

THE [] OBSIDIAN

• Established 1976 •

Vol. 40 • Issue 1 • April 6, 2017

Follow us on Twitter
and Instagram
@BG_Obsidian

BECAUSE DIVERSITY MATTERS



CONTENTS:

- Letter from the Editor / 02
- Don't Stop Asking? / 03
- Celebrate Black History Month Despites Critics / 04
- Match Matt Helps to Empower Youth / 05
- Carter Creates a BGSU Voice / 06
- LSU President Offers Glimpse Into Her Life / 07
- Students Protest White Supremacy / 08
- International Student Tour Guide Influences Campus / 10
- America Must Become Great / 11
- Dylan Coale Finds Passion Performing Drag / 12
- Freshman Starts Business / 13
- Grammy Winners Protest Academy / 14
- Being a Student of Color / 15

- Staff
- Erika Heck | Head Editor
- Angelica Euseary | Co-Editor
- Writers
- Kenyatta Mitcham
- Jalynn Livingstone
- Jewel White
- Audra Delaney
- Amina El-Amin
- Sara Petty
- Khadirah Hobbs
- Del-Marcus Goolsby
- Lorri Turner

- Contributors
- Holly Shively
- Isaiah Vazquez
- Matthew Murray
- Kyle Jumper-Smith
- Designers
- Alexander Hall
- Paige Draheim
- Sarah Doughty



ERIKA HECK
Head Editor

Letter **from the** *Editor*

Having a multicultural newspaper on campus is not only important, it is a necessity. There are so many issues, events and valuable opinions within the multicultural community on campus that never have the opportunity to be shared.

In this issue of The Obsidian, we cover a wide array of topics from the latest fashion trends to how students can better their financial situations. This is the first and only issue this year, but it is definitely an interesting one. The staff has worked extremely hard to produce interesting content for all of you to enjoy.

We appreciate your support. Thank you for reading The Obsidian!

If you would like to join our staff, comment on the publication or suggest story ideas, send us an e-mail at obsidiannews12@gmail.com or tweet us at [@BG_Obsidian](https://twitter.com/BG_Obsidian)

DON'T STOP ASKING

KENYATTA MITCHAM
Student Writer

Do you remember always questioning things as a kid? Even today kids still question everything that goes on around them because they don't understand it. If you are walking by an adult and their child, you may think the child's favorite word is "why."

Kids are always asking why something is the way that it is. This is because children seek answers. No matter what answer you may decide to give them, they always want more information. At first glance, this may seem like simple curiosity. If you look closer, it may be something completely different. To look closer, you have to wonder: Why do children ask so many questions?

I have thought about this for a while and have come to the conclusion that children ask so many questions because it is an innate human instinct. Humans are innately curious and hungry for information. Humans want to know who, when, where and why. This intense hunger for knowledge kicks in early for us.

The problem is, the answer that children receive when they ask questions are often ignorant. There seems to be a limit to the number of questions children can ask

their parents. After the parent is tired of having to explain, they then tell the child to "stop asking so many questions."

“stop asking
so many
questions”

This may not seem like an issue, but in reality, it is. This creates a society where children feel like they can no longer question things that don't make sense to them. How does this affect them long term.

I strongly believe that as we grow older, the phrase "stop asking so many questions" continues to ring in our ears. We then are afraid to question things that are put in front of us. Instead, we as a society simply accept what given to us as the truth. This includes history, religion and politics.

People are afraid to question the accuracy of the history taught in our so-called education system. People are afraid to question the true motives of our political leaders. Are they here to better our society or to better themselves through finances and power? People are afraid

to question religion and the Bible, simply because it makes others uncomfortable.

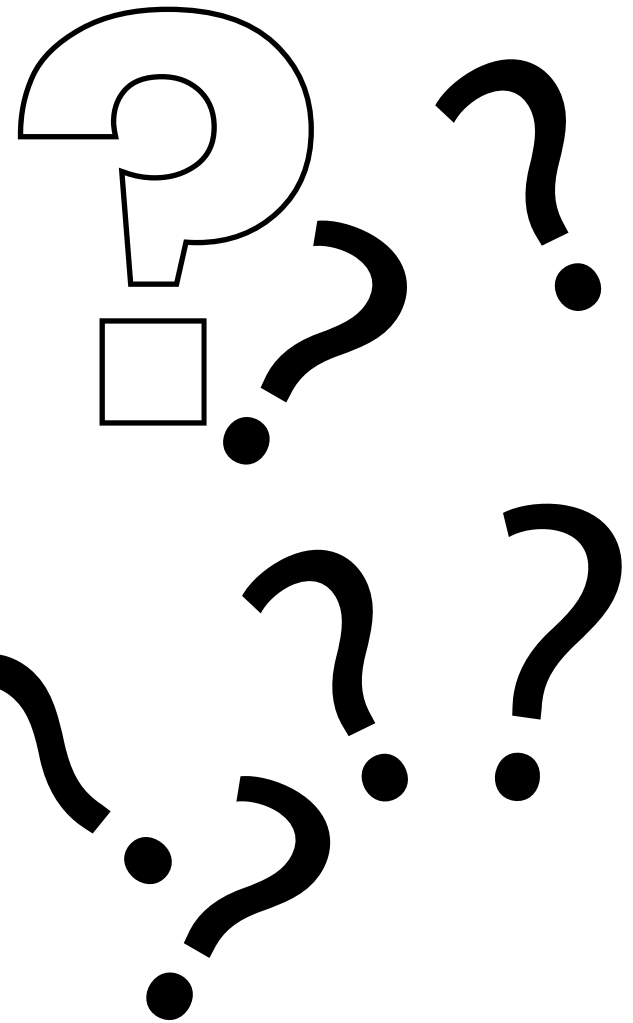
These are all things that should be questioned.

