

A Few Fun Differences Between Fungi and Plants

By Isaiah Shiley

Fungi take on many forms. The mushrooms sprouting from fallen firrs are fungi. The multicolored molds found on expired food and wet wood are fungi. Even the ground below our feet contains dense webs of white fungi. Fungi are all of these things and more. There is one thing a fungus is not though, and that is a plant.

Plants and fungi are fundamentally different, and while it is impossible to cover every distinction here, we can cover a few of the main differences. Firstly, the primary substances composing their cell walls are different. Secondly, their means of gathering nutrients are distinct. Finally, fungi play a unique role in creating a system scientists call the “Wood Wide Web.”

The first fundamental difference between fungi and plants lies in their cellular construction, specifically in the walls of their cells. Plant cell walls are primarily composed of cellulose, and this is true of all plants.

The cell walls of fungi are instead made of chitin, the hard substance found in the carapaces of crustaceans and insects. This is not the only difference between fungi and plant cells, but it is one of the key differences between their cells.

The second fundamental difference between fungi and plants is found in how they gather nutrients. Plants are considered autotrophs, or organisms that can generate their own nutrients. They can generate their own food by processing sunlight in cellular structures called chloroplasts, a process called photosynthesis.

Fungi, on the other hand, are heterotrophic, and gather food from the organic matter around them. Brian Lovett, a postdoctoral researcher focusing on fungal biology at West Virginia University, explained how fungi do this in his 2021 article titled “Three Reasons Fungi Are Not Plants.” According to Lovett, fungi secrete digestive enzymes into organic material to digest them. This explains why fungi are always found near or on organic matter, and makes their method of “eating”

more similar to humans than plants.

The third and final difference is fungi’s unique ability to create the “Wood Wide Web.” The “Wood Wide Web” is a topic worthy of its own article, but it is essentially an interconnected system of plants and fungi created by fungi.

Fungi connect themselves and other plants together through a web-like structure they create called hyphae, which then attaches to plant roots. This allows all connected plants and fungi to share nutrients, and is essential for the survival of many ecosystems.

Fungi and plants are distinct organisms with differences in their constructions and functions, but the “Wood Wide Web” highlights how they often need each other for survival.



Images courtesy of Isaiah Shiley

The Staff

The Kil is interested in hearing from readers about what we should be covering. Information about upcoming events, story ideas and letters to the editor are encouraged. Accepted submissions will be published in the next available issue. Reach out today.

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The Cultural Impact of the “Barbie” Movie: Empowering Generations of Women By Tristin Buurma

In 1959, Barbie made her debut in the world of toys, thus quickly becoming an iconic figure in the hearts of children worldwide. Over the years, she evolved from a simple doll into a symbol of empowerment, inclusion and endless possibilities. Despite the fact that Barbie has proven successful in various forms of media, the release of the “Barbie” movie has had a significant influence on both the character and her fanbase.

In the movie, Barbie is portrayed as a bold, innovative and problem-solving protagonist who meets obstacles head-on. She experiences occasional obstacles, such as her “Dreamhouse” being turned into an all-male “Mojo Dojo Casa House,” yet she learns from them. This narrative highlights the importance of needed determination and capacity to overcome challenges, offering young viewers a sense of empowerment.

The presence of unique female characters with various back-grounds, talents and abilities also supports the idea that there is not only one way to be a successful woman. According to “Variety.com,” this version of Barbie questions the assumption that young girls should follow predetermined gender stereotypes. This movie is a critique of dolls as idealized feminine images.

Heidelberg student Morgan Wright shared how the Barbie movie made quite an impression on her. She claimed the film highlighted the female experience in a way that made her feel “empowered and seen.” Wright explains that the “Barbie” movie reminded her to always be true to herself, even if society doesn’t approve.

One of the main reasons this movie had such a profound impact on so many women is due to Barbie’s intergeneration-

al reach. Barbie has been an integral part of many childhoods across generations. As a result, this fostered connections among women of all ages.

The movie’s themes sparked critical discussions regarding body image, self-esteem and societal pressures. By addressing these topics in a meaningful way, “Barbie” has contributed to the larger cultural conversations about women’s struggles within society.

