Athlete speaks on struggles of being openly gay

By Emily Gielink
Reporter

Robbie Rogers advocated for an open-minded atmosphere on campus and in the world when he told his coming-out story to University students Wednesday.

Rogers was the first openly gay male athlete to compete in one of the five major sports leagues in the United States. As a professional soccer player and a son in a Catholic family, he lived in fear of being who he was.

During his speech, Rogers talked about a letter he wrote to himself when he was 14 years old. He knew in his teenage years he was gay, and coming out was an improbable thought. In his letter, he explained times were changing, and the hardships he was enduring would not last forever.

Later at 24, he wrote a letter to his family. Paralyzed with fear of sharing the letter, the draft evolved into an email revealing that he was gay.

"Try explaining to your loved ones after 25 years that you are gay," Rogers said.

After he met his professional goals and fulfilled his dreams, Rogers noticed he was not satisfied. He retired from soccer and came out to the world in a letter posted on his Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Rogers soon returned to soccer by joining the L.A. Galaxy, which embraced his new identity. After his first season, he realized the hardships of coming out.

"Just because you have come out, doesn't mean you solved all your problems," he said.

He was scared of his new challenges and concerned no other soccer players or athletes had come out as well. However, Rogers explained he came out for his happiness and well-being.

"I didn't come out to inspire anyone," he added.

The program ended with a question and answer session in which Rogers addressed the atmosphere of the locker room and how difficult it was to deal with homophobic comments growing up. The questions ranged from his beginnings in soccer to more personal questions, such as
Falling victim to the push for conformity

Why is it that many of us spend the majority of the time in our lives either striving to fit in or working to break from the status quo? After taking a brief reflection of my life, and by taking a second to observe the lives of those I interact with, I noticed a trend in our lives. It seems that at any given point, so many of us are subconsciously conforming to the views and expectations that are established for us by society. It seems that at any given time, the crazy trends that arise are fueled by the people who are conforming to that way of life. I’ll throw out an example. Who would have thought that flare pants, mom jeans, and choker necklaces from the 1990s and early 2000s would come back bigger and more extreme than ever?

While we have trends for items that are sensible and understandable, we also have revived trends that died decades ago. Sometimes, it seems like no matter how crazy a fashion trend or popular item is, if society promotes it, it spreads like wildfire through the entire country. Which begs the question, why do we place so much importance on societies’ current trends?

Not that conforming to popular trends is a bad thing, but occasionally it seems that sometimes the craziest things become popular because we say they are, and we conform to the new norm no matter what it entails.

Now don’t get me wrong, I love mom jeans as much as the next guy. As a matter of fact, I would have liked mom jeans as a trend years ago, but it really is fascinating that we have so much power in dictating what becomes a new trend. The mass crowd controls what’s in and what’s out, and that is usually influenced by the popular celebrities.

As much as any of us can claim to be a “hipster” or refuse to follow social norms, isn’t that even becoming a trend in and of itself? In today’s society there are many different groups of people, and each group has its own fashion norm. Each group has its own unique style they try to stick to. For example, a “hipster” may dress unique to everyone else, however, the “hipster” conforms to his own group; thereby he doesn’t seem unique to the people he hangs around. So even by separating from the typical norms, he is still conforming to a whole separate norm.

The moral of the story is to simply stop caring so much about all of these trends and the importance of following them. If you like a certain style, then go for it. If not, then don’t feel pressure to conform to something you don’t find interesting.

Reply to Bailey at thenews@bgnews.com
Satirical Texas bill sheds light on reproductive laws

A new bill was introduced last Friday, mimicking Texas’ already existing laws that deal with women’s access to abortions and overall reproductive rights in the state.

Proposed by Rep. Jessica Farrar, D-Texas, this bill, called the “Man’s Right to Know” Act, would “require men to wait 24 hours after an initial health care consultation to receive an elective vasectomy, colonoscopy or Viagra prescription,” along with an informational packet with “artistic illustrations of each procedure.”

Of course, Farrar has no hopes of this bill ever being passed. She simply wants it to shed light on just how restrictive anti-abortion laws are for women. In 2011, laws passed in Texas made abortions nearly impossible for some women, including requirements that force women to have ultrasounds 24 hours before an abortion and look at “color pictures representing the development of the child at two-week gestational increments, [which] must contain the dimensions of the unborn child and must be realistic.”