If you do not question them, no one will feel the need to explain themselves. No one will feel the need to explain why European history is a part of the core curriculum, but African-American history is, at best, an elective. No one will feel the need to explain how politics and voting really works. No one will feel the need to explain the true origin of the Bible and the stories within it, whether they are factual or fallacy.

Questions are extremely important in our society because they force people to have to explain themselves. It forces people to present factual evidence to prove what they are suggesting.

We as a society are at a point where we no longer hold people responsible for the information they present.

We no longer require people to explain. I want to know, when did we change? When did we stop asking questions? Or did we ever ask questions? 🤖



We as a society
are at a point where we
no longer hold people
responsible for the
information they present.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



• DESPITE CRITICS •

JALYNN LIVINGSTONE
Student Writer

Since I can remember, I was told February was the month to celebrate the achievements of people of color and a time to celebrate my heritage. It wasn't until I started attending a university that realized there is a lot of controversy behind this celebration.

Yes, Black History Month was invented by a black man. It did only begin as "Negro History Week" by Carter G. Woodson and eventually expanded to the whole month of February.

So, we should be grateful, right? At least, that's what I've been told.

I've been told that black people should be "grateful" we get an entire month to pay homage to people who have relentlessly fought to uplift black people and break stereotypes in times of oppression and white people get nothing.

This is where the controversy comes in.

Black people, and marginalized people overall, have been a great contribution to this society and to this country. Somehow, we always get the short end of the stick.

School curriculums are very relevant when it comes to this subject. Through school, "American history" was always part of the core curriculum.

Speaking from personal experience, African-American history was always taught as an elective or wasn't taught at all. I was basically given the option to learn about my own history, but I was required to learn about white history.

When I took advantage of the opportunity to enroll in African-American history courses, a lot of information seemed repetitive.

They teach you what they want you to know. My entire school career, black history has always been condensed and plucked of important details and events that would give black youth a true understanding of their past and the oppression of their people.

To answer the question: No, we should not be grateful.

Black people, and marginalized people overall, have been a great contribution to this society and to this country. Somehow, we always get the short end of the stick.

For some reason, people believe more than 400 years of oppression,

and counting, can be made up for by giving us 28 days to be recognized.

I'm not saying don't celebrate Black History Month. Although there is a lot of criticism, it's still one of the many times of the year we come together as culture, take a step back and appreciate all the people who have dedicated their lives to empowering us in some way, shape or form.

Educate yourself. Learn about your culture. Learn about things we don't get taught in school and educate others. Empower your people. Don't wait until February to appreciate your heritage, do it yearlong. We should make a priority to study black history, just like we do for our "American" history classes. 🇺🇸

Black history is American history.

My entire school career, black history has always been condensed and plucked of important details, events and they would give black youth a true understanding of their past and the oppression of their people.

In the words of Clifford T.I. Harris,
we know all about that.

Match Matt Helps to Empower Youth

MATTHEW MURRAY
Contributor

I remember Steve Harvey once said, “You are given a blessing to be a blessing.”

My mother named me Matthew which means “gift of God.” I wanted to know if I was a gift or was I just her gift? Or was I supposed to be a gift to others? What could I give that made me feel like I wasn’t being taken from, but enriched?

I decided to sit in silence to understand that and in that silence, people confided in me. They told me their fears, dreams and most valuable selves. I noticed that these people were all my peers who valued my opinion and needed someone or somewhere to express themselves.

Young people are told to be silent by the older generation because they, as my family so eloquently says, “need to stay out of grown folks’ business” or we “don’t know nothin’ about that.” In the words of Clifford T.I. Harris, we know all about that.

The problem is that we are not being empowered by the previous generations because we either do not have enough experience or are too much for them. I am tired of waiting for people who do not understand us to empower us when they believe we are ready to become the things we are destined to become.

