

# THE BSIDIAN

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**BECAUSE DIVERSITY MATTERS**

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# SURVIVING

Predominantly White

# CLASSROOMS

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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.



INDIA DUKE AND ANGELICA EUSEARY  
Co-Editors

## *Letter* **from the** *Editors*

**W**e took on the task of distributing The Obsidian this semester because it is important to hear the black voice on campus. We're so proud of the publication considering it was only ran by two people. We all worked very hard on putting this publication together. Thank you to everyone who contributed to The Obsidian this semester. We want to thank Bob and Charnell for helping us along the way.

We appreciate you for picking up a copy. Spread the word and enjoy!

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](mailto:theobsidianbgsu@gmail.com)

# Black Excellence

## The Living color

“When you go beyond what people or society expects most blacks to achieve.”

— *Raven Bond*



KANESHA McDAVID  
Obsidian Writer

It has become an empowering term that has created a path and giving African Americans, the ability to be resilient.”

— *Qu Twilley*

Excellence, the quality of being outstanding or extremely good. It is no secret that it is difficult being a black man/woman in the United States or even being a minority student on a Predominantly White Institution (PWI) campus. It is not hard to see how the reference of the word “excellence” is only subject to few. Today in society there has been a need to publicly voice that excellence is not only for the majority or some minority, but that it shines bright in the black community as well. Everywhere on social media one would see the #blackexcellence hashtag followed by what is believed to be the meaning of the two words. So, what exactly does black excellence mean? After interviewing many African

American student leaders on campus who in many ways exemplify this ideal of “black excellence” this is what was said, “Black excellence can’t be simply described. But if I had to put in simplest terms I’d say it is any time a Black person makes a stride.” -Tiara Miller “When you go beyond what people or society expects most blacks to achieve” -Raven Bond

In the past there has been many strides to excellence, for example Martin Luther King Jr. A well known political activist and leader to the black community and the world. He took the steps and strides to exemplifying “black excellence”. Rosa Parks, George Washington Carver and Sojourner Truth were all with the same mission to equal rights and the start of what is now referred to as the “black excellence” movement. The movement has made its way onto the campuses of PWI’s such as BGSU with student leader Janae’ Thomas as a freshman. She has given her take on “black excellence”, she states, “I feel that writing for the Odyssey Online exemplifies Black Excellence. I say this because I am able to take a platform that is preferably for white people and make it my own. Every time I write an article I am forcing white people to look at our side as black people.

Whether they like it or not they have to acknowledge my presence and what I have to say.” On a PWI campus it can be difficult at times to exemplify black excellence and have it been seen. That wasn’t a problem for Audrey Franklin, senior and president of law society here on campus, who exemplifies her black excellence through being the 1st African American woman president of law society here at BGSU she says, “I think that it means that someone in the black community is doing well, succeeding, showing off their talents, and showing people that African Americans are capable to do any and everything they put their mind to and that is important in a racist world and place like America.” Many black students all over campus have coined the term “black excellence” and used it to honor black men and women. It has become an empowering term that has created a path and giving African Americans, “the ability to be resilient” -Qu Twilley 🌍

“I am black and I am excellent.”

— *Nicole Johnson*

C E L E B R A T I N G

Black  
Student  
Life  
Across  
the Decades

Here is a sampling of people and events that can be found in the new digitized student media. The pages are searchable and downloadable through the university library's [scholarworks.bgsu.edu](http://scholarworks.bgsu.edu)

## Student Pioneers Pave The Way

# 1929-1937

During an eight year period, only three black students were documented in class portraits: Mabel Woolfore, Lenore Williams, and Anton Kolthoff. Woolfore and Williams were both from Toledo, Ohio. Kolthoff was from Pandora, Ohio, and graduated with a bachelor's in education. Nationally, the Plessy vs. Ferguson decision issued by the Supreme Court Case in 1896 upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation under the "separate but equal" doctrine. In 1954, Brown vs. Board of Education, struck down the state laws and allowed for the integration of schools. The 1930s also brought the Great Depression, one of the worst economic downturns in American history.



Mabel Woolfore



Lenore Williams



Anton Kolthoff

## William Warfield Performs

# 1951-1955



William Warfield, an actor and singer whose songs include "Ol' Man River" and "At the River" was a special guest to the university in both 1951 and 1955. The yearbook said Warfield, who was performing as part of the Artist Series, "exhibited a side style, ranging from classical arias to to folk songs." Warfield attended the Eastman School of Music, where by three faculty members in the university music department at that time had also attended. The faculty were Robert Wykes, Warren Allen and Wayne Bohrnstedt.

## 15th Fraternity Added

# 1955-1957

Alpha Kappa Omega was the 15th social fraternity on campus in 1955 after being granted acceptance by the Interfraternity Council. The fraternity participated in intramurals and exchange parties. They were founded to establish good academic standing, high moral standards, a realistic bond of human relationship and to assist in developing a larger campus life for students, according to the Key. Alpha Kappa Omega won the interfraternity track meet in 1957 as well as moved into a house on West Merry Street. Events they organized included a Bookworm Ball, a Founders Party, a winter formal and Parents' Weekend



## Alumnus Bernie Casey Classes of

# 1961-1966

### Actor slated to address graduation

by Barbara A. Weadock  
copy editor

To coincide with the 100,000th graduate of the University, the Office of University Relations announced Monday an alumni has been chosen as the May 6 commencement speaker.

