution motivates grad student

Hannah Finnerty
City Editor

On Jan. 14, 2011, after weeks of citizen protest, government media blocks and brutality, Tunisian revolutionaries successfully ousted Zine El Abidine Ben Ali from the presidency. The Tunisian government has never been the same.

Neither has BGSU graduate student Amira Hassnaoui.

Growing up in Tunisia, she witnessed her country undergo drastic governmental and social change in 2010 and 2011. At the same time, Hassnaoui was experiencing a personal transformation.

She credits the person she is today and her passion for social justice to her experiences during the revolution in Tunisia.

The small North African country with a population of almost 11 million is situated between Libya and Algeria. Despite its comparatively small size to the surrounding countries and small population, Tunisia has tremendous influence.

Its political unrest of 2010 and 2011 inspired civil disobedience and uprisings in other North African and Middle Eastern countries, giving rise to the “Arab Spring.”

Hassnaoui was part of several protests during the revolution and referred to her fellow Tunisian protesters as part of the Arab Spring. They had no previous examples to look to.

She said their role as guinea pigs streamlined the process for the other countries following their lead.

Hassnaoui and her friends were able to communicate with Egyptian dissenters using various social media platforms and offered advice to planning revolutionaries.

One suggestion she and her friends strongly expressed to their revolutionary successors in Egypt was the need to arm themselves with cans of Pepsi during protests.

“If you get tear gassed, you can wash your face right away with (Pepsi), it goes away,” she said.

While calling up memories of riots and mascara-stained cheeks, Hassnaoui’s bright red lips parted in a smile and let out a giggle.

She recalled one Saturday night in Tunisia hanging out at a bar, named JFK, known for underground journalists, bloggers, artists and film stars.

A protest broke out outside. Tear gas and shouts poured in through the open windows, she said.

“What I was worried about the most, I didn’t even think that cops would come over and that they could be forceful. I wasn’t afraid of police brutality at all,” she laughed. “The only thing I was concerned about, if I do die that day, they will give my mom a call and tell her, ‘Your daughter, we found her dead in a bar’… what a shame to the family.”

Before the revolution, she was not politically active. Neither was her family.

Her parents, Moncef and Chadia Hassnaoui, would not let her participate in early protests.

She remembered begging her parents to let her participate.

“I kept crying, I’m like ‘I want to do it, I want to stand up for what I believe is right right now. Your generation did not do enough. Let me do what I think is best for my generation and for the people coming after me. Let me prepare for my kids,’” she said.

Situating her tan head wrap that held back her dark, bunned hair, she explained that was when she began to realize the importance of being a politically active citizen and fighting for social justice.

She wants other people to realize the importance as well.

“I hope that people who do believe in equal rights and social justice and they do believe there is corruption, they don’t take a step back. If you do, you allow that corruption to continue,” she said. “Even though it’s draining, emotionally, physically, I do believe that people should still stand for what they believe is the right thing to do.”

Even in the United States, she said she even think that cops would come over and that they could be forceful. I wasn’t afraid of police brutality at all,” she laughed. “The only thing I was concerned about, if I do die that day, they will give my mom a call and tell her, ‘Your daughter, we found her dead in a bar’… what a shame to the family.”

Before the revolution, she was not politically active. Neither was her family.

Continues on Page 10
University alum donates plethora of literature

By Jennifer Verzuh
Digital Managing Editor

What do science fiction novels, Westerns, ghost stories, and mysteries have in common? They can all be found at the Browne Popular Culture Library thanks to a recently donated collection from University alum, Dr. Gary Hoppenstand that has been appraised at $140,000.

“He’s donated before to our library so we have the Gary Hoppenstand Adventure Fiction Collection,” Nancy Down, head librarian at the BPCL, said. “This is just the latest gift that becomes part of that.”

The collection now includes a variety of genres, such as science fiction, ghost stories, Westerns, graphic novels, and mysteries. Down said the books tend to reflect Hoppenstand’s research interests as an English professor at Michigan State University. Highlights include first editions of Shirley Jackson novels, a leather-bound set of Elizabeth Daly’s books, and autographed copies of other novels.

“It really was the breadth of the donation—a lot of different titles and the rarity of the donations make it a one-of-a-kind collection,” Happenstand said in an article from the University’s Marketing & Communications Department. “Basically, I’ve cleaned out my library that I’ve used for my own research and my own work.”

The recent additions to the collections will be available for students to check out and read on location at the library. The idea is that students and scholars will be able to have access to a wide scope of books and authors on a given topic.

“All these different materials help attract people,” Down said. “You could do your research (all) in one place.”

Last year for the first time grants were given to scholars from other institutes to travel to the University and conduct research at the BPCL. A collection like Happenstand’s makes the library an even better option for those considering participating.

