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Letter from THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

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As the semester ends, work begins to pile up and there is little time to reflect upon our accomplishments and the memories made throughout our time here. For some, finals overshadow the entirety of the semester. As Editor-in-Chief of *Key Magazine*, I am happy to say this publication gives me a chance to reflect on what this semester has wrought for me personally, along with other students at the University. Despite working under the pressure of looming finals and due dates, *Key Magazine* is a wonderful tool to look back on another semester at the University.

I am privileged to have the help of the faculty in the School of Media and Communication, such as Paul Obringer and Robert Bortel. This magazine would not have been completed without their guidance, or the contributions of our student writers, photographers, copy editors and designers.

Within this issue, you will find content which serves as a culmination of events and the University and issues that have received national attention, like: the University's new Aquaponics system, the opening of Cameron's Comics in downtown Bowling Green, highlights from several student athletes, dating-app usage and #MeToo.

Key Magazine is still evolving from its original purpose, the University's yearbook. With each semester's edition, we hope this publication turns into a staple of BG Falcon Media. We have accomplished a lot with a small staff, and I am extremely grateful for all the help I have received during the compilation of this publication.

> Please enjoy this semester's publication and the hard work of all the *Key Magazine* staff!

Sincerely,

Stepha Poulin, Editor-in-Chief

KEY MAGAZINE

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Student Media, School of Media and Communication

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GREETINGS Cameronfs Con Invales Dot

By Meredith Siegel

owntown Bowling Green now has a comic store, called Cameron's Comics and Stuff, that provides people with new comics, games and other merchandise. Owned by Johnathan Smith, Cameron's Comics and Stuff is a place for nerdy Bowling Green residents to find their fix.

This comic store has been open for a few weeks in downtown Bowling Green. This is Smith's second store, his first opened about a year ago in Adrian, Michigan. The sign out in front of the store, saluting both customer's and passersby, reads "Greetings Earthlings."

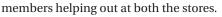
Smith made trips to comic stores with his son on Wednesdays, but when that got expensive, he decided they should just open their own store.

Bowling Green's store has walls lined with comics, along with shelves in the middle for graphic novels and figurines. This store is bigger than the one in Adrian, but they both have bright orange walls and posters depicting dozens of superheroes.

Smith was looking for another opportunity in a downtown area, and Bowling Green was a good fit.

Even with two stores now, Smith keeps the store in the family, with his 16-year-old son, his girlfriend and other





Smith feels that, even though the store only opened a few weeks ago, things have been going really well and the community has really accepted him.

"I opened this store after my wife passed away and I needed something to do that was closer to my son. He was kind of interested in comics so this is what I did," Smith said.

Smith is no stranger to comics either, he was a huge fan of "Calvin and Hobbes" in high school. His current favorite comic is "Batman."

"You can't go wrong with 'Batman,'" he said.

Before opening the store, Smith made trips to comic stores with his son on Wednesdays, but when that got expensive, he decided they should just open their own store and have all the comics that they want on hand, "I don't know, it just kind of happened," Smith said.

The store has shelves for \$1 comics, new arrivals, graphic novels and general comics. They are all arranged in alphabetical order by title and then in numerical order by volume or issue. Comics come in issues,



which are short, several page stories, like episodes and volumes are made up of several issues, like seasons.

The store is also home to two dogs, Bella and Calla, who roam the store and greet customers as they come in.

Comics, especially the most wellknown superhero comics, have historically been known as "nerdy" or "geeky." But now, superheroes have taken over the blockbuster industry, with multiple movies coming out every year, getting rave reviews and making millions of dollars. Before the movies, the Marvel Comics franchise started in 1939. It became well-known in the early 60s, and the movies have become a cultural phenomenon.

Traditional "nerdy" things have made a cultural upturn, where people used to be bullied for liking science fiction, video games, collecting merchandise, reading comics and going to conventions are now part of "nerd culture" and are things that are considered fun.

These things still might be judged as "less than cool" but they have, nevertheless, gained a huge following.

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EARTHLINGS



The store is also home to two dogs, Bella and Calla, who roam the store and greet customers as they come in.

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Comic Con drew in about 100 attendees in its early days. Now, over 130,000 people attend the con to meet other fans, attend panels and buy merchandise for whatever they are into, According to the Comic Con website.

Cameron's Comics and Stuff has also starting to host Rocket League tournaments, a video game that combines soccer and race cars.