Bernie Casey — whose job experience ranges from professional football player to actor and poet — graduated from the University in 1961 with a bachelor of arts degree. Casey received his master's degree of fine arts from the University in



ing the ceremonies. The alumni, who may have been unrecognized in the past, will be honored in a special ceremony at the commencement.

The 49-year-old Casey made his acting debut in 1968. Since then, he has appeared in movies such as "Revenge of the Nerds," "Sharkey's Machine" and "Never Say Never Again."

On television, Casey has had guest spots on "Trapper John, M.D.," "Police Woman" and was the series star of "Bay City Blues." Casey has appeared in made-for-television movies such as "Brian's Song," "Roots" and "The Martian Chronicles." Artistically, Casey's acrylic paintings and drawings have been displayed in one-man shows and group gallery presentations. He began developing his

Bernie Casey, who was named one of BGSU's Most Prominent Alumni during the university's centennial celebrations, came to campus in the late '50s from Columbus East High school after originally growing up in West Virginia. Coming in at 6'4" and 250 pounds Casey helped the football team win the small college national title in 1959. As a track athlete, he won three consecutive Mid-American Conference titles. After graduation he played in the NFL for the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Rams. He returned to campus to earn a master's degree then went on to be an actor in more than 55 films including "Brothers," "Boxcar Bertha," "Never Say Never Again," "Revenge of the Nerds" and "Another 48 Hrs." Casey served as commencement speaker in 1989, the year BGSU graduated its 100,000th graduate. The distinguished alumnus died in September 2017 in Los Angeles at age 78.

## Black Student Union Fights for Rights

# 1970

In late April of 1970, tensions were high at BGSU. The Black Student Union held a negotiation session with President William T. Jerome over bettering representation for students and faculty on campus. Their list of demands and the negotiation came about after BSU stated, "We, the black students of

BGSU, have long had to exist and function within an educational system and culture that is totally irrelevant to contemporary black men and women..." The group demanded an increase in black student enrollment, a social atmosphere incorporating black culture, and a committee to evaluate and reform treatment of black athletes, cases of racial discrimination, and defacto segregation of off-campus housing. Despite a tense environment where violence could erupt, Jerome listened to the students and open channels of communication to meet the BSU demands, keeping the feelings of the entire community in mind.



## Alumnus Paul Miles

# 1974



In addition to being the only Bowling Green State University football player to ever have his number retired, Paul Miles, who graduated from BGSU in 1974, also is an accomplished blues musician. Paul Miles, who became the first running back in NCAA history to post three 1,000-yard seasons also played baseball for the Falcons where he earned two varsity letters for this accomplishment. At the time of his graduation, he was ninth on the NCAA

career rushing yardage list. Miles was unable to go to the NFL due to the league going on strike in 1974 and instead joined the World Football League. Miles played in the league for two seasons before the World Football League went bankrupt. For his achievements both at Bowling Green State University and for the Memphis Southmen of the WFL, Miles was inducted into the BGSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990. After his football career ended, Miles pursued

a career in music and achieved great success, being named the Best Blues Singer of the Year in 2012 at the Detroit Black Music Awards. In addition to his music and football career, Paul Miles was also the main actor in a McDonald's commercial that ran in 1980.

## African Week Raises Awareness

# 1980



The World Student Association came together with the International Student Programs in the spring of 1980 to celebrate International and African weeks. According to Key, The African's People Association sponsored the African Week to "increase solidarity among African students at the university. In recent times, the Office of International Programs and Partnerships sponsors an International Education Week in the fall to highlight the benefits of international education.

## Greeks Unite Through Beta 500 Event

# 1985

The 1985 Greek Week and Beta 500 event were a catalyst to bring black and white Greeks together. The event was formerly "all white" or "all black," but BGSU Greeks decided to make the event inclusive. This was the start at bridging the gap between the two Greek systems. Then National Panhellenic Council President Jan Nolte told the reporter the differences between traditions, recruitment and size of the chapters, among other things, contributed to a separation, even though all events were open to everyone. The Beta 500, where students raced around the union oval in homemade go-carts, was a conscious effort to understand one another. "We need to start thinking of ourselves as all Greek instead of black Greek, white Greek," Nolte said.

Many people consider BGSU Greeks to be a community divided by race.

While the traditional society rush is very structured and ritualized, black society rush is less formal and more like black and white fraternities rush.

Activities of the two systems differ also. Due to the size of the white greek system, there are many more participatory events such as the sigma Phi Kappa Meeting and the Delta Gamma Anchor Splash. One event of the black system, the Stepperson, is

Nolte added, "Both systems work together administratively, and everybody is invited to all events. It's hard to pinpoint exactly where the problem lies," she admitted.

Some progress has been made in bridging the gap between the two systems. Events like Beta 500 that were formerly "all white" or "all black" are

now mixed. There has also been some crossover of races in the two systems, with blacks joining white fraternities and whites joining black organizations.

Darlene Eved Love, black representative to Panhellenic Council, says that if the systems start working together, they will start to understand one another.

Nolte agreed. "We need to start thinking of ourselves as all greek instead of black greek, white greek." While inter-race continues to be slight between the two systems, some greek members hope to one day unite a divided community.

Story by Jill Juska

## United we stand Divided we fall



Jim Schultz

## Sidney Ribeau: First Black BGSU President

# 1995-2008

In 1995 Dr. Sidney A. Ribeau became the first black president of Bowling Green State University. The most notable and long lasting achievement of his 13-year term was the establishment of the President Leadership Academy Program. The program, which is a four-year leadership program, creates a co-hort of PLA scholarship winners who engage in classes, workshops, experiential learning, and community service. In 2009 the program was officially renamed the Sidney A. Ribeau President's Leadership Academy. Ribeau also started the Building Dreams Campaign which brought in \$146 million for scholarships and other campus projects. In 2017 he gained the status of President Emeritus, in honor of his distinguished and accomplished service at BGSU.