“Having these in-depth collections offers more options and increases the different topics they can do research on,” she said.

Happenstand said he is happy to know the collection has gone to the right home and is in “good hands” at the University.

“Bowling Green has won the prestigious Raven Award from the Mystery Writers of America for its crime and detective fiction collection, so it’s the best place in the world to donate that kind of material, and also because of my special relationship with the University.”

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Falcons prepare to take on NIU

By Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcons football team lost to the Miami RedHawks 40-26 on Saturday afternoon, officially eliminating them from bowl playoff contention.

“It was tough addressing the senior class,” Falcons head coach Mike Jinks said. “They’ve accomplished a lot, I’m proud of what they accomplished, they need to walk out with their heads up because they’ve done what few classes have done.”

The team started the scoring in the first quarter with a 72-yard pass from freshman quarterback James Morgan to sophomore wide receiver Scott Miller, with the extra point to take an early 7-0 lead. Miami responded with a touchdown of their own later in the quarter to tie the game back up, but the Falcons were able to retake the lead on a 44 yard field goal from sophomore kicker Jake Suder to give the team a 10-7 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

Miami would come back in the second quarter with a field goal to tie it up, forcing a safety to take their first lead of the afternoon 12-10, then scoring a touchdown on their ensuing drive to make it a 19-10 game. The Falcons were able to close it back to a two-point game on a touchdown pass from Morgan to junior fullback Leonard Skattebo, as Miami held onto a 19-17 lead at halftime.

“They had a good game plan,” junior linebacker Austin Valdez said. “But I felt like we could have stopped them.”

In the third quarter, the game continued to go back and forth with Miami adding to their lead with a touchdown pass from Morgan to Miller, albeit with the extra point try being no good to make it a 26-23 game at the end of the third quarter.

Miami gave themselves a two possession lead on a touchdown pass to start the fourth quarter, but the Falcons were able to cut it back to one possession on their ensuing possession with a Suder field goal to make it a 33-26 game. However, that would be all for the Falcons as Miami capped off scoring with a touchdown run. Four Falcon turnovers late in the game also allowed Miami to take the 40-26 victory.

“We made plays, we got some stops,” Jinks said. “We’re probably two evenly matched football teams and it came down to turnovers and penalties.”

The team was also satisfied with how they played against conference opponents after a tough start to the season.

“They’ve dealt with a lot of adversity,” Jinks said. “I wouldn’t say they hadn’t handled it well, our play on the field hasn’t been indicative of that, but they’ve overcome a bunch.”

The team will play next Tuesday night on the road against the Northern Illinois Huskies.
Volleyball falls to Miami, beats WMU

By Brandon Luthman
Sports Reporter

The Falcons volleyball team broke even this week, losing the first match to the Miami RedHawks and winning the second against the Western Michigan Broncos. The matchup against Miami on Thursday was the second meeting between the two teams this season, with Miami winning the first matchup as well. With scores of 25-20, 25-22 and 25-20, the Falcons played a tough match up against the top team in the Mid-American Conference. Senior outside hitter Jelena Sunjic posted 18 kills for the Falcons, and the team racked up a total 39 kills in comparison to Miami’s 41. It was an even match up offensively and a back-and-forth contest. Senior defensive specialist Madeline Garda also posted 24 digs in the contest and the nation’s leader in digs was able to capture her 1,500th career dig in the contest.

Falcons head coach Danijela Tomic was aware of the toughness her team would face. “We knew going into the match against the top, undefeated team in the conference that all of our players had to play up to their potential and execute the game plan if we wanted a chance to win,” Tomic said. “That unfortunately did not happen, and the outcome was what we got. Miami did a good job of shutting down our outside hitters, and when that happens, it is hard to win against anybody. Our serve receive was below our standard, and that created a one-dimensional offense, which was easier to defend. The bright spots were our team defense with three players with double-digit digs, led by Madeline’s impressive 24-dig effort. Jelena led our offense with 18 kills, and only had three errors. But unfortunately, that wasn’t enough to beat Miami. Our team has done a nice job of bouncing back after losses this season. I expect we will do that again on Saturday against Western Michigan.”

On Saturday, the Falcons had a better outcome at the Stroh Center, winning in three sets with scores of 25-20, 27-25 and 25-19. Garda was back at it again, posting a total of 33 digs. Her tremendous performance is what cultivated the Falcons to win the matchup, along with a great performance by Sunjic, who recorded 20 kills.

“Today, during our scouting session, I told our players that their record does not represent how good they are,” Tomic said. “So, we were ready. We really respected that they have some nice, nice players. They hit slide really well, and that is something that we are struggling with and we are still getting better at defending. Maddie had a monster game – 33 digs total. And when I saw after the second set that she had 21 digs in the second set, I had to check and see if that was for real. She’s just playing at a really high level, and helping our team.”