I wanted to find a way to be a bless and empower people like me with big dreams and little time to sleep (no matter how badly we want to). Match Matt is a podcast about sharing platforms and affirming one another ambitions. I want to wear your clothes in the clubs, I want to eat food at your restaurants, watch your content and debate you about the state of the world. A place where your voice matters and your stories are worth listening to. It is a platform where you are not just heard, but actively listened to. 🌍

SIDE NOTE: If you want to keep up with Match Matt you can listen on matchmatt.blog and follow [@matchmatt](https://twitter.com/matchmatt)



I am tired of waiting for people who do not understand us to empower us when they believe we are ready to become the things we are destined to become.

FROM ME, 2 YOU

KYLE JUMPER-SMITH
Contributor

Beloved,

Times may be hard and trying right

now, but I want to wish you the best because you deserve it!

You are great, you look great, you

smell great and you are loved. Although things may not work as planned, school may be stressful and the savings may dip into the checking account at times (don't you hate when that happens!?), please remember beloved you are greatness and you are loved.

Don't you know you are blessed?

You are alive, your skin is

flourishing, your hair looks great and your smile is beautiful. Beloved, smile today, say something nice about yourself, put on your favorite shirt, walk with your head high, rock your 'fro and show love to a friend and a stranger.

Stay Black. Stay proud. Do great things.

I want to
wish... the best.

CARTER BGSU VOICE

ANGELICA EUSEARY
Student Writer

The Voices at BGSU went back to the Spiritual Festival in Detroit during the February 3 weekend, where their Women's Ensemble won first place in the college division.

As a freshman, Christopher Carter—founder of The Voices—was curious about finding a way to express his musical talents. He could not find a space to express himself through spirituals, so he found a way to do it himself.

“The choir that I wanted to be involved in had to incorporate spirituals in some way, shape or form,” said Carter, a senior AYA-High School English major. “None of the choirs had that, so I was like, ‘Okay, what am I supposed to do?’ Somebody suggested that I start my own choir, and I was like, ‘Okay, that’s a joke.’ I thought about it, I did some research and found out that was a possibility.”

He went through the organization creation process with the Office of Campus Activities and on Oct. 16, 2013, The Voices at BGSU came about with a mission to spread the culture and history of spiritual music in a joyful manner through hard work, discipline, and collaboration.

“When the idea for The Voices came along, I knew this was going to be a big step for me because I’ve never had my own choir before,” Carter said. “I directed the high school choir, but this was a completely different beast. I began to believe in myself. I learned

my strengths and what I can do and I’m still learning and growing while helping others do the same things”

Last year at the Spiritual Festival in Detroit, the choir won as an ensemble. Since then, they’ve been doing an annual tour. Over winter breaks, they spend their time on tour in Detroit and Cincinnati. The goal for their next tour is to travel to Atlanta.

“When I first got here, Chris pushed me to be a bass section leader,” sophomore Antuan Hairston said. Hairston is a music education major. “The Voices pushed me into those leadership positions and roles. It also taught me the importance of being involved and knowing your school. He pushed me to get out there.”

The community within this choir is one its members appreciate, learn and grow

The Voices started small but has reached so much success to have been around only for a few years. Faculty and staff are aware of the great things they have done under Carter’s leadership.

“Christopher asked me to be their adviser, I said yes,” Assistant Dean of Students Lakeshia Dowlen said. “I think initially Chris was doing a lot of things on his own and now he has a team of people who are just as invested in the organization, so they have helped shape, grow and develop the organization and its members through.”

The Voices at BGSU started with a goal to spread awareness of spirituals and create a space where people could come and enjoy that aspect of culture. Years have passed and Carter is bringing incoming members with the same intentions he had when he created the organization.

“I appreciate it because I was the only thing The Voices knew,” he said. “The fact that there’s someone new and a whole different structure, and people are still invested in the organization. I appreciate it, I respect it and I honor it because they still believe in what I was trying to do as a freshman. I hope that they continue to grow, transition in and out of it, with whoever is running it, that it will continue to keep that legacy alive that I’m still trying to build before I graduate.” 🙌

“ The Voices pushed me into those leadership positions and roles. It also taught me the importance of being involved and knowing your school. ”

– Antuan Hairston

“I feel like it is definitely better to be involved with music,” Carter said. “It has allowed me to create a home away from home here at BGSU, a second community. It has allowed me to connect with people from all over the world, people I never thought I would connect with.”

Christopher Carter isn’t just a choir director. He is a student, a friend and a mentor to those he encounters daily.

from. This choir gives them opportunities to do things they never thought they would do before.

“The Voices gives me a chance to see people from different walks of life, physical profiles and the way that they identify themselves,” Hairston said.

“It’s an enhancement of personality. It helps me figure out things that I was not introduced to where I’m from.”

The Voices at BGSU started with a goal to spread awareness of spirituals and create a space where people could come and enjoy that aspect of culture.