Smith actually had a career racing and selling radio-controlled cars, and would travel the country selling parts for them. He started racing in high school but the cars kept getting bigger and more expensive. He raced them for almost 10 years, from 2003 to 2012.

"Those are actually like full-on racecars, it's crazy. It's not really a toy, they cost multiple thousands of dollars. Very



Photos by Meredith Siegal

expensive if you wreck them, they're very expensive to fix," Smith said. "I mean, I went around the country. That was my business. I sold the cars' parts, engines and it didn't hurt that I was pretty good at racing."

Smith wants to host other "video game stuff" events as well, other than Rocket League. Board and card games are also on the table for events at the store.

This includes games like Magic the Gathering and Dungeons and Dragons that can be played in the back part of the shop. Table top games, but particularly, Dungeons and Dragons (frequently called D&D), have made a resurgence, especially online.

This can be attributed to the popularity of "Stranger Things," a Netflix show that features D&D as a framing device for the conflict. Or, the multitude of "actual-play podcasts," where people record themselves playing table top roleplaying games, like D&D.

One popular podcast is the "Adventure Zone," hosted by three brothers and their dad, who recently finished up their first campaign after three years of playing. The Facebook page for the podcast has almost 30,000 likes. Critical Role, a show hosted by several voice actors playing once a week for a few hours live online, also gets almost 30,000 views a week.

Many popular memes, like picking the "alignment" of yourself, objects or fictional characters, are based on a D&D game mechanic.

Bea Fields, senior student at the University, has been to the comic shop many times since its opening. Bea did not know a lot about comics before coming into the store, but she's excited to learn more.

"It's cool because there is a lot of variety in the store. It's not just mainstream comics. There is a whole bunch of stuff to look through. We were actually learning about comics in one of my classes when it opened so it was a cool combining of interests," she said.

Cameron's Comics and Stuff offers things for casual comic book fans, gamers and nerds of all kinds. While he won't be opening a new store any time soon, he always had a dream of opening up shop in Chicago.

For now, though, Bowling Green residents are able to enjoy Cameron's Comics and Stuff. • KEY

Cameron's Comics and Stuff offers things for casual comic book fans, gamers and nerds of all kinds

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BGSU'S BEST

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By Emily Gielink

quaponics, the combination of hydroponics and aquaculture, is working its way on to the University's campus as the greenhouse attempts to expand its newest program. As the University strives to become a more green and sustainable campus, aquaponics may be the next step.

Hydroponics, the study of growing plants without soil, and aquaculture, the farming of fish or other aquatic organisms, are efficient methods of producing both plant and fish crops, according to a study conducted by Iowa State University professor Allen Pattillo.

The University greenhouse is home to different species and biomes, but its newest addition includes tanks of fish, pumps and crops. Kevin Neves, the University biology instructor, started this system in fall 2016 when he arrived on campus along with two other students. He has been working in aquaculture for 15 years, and in the three years before coming to the University, he was working on an integrated multi-trophic aquaculture setup in Maine.

"In a standard aquaculture operation, you're growing fish and you're feeding the fish. Fish produce waste, and we need to deal with that waste in one form or another," Neves said.

The greenhouse aquaponics system currently has two tanks full of yellow perch, which are fed standard fish food. The perch grow to about 10 or 12 inches, the standard to sell them for consumption. Next, all the feces and uneaten food go into another tank filled with freshwater shrimp and an orange mesh that allows bacteria growth. The shrimp then take the ammonia fish produce and convert it into nitrate, which is a type of plant fertilizer. The nitrates travel through pipes into floating beds in which plant roots grow into water. Most of the water then is drained out and pumped back into the yellow perch tank.

Plants being grown from this system include kale, spinach and a few experimental plants, such as tomatoes. Neves first tried to grow thyme and lettuce, which failed in the system.

"It's environmentally friendly, it's sustainable, everything looks good and it has so little impact on the environment," Neves said.

This system is low maintenance, only requiring those who maintain it to

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feed the fish, and occasionally add a few gallons of water to the system as water evaporates in the greenhouse.

Frank Schemenauer, a horticulturist for the greenhouse, became involved with the project after he discussed the possibility of housing the aquaponics system with Neves. Schemenauer focuses on logistics and input during assembly, assisting students growing plants for and within the system and troubleshooting potential pest problems for the plants.

