

Forum



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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

OUR VIEW

And then there were two

AT ISSUE: After candidate's withdrawal, Gora must keep an open mind in searching for best provost

In June, Ball State University appointed Tom Taylor as its first vice president of marketing, communications and enrollment management after the other candidate dropped from the ballot.

Sunday, elimination of options in Ball State elections threatened to become a trend.

With Andrew Bodman's withdrawal from the provost search, President Jo Ann Gora is left to choose between Elliott Pood and William Swart — but Gora could be rushing to a decision, without keeping her mind open to every option.

Gora has said she will decide who is to fill the position within 10 days and is not even considering restarting the search.

Refusing to consider other candidates could turn this search into a process of elimination — a last-man-standing choice, rather than a best-man-for-the-job choice.

The Ball State chapter of the American Association of University Professors has asked that Gora either scrap the entire search and start fresh or select Pood as the provost. The professors are open to either option but hope that Gora will listen to their suggestion.

Furthermore, the association has said a search to fill an administrative position is usually more successful if it begins during September or October rather than in the Spring Semester, as this one did.

Gora, however, seems more concerned with finishing the search than assessing her options.

While Swart or Pood could very well be the perfect provost for Ball State, we urge Gora not to limit her choices or lower her standards in the interest of completing the search quickly.

If Ball State is a competitive university for which top administrators will fight to receive positions, Gora and the rest of the administration should go to whatever lengths are necessary to ensure that they're choosing from the best possible candidates.

For the integrity of Ball State University, Gora should at least consider all the options available to her.

Ball State must value finding the highest quality candidates over making timely selections, before this becomes a trend.

Tim Sukits:
OH, AND BY THE WAY ...

Students should help encourage street performance artists

Take a trip up to Wisconsin University, and you will hear live music coming from all directions. Full bands will appear out of nowhere and rock a three-song set on the sidewalk, then scamper away with snare drum, guitars and amps in hand to pick another spot to set up.

Walk down State Street, which is the equivalent of the Village on steroids, and you will hear buskers, or street performers, on every block singing their hearts out to passers-by who might not think they're any good. If you're lucky, you might even catch a show from the guy who stands on his head while playing guitar and smoking a cigarette.



Tim Sukits is a senior magazine journalism major and writes 'Oh, And By The Way ...' for the Daily News. His views do not necessarily agree with those of the newspaper.

The Ball State School of Music is a nationally ranked and highly respected school that instructs more than 500 undergraduate music majors and minors, but you would never guess it by walking down McKinley Avenue.

A musician has to have more than talent to break out a guitar and play in front of the Atrium; a musician has to have the confidence and the guts to perform where students aren't used to seeing performers.

I would like to see how critical students on this campus would be of a "bad performer" playing by the Atrium fountain. Would they get up and leave? Tell the artist to stop playing? Would they boo?

In any case, that performer probably wouldn't be compelled to play in front of the Atrium again or even worse, in front of people again. Could you imagine a whole band setting up in front of the Atrium with no prior notice? Would they even make it through the first song? If they did, would anybody clap?

Could you imagine a whole band setting up in front of the Atrium?

Ball State needs to be more supportive of public performance. There are more than 500 students on this campus who have chosen music as their desired professions, and the majority of them stay tucked away in small practice rooms and state-of-the-art recording studios, never to be seen in the public eye.

Recitals and concerts in John R. Emens Auditorium and Pruis Hall — where musicians get the chance to get up in front of a crowd and perform the one song they have been practicing for months and have played a trillion times — just don't compare to a good old fashioned jam session out on the sidewalk.

No one ever seems to have much to say about the music scene at Ball State — because there isn't much of one. And it's going to stay that way unless the university does something to encourage public performance around campus.

I'm not talking about letting bands play in the Tally at 9 p.m. on Sundays. I'm talking about bands competing for their audience on either side of McKinley Avenue at 2 p.m. on a Wednesday.

Oh, and by the way... While Cardinals can sing, badgers are better at the jazz flute.

Write to Tim at tsukits@bsu.edu



Nate Beeler is a syndicated cartoonist. His views do not necessarily agree with those of the Daily News.

Whitney Hoyt: LOST IN TRANSIT

Americans face future of living in fear

When I was younger, the Discovery Channel used to run shows called "The lives of Bees" or "Worker Ants" or even "Sharks of the Ocean." It's no coincidence that now, in a country living every day in fear, such shows have been renamed to "Angry Bees," "Killer Ants" and "When Sharks Attack."

The truth is, in a society that is as scared as we are, fear sells.



Whitney Hoyt is a junior journalism and advertising major and writes 'Lost in Transit' for the Daily News. Her views do not necessarily agree with those of the newspaper.

Filmmaker Michael Moore said it best in his movie "Bowling for Columbine" when he described America as "Living in fear." Americans' fears have been immensely taken advantage of, especially in cases of politicians gaining support and companies selling products to fearful consumers. The whole vicious cycle fuels the fires of America's fear — and the only results are anger and violence.

Author Gavin De Becker reiterated this point in his bestseller "The Gift of Fear." De Becker believes that most of America's violence can be attributed to acts made out of

fear or with the intent to scare other people. Violence is what happens when the desire to inflict pain upon someone else becomes greater than the fear of the consequences.

Such violent acts have made people afraid of being attacked — and rightfully so.