LSU PRESIDENT

JEWEL WHITE
Student Writer

Offers A Glimpse into her Life

As she makes her way to a shared desk in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Latino Student Union president Kandann Coleman seems to be just an average BGSU student. But behind the desk is a student looking to make a difference in the lives of Latinx students.

Growing up in the inner-city of Toledo, Coleman experienced a childhood that is reminiscent of many children living in a major city.

“You bus everywhere,” She said. “My schools were in the city, and I lived in a pretty small neighborhood. Everybody kind of knew everybody.”

Coleman said her neighborhood wasn’t as diverse as one would think. In an area that was predominantly African-American, Coleman said her family brought the only diversity to the block.

“There weren’t many families around that looked like mine,” She said. “My mom’s Puerto Rican and my dad is black and my stepdad is black. And there’s like a bunch of these little mixed kids.”

Coleman said she never felt different in the eyes of her family. She said it wasn’t until school that she learned how different she was from her peers.

In school she was ridiculed for being lighter than other female students while being praised for being different by males. Coleman said it was hard being in a school where you didn’t look like other students.

“It makes you tough because you’re not like them,” Coleman said. “So you’re not a part of the group initially. You kind of have to work your way into the group.”

To navigate the tough waters of finding a peer group, Coleman found support through her godmother. Coleman said she helped to make her who she is today.



In school she was ridiculed for being lighter than other female students while being praised for being different by males.

While many of her peers placed school on a back burner, Coleman said her godmother helped shape her ideas about what achievement should be.

Having Coleman meet different people and learn about equality in the church allowed her to better understand her surroundings. After acquiring this knowledge, Coleman said her godmother discussed what life as a women of color would be like for her.

This talk allowed Coleman to become “diligent.” She was pushed by her god mother to strive for the best in her academics and outside activities like spoken word competitions (a presentation of prepared poetry).

In her freshman year, Coleman ran for a position in the Latino Student Union.

Though she wasn’t elected, Coleman used that failure to learn more about the organization.

“I served as PR for two years,” She said. “I worked my way to the top. I learned the organization.”

Her senior year she became president of the LSU. Coleman has used her experiences to shape an environment of inclusion for Latinx students on campus.

“We honestly just try to provide a safe space,” Coleman said. “We say we are a family...we really do mean that. We do scholarships, we do tutoring, we do study tables. We give you a group of people to keep you accountable and make sure you get out of here.”

One member that has felt this act of inclusion is sophomore English major Camila Piñero.

“I was proud of my culture and heritage in general,” Piñero said. “I think being around her, she’s so proud to be a woman of color, makes you really proud to be a woman of color as well.”

Sophomore Sadi Troche, former political action chair for LSU, has worked closely with Coleman.

“Just having someone who I can motivate but also motivates me to do the best that I can in my position is something that definitely keeps me motivated,” Troche said.

With her ideas rubbing off on other students, Coleman has set an example for Latinx and minority students on campus. Though there is more to achieve, Coleman is trying to make a path for students to achieve their dreams.

“I hope they never lose their sense of family, I hope they never lose their passion, they never stop dreaming,” Coleman said. 🌱

“I hope they never lose their sense of family, I hope they never lose their passion, they never stop dreaming.”

– Kandann Coleman

Students Protest White Supremacy

HOLLY SHIVELY
Editor-In-Chief

Roughly 75 people gathered on the steps of the education building Wednesday with signs to “love more, hate less” and “celebrate differences, protect humanity,” in order to protest recent white supremacy propaganda on campus.

The first wave of such propaganda came during spring break, when fliers advocating for white supremacy and Identity Evropa stickers were posted around campus. The stickers reappeared Tuesday. One of the three organizers, Junior AYA language arts student Mallie Grimm, said the protest was an “immediate response” to the stickers.

“It’s just more of a call to action in general for our culture and our school to take a more active stance,” Grimm said. “We need to be more physically representative here.”

To be more representative, Grimm said the University needs to hire more women of color, become a sanctuary campus and be more intersectional.

“I’d like to see BGSU fulfill the creed that we supposedly have for ourselves as being intersectional and caring about marginalized people,” she said.

In addition to being pleased with the turnout, Grimm was excited about how many people were willing to speak.

One speaker was second-year graduate student Aju James.

“My name is Aju and I’m a communist,” he announced and was answered with cheers.

“This thing called white supremacy has been around us for more than 200 years... all throughout history hate has done pretty well,” James said. “People like to say that love defeated the Nazis, but it was communists who defeated Nazis.”

Sophomore Ryan Elliot also took hold of the megaphone to speak on white supremacy. “I just want to talk to you about something that’s been bothering me for a really long time, and that’s patriotism,” Elliot said. “How do you call yourself a patriot when you can’t look to your left and your right and just assume that you can respect someone?”

Instead, Elliot called for the protestors to focus on what the gathering was all about. “We should relish in what I think is true patriotism, which is right here right now - which is people caring about each other.”