## BGSU S.M.A.R.T Starts

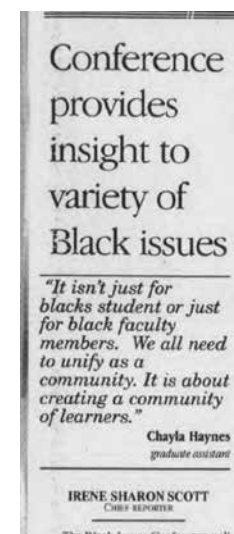
# 1998

The Students of Color Mentoring, Aiding, Retaining, and Teaching began during the 1998-99 school year. The mentoring program is for first-year students of color living in the residence halls. The program pairs first-year students with upperclass residential students. The research shows that students who participate in this mentoring program are more likely to stay for their second year of college. The four components of this mentoring program are social engagement, cultural exploration, academic support and encouragement, and leadership enhancement. This program is still operating today with a steady growth in participants.

## Black Issues Conference Forms

# 2000

In 2000, the inaugural year of the event, the BG News reported the event was created to bring unity to campus and address issues pertaining to the black community. That mission remains steadfast today. The conference, now in its 18th year, includes a keynote address, research presentation sessions, workshops and a luncheon. 2010 alumna PJ Jones, now assistant director of multicultural and diversity affairs at the University of Florida, returned to campus this year as the keynote speaker for the annual Black Issues Conference, held during Black History Month. The title of her presentation was "Art is Power."





## Halle Berry - Breast Cancer Awareness

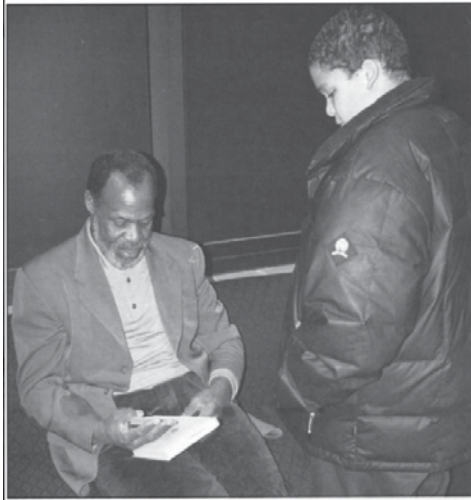
# 2001

Halle Berry, an Ohio native, is the first African American to win Best Actress at the Academy Awards. Berry came to Bowling Green State University in 2001 to speak to college students about the importance of receiving an early detection. Berry was asked to speak at the Breast Cancer Awareness event because she was a family friend of the Delta Sigma Theta's president.



Fame in BG. Speaking to the gathered crowd, Halle Berry proclaims the importance of early detection. Berry was asked to the event because she is a family friend of Delta Sigma Theta's president.

Hi mom! Being interviewed channel 24's reporter, Stu Nicholson expresses her thoughts the walk. Nicholson received scholarship because her family been effected by cancer.



## Danny Glover Black History Month

# 2001

Danny Glover, an American actor, film director and political activist, visited BGSU to help celebrate Black History Month by speaking to students, faculty and community members. Before Glover performed, he met with VIP members to sign autographs and shake hands.

## Bowling Green Fights Discrimination

# 2012

In 2012, then men's head basketball coach Louis Orr woke up to the words "white power" and a swastika chalked in his driveway. This along with racially fueled tweets from another incident opened the door for Not in Our Town to come to Bowling Green, Ohio. Not in Our Town is a national organization with a goal to stop hate, prevent discrimination, and help build safe united communities. The Bowling Green group, made up of campus and community partnerships, holds marches and speeches and sponsors other campaigns that promote an end to a wide variety of issues around exclusion and discrimination.



# ORGANIZATION

# SPOTLIGHTS



## QUEENS OF COLOR

Our mission is to uplift, educate, empower, and foster positive relationships among all women of color on our campus. As well as creating an environment where young women can feel comfortable being themselves. By promoting, hosting, and implementing events that increase social awareness, address sensitive issues, promote self-love. By fostering a welcoming environment, we provide a place to be yourself, voice your opinion, and have a great time. We strive to be mentors and friends, making sure that every member has at least one queen she can talk to.

• Our mission is to uplift, educate, empower, and foster positive relationships among all women of color on our campus.

— *Queens of Color*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE

As a BGSU community service initiative member, we strive to do our part to make the world a better place to live in. This organization's purpose is to have the students of Bowling Green State University unify and spread peace, love, and happiness through selfless acts of service to all. We meet on Tuesdays twice a month at 9 p.m. location is to be determined. If interested in becoming a member of the organization, please contact Ashley Wallace at [atwalla@bgsu.edu](mailto:atwalla@bgsu.edu).

• We strive to do our part to make the world a better place to live in.

— *Community Service Initiative*

## ELEM3NT DANCE TEAM

Elem3nt Dance Team is a competitive, self-choreographed dance team on BGSU's campus. We strive to improve as performers through fellowship and hard work. Our goal is to positively impact both our collegiate and local communities through service and dance performance.

• Our goal is to positively impact both our collegiate and local communities through service and dance performance.

