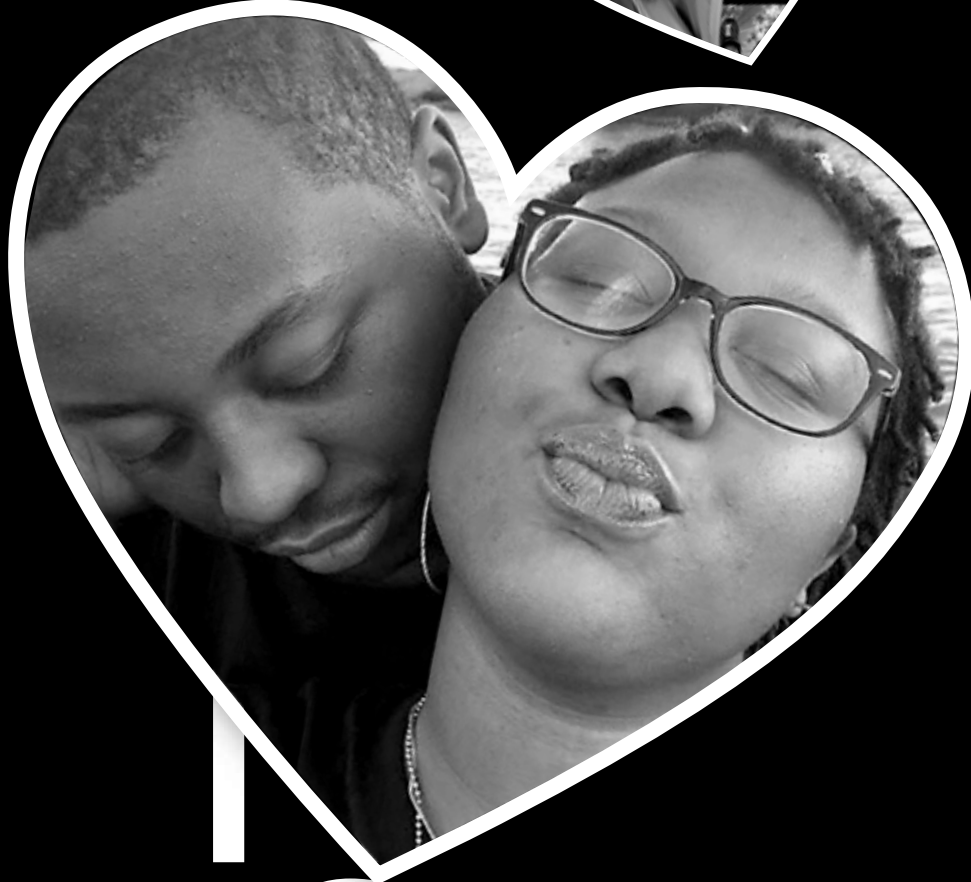


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BECAUSE DIVERSITY MATTERS

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Black FALC FLAMES

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- The Obsidian was founded in 1976 on Bowling Green State University's campus and is a news outlet for students of African descent. We are here to provide a voice for the black community. We value the validity of the black experience and the power of the black voice.



Kanesha McDavid | Editor

Letter from the Editors

Obsidian is not just a paper but a representation of the BGSU black community. Within this issue are different perspectives of what it is like to be an African American student her on BGSU campus. This publication took a lot of hard work and dedication that could not have been possible without great writers, a great production team, and our advisor. Thank you to everyone that has helped to contribute to this issue of the Obsidian.

If you would like to join our staff, comment on the publication or suggest story ideas, send us an e-mail at theobsidianbgsu@gmail.com / follow us on social media @ [obsidian_bg](https://www.instagram.com/obsidian_bg)

5 Cons About Being Black at a Predominantly White Institution



SHAKEELA ROGERS
Obsidian Writer

1. Being the Only Black Person in Your Class

The moment you walk into a class and realize that you are the only black person in a sea of white students, everyone is looking at you like they have never seen a black person in their life. But if you mean mug them then you will be “the angry black person”, so you just sit there and smile as they stare at you.