Recently in Bloomington, four young adults lured a homeless man into their car and drove a few miles to Lake Griffy. They proceeded to beat the man, punching and kicking him with the intention of bodily harm. If that isn't enough, one girl stabbed him twice, then the four assaulters left him for dead.

The man, barely alive, managed to drag his body to a boathouse phone to call 911. The doctors quickly tended to his injuries, including a collapsed lung that was a result of a stab wound.

Why would they inflict such pain and vio-

lence upon another person? De Becker suggests that acts of violence are subconscious ways of making other people frightened and, thereby, becoming more "powerful" or "frightening" people ourselves.

When questioned as to why she would commit such an act, the stabber claimed she was afraid of what would happen to her if she hadn't stabbed him. She told police that someone forced her to commit the crime. Her story, although not accepted by judges and other officials, shows how powerful a weapon fear can be.

De Becker is an expert at predicting human action and interpreting fear. To him, fear is nothing more than a defense mechanism that prevents humans from being caught in dangerous situations. He explains that people are defenseless against random, unexpected acts of violence.

"Fear," he writes, "is a set of survival signals that protect us from violence."

Why, America? Why has our society come to this? The answer is: because we've let it.

We've bought those products we've been scared into buying. We've voted for those politicians who have scared us into voting. We've even been captivated by those threatening television shows.

We've allowed corporations to capitalize on the very emotion that drives humans to behave the ways they do. And it's not just about watching scary programming. Moore compared the news in the United States to the news in other countries, and we've completely changed the way we interpret what's happening.

Has fear become our primary motivation?

It's the reason students stay in school, the reason drivers obey traffic signals, the reason we get vaccinations and the reason Americans own guns and keep their doors locked.

It seems, at this point, our only options are to change our ways and learn to live worry-free or tune into the Discovery Channel's next special report on killer squid and live the rest of our lives in fear.

Write to Whitney at wlhoyt@gmail.com

FORUM POLICY

The Daily News opinion page aims to stimulate discussion in the Ball State community. The Daily News welcomes reader viewpoints and offers four vehicles of expression for reader opinions: letters to the editor, guest columns, feedback on our Web site and phone responses. Letters must be signed and

appear as space permits each day. The limit for letter length is approximately 350 words. All letters must be typed. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

The name of the author is usually published but may be withheld for compelling reasons, such as physical harm to the author. The editor

decides this on an individual basis and must consult the writer before withholding the name.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for "Your Turn" columns at the editor's discretion. Those interested in submitting responses can submit a typed copy to the Daily News office, located in AJ 278.

Marie Zatezalo:
TRAVELING RIVERSIDE BLUES

Celebrate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Each October, I become obsessed with Halloween, raiding consignment shops and Goodwill for costume elements and accessories. But I also dust off one very special accessory that I wear for all 31 days of the month.

It's a purple ribbon, secured with a safety pin, and it shows my support of October being designated National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is broadly defined as violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend or romantic partner.

It can also involve sexual assault or rape, among other crimes.

The full range of behavior is better explained by the Web site of the National Domestic Violence Hotline: "Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.

This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone."

It may seem that this encompasses a multitude of behaviors, but remember that a healthy relationship should not include any of them.

Estimating just how widespread domestic violence is can be difficult. Statistics can easily be faked and falsified, and

many survey respondents don't wish to divulge potentially embarrassing or incendiary facts. It is generally known that domestic violence is statistically consistent across racial and ethnic boundaries, affects people of all ages and occurs with the same frequency in same-sex relationships as in opposite-sex relationships. Most sources I consulted converged around a figure of between 22 and 28 percent of all women being abused at some point in their lives.

One very important aspect of preventing domestic violence is realizing that women are not the only victims. Men can also become victims of domestic violence, and they deserve the same amount of care and aid as any other victims.

Another critical point to clear up is that the victims of domestic violence are not to blame for the abuses they suffer. Time and time again, I have heard people say, "Well, if you're being abused, why wouldn't you just leave your abuser?"

Obviously, it's not that simple, or domestic violence wouldn't have become the epidemic it is. It's not a matter of "just leaving" someone to whom one has been married for many years or with whom one has several children. In some situations, the victim is completely dependent on the perpetrator for financial support and has no means of his or her own to get out of town and start a new life.

But the main reason most victims can't "just leave" is the threat of personal injury and danger — the perpetrators might threaten to kill themselves or the victims if the victims leave. The perpetrator might also mentally abuse the victim into believing that he or she is a worthless human being, with the logic that, "I'm the only one who will ever have you."

This encourages a devastating loss of confidence and self-esteem that keeps otherwise strong individuals from doing what's best.

Domestic violence is an extremely important and complex issue that could affect up to one of every four women during their lifetimes.

Resources are available online and at the Counseling Center on the third floor of Lucina Hall. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, you should call 911 right away.

It's possible to help prevent this epidemic and make a positive difference.

Write to Marie at mmzatezalo@bsu.edu



The Daily News encourages its readers to voice their views on legislative issues. The following legislators represent the Ball State community:

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar
306 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4814

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence
U.S. 6th District
1208 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3021

Rep. R. Tiny Adams
Indiana Dist. 34
2105 N. Walnut St.
Muncie, Ind. 47303
(765) 288-7622

Sen. Allie Craycraft Jr.
Indiana District 26
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, Ind. 46204
1-800-382-9467

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
B40-2 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5623