Due to the extremely difficult requirements, Planned Parenthood in Texas has had to cease all medication abortions, giving women even less health care options. Physicians must even inform abortion patients of state-mandated information about medical risks, adoption alternatives and fetal developmental stages; clearly intending to cause a woman to question HER CHOICE. The absurdities go on and on, including that healthcare offices are by law told they must perform abortions more than 1,500 feet away from churches or schools, further hindering women from easily obtaining things that they rightfully have a choice to use. Digressing, these laws have been in effect for years, and I think it’s amazing that someone is finally flipping the script.

But wait, Farrar’s bill gets even better. The bill, HB 4260, would even impose a penalty of $100 for “masturbatory emissions” that occur outside of a hospital or vagina, calling it an “act against an unborn child, and failing to preserve the sanctity of life.” This subjects men to the same dehumanization so many women are faced with on a daily basis when it comes to reproductive healthcare.

Can we give this woman a Nobel Peace Prize? An Oscar? Something?

“‘What I would like to see is this make people stop and think,” Farrar told the Texas Tribune. “Maybe my colleagues aren’t capable of that, but the people who voted for them, or the people that didn’t vote at all. I hope that it changes their mind and helps them to decide what the priorities are.”

So what do you think? Is a satirical bill an effective way of shedding light on a huge issue for women in America? I encourage you to educate yourself on these reproductive issues people have gone to such drastic measures to call out, and leave you with a quote from Farrar’s Facebook.

“Although HB 4260 is satirical, there is nothing funny about current health care restrictions for women and the very real legislation that is proposed every legislative session.”

Reply to Erika at thenews@bgnnews.com

Spousal rape needs more attention

Spousal rape is a rape that is less talked about in conversation about rape and rape culture because the power dynamic is more than just that of the perpetrator and the victim.

It is a rape that happens between a husband and wife (or husband-husband or wife-wife).

In the state of Ohio, a person can be charged with rape if they impair a person’s judgment or control to prevent their victim’s resistance. This could be done through giving the victim drugs, controlled substances or any other intoxicant through force, intimidation or lying.

Spousal rape wasn’t included into the law until 1986, but it was only if there was “force” or a “threat of force,” so situations where one spouse drugs another and rapes do not qualify as spousal rape under the law.

This is a loophole that victim advocates state representatives are trying to close with House Bill 97, but only 17 lawmakers—all of them Democrats—have signed to co-sponsor this bill.

H.B. 97 would eliminate spousal exceptions for rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition and public decency. Currently, spouses can only be charged with these things if the victim is either not their spouse or is their spouse but they live separately.

First, we have to establish that regardless if it is between two people who are married, rape is still rape and it can occur in marriages. Being married to someone does not stop human beings from being able to consent to sex on their own terms.

Second, the state government has to know the spousal exemption of force or threat of force is hard to prove in the court of law. A victim spouse could have physical injury done to them due to the crime, but it would be disputed by courts as to whether or not the injury happened because of the rape or because of something else. A threat of force can easily be seen in courts as “he said/she said.” Both of these exemptions already make it hard for spouses to report cases of rape because not only are these two statutes going to be hard to prove in court, but the lack of presence could prevent spouses from getting rape kits in hospitals.

If we eliminate these exemptions from spousal rape, we may be able to see a start in spouses reporting their rapes and justice being served for these people, regardless if the perpetrator was their partner. Marital status and living situations should not be issues that are exempted from rape cases.

Thirdly, I find it to be unsurprisingly disgusting that there is not a single Republican in the General Assembly who has co-sponsored this bill. While we have heard and seen our fair share of Republicans say horrid things about rape, abortion, and Planned Parenthood, anyone, regardless of political party, should be able to see the importance of eliminating this loophole.

Rape is so horrendous and traumatic the United Nations has declared it a war crime. It is unfair to believe rape cannot happen between two people just because they have their names on a marriage license together. Rape does not discriminate; rape is illegal and a crime. No one, not even spouses, should be exempt from being tried for that crime.