The Barbie franchise has significantly advanced since its founding, transitioning from an ordinary children’s toy brand into a source of inspiration, inclusion and empowerment for generations of girls. This movie has proved Barbie is more than merely a fashion icon. As Mattel proudly proclaims, she represents the “limitless potential in every girl.”



Image courtesy of UKinUSA at flickr.com

from the current films that were being produced. Christy Lemire from The Associated Press claims “the thought that Blair Witch Project just might be real makes it much scarier than any of the teen horror flicks that have stumbled along in recent years.”

Lemire’s observation was similar to many others’. The characters using their real names and first person perspectives throughout the film causes moviegoers to feel as if they have stumbled upon footage that they themselves were not supposed to be witnessing.

As October rolls in, consider “The Blair Witch Project” for your horror option. The realism and grainy footage are sure to send chills down your spine.

Medical Cannabis Not New: Ohio’s First “Budtender” By Julia Schaefer

Tiffin residents might be surprised to learn about the connection between Tiffin and medical cannabis. Dr. Eli Dresbach, one of Tiffin’s earliest resi-dents and an obstetrician, was known to prescribe cannabis to his patients.

In a paper published after Dres-bach’s death, the chairman of Ohio State Medical Committee calls Dres-bach the “first to administer Cannabis indica to patients in this region.” As early as 1847, Dresbach used Canna-bis indica (then known commonly as Indian hemp) to treat nervous disorders, spasms and coughs.

The report, while more skeptical of cannabis’s uses than Dresbach, does note a variety of cases in which can-nabis products were deemed useful by doctors.

When Dresbach was administer-ing his treatment to patients, Cannabis indica and the popular refined extract known as “hasheesh” were unregulated nationwide. In 1937, marijuana was made illegal at the federal level.

Today, Ohioans seeking medical cannabis must acquire a license, or “Med Card,” through the state of Ohio. According to the Ohio Medical Mari-juana Control Program, patients must be recommended by a certified physi-cian, and purchase medical cannabis from a licensed retail dispensary.

The dispensary in Tiffin is Thrive, part of a chain of dispensaries that headquarters in Illinois. The General Manager of retail at Thrive Ohio, Amber Ruddick, says educating the patient is a really important part of Thrive’s mission.

“There is educational information throughout the dispensary, and ‘bud-tenders’ take their time with patients so they know what they’re consuming.” Thrive hopes to be a safe option for those seeking help in Ohio.

Qualifying conditions for a medical cannabis card include cancer, epilepsy, chronic pain, arthritis, post-traumatic stress disorder, Crohn’s disease and more. In recreationally legal states, non-prescription use has increased in popularity with older generations and those struggling with sleep.

Ohioans will vote to make canna-bis legal for adult recreational use this November. Issue 2 was put forth by the Ohio Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol. The proposed law would allow adults over 21 to buy and possess up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis.

An August article by the Associated Press states that the 10% tax on canna-

bis products is to be spent on addiction treatment programs and social equity and jobs programs. Adults would also be permitted to grow cannabis plants at home.

The most recent state to legalize recreational cannabis was Minnesota, this summer. If the issue passes, Ohio will become the 24th state to do so. Cannabis has been recreationally legal in Michigan since 2018 and in Illinois since 2020.

Thrive dispensaries are open for both medical and recreational use in Illinois. It’s unclear now if Thrive will be able to make the transition to a recreational dispensary, should the issue pass.

Rudick adds, “Every state is different, and it’s always a pro-cess. We’ve been grateful for the opportunity and it is good that there is a process in place.”

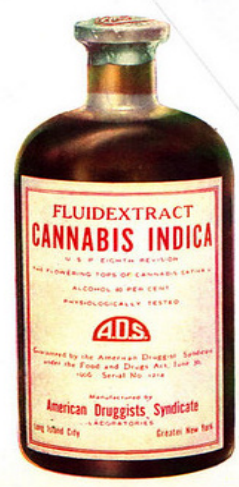


Image courtesy of Backdoor Survival at flickr.com

connecting with the right resources. Students on Heidelberg’s campus are welcome to meet with confidential resources like the Stoner counselors or the Center for Survivor Empowerment.