— *Elem3nt Dance Team*

• Our national purpose is to lead, develop, advocate, inform, and unify women of African descent.

— *National Council of Negro Women*

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

The National Council of Negro Women Inc. (NCNW), has general body meetings bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM in BTSU RM 208. Our national purpose is to lead, develop, advocate, inform, and unify women of African descent. As a collegiate section we invite ALL women and men to our organizational meetings and events, even though our focus is to uplift and empower women of color. The ladies of NCNW are a very welcoming, loving, and genuine group! We have community service opportunities, social events like Sisterhood Saturday's, and annual events like our Women's Empowerment Concert (coming up soon), all throughout the year. NCNW, like many other organizations on campus are a wonderful way to get connected and network while having fun at the same time, if you would like more information on NCNW please follow us on social media @bg\_ncnw! 📱

# MESSAGE *Lost*

KENYATTA MITCHAM II  
Obsidian Writer

Colin Kaepernick is the former quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers. In the past two years, he has become known for his protest during the national anthem. His protest really began to become noteworthy during the San Francisco 49ers third preseason game of the 2016-2017 season.

After Kaepernick gained attention while kneeling during the national anthem, he addressed the media to explain why he was doing so. He made it clear that his intentions were not to disrespect the men and women of the military who fought for our country. "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder", said Kaepernick in a post-game interview with NFL Media.

People have been blinded by the president's antics, and because of this, Kaepernick's real protest has suffered.

He instead wanted to raise awareness and bring attention to the fact that police brutality is a serious issue in our country, and has gone on for many years. Police officers are getting away with murdering unarmed black men and women and that has to stop. In the beginning Kaepernick was alone in his protest, but was later joined by former teammate Eric Reid.

Throughout the entire 2016-2017 NFL season, people criticized Kaepernick for kneeling during the national anthem. After the season, he and the San Francisco 49ers parted ways and ended his contract. In the offseason, Kaepernick went unsigned and has remained unsigned. Many believe that he is being blackballed, myself included, while others claim that he is simply not good enough to play in the NFL. I have been a football fan nearly my entire life, and after watching the play of some of the current NFL quarterbacks,



"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color."

— Colin Kaepernick

and knowing what Kaepernick is capable of, to me it is clear that he is being blackballed from the NFL. However, what's worse is that his protest is now being hijacked by President Trump. President Trump called the players that knelt 'sons of bitches' that should be fired. After that, many of the football players, coaches, and even some of the owners knelt the following Sunday in protest to the President. On the surface this may sound like a great showing of solidarity in the NFL, however when you look deeper, you realize that everyone who chastised Kaepernick for kneeling, were kneeling themselves. Some even called Kaepernick a distraction

for kneeling during the national anthem, and then went and knelt themselves. What is the real issue? Why was it not okay for Colin Kaepernick to kneel when he was protesting police brutality on black and brown people, but it's okay to kneel when the NFL is threatened? It's almost as if the NFL is blatantly telling you that police brutality on black and brown people is not an important enough issue. People are still kneeling for the national anthem, but Kaepernick's reasoning and true motive has gotten lost. People have been blinded by the president's antics, and because of this, Kaepernick's real protest has suffered. 🌍

# TERRORISM



VS



# PATRIOTISM



AMINA EL-AMIN  
Obsidian Writer

Have you ever thought about what America constantly talks about repeatedly? Terrorism but ONLY in the form when it deals with people of color. I will come back to that discussion in a moment. Secondly, patriotism, because what is America like without patriotism being thrown down our throats all the time? It seems as though if you do not have the patriotism of being an American you do not belong in this country, and you can just leave.

When you are a person of color, there is no time or place to show your first amendment right to bring about activism. The situation with Colin Kaepernick taking a knee during the National Anthem has been making a stir due to President Donald Trump saying athletes that take a knee during the anthem need to be fired and then calling them S.O.B's. Just a reminder that taking a knee is not about the President, or to disrespect the flag but only about the racial injustice that makes up America today. Colin

Kaepernick did this because of police brutality that was happening against a majority of black Americans. This gesture was to behold the pain and suffering that black Americans go through. African-American people are still facing the mentality of being slaves. That they are still in the chains that hold up back from greatness. Let's do another reminder that racism is still alive and thriving. Most people think that taking a knee is disrespecting the flag and current and fallen soldiers. However, it is not.

We all should agree that the United States was founded on racism and discrimination. Secondly, Francis Scott Key who wrote the national anthem was against African-Americans and fought for slavery. Why should people of color stand for the flag again? What Colin Kaepernick and other athletes are doing is a silent protest. It is about what black Americans deserve, right? Why is it every time a black person protest, it is a problem? If you think about it, maybe some have a problem with people of color

protesting because they do not understand the passion behind it all. Those that have privilege believe that there's no such thing as inequality anymore; or people of color are ungrateful because we should be proud to be living in the "land of the free." I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppressed black people and people of color" (Colin Kaepernick) (NFL.com). So, if you think about it, the National Anthem or the American flag does not represent African-Americans or any other person of color. Why stand up for something that does not care for all Americans? Just how people tell us to forget slavery and move past, should also speak for those when people are taking a hard time dealing with Confederate statues

Taking a knee is not about the President,  
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America today.