Reply to Erika at thenews@bgnnews.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@bgnews.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.
The University golf course, Forrest Creason, will close at the end of the 2017 season, according to a University press release issued Wednesday morning.

The course opened in 1965 with nine holes and expanded to 18 in 1973, but has suffered an irreversible decade of declining revenues and a mounting operating deficit, following the northwest Ohio golf market and national trends. Golf’s popularity is declining nationally, particularly among college-age millennials.

“This is not a decision we took lightly,” University spokesman Dave Kielmeyer said. “We hired a consultant, developed a study and closely reviewed our options. Even with significant investment to make the course more competitive, it is unlikely that Forrest Creason could be a break-even operation. In today’s higher education environment, we simply can’t ask our students to continue to subsidize the golf course.”

The report found capital investments to address an inadequate clubhouse, a new irrigation system and adding outdoor shelter facilities and banquet facility/food service would be substantial.

The study was a response to Governor John Kasich’s Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in higher education and House Bill 64. Currently the City of Bowling Green has three golf courses, and there are four more within 10 miles.

The Varsity golf teams practice at Forrest Creason, but compete elsewhere because of the course’s length, slope and rating.

The course will operate through December 2017, when the Forrest Creason’s four full-time employees will join the University’s campus operations staff.

The University will review options for the site with input from students, faculty, staff and members of the community on future uses of the land.
University ranks among top military colleges

By Kevin Bean
Reporter

The SR Education group released its list of 2017 Top Military-Friendly Online Schools, and the University is among the 68 schools on the list.

For a college to be eligible for the designation, it must offer a minimum of 10 fully online degrees, according to SR Education. Between bachelor’s and master’s programs, the University offers 13 programs and seven more certificate and endorsement programs.

Taitum Ridgway, the marketing manager for the SR Education group, said being named a Top Military-Friendly Online College “shows that the institution has a proven record of providing exceptional support for military students.”

He goes on to say students, military in particular, who use the website (www.guidetoonlineschools.com) to help with their school search will see the list.

Ridgway said over 400 schools are assessed for the list.

Of the 68 total schools on the list, unsorted by degree level, the University ranks in at 36 with a score of 83.61 out of a possible 100, with an annual tuition of $12,090, just meeting the cost requirement for the list.

The score comes from a survey done by a KMI Media Group, the Military Advanced Education & Transition, and it evaluates several aspects of a university. Four items are on the list: military culture, online support, flexibility and financial assistance.

The survey details each individual category and states “...for every positive answer, schools received a certain number of points.” The points are converted to a score out of 100 (the conversion process is not listed), and each category is averaged together.

When asked about seeing these 68 colleges on the list Ridgway replied, “It’s great to see all of these colleges making an effort to provide strong support for service members and veterans. It’s encouraging to see the different ways schools are working to find the best ways to provide this support, and I think it’s especially important to understand that support doesn’t just exist in a physical campus environment. The flexibility of classes, financial aid services and other factors greatly impact the online education experience for military students.”

The lowest score on the list is Arizona State University with a 65.56. The top of the list is split between the University of Maryland and Excelsior College in New York, both with a 98.31.

The list of schools can be further sorted by degree level ranging from certificate to doctoral. The University appears on all lists except associate.

A note on the Guide to Online Schools website is two icons that appear next to the annual tuition cost. A yellow ribbon indicates the top 15 universities that enroll an unlimited number of students as well as tuition assistance matched by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. A blue bubble with a dollar sign in it indicate only the tuition assistance from Veteran Affairs. The University does not have either of these indicators.

The SR Education Group, founded in 2004, is based in Kirkland, WA. Their mission, as stated in the press release, is to create authoritative online resources for students seeking an online education program that best suits their budget and career aspirations.

The KMI Media Group “is a dynamic publishing company driven to excellence by an experienced management team dedicated to delivering the highest quality defense-related publications and websites,” according to its website.

Tuition data for the University was based on the Bachelor of Liberal Studies using the credits per year for a full-time student (31) and the cost per credit ($390) found in the University’s official 2016-2017 tuition and fees brochure.

View the full list at www.guidetoonlineschools.com.
Righter finds home with BGSU

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

Junior infielder Randy Righter has stood out in his collegiate career with the Falcons baseball team, however, it has not been without adversity.