"I think the aquaponics system is a great addition to the greenhouse," Schemenauer said. "It highlights the potential to produce food in a closed-loop system, utilizing fish waste as a resource to facilitate plant growth with minimal environmental impact."

It's environmentally friendly, it's sustainable, everything looks good and it has so little impact on the environment.

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- Kevin Neves BGSU Biology Instructor

One of the students who helped create the aquaponics system was Lana Neff, a third-year marine and aquatic biology major. She now helps with basic care and maintenance of the system.

"I think this system is providing students and future students with a fun and hands-on educational source where students can actually see what an aquaponics system looks like, instead of going off of pictures in a book," Neff said. Although the Office of Campus Sustainability has no knowledge of the system, some students are aware of the newer program and have visited the aquaponics system.

The aquaponics system can be compared to the green roof system on top of the Oaks Dining Hall. The Oaks grows fresh produce and then incorporates them into the meals served to students. With the current system, Neves hopes to incorporate the fish and plants he grows into Dining Services.

Aquaculture is expanding in numerous states, including Ohio, where over 25 fish and crustacean species are cultured and sold.

As the Earth's population grows, people continue to deplete the Earth's resources, including marine life, according to Matthew Smith, Ohio State University Extension Aquaculture Specialist. "Overfishing is real, and although harvesting techniques have gotten a lot better, much of our bodies of water are overfished," he said.

"Aquaculture helps alleviate the burden on our waters."

As for long-term goals, Neves is trying to gain funding for the greenhouse aquaponics system. If he receives funding, he intends to add on to the greenhouse and add more tanks and plants for largescale production, in hopes of profiting from the system. This system is providing students and future students with a fun and hands-on educational source where students can actually see what an aquaponics system looks like.

"It's proof of the concept, and so the goal would be to sell these locallyenvironmentally-friendly, green perch," Neves said. "There's a huge market for hydroponic crops, and people are really excited about that." • KEY





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By Holly Shively

enior Nick Dombi has been using dating apps since high school, but he hopes that he will soon be able to forget his Tinder, Bumble and MeetMe.

After years of being unsuccessful in finding love, he's hoping his most recent Bumble match—who he's taken on two dates—will soon be his girlfriend. In which case, he'll no longer need the apps in his pursuit for the right girl.

Forgetting the apps doesn't mean deleting his accounts, but instead he'll just delete the apps in case this one turns out like the other unsuccessful relationships driven by his use of dating apps.

On a college campus, it seems like just about everyone is using the mobile platforms, but in reality, just 22 percent of young adults ages 18-24 have used dating apps (27 percent have used apps and websites) according to a 2015 Pew Research Center study. But that number is leaps and bounds higher than the 5 percent reported in 2013 who used mobile dating apps (10 percent used apps and websites).

The most popular of these apps by far is Tinder, which has a whopping 80 percent of its users categorized as millennials. The app pulls up potential matches in the area. If both parties "swipe right" they will match and be given an option to message each other.

hatch.com

Over 70 percent of people using Tinder, however, have never met up with a match according to a survey by Lendedu in early 2017. So why even have Tinder? Millennials' offer many reas

For Junior Ryan Strodtbeck, who uses both Bumble and Tinder, it's all about confidence. He rarely even messages girls on the apps. Of those who message him on Bumble (where the female must initiate conversation), Strodtbeck answers about 25 percent of his messages. On Tinder, he estimates responding once in every 500 matches.

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"I'm using it more as a confidence booster to see that people actually do find me attractive," he said. "I don't really care to find love on those apps because I don't think that I will."

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Strodtbeck isn't alone. Nearly 45 percent of

MeetMe

BootyShake

Sendate

The most popular of these apps by far is Tinder, which has a whopping 80 percent of its users categorized as millennials.

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a sons for using dating apps

respondents to the Lendedu survey said the main reason to use dating apps is for a confidence boost. The other answers included: hookups (22 percent), to find a relationship (4 percent) and other unspecified reasons (29 percent).

Despite hookups still being a prevalent reason to use dating apps, the Pew study found the stigma associated with online dating has decreased. About 59 percent of people now say online dating is a good way to meet people.

Strodtbeck said instead of something like Tinder that has a major hookup culture associated, people would join Match.com or something similar if they were really looking for love, as demonstrated by the low numbers that actually meet up with a Tinder match. He said dating apps are too shallow to really find love.