2. Constantly Proving Yourself

Growing up as a black woman in America you are constantly reminded of the odds that are

stacked against you every day. Therefore, when I came to BGSU I knew I would have to work hard but I did not understand just how hard I would have to work. The white students are continuously judging me and assuming that I don’t know what I am talking about because of the color of my skin. I felt like I had to become the “good statistic”- the statistic that defies all negative statistics about black people. I feel like if I am not getting anything above a B then my white classmates won’t take me seriously.

3. Going the Extra Mile to Find People in Your Own (Black) Community

It can be extremely hard to find the RIGHT black friends when you attend a PWI because, if you’re anything like me then you may not fit in with everyone. You’re too black for the white students and not black enough for the black students so where does that leave you? Somewhere floating in the middle.

4. Not Feeling Part of Campus Events

There are events happening on campus that seem fun and interesting. But who wants to go to



events and be the only black person there? I know I don’t. Most campus events are not beneficial to the black students and does not include them.

5. Experiencing Racism/Injustice

Personally, I have had my fair share of experiences with injustice at this university. From being excluded from group projects because they don’t want to work with me to being called the N-word while I’m walking downtown. As a black person you must take the higher road and ignore ignorance.

Overall, attending a PWI is difficult, but it is a great learning experience and makes you prouder to be a black person. We are judged everyday because of our upbringing, social status in society, history, skin tone and our unique perspective on society. We as a people must continue to rise above, to strive so we can uplift our community; so that the younger black generation can have positive role models. Yes, we do have to carry the weight of all these negative annotations but its nothing compared to the weight that our ancestors had to carry on their backs. If it ever becomes too much to find your community remember you’re never alone! 🌍

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Black Enough



JANAE THOMAS
Obsidian Writer

I come from a neighborhood where Black and White people couldn't sound alike. If I talked too proper, people questioned my race. But as I grew older that didn't make sense. How could my race be determined by the tone of my voice when I identify as black because of what I see in the mirror? According to the World Atlas, race is "the word used to describe

the physical characteristics of a person. These characteristics can include everything from skin color to eye color and facial structure to hair color." While ethnicity is "the word used to describe the cultural identity of a person. These identities can include language, religion, nationality, ancestry, dress, and customs."

Race is what you look like. Is your skin black, white, purple, or blue? Your ethnicity is where your ancestors are from. Have you ever met a white woman that identified as African? I have, and boy did she have a story to tell but she hid it. She hid from her truth because of how she thought she would be treated. Now if you met a man that said he was black but European you wouldn't be so shocked, would you? We need to wake up and understand the world as God has created it. We are all

different, but we share qualities no matter how much the world tries convinces us differently.

Let's be honest. When I think of a white family I imagine a family with a high socioeconomic status. I am a part of the problem. Not all white people drive Mercedes and not all white people are rich. We must stop associating certain qualities with certain races. Doing so is causing us to be a part of the racial trend. For example, I grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood, I live in a decent size house that fits six people comfortably, and I drive a 2017 Ford. What is the first thing that came to your mind? That I am bougie? Or rich? Well neither of those define me. My parents worked hard to give me what I have, and I am currently doing the same to provide my future children with the lifestyle I had growing up. And if I

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IMAGE FROM THE MOIVE "STEP SISTER". THE BLACK FEMALE STUDENT PICTURED WAS NOT BLACK ENOUGH.

can do better than my parents I bet you I will! There is nothing wrong with liking expensive things and I refuse to apologize for what my family works hard for. We must stop judging people by what they have and how they dress. There are rich people that will dress the same no matter how much money they have. Clothing and cars do not determine a person's race.