Organizer Ashley Philipps said the event wasn’t a political issue or stance—it was a human stance. After letting anyone speak to the crowd about supremacy, the group started chants including: “No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA;” “What is our enemy? It’s white supremacy;” “Black lives matter;” “We have to keep fighting. We have to keep struggling,” James said. 🌍





“ I just want to talk to you about something that’s been bothering me for a really long time, and that’s patriotism. How do you call yourself a patriot when you can’t look to your left and your right and just assume that. ”

- Ryan Elliot

International Student Tour Guide influences campus



AUDRA DELANEY
Student Writer

Sanjhi Gandhi, the first ever international student tour guide, understands a lot about American culture, except why we use so much cheese.

Gandhi, who was raised in Kenya, may not understand why Americans must have more than one kind of cheese on their food, but she does understand why BGSU is a perfect place for her.

“As a tour guide we always say BGSU is the perfect size,” she said. “It’s not too big, it’s not too small, and so coming from another country, I was not overwhelmed.”

Brittany Scott, Gandhi’s boss in the tour guide office, remembers the lasting impression Gandhi made during her tour guide audition in the fall of 2014.

“When she got up in front of the room and began speaking, I felt like she was already a tour guide,” Scott said. “I wanted to hear more from her already. She was very charismatic and engaging. Her enthusiasm and smile lit up the room.”

She said watching Gandhi grow over the last few years is something she has been happy to be a part of.

“She is an extremely intelligent young woman who has completely immersed herself in the BGSU community.” Sanjhi Gandhi is involved in nine organizations and was the president of Student Neuroscience Association for two years.

Gandhi’s arrival at BGSU happened just by chance. “I have family in Cincinnati,” she said. “I got accepted to Florida, West Virginia, all of that stuff but we had no family there.”

Since Gandhi is an only child, she said her mother was worried about her going to college in another country with no family around her.

She was intrigued by the neuroscience program because of how cool it was and the opportunities it could provide her in the future and she fell in love with BGSU almost immediately.

Gandhi enjoys showing others the campus while on the clock as a tour guide, but also as an International Student Ambassador for International Student Services.

She is one of the first people new international students meet when they arrive for International Student Orientation, held each fall and spring.

Rishiraj Chatterjee, a junior business management major, met Gandhi at International Student Orientation in 2014 when they were both new international students.

Chatterjee, who is native to India, thinks the role of International Student Ambassador fits Gandhi well because of her ability to make new students feel at home.

“A lot of international students have created groups and they are trying to protest against it.”

- Sanjhi Gandhi

.....

“She represents the University’s culture and spreads the essence of BGSU wherever she goes,” Chatterjee said. “I also believe she brings a lot of diversity with herself and also introduces the others to the cultures of her homeland.”

Gandhi helps exemplify what BGSU is by always being willing to talk to international students about challenges they are facing.

Being an international student herself, she empathizes with those effected by the executive order signed by President Trump at the beginning of his presidency banning people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the U.S. for 90 days.

“A lot of international students have

created groups and they are trying to protest against it,” Gandhi said.

International Student Services staffed a table in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union immediately following the signing of the executive order to provide resources for students to understand how the order impacted them.

Being part of organizations driven by a want to help others is what Gandhi appreciates most about her roles with the Office of Admissions and International Student Services. She was unable to choose a favorite between the two of them.

“I get to influence people’s lives in both of them,” Gandhi said. ☺

“AMERICA” Must Become Great!



How can a country be great when there has been prejudice, discrimination and racism, which are the core that surround this country?

AMINA EL-AMIN
Student Writer

I am living in Trump's America.

This is not the reality we were all expecting. Trump's America is a nightmare. A nightmare for minorities and people of color, our environment and for every child going to school in inner-cities and urban neighborhoods.

When Donald Trump won the election in 2016, it was a surprise and a wake-up call. We are living in a time where all the people of this country have to come together, all brothers and sisters.

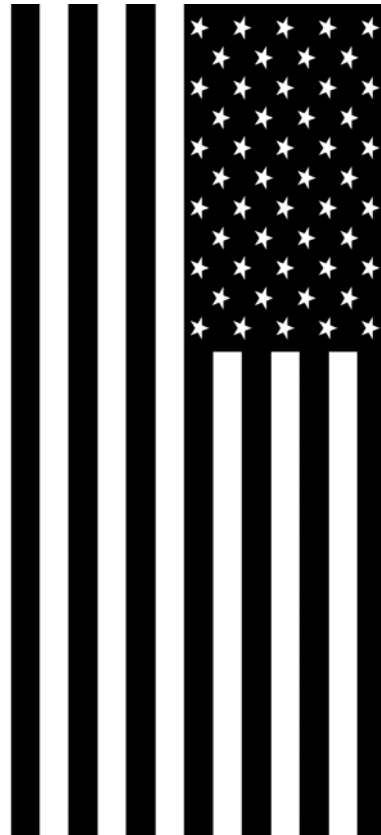
There are people who would rather have nationalities and ethnicities be at the bottom. Racism, ageism and sexism are thriving across communities in the country.