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"Your attractiveness to someone is the pictures that they post, and they have a bio but the bio doesn't tell you much," he said. "Some people don't even have bios like myself so you just have to judge them based on looks...Looks aren't everything but they're a starting point."

Senior Allison Saltzman started using Tinder during her freshman year of college just to see who was in the area—definitely not to find love. She said she would also have looked to a "more legit dating site" if that were the goal.

"If you're just looking for someone to go to the club with...find someone on Tinder. It's useful for some things," she said.

During the six months she spent on the app, she received a lot of cheesy pick-up lines and immediate requests to hookup, but she only actually met three or four of her matches.

On one specific match, Saltzman tried to swipe left because the first picture was strange, but with a partially broken screen, her phone wouldn't let her. So instead, she swiped right and got a match. The result was a cheesy Cher pickup line.

After a month or two the match contacted her again for a first date, which lead to many more and a three year relationship.

"It works for some people," she said. "After we got over the 'Oh, God. We met on Tinder' thing it, we felt much more legit, and we've been just like any other couple since then." Dombi started using dating apps for a different reason. He said the collegeaged generation is glued to their phones, resulting in higher standards of beauty. Those higher standards make it harder to build up the confidence to actually approach somebody in public.

"[We're] more acquainted to swiping right and then meeting from there, so I guess I'm just kind of going with the times even though I prefer that human interaction first," he said.

On the other hand, apps help to ease the tension and break the ice because two people mutually matched, Dombi said. That isn't the case in public when you don't know if the other person would be interested before approaching them.

"I don't stand a chance as opposed to the girls fawning over a hottie or a guy in Greek letters," he added. "I need all the help I can get because I'm just an average guy."

While Dombi is hoping his newest match will work out, he said "as long as I'm single

About 59 percent of people now say that online dating is a good way to meet people.

there's a 99.9 repeating percent chance that I'll continue to be on Tinder."

In 2015, Pew found that 5 percent of marriages were formed from online dating of some kind.

"I just think it's more of a rocky foundation...it isn't as raw as 'we met because of friends or because we were both at a bar," Dombi said. "It's not as an organic connection right off the bat."

With the nearly tripled use of online dating between 2013 and 2015, it will be interesting to see just how many millennials are using dating apps in 2017. Hopefully, Pew or Lendedu will take another survey to capture the still-evolving, 2 billion-dollar (in the U.S. alone) industry. KEY

Nearly 45 percent of respondents to the Lendedu survey said the main reason to use dating apps is for a confidence boost. The other answers included: hookups (22 percent), to find a relationship (4 percent) and other unspecified reasons (29 percent).

Google Images

24%

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NEZ Raising Vi to Reverse

By Brionna Scebbi

S tories of survivors of sexual assault have come to light, increasing attention towards the idea of an American rape culture.

Sexual assault is "any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient..." including "forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling and attempted rape," according to the United States Department of Justice.

Rape culture in modern America has produced a history of fostering denial and victim-blaming in the aftermath of sexual assault. However, as more survivors have come forward in the past year and are encouraged to continue bringing their stories out of the dark, this toxic trend might be near its end.

What does rape culture look like in America?

One manifestation of rape culture is how popular culture produces media tactics with an emphasis on the idea that sex sells, blurring the line between a song that is marketable and a song that exemplifies rape culture.

There is no better example than "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke, T.I. and Pharrell Williams.

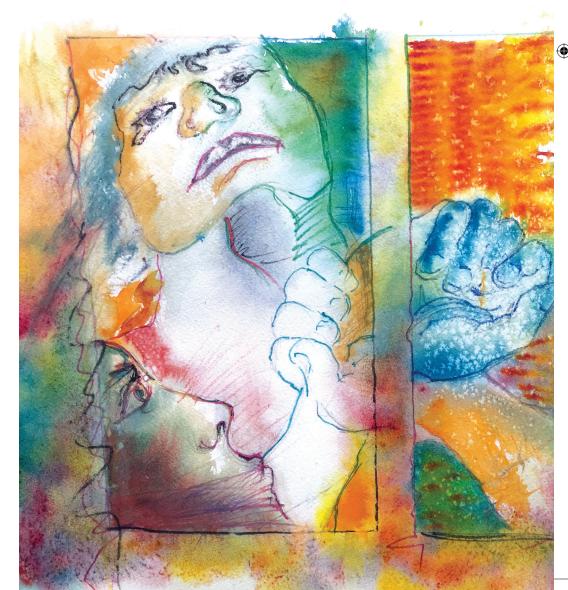
This catchy 2013-hit raised eyebrows when it was released due to a number of suggestive lyrics. Among lines that can be described as non-consensual, Thicke sings "I know you want it" 12 times before the song ends.