As black men and women we cannot continue these stereotypes. Doing so we are blocking ourselves from our blessings! Black people don't have to be poor, and rich people aren't always white. Even though it is harder for Blacks in America to be successful it is very much possible. We must understand that and do whatever it takes to get what we want. We deserve the same education and opportunities as everyone else. My ancestors did not fight for me to be bullied because of my parent's

socioeconomic status. They fought so that we could have everything we want and more. We must continue that fight by believing in ourselves. We are not meant to be one thing and have one quality. We can be everything that we want and more. So, the next time that another black woman or man makes you feel as if you are not "Black Enough" let them know that you're black because of how you look, not because of what you own.

The truth is that all people carry their race and ethnicity in different ways. Some Black people do not look as if they are black, but they will not let you forget that they are. Other black people do not deny that they are black but to others they don't act like a black person or they aren't living like a black person. This goes back to our deep roots as Black people. Throughout all our history in America

we have been told that we are worthless and that we do not matter. But, in all honesty they built this country on our back. We must stop judging others by the stereotypes that are drilled in our brains. We must continue to fight our fight to get where we want and listening to those stereotypes.

Being black or white is not an option, it is how we are born. So, you don't get to determine if I am "Black Enough" for you, you didn't create me, God did. 🙏

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We must stop judging others by the stereotypes that are drilled in our brains.

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FALCON FLAMES

ANGELICAEUSEARY
Obsidian Writer

Black love is powerful. It is something that is so rare and cherished in the black community. We are very young, and for some people being in love is the last thing on their agenda. Seeing black love at Bowling Green State University is something that truly warms my heart and I felt needed to be publicized.

"Black love is like real love with a certain glow to it," said BGSU senior Imani Grant. "When you're in black love you always feel good, no matter if you're having the best day or the worst day. As soon as you get to your significant other, it's like nothing else matters."

Grant is a Media Production student who met her boyfriend Jamaal Graham, BGSU senior and Video Communication Technology major, at Wal-Mart. Grant was looking for props for an upcoming photoshoot

she had. They talked and realized they had an interest in photography in common and exchanged information. "And from there I knew it was meant to be," said Grant. "Our first date was at the union then we went for a walk around campus to show each other the buildings where each of our major classes are in."

After their dates, Grant knew the two had a strong connection based off conversations about what they wanted to do with their lives and their goals. They have been together for five months. "A young black couple portrays walking beauty to society," said Grant.

Serious dating is out of the norm for people in college, in general. Black college students who find love and fully invest in their significant other tend to feel better and truly understand the meaning of black love. "To me, black love is taking

pride in our heritage and embracing our culture," said BGSU senior Randy Norman. "It's about uplifting one another and creating a bond that is unbreakable. Black love is resilient and passionate."

Norman, who is a Sports Management major, met his girlfriend BGSU senior and Exercise Science major, Alexis Booth-Walker, through a mutual friend and they have been dating for a year and a half. Norman's parents have been married for 24 years. He says they have been role models for him and helped show him the true meaning of black love.

Seeing young black people in love is supported by the black community. Black love isn't as seen as much in our generation, so when it is seen, it's admired. "I think that society applauds black love," said Norman. "It is not as prevalent today as it has been in previous generations. When



ALEXIS BOOTH & RANDY NORMAN ARE BGSU SENIORS AND HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A YEAR AND A HALF



IMANIGRANT & JAMAAL GRAHAM ARE BGSU SENIORS AND HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR 5 MONTHS

I tell people that I have a girlfriend, I typically receive an encouraging response, especially from the black community.”

Love in the black community is viewed in many different ways, and there are a lot of aspects to it. I also met my boyfriend here at BGSU, freshman year, and we’ve been together for five months. I can agree with everything these couples had to say about being a part of black love. It’s love, a bond, and genuine friendship all in one. Black love allows you both to truly understand each other and the obstacles you both face on a daily basis. I think it’s the best thing ever.