We see now, with Donald Trump as president, that people have each other's backs and not the government unless you pay them thousands, millions of dollars and have friends on Wall Street.

This election came as a shock not only in the United States, but also around the world. People are constantly wondering, "How did we let this happen?" and "What more could we have done?"

There wasn't anything that could be done.

When fear is implemented in our minds, we get ideas that we necessarily do not put in the effort to research; nor do we look for the facts ourselves. But there is an answer to, "What can we do now, in Trump's America?"



Engage. Resist. Create social movements.

When I hear, "Trump's America," I think of those who will only benefit from this presidency. The minorities in this country will have to work harder to protect themselves more than usual.

As a society, we have to remember that America was never great. How can a country be great when there has been prejudice, discrimination and racism, which are the core that surround this country? If we truly want to "make American great again," take off the "again."

"Again" is saying America was great when Black Americans had to sit in the back of the bus, drink out of certain water fountains and use separate restrooms than white people or could not go into restaurants because black people were not allowed. Even when resisting and peacefully protesting, Black Americans were still getting ridicule.

America was never great. It still isn't. We are not Living in Trump's America, we need to live in the United States of America, where all races and ethnicities are equal. Where black lives matter, Asian lives matter, Latino lives matter, LGBTQ+ lives matter and Native American lives matter.

These lives are what makes America great. 🇺🇸

“What can we do now, in Trump's America?”

- Amina El-Amin

Dylan Coale Finds Passion

Performing..... DRAG

SARA PETTY
Student Writer

The perfect hair and show stopping dress. The contour, the eye shadow, the false lashes. What may seem like all the makings of a weekend night out is preparation for just another day at the office for Dylan Coale.

Coale transforms himself into drag queen Ivory StoneHart for Tuesday night drag shows at Ziggy Zoomba's bar on East Wooster Street in Bowling Green.

Drag queens are defined as men who dress up as women for the purpose of entertainment, something Coale has now been doing for just over a year.

"It's just another way to express myself and another way to perform," Coale said. Coming from a theatre background, Coale has always loved being in the spotlight.

Performing in community theatre with 3B Productions, Waterville Playshop and Stone Productions has not only given Coale confidence performing in front of others, but has also led him to the people who helped him get started working in drag.

A good friend and theatre pal was the inspiration that made Coale finally jump in headfirst into drag.

"He is my drag mother, which basically means he was my mentor and took me under his wing when I was just getting started," Coale said.

Drag queens are defined as men who dress up as women for the purpose of entertainment.

His drag mother's stage name is Brooke Lockhart and Brooke's mother's name is Amber Stone. His stage last name, StoneHart, came from a combination of those two.

Besides the obvious physical differences, Dylan sees mostly similarities between himself and Ivory.

"We're both very extroverted and outgoing," he said. "Neither of us really cares what anybody thinks."

Dylan's good friend from high school, Julia Sharman, sees their personalities as slightly different.

"I think Ivory is just a more exaggerated version of Dylan," Sharman said. "Dylan is sassy and over the top and Ivory is just extra sassy and over the top."

Coale said he has a lot of support in his drag career from the people close to him.

"A lot of friends come and watch me perform," he said.

Sharman said she was not even surprised when Coale began performing in drag. "It didn't really surprise me when he started working in clubs and

performing regularly," Sharman said. "He's been doing his makeup and buying wigs since we were in high school and I was incredibly happy when he started doing it because it was one of his goals for a long time."

When he's not performing, Coale is a hairstylist at Rêvé Salon and Spa in Toledo. Even being sans stage makeup and dress, most coworkers know about Coale's work in drag and support him.

"I actually went to my work's holiday party in drag, so they definitely all know and are supportive," he said.

Coale is thankful for the support because he does not plan on hanging up the heels anytime soon.

"I'll definitely stick with it," Coale said. "Any excuse to perform."

Coale doesn't think that much has changed in the year he has been performing.

"Of course, the physical things like the makeup have gotten better with time," he said. "But I wasn't terribly nervous when I started. I've always had a really good stage presence and have been open to trying new things."



“ I wasn't terribly nervous when I started. I've always had a really good stage presence and have been open to trying new things. ”

- Dylan Coale

Coale has performed in bars around and outside of Bowling Green, including in Toledo and Sandusky.

"The Toledo area has a more diverse range of queens," Coale said. "But it is fun to perform anywhere. You don't need a huge gay population to have a drag show."

While a lot of physical changes have occurred for Coale over the last year, the mental changes are a little subtler.

"He has definitely become more confident and more sure of himself," Sharman said.

But Coale feels he has stayed the same.