The Falcons now stand with a 17-8 overall record and 7-5 record in the MAC. Next up for the Falcons will be a duo of road games. The team will travel on Friday to take on the Kent State Golden Flashes and will then travel on Saturday to take on the Ohio Bobcats.

Hockey wins their first game of season

By Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcons hockey team took one of two games on the road against the Miami RedHawks, losing 2-1 in overtime on Friday night before picking up their first win of the regular season 4-1 on Saturday night.

“I thought we played pretty well,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “We were obviously unhappy with the result (Friday) night, but we weren’t unhappy with parts of our game, and (Saturday) I thought we stuck with it and played the game we wanted to play and we got rewarded for it.”

In Friday’s game, defense and goaltending were key. Both teams were unable to score until Miami did so 10 seconds into the third period. However, the team came back later in the period with just over a minute to go as junior defenseman Mark Friedman scored to send the game into overtime.

“I thought we did a good job getting the puck and then getting zone time,” Bergeron said. “It wasn’t easy to get the puck and get control of it, but I thought we did a nice job of controlling it, then we made a nice play and a good finish.”

In the overtime period, Miami scored on a power play chance at the 2:05 mark to take the 2-1 victory. However, the team was still proud of the way they played.

“Our defending and our goaltending were probably the strengths of our game tonight,” Bergeron said. “For the most part, we were defending the way we wanted to defend, and I thought we limited the chances a really good group of forwards had.”

Saturday’s game also began with Miami scoring the first goal of the game, this time at 7:01 in the first period. However, the Falcons would take the lead at the end of the period with back-to-back goals from senior forward Pierre-Luc Mercier at 15:15 and senior forward Matt Pohlkamp at 16:00.

“(Miami’s goal) could have thrown us sideways a little bit, but it didn’t,” Bergeron said. “Our guys acted like it was no big deal and just kept playing and as the game went on we just kept playing better and better.”

The team would make it a 3-1 game in the second period on sophomore forward John Schilling’s first goal of the season, then tacked on another goal from Friedman to take the 4-1 victory, their first of the season as well as their first on the road against Miami since 2001.

“It’s more important just to get a win at this point,” Bergeron said. “The fact that it’s a rink we haven’t played very well in is secondary; the primary goal was to get a win tonight.”

The team will next play at home Friday and Saturday night against the Ferris State Bulldogs.
USG passes diversity statement

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government voted on and passed its third piece of legislation Monday night—a diversity statement introduced at last week’s meeting.

Diversity Affairs Chair Bryce Davis read the legislation Monday night before it reached the floor for a vote.

“Bowling Green State University and the Undergraduate Student Government aim to empower and include all student voices,” Davis read. “USG seeks to empower and uplift all students who are affected by systems of oppression.”

Discussion about the resolution included how it would be publicized if it passed and how the University at large might embrace the statement once approved by USG’s advisor and Thomas Gibson of Student Affairs.

“The goal would be to share on all platforms, not only with USG, but also as senators of USG,” Davis said.

The statement passed with 31 votes in favor and four abstentions.

President Amanda Dortch discussed the rising costs of textbooks; a topic discussed by Faculty Senate.

Dortch presented a resolution coming to the floor of the Faculty Senate that would ultimately aim to reduce the cost of textbooks for University students by 2018.

The resolution would create “an ad hoc committee that will recommend an on-going process to achieve the aspirations of a 50 percent reduction in students’ cost of utilizing textbooks,” Dortch read.

Faculty Senate aims to achieve this reduction while maintaining the “highest quality of published information” for students.

“One of the rising costs of obtaining a high-quality university education is the cost of textbooks,” Dortch read.

If passed by the Faculty Senate, the resolution would call for an on-going plan to gather data and reduce textbook costs within 90 days. Reductions in textbook costs would aim to be reached by May of 2018.

Members of USG, agreed that a committee with this goal would be appropriate. The committee, if created, would comprise of faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students.

Dortch also re-introduced the topic of an amnesty policy toward students who seek help during an incident of alcohol or drug abuse. As discussed during lobby time last month, the University, unlike some of its sister schools, does not have an explicit good Samaritan rule for these types of incidents.

She encouraged committees to discuss the potential for a change in the current rules during their respective committee times after Monday’s meeting.

As presented in last week’s meeting by Director of Residence Life Sarah Waters, Harshman Hall will not be available for housing next school year.

“That is 600 beds that will no longer be available,” Dortch said.

Despite a leasing agreement with a local company for four apartment buildings with 190 beds, Residence Life will still face a higher demand than supply next year.

Dortch’s goal is to communicate effectively with the student body about the possibility of returning juniors and seniors being turned away from on-campus housing.