There are more black Falcon Flames than we are aware of. I hope this story gives you an inside look on black love and dating for people our age and helps convey the significance of black love. 🌍

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To me, black love is taking pride in our heritage and embracing our culture.
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ANGELICA EUSEARY, BGSU SENIOR & KAMERON MURRY, BGSU ALUMNI HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR 5 MONTHS

We Wear PINK

RAVEN BOND

Obsidian Writer

As black women we should be aware of our risks when it comes to breast cancer, considering it is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among black women.

We all can help reduce our risk of breast cancer by avoiding possibly fatal lifestyle changes, such as excessive weight gain that could lead to obesity and long term heavy smoking. Medical precautions we need to be more consistent with are having mammograms more frequently and in shorter intervals between appointments, which could prevent a severe lack in time if they find abnormal results.

Black women already are prone to being diagnosed with breast cancer because of our ancestry and common things such as early age of first pregnancy, low rates of breastfeeding and having multiple kids. It is important for us to be aware of the warning signs of breast cancer, and some common signs are a lump or a hard knot, thickening of breast, swelling and/or redness, and a change in size/shape of the breast.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to keep up with your annual doctors appointments and even conduct self breast exams at home.

“ It is important for us to be aware of the warning signs of breast cancer. ”



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



MARIAH RILEY

I'm from Toledo, OH, and I am 3rd year student at BGSU majoring in Psychology with a minor in Africana Studies. I will be graduating this December. I like to stay busy, so I have been involved in a few things on campus. I strive to impact communities in need, as well as the youth. I currently volunteer at the Wood County Educational Service Center (WCESC) and The Cocoon. I have also volunteered at the Family House in Toledo and the Toledo Humane Society. Last year, I was a SMART mentor, where I mentored first year students of color.

I am heavily involved with research. I presented research on the harmful effects of soul food at the Black Issues Conference this past February. I am a McNair Scholar, so I presented my research on a sexual education program for middle school youth at the McNair Scholars Conference in Niagra Falls this past July. I am also currently a research assistant for a lab in the psychology department and plan on submitting abstracts to present research next year!

I have been on the Dean's List every semester, and currently hold a 3.9 GPA. After graduation, I will be obtaining my MSW, and eventually my DSW. I plan on eventually opening my own private practice and focusing on being an advocate for mental health in the black community.

MYLES JOHNSON

I AM: A company that promotes self-awareness and positive self-image of professionalism. We help young professionals find themselves within the means of attire. It was started on May 9th of 2016, and the first products that roll into production were inspirational tie clips. The custom tie clips came with an inspirational message on the clip that said something such as "Blessed" "Relentless", to remind the wearer of who they are throughout the day. We now sell socks, ties, and lapel pins as well. All products can only be bought in person, anyone can see the "I AM" catalog on the Instagram page. Our message is "the words that follow I am... follow you."



ORRG SPOTLIGHT



KINGS

Established in 2014, KINGS is an organization that promotes and builds on the image and character of minority men of BGSU. We create community service opportunities, fundraise, and hold bi-weekly meetings for the young minority men of BGSU to interact with each other. We also have an initiative promoting professional dress with Well Dressed Wednesdays where we all dress up to represent the organization and send a message to others around campus to participate. KINGS is open to all, and we are willing to expand to other campuses.



LAW SOCIETY

Bowling Green State University Law society is a pre-professional organization for students interested in law. In addition, an organization that provides support for students planning to pursue a career in the legal profession. A main goal is to educate students about a potential career in law through various events and activities. Law Society was established in 2014 with meetings every other Tuesday on BGSU's campus. Being a pre-professional organization Law Society holds many networking events. Some events in the past included mock trials, personal statements workshops, and even jeopardy games relating to career paths in law. Law society has always been a small organization with many diverse populations. But had very little African American involvement. Up until 2017 Audrey Franklin became the first African American president of this phenomenal organization. She started a legacy in which Jasmine Johnson now upholds. This 2018-2019 year the executive board is 90% African American. Although, Law Society does not discriminate and encourages everyone of all races to join. This organization can help all undergraduate students who plan to enter the legal field. Follow us on Instagram [bgsulaw](#) to see where we are now and how we are making a difference on our campus.