"It may seem like a big thing, but really, it's just a job," he said. "And it's a really cool one, but at the end of the day, I'm just doing something I'm passionate about. I'm still me." 🌟

College Freshman..... STARTS OWN BUSINESS.....

KHADIRAH HOBBS
Student Writer

Entrepreneurship is a journey with mountains taller than Mt. Everest and valleys low enough to sink.

It takes a daring person to make the first step. Right on campus, there is a young entrepreneur making strides outside of the classroom named Myles Johnson.

Johnson is a freshman majoring in supply chain management here at the University. His journey started long before attending BGSU, right around the age of 14 when--with a little push from his father--he started his very own business selling cookies to fellow classmates.

From there on he was known as the "president of everything," immersing himself in his high school's community, attending all of the student organization meetings and their events as well as becoming the president of the school itself.

In a world where
positivity is often
pushed aside for its
counterpart

Johnson didn't want his busy schedule and journey to end with his high school diploma. He had intentions of continuing

The company hopes to give young men an edge of uniqueness by inspiring character and personal identity.

his cookie business until he saw a group of men in suits and wondered how he could make one of them stand out--thus, "I Am" Inspiration Tie Clips was born.

The birth of Inspiration Tie Clips happened shortly before he graduated high school and since then it has established a positive outlook. The idea behind Inspiration Tie Clips is to inspire young men to be more than the norm. Each clip is engraved with an affirmation to inspire the wearer and everyone they come in contact with. While currently offering tie clips, the company plans to expand to other men's accessories items as well as a few female products to make it more diverse and inviting.

In a world where positivity is often pushed aside for its counterpart, Myles Johnson is taking a different approach and putting it on the forefront of his company. The company hopes to give young men an edge of uniqueness by inspiring character and personal identity.

Myles Johnson isn't going to stop with Inspiration Tie Clips either; he plans to keep mentoring the youth from his hometown of Lansing, Michigan and

entering into other businesses to really prove that you don't need to entertain or be great at sports in order to be successful.

To learn more about Johnson and Inspiration Tie Clips, visit his website at: **InspirationClip.com** and follow him on:

Twitter @Mylesjohnson20



Instagram @InspirationClips.



GRAMMY WINNERS | Protest Academy Decisions, Win

DEL-MARCUS GOOLSBY
Student Writer

The 2017 Grammy's have come, passed us by and left us with yet another rich cultural debate to have pertaining to today's music. Of course, we would be referring to whether or not Beyoncé deserved to win Album of the Year instead of Adele, but why Album of the Year?

Adele swept Beyoncé in Record of the Year and Song of the Year categories as well. However, there an essential distinction between the categories and it represents the core of the argument being had and that is Adele herself.

Adele made Beyoncé a focal point in her acceptance speech for Album of the Year and it even appeared that she was willing to split the award with her after she broke her Grammy in half while she was on stage. Backstage, after accepting the award, she was quoted saying, "What the [expletive] does [Beyoncé] have to do to win Album of the Year?"

“It's always hard to create objectivity out of something that's inherently subjective”

-Neil Portnow

Adele did more than shine a light on the fact that Beyoncé didn't win Album of the Year, she spoke directly to the Recording Academy's problem with recognizing

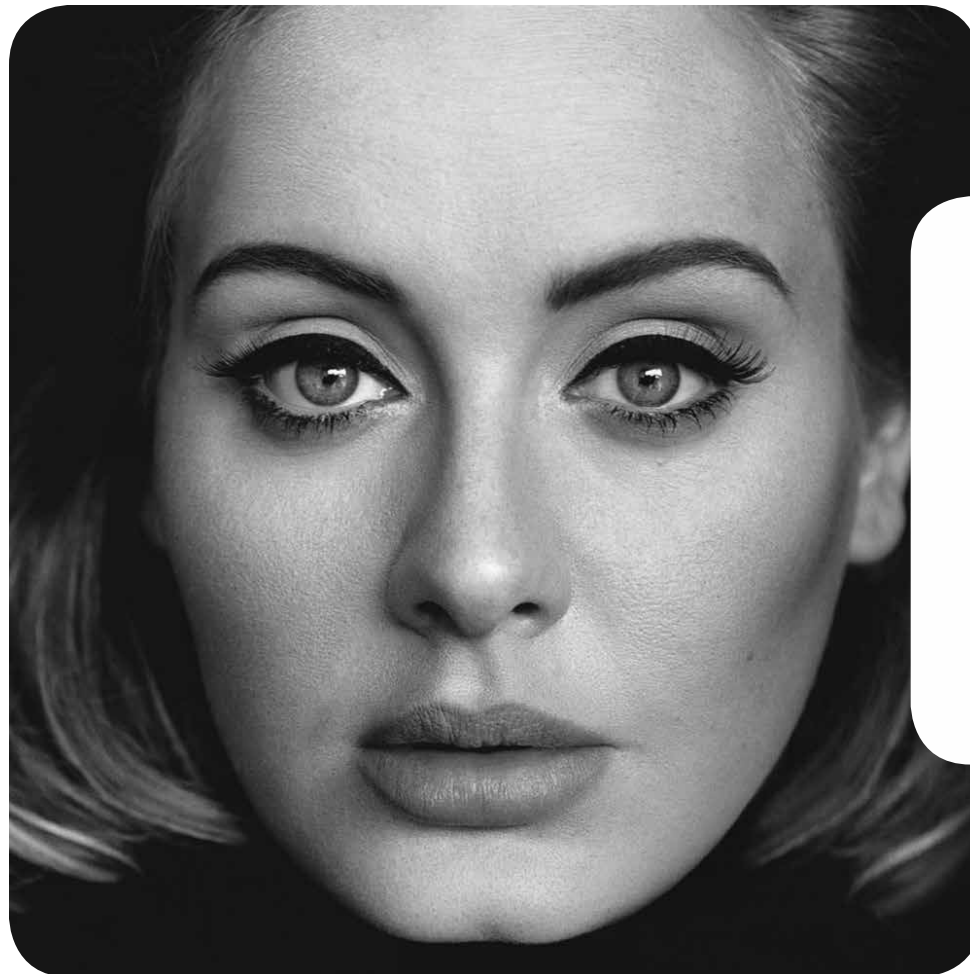
progressive music. Recording Academy president Neil Portnow said in a statement that race and diversity are not an issue when picking winners.