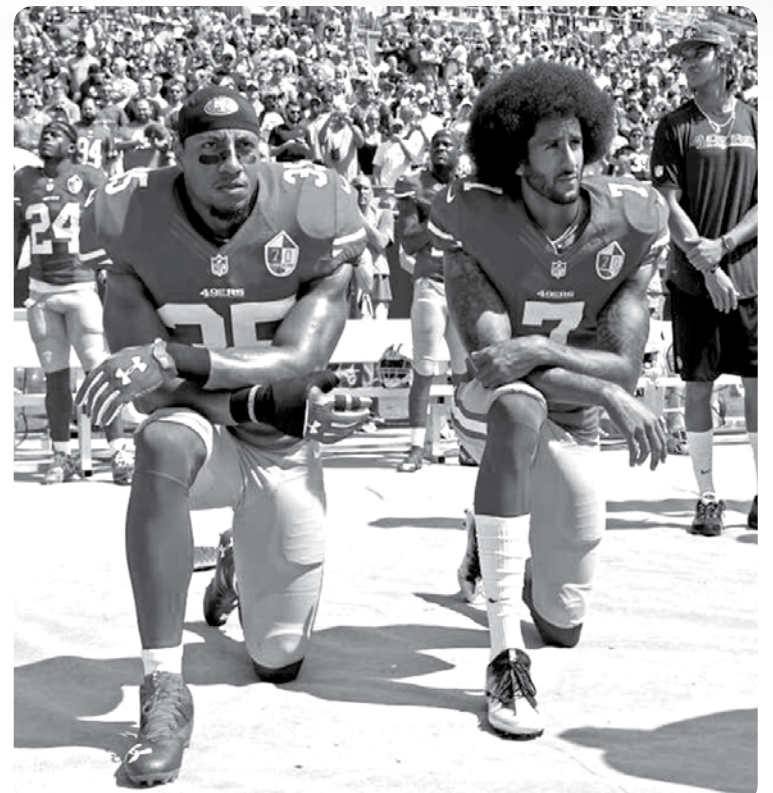
When you are a person of color, there is no time or place to show your first amendment right to bring about activism.

(represent slavery) are being taken down. "Oh, but they tell history." Why can we not have statues of people that fought for freedom?

When it comes to the discussion about terrorism and whom is a terrorist, it only concerns with people of color. If you are a Muslim and you had committed an act of terror, 100% you are a terrorist. When you are a white, male American, congratulations you are not going to profile as a terrorist, although you do fit

the image as one. There was a mass shooting in Las Vegas during a country music festival. It is very sickening that this happens, but this happens all the time that this country is becoming immune to it. We say our thoughts and prayers, and then we talk about changing gun reform, and then we forget about the shooting and repeat. This mass shooting is officially the deadliest of all mass shootings, but there should be no which one is the deadliest because they all are. People are

losing their lives due to this. It should have been a wake-up call from what happened at Sandy Hook and many others after that. And there have been 256 mass shootings. If the government cannot come up with a new legislative of gun reform when adults and children lost their lives, then how do we expect for the government to change it now till whenever? All in all, we see where the priorities of America's interests lie. 🌍



What Colin Kaepernick and other athletes are doing is a silent protest.

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# KAPPA ALPHA PSI

## FRATERNITY, INC. SPEAKS OUT ON

# COLIN KAEPERNICK

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### DAVID COBBS

"Colin Kaepernick used his platform to get across a bigger message. His message has in fact opened the eyes of many athletes that are now doing the same thing. It is just unfortunate that for what we thought was the right thing to do, many disagree including the NFL. Kaepernick has put his career on the line for the minority groups and I would like him to know he has our full support as his fellow brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc."



### CHRIS MILLER

"I agree with LeBron James on Colin Kaepernick being blackballed by the NFL for just peacefully protesting. The NFL took their eyes off the game which matters most and made it all about Colin Kaepernick and brought negative attention his way. He did not take a knee to go against anything the NFL believed in. He just did a silent protest and he continues to live out our objectives as members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc."



### JAYLEN FREEMAN

"Colin Kaepernick put his career on the line to give us minority groups a voice. I can do nothing but support our fellow brother of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. I never knew such a peaceful protest could be misconstrued into Kaepernick being against those who fought for our country. What he was doing is speaking out for all the victims who have been discriminated against for their color."



### ZETA NU CHAPTER

"As the Zeta Nu chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., we were inspired by Colin Kaepernick and will continue to serve as his voice here at Bowling Green State University. Many will say Kaepernick is doing this for attention, which is true, but he is directing the attention on the issues that are being overlooked. He is a positive influence on us. Yo!"

"As the Zeta Nu chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., we were inspired by Colin Kaepernick and will continue to serve as his voice here at Bowling Green State University."

*—Zeta Nu Chapter*

# TRANSITIONING IN College



JAMIRA COLEMAN  
Obsidian Writer

The transition from freshmen to sophomore year in college can be described as being frighteningly familiar.

College is an exciting time in a student's life. Every year brings new learning lessons and memorable moments. The transition from freshmen to sophomore year in college can be described as being frighteningly familiar. It's like high school all over again except the feelings of uncertainty are more intense. Young adults are dropped off by their families and are encouraged to assimilate into the lifestyle by making new friends or joining organizations.

Freshman year starts the process of molding students into adults by holding them accountable for their time management which up until leaving home was dictated by parents, school, or other adults. For the first time students have to make decisions on when to eat, sleep, do homework, and go to classes all on their own. On top of academics, students have to balance a social life and

personal well-being like never before. Like most new experiences, they are daunting because of the unknown but by the end of the first year most students are excited to go home to see family and have an understanding of what's to come.