LIGHTS



MY MIND MATTERS

My Mind Matters (or M3) is a brand new organization focusing on spreading awareness about mental health in the black community & ending the stigma! We hope to create a safe space for everyone to talk about the feelings that we all experience, and to extend listening ears! We will have general body meetings bi-weekly, events, & participation in community service! This org is open to anyone!



NABA

The National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) advances people, careers, and the mission by providing education, resources, and meaningful career connections to both professional and student members, fulfilling the principle of our motto: "Lifting As We Climb." In 2013, NABA was established at Bowling Green State University (BGSU). NABA at BGSU is committed to developing professional and academic excellence, encouraging civic responsibility, and enhancing opportunities for racial minorities in the accounting, finance and business related professions. We encourage you to attend our general body meetings to receive information about how to excel in your chosen professional career.

WHATS THE TEA?

MICKAYLAEDMONSON
Writer

We all know that the African American community on the campus of Bowling Green State University is always making influential moves, but what all is going on? The Black Student Union never stops giving back to the African American Community on campus. The Jackson Tolliver Scholarship will be given out at the Black Issues Conference in February of 2019. The Tea is the date is pushed back to give you more time to apply! In addition, the Black Student Union is now accepting Gold Members, so if you want to join this phenomenal organization NOW IS THE TIME!

The National Council of Negro Women has been actively involved in the empowerment of African American Women nationwide. They will be hosting their annual Women's Empowerment Concert on November 17th! The Women's Empowerment Concert is an opportunity for all local talent to come out and empower women through their talents! If you have a talent or know someone who has a talent and can embrace it, be sure to make it to their auditions!

The African People's Association will be hosting their first ever FRO Fest! FRO Fest is an event where black owned businesses and entrepreneurs can network with each other in the Midwest region! This event is open not only for students on the campus of Bowling Green State University, but the community as well! Please reach out to a member of the African People's Association to get more involved. The Tea is, they're looking for more vendors! If you are a barber, hair stylist, nail artist, clothing designer, and more, we encourage you to reach out to them!

If you or an African American organization you know is going above and beyond to enhance the community of Bowling Green State University, give us more tea to spill!



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FRO Fest is an event where black owned businesses and entrepreneurs can network with each other in the Midwest region!

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WORLD

Mental Health Day

RAVEN BOND
Obsidian Writer

As we are halfway through the fall semester, it's a perfect time for World Mental Health Day (October 10) to be upon us. As students, we undergo an exhausting and extreme amount of stress in the duration of our college education. One could only wish that educational stress would be the only stress we'd face... but the harsh reality is that in our day to day life, we all face social, economic, physical and emotional stress, and learning how to balance them is the real struggle. For some people, finding their balance and keeping their sanity comes easy, but not everyone has that pleasure. It is important to understand that you will get overwhelmed, you're gonna want to give up, and you're gonna question yourself and capabilities

quite often. These thoughts are normal and having this moment isn't anything extraordinary for young adults, especially college students. It's also important to realize that it's okay to not be okay, and it's definitely more than okay to speak up and take action when it comes to your mental health. YOUR life and YOUR future depends on YOU, so take care of YOURself, love YOURself and be the best YOU can be, not only for everyone around but for YOURself!