“Remember, this is a peer-voted award,” he said. “So when we say Grammy's, it's not corporate entity—it's 14,000 members of the academy. They have to qualify in order to be members...so they are sort of the experts and the highest

level of professionals in the industry. It's always hard to create objectivity out of something that's inherently subjective, which is what art and music are about.”

This is a stark contrast to what African-American Grammy viewers see. What people have seen is a trend that happens year after year of traditional music made by white artists trumps experimental, progressive music that is recorded by African-American artists.

Some have gone as far as to call it a conspiracy theory while others simply sigh in disappointment year after year, but with protests of the Grammy's by their own nominated artists is growing, the Recording Academy is going to have to do more than dismiss the issue of diversity in music with the hope to maintain their relevance for the years to come. 🌐



• BEING A STUDENT OF *Color* in College

LORRI TURNER
Student Writer

*They say you will be stressed and you'll be buried in work
But they don't mention you may begin to question your worth
You know you're full of knowledge and you use such big words
But in classes you're ignored; you're near invisible, and after a while it begins to hurt
You start to wonder why your knowledge isn't good enough
You know as much as the next person, yet it goes unacknowledged
If the world will always view you as invisible and uneducated
Is it even worth you being in college?*

*They say you will be tired because you'll barely sleep
But they fail to mention the exact reasons why
You see, knowing there are hate groups allowed on campus
Will make it just a little harder for you to sleep at night
The very administrators that will question the need for black orgs
Are the same ones who scream "inclusivity" to make the presence of hate groups okay
I guess our discomfort doesn't matter and they don't care if we feel safe
Do they even care if we're still alive at the end of the day?*

*They say you'll meet so many friends and it'll be so fun
But there is a major aspect they neglect to mention
Some of these new "friends" you meet will only be fun
If you only listen to their words and pay their actions no attention
You see, they'll tell you that you're important and that you really matter
But turn right around and justify the actions of your oppressors*

*An unarmed man on the news just lost his life
But they ignore they unarmed part and says things such as:
"Maybe the cop was nervous; I mean the other guy was the aggressor."
I guess the demand for respect makes us hostile and aggressive
And those qualities makes us undeserving of life
If they feel that way can the friendship even be real?
Or is it just a façade to make them believe that they are tolerant and accepting?
Something to tell themselves to help them sleep at night.*

*Don't get me wrong, it isn't all bad
I've been in college three years and I can't say it's all been sad
You see, the lack of acknowledgement taught me to demand it
Which gave me strength and confidence beyond my wildest dreams
And the lack of safety experienced by people of color
Led to the forming of bonds that taught me the true meaning of unity
And the so-called friends that were previously mentioned
Taught me to be mindful of other's intentions
And that lesson taught me to value my self-worth
And to be aware that my presence is something only select people deserve
To be in college as a person of color is to be uncomfortable and it won't always feel right
But with discomfort comes knowledge and it is in the elimination of comfort zones
That we can truly become woke and know what it means to have Black Pride.*

**Do they even care if we're still alive
at the end of the day?**

BG | Falcon Media

B O W L I N G G R E E N S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

bgfalconmedia.com | @BGFalconMedia

A collaboration of all BGSU Student Media
bringing you multimedia content including
local and campus news.

Also including content from

BG24

BG News

Key Magazine

Obsidian

BGRSO

WBGU FM

Falcon Radio