Sophomore year by contrast is different but it's not the atmosphere that has changed but what you and others expect from you now that you're not a rookie. Being that it's your second year you're expected to have certain aspects down because new battles are to come. Navigating life and the future to come after college becomes the main focus. The realization that this stage in your life is not permanent and that what you actually do in class becomes more serious. The epiphany that you're not the same person who left their parents' house or the person from the previous year becomes evident leaving the question of: who am I and who do I want to be? Unforeseen events like studying abroad or the realization that the major you thought you wanted to pursue has changed completely.

There is plenty of time to figure out all the things that come with college and life in it.

Freshman year is spent trying to figure out how college works and how to navigate through it all. While sophomore year is spent more on finding one's self and what the future holds. One thing for certain from either standpoint is that there is plenty of time to figure out all the things that come with college and life in it. 🌍

# Miss CEGENATION

MAYA DANNER  
Obsidian Writer

**M**ixed, Mulatto, Mestizaje, and Bi-Racial are all technically accurate ways to describe my race. Although I prefer Mixed, I have been called them all. This means I am white but not white enough, Black but not Black enough, privileged but not privileged enough. It means that I called myself white until I was 15. It means that I hate sweet potato pie and love pasta salad (both very Caucasian characteristics). It means that I'm just as confused as you would expect, and I plan on describing my mixed race misfortune for everyone to learn from.

My relationship with the Black community is very different from my relationship with white people. Notice I don't say community because it doesn't seem to apply in the same way. White spaces are easier to infiltrate. White people will accept one of two types of mixed race people: just-white-enough, or stereotype-filling-tokens. I was never the stereotype-filling-token. I grew up in Iowa, didn't really like rap, and never quite became fluent in AAVE. Basically the most unconvincing token Black friend anyone could have picked. Instead I was just white enough. I straightened my hair and fell in love with Ed Sheeran; I ate crock pot food and learned to distrust the people who looked like the other half of me. Because I was just-white-enough,


I became uncomfortable around Black people. I hated holidays with my father's family and grew anxious when around Black people for fear they would quiz me on Kanye's discography or quotes from "ATL". It took until I graduated high school for me to see my race in an entirely different light.

The Black community is not very accepting of mixed race people. While I have found my spot within the community currently, that doesn't mean I haven't struggled to find it. I got to college and knew zero people. I threw myself into the familiar, hanging out with white people.

*I became  
part of the  
Black community  
and let it help  
me discover  
the Blackness  
I had shunned  
before.*

My first semester of freshman year I went to the bars and could not have named three of the Divine 9 if you asked. It wasn't until second semester of that same year that I found myself in events led by Black organizations. It was clear that my opinions on certain topics differed from that of the collective Black mentality. I felt alienated and had it not been for my finding of new friends within the black community, I would've most likely retreated into my comfortable Caucasian

existence. Instead I was challenged to open my mind to the thoughts of others and to become comfortable with the fact that not everyone is going to appreciate my opinion. Still feeling like the token white friend, I became part of the Black community and let it help me discover the Blackness I had shunned before. 🌍



- Mixed
- Mulatto
- Mestizaje
- Bi-Racial



# pro·fes·sion·al·ism

/pr'fɒʃənəl,ɪzəm/

ZARINA CORNELIUS  
Obsidian Writer

I can typically be found wearing chucks that are too dirty to be considered white, along with jeans that have enough holes to frighten Madame Zurooni. Yet, with my Avril Lavigne-esque appearance, I still think I should be able to get hired anywhere my credentials seem fit. However, this isn't the case due to a social construct that continues to cage the work place.

Professionalism.

Professionalism is defined as the conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person (Merriam-Webster, 2017).

But what does this mean? What qualities make one more "professional" than the other? Why does the idea of professionalism exist? Is it to keep everything in order within the workplace, or does it serve as a construct to eliminate any self expression?

I don't think there's just one answer.

Think of professionalism as a two sided coin. On one side, let's call it heads; There

are impeccable organizational skills, arriving to meetings in a timely fashion, and holding those that you work with accountable. Now, you'll flip the coin so that it lands on tails. Behold, a face beat like Tyson, stiletto nails, and a tattoo on the wrist.

Realize, that although there are two sides, you only have one coin. Does one side make it more or less professional?

A person should be able to express themselves freely in the workplace without being described as "unprofessional." My wearing vans and jean jackets doesn't take away from the fact that once I'm given an agenda, you can consider the deed already done. The idea of professionalism should be something based solely off of your work ethic, not how you present yourself. Granted, this does not mean going to your job and smelling like yesterday. Keep it neat. 🌍

*A person should be able to express themselves freely in the workplace without being described as "unprofessional".*

*— Zarina Cornelius*



INDIA DUKE  
Obsidian Co-Editor



# TERMINOLOGY 2017 —OR— 1940?

When is it acceptable to call someone Colored? For whatever reason this is still a question that's asked. Or maybe it isn't asked at all and is just assumed to be acceptable. Allow me to explain. During a diversity class a fellow student, who shall remain nameless, made a statement about the book we were reading and used the phrase colored people. Because it wasn't insulting enough the first time, she said it a second time in a later comment.

As a black student at Bowling Green State University, a predominantly white institution, it makes me uncomfortable that such language is used, however I am not surprised. Racism is alive and well, BG is not a special case. No, I am not insinuating that this person is racist but I am saying that there may be people around her with racist views and saw no need to correct her.

On the other hand, this person may honestly be that removed from current events that they simply did not know that calling a person of color, 'colored' is insulting and takes the country back to the 1940's.