BGSU Counseling Center accepts all students enrolled in classes and takes walk-ins Monday - Friday from 1:30 - 4:00 pm, or you can call and schedule an appointment during their office hours from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

COUNSELING CENTER

Contact
419.372.2081
104 College Park Office Building
For more information, visit:
www.bgsu.edu/counseling

Office Hours
Monday – Friday:
8am – 5pm
With some evening hours available

Walk-in Hours
Monday – Friday:
1:30pm – 4pm

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It's okay to not
be okay.
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African American Women

IN

TIARA MILLER

Obsidian Writer

While it is no surprise to African Americans, others are not aware that Black women face adversity on the job. Black women are experiencing race and gender differences that affect them in the field of journalism. I interviewed local Ohioans who work in journalism at the undergraduate, graduate and well experienced level. The testimony didn't vary much from previous interviews, no matter the years of experience.

Starting with a BGSU student, Nia Fields, who majors in Multiplatform Journalism: Fields currently interns in Washington D.C., working in public affairs. In our interview she mentioned, "I think for black women in journalism, we have to constantly overcome stereotypes. The only thing I can really speak on is hair being a big thing in the work place. I got a lot of looks when I first started my internship because I have

natural hair. Although this was a problem, the one thing I love is as soon as I step out of the office, all I see are black women with natural hair." After listening to Fields's statement, it's evident that hair can distract professionals. A Black woman's ability to work just as well as someone with assimilated or more "appropriate" hair may be in question.

In a field where everything is taken into consideration—timing, dress appropriateness, environment consideration, subconscious speech that could be offensive to a respective interviewee—the wrong hairstyle for a Black woman can cost them a major story or deserved position, which leaves Black women to question why they were hired in the first place if the office didn't approve of their appearance. While recruiters are marketing to increase minorities within the field to diversify their company, a recent grad stated,

"I don't know if I want to be your token."

Just as Black women face adversity in the newsroom, the BGSU Alumna India Duke had her run-ins outside of the office. Duke is an Ivy League student pursuing her master's degree in journalism at Columbia University. During our interview, Duke revealed that she was uncomfortable after a comment made by her interviewee. "I was sent out to report at a street fair. There was a guy (Russell) and lady that I spoke with at the fair. I got their contact information because I planned to use it for my story," said Duke. "When I reached out to Russell for a follow up comment, he stated, 'Oh yea, I remember you. You the sexy one from Cleveland,' in a very suggestive type of tone. I felt gross because why are you looking at me in that way?" Duke stated. "I wanted to be taken seriously." She did not feel she was getting the same respect

Women

JOURNALISM

“ I think for black women in journalism, we have to constantly overcome stereotypes. ”

that her male colleagues would. “People think that women need to be coddled,” said Duke.

Duke isn't the only one to see this difference. Emmy Award winning morning show reporter Jasmine Monroe of NBC's WKYC13 spoke to me about her career. When asked about being a black woman in journalism, she responded, “I just know Black women are dope and strong. So, when I see they don't want us to cover certain topics or they feel that for us to be safe we must send you with a photographer, just because I'm a woman doesn't mean I need someone with me on every story.” Monroe spoke passionately about her love for reporting and could appreciate her station for being concerned about her safety. At the same time, it's hard to swallow that pill if everyone in the work place are not getting that same treatment.

I must agree with Monroe. Black women are dope and strong. Black women deserve to be represented; it is not just enough to be hired in. Black women want to be shown in a positive light where they are comfortable and appreciated. The representation of all races within American Journalism is needed to approach situations, but that cannot happen where you don't have a variety of people to help. As Black women continue to break down barriers and find their voice, all is not lost. There's hope for Journalism in America. Cleveland reporter stated, “I love NBC! When I see their ethics and how they cover news compared to other stations, I feel as though they do it right. There's a certain way NBC covers stories about our black men and women. They represent who and what I believe in.” The type of journalism that is “for the citizen, free of bias and fair representation,” that is what we believe in. 🌍



“ The type of journalism that is “for the citizen, free of bias and fair representation,” that is what we believe in. ”

BG Falcon Media

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

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A collaboration of all BGSU Student Media
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local and campus news.

Also including content from

BG24

BG News

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Obsidian

BGRSO

WBGU FM

Falcon Radio