This assumption is accompanied by others like it; "The way you grab me/ Must wanna get nasty" and "No more pretending" are just a few lines that make one think that the narrator of the song has a misunderstanding of consent. One might simply turn off the radio to avoid the lack of consensual material in many pop anthems; however, changing the station does not necessarily limit someone's exposure to rape culture— even during the upcoming holiday season.

One of the most well-known Christmas carols, "Baby It's Cold Outside," as famously performed by Dean Martin featuring Marilyn Maxwell, has a highly suggestive message. The call-and-response format of this duet is specifically named by the songwriter, Frank Loesser: the call part is Wolf, and the response part is Mouse. The already predatory nature of a song being sung between the Wolf, Dean Martin, and the Mouse, Marilyn Maxwell, is reinforced by lyrics that blatantly defy the concept of consent.

Throughout the song, the Mouse expresses her desire to leave at least 11 times, but the Wolf brings up every excuse he can to make her stay. This is more than a woman playing hard to get; she outright tells him that "the answer is no."

If a classic holiday song that millions of people from the age of one to ninety-two



'oices ;e Rape Culture

would recognize is showing such blatant disregard for a simple "no," what could this say about the culture that sexual assault survivors are living in?

Has it become our culture to blame the survivors of sexual assault for the crimes committed against them?

The media coverage of an incident in Steubenville, Ohio shows not only victim blaming from members of that community but also denial from the media outlets themselves.

In a culture where rape is not given the same level of seriousness as even theft, it has become common for survivors of an assault find it 'easier to deny yourself your rape.'

— Jon Krakauer CNN panel on the Steubenville case.

Illustration by Paul Obringer

The news coverage of the Steubenville case through ABC News was published on their website with the headline "2 Football Stars Allegedly Rape Drunk Girl." Throughout the filmed report and written article, ABC repeatedly refers to the accused attackers as promising and talented football players while consistently reminding their readers that the victim was intoxicated, as if that justifies the attack. The news outlet uses the beginning fourth of their article to focus on the importance of football to the citizens of Steubenville and to paint Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, the supposed rapists, as gods in a town where football is a "religion." This poor portrayal of an attack on a young girl takes an angle that is almost as much of a paragon of rape culture as the reactions of the people living in the football town.

Steubenville was in uproar as a pair of their most prized players were taken from the team. Social networking sites in the aftermath were flooded with comments that either accused the victim of lying or blamed her for being drunk at a party. Tweets, updates and posts of all kinds publicly humiliated the victim while defending those that allegedly assaulted her.

This rape culture was never more obvious than when two Ohio girls had to be arrested for aggravated menacing via Twitter and Facebook after threatening the life of the victim. As social media makes the spread of information more fluid, it also allows for the dissemination of threatening messages and humiliating images. This social development of a rape culture contributes even further to the already large numbers of unsolved rape cases and uncharged sex offenders.

In a culture where rape is not given the same level of seriousness as even theft, it has become common for survivors of an

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#MeToo: 2017 Accusations

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assault to find it "easier to deny yourself your rape," author Jon Krakauer said in a CNN panel on the Steubenville case.

There is mental damage done to someone who is ignored or blamed in addition to his or her actual attack and this type of situation is a fairly common problem in America, Krakauer said.

Contributing to this problem are lack of both empathy on the part of the community, as exemplified by cases such as Steubenville, and commitment on the part of the justice system to catch the perpetrators. This claim is supported by the fact that "data on the prevalence of rape and the likelihood of a successful conviction suggest that less than ten percent of all sexual assault assailants will be convicted for their crime," said Francis Shen in a Columbia Journal of Gender and Law article.

Sexual assault is 'any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient...'

- United States Department of Justice

Rape law reform is necessary to take steps away from a rape culture and towards confidence in law enforcement's ability to convict sex offenders. However, the social support given to survivors of any form of sexual assault also plays a key role in combating the rape culture that has taken hold in America.

Are the collective voices of sexual assault survivors reversing rape culture?