Bowling Green tussles with racism but like many other issues, it gets overlooked by 'more important' matters. Different topic for a different day. But what about the prewritten email that is sent out to students when some sort of racial gesture or happening occurs on campus. Much like that one time someone wrote "coon" on the spirit rock outside of Kreisler Ashley.

Yeah BG, show that school spirit.

The email often states that this campus is all inclusive and works to create and promote diversity. Does this email fix things, no but, it does acknowledge that there is an issue. However, simply looking at a clock will not change the time.

Does the activities of few mean the whole bunch is bad, of course not. But letting the behavior continue without being corrected is adding to the problem. I want it to be clear that I do not blame my classmate for the statement that she made but it does put things into a better perspective for me. 'Colored' is no longer just a word but an adjective that encompasses many years of disgusting unfair treatment of blacks. Progress has been made

since the 1940's and things have changed but honestly, I am not so sure terminology used to refer to blacks has followed suit.

For the question I posed in the beginning of this column, the answer is never. For those that do not know or claim they have enough black friends to say the n word, it is never okay to refer to someone of color as 'colored'. To experience this on an "inclusive" campus surely reminded me who the majority was.

Calling anyone of color, 'colored' is unacceptable and to all those that swear they did not know, now you do. 🌍

“ 'Colored' is no longer just a word but an adjective that encompasses many years of disgusting unfair treatment of blacks ”

- India Duke



# Calling all BG Barbers

JAYLEN FREEMAN  
Obsidian Writer

In September 2017, The Toledo Blade released the story of a 14-year-old, Malachi Young, a Central High School freshman, escorted out by security guards as he entered the building with his dreadlocks. His hairstyle did not meet the school's dress code. According to The Toledo Blade, Young grew his hair out into dreads to be closer to his Caribbean roots.

"It is hard to maintain a professional look when there aren't any barbers in Bowling Green that cut my type of hair" said Senior, Health Administration major, Chris Miller. "Part of being professional, and especially being an African-American male, is having your hair properly trimmed".

Students at Bowling Green State University, many African-American males seem to have trouble finding barbers to cut their hair in the way that they are accustomed to.

"I usually get my sides tapered, which is a fade basically but not too much and I get my hair cut down to where the waves in my hair start," said Senior, Sports Management major, David Cobb. "Just a light trim really."

There are six barbershops listed in the small college town of Bowling Green, Ohio. With there being six barbershops, why is it so hard to find a barber?

"I had a chance to stop through two barbershops while being here and did not feel comfortable enough to sit down and let the barber cut my hair because he did not know how to cut my hair the way I get it cut," said Sophomore, Darnell Terry.

The African American culture value certain hairstyles not only to assume it is because the grade of their hair but because of their culture.

"When I cut some of my friend's hair, I already know what they are looking for because of our culture," said Senior, Athletic Science major, Wan-yai Moore.

"They usually want their sideburns tapered and if they have an Afro, they will leave it as it is if not a trim. If they have low hair already, I will just trim it down and shape of their hairline to make it look neat. I learned how to start cutting my own hair because I could not get it cut here."



“ It is hard to maintain a professional look when there aren't any barbers in Bowling Green that cut my type of hair. ”

— *Chris Miller*

SENIOR, HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MAJOR

# Balance of *Life*

BRIAN JENNINGS  
Obsidian Writer

For most individuals on the campus of Bowling Green State University it is a challenge to juggle homework, class, and working. Now imagine yourself adding in a sport. Not just any sport, but playing football at the Division-1 level. Seems like the challenge just got real. Now, add a baby on top of all that. Some would say the smart thing to do is hold off on school, or at least with football until you can get back on your feet. Matt Robinson looks this challenge in the eye and conquers it daily.

Matt Robinson, a native of Mansfield, Ohio, is an Intervention Specialist major here at BGSU. He aspires to be a special education teacher and wants to coach football at the high school level. Robinson entered the team his fall as a fifth-year senior for the men's football team. Robinson does not have the glamorous, highly recruited story you typically hear about Division-1 athletes. He was often overlooked, but this never slowed Robinson down. As he continued to compete at football camps across the nation he found some luck.

At the University of Michigan's camp, Robinson, caught the eye of a high school coach overseeing the campers. He believes Robinson has talent and deserves to play a high-level of football. Coach Mike Elko, current Defensive Coordinator for Wake Forest men's football program, was the BGSU football coach who agreed and offered Robinson a preferred walk-on position. Realizing this was a way to live his dream of playing college football Robinson said, "I took it."

Preferred walk-on is a tough position to be in. It is a scholarship player without the scholarship. This means all the meetings are mandatory, he is to be at

every practice, every strength training program, every conditioning drill, and all that comes with the commitment. Robinson gave up his summers for 6AM conditioning drill and weight lifting sessions. While teammates often went home and lounged around, Robinson would have to work to pay his bills. Robinson saw this and took it as motivation to work harder. Another aspect of being a walk-on is the title itself. Being a walk-on automatically place you on the bottom. Walk-ons must prove themselves twice as hard and often face an uphill battle on the football field. Certain guys can conquer that hill, Robinson would eventually earn a scholarship during the 2016 football season. Robinson contributes to the football team both on the field and off-the field being on-top of his academic also.

Robinson is currently engaged to his girlfriend Kendra Murray. The two met in downtown BG after a night at the bars. The two spent time together every day for the next few weeks according to Robinson. The connection would continue to grow throughout the years. Next comes Levi, the product of Robinson and Murray's love.

“Robinson is an example of an African-American male who takes care of his responsibilities and maintains a high standard.”