The West Bloomfield, Michigan native broke his thumb roughly halfway through last season and has also battled a knee injury from his freshman year, causing him to not only miss the remainder of the season, but the offseason training as well.

"It was tough," Righter said. "It was a lot of rehab. I wasn't able to play this past summer, but I feel like I'm back stronger from it, so I've had a good fall and a good start to the season. The rehab's helped a lot, and my knee and my thumb feel good.

Righter made his presence known again in the season opener against the Texas A&M Aggies, going 4 for 4 at the plate against a Texas A&M team that was ranked 20th in the country at the time. Although the Falcons would go on to be swept in the series, Righter feels that it helped him get a solid foundation to start the season.

"I just prepared well for them," Righter said. "I had seen that type of pitching before, so I came in prepared for it, and it was a tough weekend for the team, but I had a pretty good weekend that way."

Righter started playing baseball at a young age due to his father's interest in the game, which was also transferred to him over time.

"I started when I was a kid," Righter said. "My dad kind of brought me up on it; he was a big baseball fan, so he introduced me to it when I was seven or eight, and I've been playing ever since."

Righter originally came to play for the Falcons because of the opportunity to get more playing time, and therefore gather valuable experience as a freshman.

"It's a great program and it's a great opportunity for me as a player," Righter said. "(It was important) to come here and get to play right away."

Righter also feels that, although he has been satisfied with the way the season has begun for him, there is still plenty of room to improve and is hopeful to have it translate into more wins down the road.

"It's been a pretty good start so far," Righter said. "I started off well; slowed down a little bit this past weekend, but I'm hoping to pick it up. We've been doing some good work (in practice), so I think we can get it going."

PHOTO BY ISAIAH VAZQUEZ
Falcons prepare for WCHAC Championship

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team will play in their first conference championship since 1990 in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association Championship game on the road against the Michigan Tech Huskies on Saturday night.

“We’re excited,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “It seems it’s like just another week. Obviously it’s not that, but I know our guys are really excited for this opportunity. I think they’ve gone through a lot this year to earn this opportunity—good and bad. They deserve this opportunity.”

The team was also swept by Michigan Tech in a home series earlier in the season, but the team feels it gave them a better idea of the adjustments that need to be made going into the championship game.

“We’ll use the two games here, which we thought were really close games,” Bergeron said. “We ended up on the bad side of both, but they were 1-1 games going into the third both nights, and we found ways to lose and they found ways to win. We’ll look at the x’s and o’s piece; we’ll make the coaching adjustments we do, but we’re looking for a very difficult game.”

The team also feels that shutting down the Michigan Tech seniors will be very important.

“They’re a very difficult opponent,” Bergeron said. “I don’t know if their seniors lead the way in terms of points, but the one thing that I walked away from that series in December was, ‘wow, do those seniors have a big part of that team’ … They’re a confident bunch; they’re a bunch that has played really well at home over the last little bit and made it difficult on teams going up there. They play fast, they play hard; there’s not a lot not to like.”

Despite the importance of the game, the team feels they are not getting themselves too caught up in the moment and are doing a good job of staying focused.

“I don’t feel like they feel the weight,” Bergeron said. “I think the overall feeling of this group is excitement. We want to make sure that our upperclassmen are focused and poised, just like they have been the last little bit, and not let the moment overwhelm them, just stay in the moment and the moment is that we have another opportunity here.”

The team also feels that being rested will be an important attribute as well going forward.

“The first thing (we wanted) was rest,” Bergeron said. “Get home from Bemidji, get rested, and get anybody any medical or physical attention that they needed… we’re just going to try and stay sharp. The next couple of days are not going to be banging and crashing. We’re not going to change a whole lot from what we’ve done the last couple of months in terms of practice; it’ll be stay sharp, stay focused, have some fun and take advantage of the opportunity.”
RecycleMania to host first annual scavenger hunt

By Megan Wimsatt
Reporter

An environmentally friendly competition has once again come to the University. The RecycleMania competition started on Feb. 5 and will go until April 1. The University has been competing in the competition since 2002.