Inspired by a tweeted request from actress Alyssa Milano in October, over 100,000 people used the hashtag "Me Too" to tell their personal encounters with sexual assault on Twitter— all in the first 24 hours of what would soon become a sharing phenomenon. Within days, every platform was flooded with emotional accounts of someone's survival and simple affirmations of #MeToo, showing that the voices of sexual assault survivors will not be ignored.

Beyond the scope of social media, voices were rising against situations that were once kept hidden as part of a rape culture that discounted the stories of victims and made excuses for the supposed perpetrators. In a storm of accusations,



Google Images

Emotional accounts of someone's survival and simple affirmations of #MeToo, showing that the voices of sexual assault survivors will not be ignored.

34 names to date— from producer Harvey Weinstein to head of Pixar and Walt Disney Animation John Lasseter— have been brought to the public eye. With every accusation, more survivors step up to share their stories, creating a culture of belief and support rather than denial and blame for the victims in what is being dubbed the Weinstein Effect.

A more appropriate name for this empowering movement against sexism, sexual harassment and assault would be the Women Effect.

From the Women's March at the beginning of this year to the most recent accusations of these powerful men, this movement has built up to what can be called a metaphorical tsunami. At this point in time, the climate is right for such a mass sharing of stories and support for those speaking out against something that has nearly become acceptable in our culture.

The social media platforms of 2017 allow for the amplification of previously silenced voices in a way that the "I believe Anita" buttons could not quite reach in the 1990s. The sharp feminist response to the election of Donald Trump allows for a community that tweets and speaks out in support of previously blamed victims in a way that is louder than the support of the Bill Cosby accusers was in 2014.

As more stories are shared and more names are added to the list of alleged assaulters, the stronger the movement grows and the less these survivors are willing to take in the aftermath of the crimes committed against them. This new climate of support and solidarity could be part of a trend towards the reversal of a deep-rooted rape culture and an increase in accountability for sex offenders in the next few years if they turn out to be anything like 2017. KEY ۲

FALCONS ON THE RISE

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ANDREW CLAIR FOOTBALL

Freshman running back Andrew Clair had an outstanding freshman season with the football team as one of the team's best offensive weapons, scoring four touchdowns to go along with 725 rushing yards on the season on 107 total carries to average 6.8 yards per carry. Clair also had four straight 100 yard rushing games during the season. His best game came on Oct. 14 against the Ohio Bobcats, getting two touchdowns and 148 yards on 18 carries.

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NELLY CUMMINGS MEN'S BASKETBALL

Freshman guard Nelly Cummings has had a good season to this point with the Falcons, as he has scored a total of 48 points in just nine games in his first season with the team. His best game so far has been in the team's game against the Lake Erie Storm on Nov. 20, where he scored a total of 12 points, making five field goals along with two free throws to help lead the Falcons to a 109-106 victory.



Freshman goaltender Eric Dop has had an exceptional first season with the Falcons, currently holding a record of 4-3-1 with a .896 save percentage while splitting goaltending duties with sophomore goaltender Ryan Bednard. Dop's best game of the season came on Oct. 13 against the Michigan State Spartans, which was also his first collegiate win, where he made 27 saves on 28 shots to preserve a 4-1 victory.

RACHEL DURBIN WOMEN'S XC

Senior runner Rachel Durbin set new personal best records in both the 5K and 6K for the women's cross country team this season and was named to the Academic All-MAC team as well. Her best event of the year came on Sept. 1 in the Mel Brodt Invitational, where she came in ninth in a field of 21.



SYDNEY LAMBERT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Junior guard Sydney Lambert has helped the women's basketball team to a 6-1 record so far in the season, earning a total of 79 points, averaging 11.3 per game, to go along with a .333 shooting percentage. Her best game so far has come on Nov. 13, where she scored 17 points and six assists to lead the team to an 85-81 victory over the Detroit Mercy Titans.



ANTHONY MWEMBIA MEN'S SOCCER

Sophomore goalkeeper Anthony Mwembia was the defensive leader of the men's soccer team, staring out the season with six straight shutouts, including one made in a scrimmage, allowing the team to be nationally ranked early in the season as well. At the end of the season, the Toulouse, France, native held a 1.04 goals against average and was also added to the Academic All-MAC team. His best game came on Aug. 29 against the Cleveland State Vikings, where he made six saves to preserve a 2-0 win.



ISABELLE MARCINIAK VOLLEYBALL

Sophomore setter Isabelle Marciniak helped lead the volleyball team to a first place finish in the MAC regular season standings and the team's second consecutive playoff appearance with 269 digs along with 77 kills and a hitting percentage of .233 on the season. Her best game of the year came on Sept. 29 against the Kent State Golden Flashes where she scored 18 digs along with four kills in a three set to one victory.