— Matt Robinson



The semester Levi was born was tough for Robinson. His academics were the first to suffer. Robinson says at one point he had, "3 F's and 2 D's" in his classes. The adjustment for the baby was a major one that needed some getting used to. The baby often kept him and Murray up at night and sleep became rare for the young couple. Robinson was still juggling football and going to school full-time, but once those obligations were fulfilled, he'd rush home to help with the baby. After a few months, a routine formed and Robinson had talk with his professors about his situation. Robinson had to do a lot of work to make-up for missing so much class. Robinson buckled down and would finish out the semester with a 3.0 grade point average.

Robinson, overall, believes that maturity is what he has gained the most from having his son. "Now, everything that I do affects him", said Robinson. He must make correct decisions and must calculate his steps. He is a big influence

on his son. At the age of 2, Levi is listening and watching everything his father did. Robinson has also become more "conscious" of his own behavior. The behaviors that may seem, "not that bad" can be different when you see your two-year-old son acting out those behaviors. This is especially vital once Levi had started talking. The way Robinson treats people, he says his son is a mirror for him.

Robinson's father has always been involved in his life. Robinson says once he became a father himself their relationship changed. He looks at his father with a newfound respect. He understands the stress, struggle, and the weight of parenthood. Robinson believes they have gotten closer and realizes his father's struggles. While having a baby has been tough it has brought Robinson and his father closer.

Robinson currently is in the middle of the 2017 football season. Robinson is involved in K.I.N.G.S. and Fellowship for Christian Athletes. Robinson is on track to graduate in the upcoming spring semester. Upon graduating, Robinson plans to return to Mansfield to coach at his high school. Robinson is an example of an African-American male who takes care of his responsibilities and maintains a high standard. He continues to achieve excellence and be a great asset to the community.

As Robinson says, "I don't have time to play games anymore, it's the real deal."



# *To whom it*

# CONCERNS

**W**e do not know one another, yet your actions tend to have an effect on me time and time again. I'm that black student who you stared at as I walked into the library with my Afro and my Black Lives Matter shirt on. Or the one who you completely ignored as I attempted to participate in the group discussion in class today. Or the one who you pushed to the side to get to where you needed to go in the union today. Or the one who you stared at in disgust as I blasted my rap music while riding the elevator. I can give about a million other ways in which you have made me uncomfortable in just one day alone, but I'll end it here.

Although I will not continue my list, what I will say is this: stop staring at me. My hair may be different than anything you have ever seen and my skin may be darker than yours, but I am still human and would prefer not to be gawked at like an animal in the zoo. Furthermore, me expressing my black pride should not make you uncomfortable and if it does, instead of staring at me, take a step back and reflect on your viewpoints for a minute.

Do not ignore me during class discussions. I know that the media portrays me and students who look like me as ignorant and uneducated but that is false. I know way more than you could probably ever imagine and by refusing to listen to what I am saying, you are preventing yourself from learning so many great things!

Try not to look at me crazy when I speak in a way that is not considered "proper." African American Vernacular English (aka speaking "ghetto") is just as valuable as things you consider to be standard English. Pay more attention to what I'm saying than how I say it because its meaningful either way. And besides, "proper English" is a social construct, it's not actually real. But that's a different conversation for another day.

Stop staring at me as I listen to my music. I would not stare at you for listening to country music, so show me the same respect and let me enjoy the music that I love. It may be different but different is not always a bad thing, and you shouldn't gawk at people for having a different musical preference than you. It just isn't logical.

Attempt to contain your astonishment when you realize that I'm black, especially if you're an administrator or a university "professional". I may not have what you consider to be a "black sounding" name and I may not come off as your perception of black in emails or during phone conversations but I AM black and very proud of it. Furthermore, instead of showing astonishment at my race, you should be astonished at the assumptions that you have that make you believe that I should have a certain name or talk a certain way on the basis of my race.

Take a second and think of your favorite person in the world. Now imagine them being stared at like an animal, ignored, and generally disrespected. Would you enjoy them being treated that way? Of course not! Just as you wouldn't enjoy seeing someone you love treated that way, black students do not enjoy that treatment, so please keep that in mind for the next time that you interact with a black student and be mindful of your actions. 🌍

LORRI TURNER  
Student Writer

What I will say  
is this:  
Stop staring  
at me.

— Lorri Turner —

# Take CARE

ANGELICA EUSEARY  
Obsidian Co-Editor

In college,  
it's the little things.  
Take a day off,  
get some sleep,  
have some fun,  
exist without  
the stress.

— *Angelica Euseary* —

A wise woman told me that self-care is a form of resistance. This sat with me and took me a while to fully understand what she meant. At that time, I needed to hear it. I didn't even know I wasn't taking care of myself. In my mind, I thought I was doing great, sweetie.

I'm in my third year of college and I'm finally starting to take care of myself. That meant stepping back, dropping a few things, and doing what was best for me. Honestly, I've only been at it for about three weeks, but it's been the most liberating experience.

Taking care of yourself is so important because you have to check in and see how you're doing. As college students, we can keep everything in order, classes, extra-curricular activities and work and sometimes forget to get ourselves together.

It's all a process, so go at your own pace, but don't wait too long and self-destruct. As black students at BGSU it is important that we take care of ourselves. In order to be able to fight in battle, you have to be strong and prepared for war.

In college, it's the little things. Take a day off, get some sleep, have some fun, exist without the stress.

And don't be afraid to ask for help. You probably can handle the load by yourself, but you don't always have to.

Always with love,

Angelica



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