“We were one of the first colleges to pick up the national program. Now there’s like 300 colleges participating, and I think back in the day there was like a couple dozen,” Savannah Heck, RecycleMania intern, said. On March 24, RecycleMania will be taking over Friday Night Lights and will include a scavenger hunt event.

“This is the first one, so we’re hoping that it’s going to be an annual thing moving on from here, but for now it’s the first one. It’ll be fun to see what happens,” Heck said.

Though the scavenger hunt is open to everyone, only the first 30 people to show up will be able to participate in the hunt. The plan is to have participants in teams of five.

“There’s only so many people you can have before it becomes inefficient... That’s why we’re trying to limit five people per team as well, just making sure that everyone (has fair play),” Heck said.

Participants of Friday Night Lights get one service hour for their work, and those service hours will still be granted to those participating in the hunt.

“We’re keeping it because they’re still doing what they need to be doing,” Heck said.

RecycleMania is not just a competition between the dorms on campus; it is also an educational tool.

Continues on Page 10

As scavenger hunt will add a new level to Friday Night Lights.
Recyclomania continued from Page 9

“That’s kind of what we’re trying to do here, just a quick way to educate people because the whole point of RecycleMania is changing behaviors. We want people to know the impact of the decisions they make,” Heck said.

This year RecycleMania is focusing on things that are recycled that are not recyclable, and recyclable things that are thrown away.

“Often times people throw things in the recycling like straws or cellophane wrap or Styrofoam, and they’re just not recyclable,” she said. “So what we’re trying to do is educate with the hope that it changes someone’s behavior eventually.”

Participants of the scavenger hunt will be looking for envelopes with trivia questions while they are going through their checklist of things to do. Prizes for the winners include mugs from Starbucks and Dunkin’ Donuts.

Friday Night Lights happens every Friday starting at 6:30 p.m. outside the theater on the second floor of the Union. As of 2010, Friday Night Lights has saved the University $77,500.

Other Ohio universities competing in RecycleMania include Miami, Ohio State and Wright State.

As of week four in the competition, Kriescher is in first at the University. The University itself is currently ranked 116th out of 173 universities with a 25.57 percent recycling rate as of week four.

### The BG News Classified Ads

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### The Daily Crossword Fix

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#### ANSWERS

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- **“David Copperfield” blackmailer**
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### How to Recycle

- **Sort your recyclables:** Separate paper, plastic, glass, and metal.
- **Check your local recycling guidelines:** Different areas may have different recycling requirements.
- **Recheck before throwing away:** Ensure that your recyclables are clean and dry.
- **Avoid items that are not recyclable:** Items like clothing, electronics, and food packaging are not recyclable.

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### Recyclomania

Recyclomania is an event that encourages the recycling of materials. It involves a scavenger hunt where participants look for envelopes with trivia questions while going through their checklist of things to do. Prizes for the winners include mugs from Starbucks and Dunkin’ Donuts. Recyclomania is held every year, with the University currently ranked 116th out of 173 universities with a 25.57 percent recycling rate as of week four.
WAIT continued from Page 2

his life with his partner and son, as well as how his friends reacted to his announcement.

“A few of my friends came out to me a year later,” Rogers said. “I honestly believe everyone has a coming-out experience.”

Rogers has been making an impact in the athletic world and everywhere else, as he was thanked by former President Barack Obama and wrote a book, “Coming Out to Play,” which told his story.

WAIT President, Yannick Kluch, hopes Rogers’ initiative will encourage students to become more open-minded.

“Often times in small towns they grow up not knowing anyone different from them,” Kluch said. “I’m hoping by bringing in someone to show them that it’s OK to be gay, that it’s sending a universal message that no matter who you are you should be accepted for who you are.”

Vice President for WA1T, Ivi Casagrande, met Rogers through an EXOS internship where she partially coached him. She made the connection and invited him to campus for a day filled with meeting student athletes and taking a tour.

“The energy you encounter here is open-minded and friendly,” Rogers said.

Rogers’ speech was part of the “WAIT: Our Voices” educational events, in which there are different speakers each semester that highlight voices that have been marginalized.

“The event was a great success. We had about 230 people here, and it’s good feedback for us,” Kluch added.

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