Speaker Nadia Oehler asked for senators to suggest lobby time speakers to come in during USG’s weekly meeting as a way for the organization to ensure representation of students.

Next week, Marcia Salazar-Valentine, from the International Student Services and Study Abroad office, will address USG.
Tunisian continued from Page 5

continues to live her life through these words of determination and does not back down from challenging situations.

After her first year in her graduate program, she and her colleagues had the option to continue teaching or to take an administrative position for their second year.

While many of her colleagues continued their paths as instructors, she veered toward the other side of academia and took an administrative position where she now serves as the president of Graduate Student Senate (GSS).

"Stepping in, I knew it was going to be a lot of work, a lot of expectations," she said. "Sometimes I envy them because they can just reuse the material. They're comfortable. They know exactly what to do and have done it for a whole year."

However, she added that, since the revolution, there is a side of her that always wants to push through the deep waters, to tackle obstacles with confidence.

"I think I was made to do this. I cannot oppress that side of me, the person who is ambitious, who is seeking social change," she said.

She hopes to continue her passion for social change and advocacy in GSS, despite the challenging position.

Kathleen Newman, secretary for GSS and Hassnaoui's coworker, said Hassnaoui is handling the GSS presidency well.

"She seems to be able to juggle all the balls without dropping any," Newman said.

Newman said Hassnaoui's bright personality and positive demeanor are welcome additions to the GSS office.

"I really enjoy seeing her. It's always one of the highlights of my day when she comes in," Newman said. "She's very bright, that's obvious from just speaking with her for a little while. But she's also very down to earth and easy to talk with."

Newman said she is passionate about her work with GSS.

Hassnaoui's passion followed her from Tunisia.

Many felt social and political change was needed in Tunisia. Hassnaoui agreed and joined the cause.

In return, she says she was rewarded with personal enlightenment that lead her to become an advocate for social change in the United States as well.
Gun panel misses its target goals

Hannah Finnerty  
City Editor

Although organizers stressed the panel on gun violence was not meant to be a debate, shots were fired by panel members and community members on both sides of the issue.

Held at the Wood County Public Library on Oct. 27, Exploring Ways to End Gun Violence brought a full audience of gun owners, involved citizens, gun rights advocates and University students. As there was standing room only, some audience members stood in the back of the atrium next to an armed guard.

The goals of the panel were threefold:
1) Discuss key gun issues so all can become more well-informed.
2) Act to make the U.S. less violent.
3) Bring the two sides in the gun debate closer together.

Despite good intentions, separating the community with words like “two sides in the gun debate” alienated some attendants.

Tom Klein, an organizer of the event, announced a disclaimer at the beginning of the panel, addressing Rieck’s earlier concern for the predominantly liberal make-up of the panel.

Eaton said it is challenging to get anything accomplished when discussing such a charged issue.

“We want a safe and productive Ohio.” Eaton said. “We want a safe and productive Ohio.”

Eaton said in order to have an intelligent and open-minded discussion, people needed to put their point across and they weren’t listening to the other points.”

Additionally, the unbalanced panel did not aid in productive discussion.

Tom Klein, an organizer of the event, announced a disclaimer at the beginning of the panel, addressing Rieck’s earlier concern for the predominantly liberal make-up of the panel.

Klein said another NRA member planned to be on the panel.

“I asked him if he could come to the panel, but he had to get the NRA’s permission,” Klein said in a phone interview. “They said no. The NRA said he would do better work by knocking on doors.”

Despite the liberal-weighted panel, most of the statements and opinions voiced by the community members were pro-gun, as pointed out by Joe Eaton, the treasurer for the BFA, one of many gun advocate groups present.

Eaton said it is challenging to get anything accomplished when discussing such a charged issue.

“Both sides want the same thing,” Eaton said. “We want a safe and productive Ohio.”

Eaton said in order to have an intelligent and open-minded discussion, people needed to put the angry rhetoric aside.

“We need to focus more on our similarities than our differences, and that’s hard to do when emotions get involved,” Eaton said.

One similarity and point of agreement among participants of the panel and community members was the importance and value of gun education and training.

Michael Temple, panel member and NRA certified instructor, said there’s no easy answer to address how education should be regulated. He said the training falls on the individual.

“If you are going to be an individual gun owner, if you are going to carry concealed, if you are going to use it to protect yourself, you owe it to yourself, your family and the public to get as much training as you can,” Temple said.

Amy Thompson, another panel member and professor of public health at the University of Toledo, agreed training is a good thing for gun owners. However, she was skeptical about the number of individuals who actively seek out and participate in appropriate training.

Thompson said modifications must happen on multiple levels to be effective.

“This has to be on multiple channels on multiple levels. There’s no(1) one easy solution to (gun violence). If (there was), we would have fixed it by now.”
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