Noah Schaub MEN'S XC

Junior runner Noah Schaub had a great season with the Falcons, setting personal best times in the 5K, 8K, 10K and five mile runs all in this season, helping lead to the men's cross country team's first top three finish in the MAC since 1995. His best event of the season came in the Mel Brodt Invitational on Sept. 1, where he ran first overall out of the field of 31 runners.



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Kallie Seimet

By Zane Miller

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unior libero Kallie Seimet has had an excellent season for the Bowling Green Falcons volleyball team, earning seven Mid-American Conference Defensive Player of the Week Awards as well as leading the NCAA with 6.81 digs per set.

However, Seimet feels that it's been the team around her that has allowed her to have such a good season.

"My teammates are doing really well this season," Seimet said. "The team in general is just making it way easier for me to get all those digs, so having them there and then doing reps in the offseason helped me be ready for the season."

Seimet grew up in Oregon, Ohio, a suburb of Toledo, where her passion for volleyball began at a young age.

"It was a YMCA league and I was big

into soccer when I was younger," Seimet said. "One of my friends was wanting to try out a different sport and I was like 'Okay, we could try it.' It was with one of those small teams that you would practice with once a week, but I loved it. I loved the process of getting better each day."

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After finishing up her high school volleyball career and looking to continue into college, Seimet felt that Bowling Green would be the right choice for her right from the beginning.

"I don't live far from here and in my recruiting process, this was my first school," Seimet said. "I just kind of came here and committed right away, I didn't really have a process, it just happened super fast. I liked the campus, I liked the coaches and the team that was here was really nice, everything just kind of felt good, it was nice to have my parents be able to come to my games."

Seimet was also able to play in all of the matches starting as a freshman in the 2015

season, which she feels was particularly helpful in being able to gain experience right from the beginning.

"It was awesome," Seimet said. "Every freshman wants to come in and play and make their mark on the team, so it was really cool, it's been a great couple of years."

Going into next season, Seimet is also looking to be a team leader in her senior year, a role she feels that the junior class has already been able to assume with just one senior player on the team this year.

"I think we started last spring," Seimet said. "We really focused on building our leadership, especially since there was only one senior, so we're like the upperclassmen in general, so it's just wanting to get better for all of the upperclassmen coming in, we knew that there was going to be a lot of them, so we wanted to lead and help them come into the process as easily as they could."

The team's freshman players also feel that Seimet's defensive abilities and

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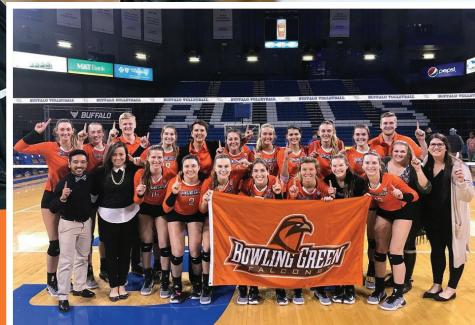


leadership have made it much easier to produce on offense as they continue to learn the system.

"It's a really big help," Freshman middle blocker Katie Kidwell said. "Sometimes you have to see where the block is, so she's always telling me which way to hit and things like that."

Despite the team being relatively young, as well as having a difficult start to the season in non-conference play, Seimet feels that they never lost their confidence, leading to them taking the first place in the MAC so far.

"I knew that our team was going to be good," Seimet said. "I put in a lot of work in the spring and the summer, so I knew



"I knew that our team was going to be good," Seimet said. "I put in a lot of work in the spring and the summer, so I knew that it was going to be a good season.

that it was going to be a good season, I didn't know how good, but since our team's doing so well it's just kind of fallen into place for me."

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Despite getting a number of awards throughout this season, Seimet isn't overly concerned about them and wants to stay focused on the task at hand.

"You think about them when they come out, but I'm not really thinking about them during the games," Seimet said. "After then

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you see them, you're like, 'Oh cool,' but then you just kind of move on."

The same level of focus will be key as the team goes into the MAC Tournament.

"We've just got to keep playing our game and keep focusing," Seimet said. "For us as a team, that's our strong suit is us playing together, so keeping that momentum just really makes it hard for the other teams to get us down or get us out of the game." KEY

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