Using the “Heidelberg Univ Reach Out” app, found on all app store plat-forms, students can find a comprehen-sive list of other resources, like crisis lines or campus departments, available to help themselves and their peers.

At the end of the day, Sharp notes, what matters to survivors is being pres-ent. “Be there for them, accept them regardless of what is going on,” Sharp concluded. “People tend to go through rough patches and push others away, so it is important to let them know you’ll be there for them no matter what.”

Revisitng “The Blair Witch Project” By Makenna Finnegan

The year is finally free from summer’s greedy grasp and mov-ing towards the most thrilling time of the year: fall horrors. Most of the time, fall is associated with warmth in pumpkin spice lattes and leaves cascading through the air, but it also has a flipside. Horror movies are socially acceptable at this time of year.

Because there are hundreds of films in the horror genre, it’s overwhelming to decide where to begin. Should I start with the classics or the underground media? It can be hard to decide but there is one that encapsulates the chill, fear and charm of Octo-ber.

For an eerily realistic option, “The Blair Witch Project” is a fantastic go to for October. “The Blair Witch Project” is an independent film that came out in 1999 and was unorthodox in its style. At the time, slasher projects were underway and taking over the big screen. However, directors Eduardo Sánchez and Daniel Myrick had different ideas.

In the film, characters Heather Donahue, Mike Williams and Josh Leonard venture into the woods to investigate the Blair Witch. Before investigating themselves, they interview the townspeople on their camcorder, inquiring about the truth behind the legend. Despite their thorough knowledge and safety efforts, paranoia and fear begin to set into the trio’s psyche.

The realistic nature of “The Blair Witch Project” set it apart

from the current films that were being produced. Christy Lemire from The Associated Press claims “the thought that Blair Witch Project just might be real makes it much scarier than any of the teen horror flicks that have stumbled along in recent years.”

Lemire’s observation was similar to many others’. The characters using their real names and first person perspectives throughout the film causes moviegoers to feel as if they have stumbled upon footage that they them-selves were not supposed to be witnessing.

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Image courtesy of Global Panorama at flickr.com

Sexual Assault and Suicide: How to Support Survivors By Kelsey Stanfield

September is culturally known and celebrated for marking the end of a fruitful summer and a good harvest. However, it also serves as a month of recognition for one of America’s lead-ing causes of death: suicide.

According to a 2020 publication from the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH), suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death in the United States overall and the second leading cause amongst young adults. While there are many reasons one may expe-rience suicidal ideation, trauma from sexual assault puts survivors at signifi-cant risk.

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) found that 13% of all college students will experience sexual assault at some point during their

time on campus. Of those who experi-ence assault, states the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVR) in a 2018 article, one-third of them will struggle with suicidal ideation.

Experts from the NSVR believe that sexual assault causes secondary mental health illnesses, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, that leave survivors at an increased risk of suicide. To combat this, John Sharp, Assistant Counseling Director for Stoner Health and Coun-seling, recommends encouraging loved ones of survivors to look for signs, which may include the survivor dis-tancing themselves, making reckless or harmful decisions or having extreme mood changes.

If these signs are apparent, Sharp recommends aiding the survivor in

connecting with the right resources. Students on Heidelberg’s campus are welcome to meet with confidential resources like the Stoner counselors or the Center for Survivor Empowerment.

Using the “Heidelberg Univ Reach Out” app, found on all app store plat-forms, students can find a comprehen-sive list of other resources, like crisis lines or campus departments, available to help themselves and their peers.

At the end of the day, Sharp notes, what matters to survivors is being pres-ent. “Be there for them, accept them regardless of what is going on,” Sharp concluded. “People tend to go through rough patches and push others away, so it is important to let them know you’ll be there for them no matter what.”

Eventful Year for ‘Berg Lacrosse: Contrasting Jounrey’s for Men and Women By Cameron Spraggins

The past year has brought significant developments for lacrosse at Heidelberg University. Two teams have contrasting stories. On the men’s side, there’s an air of excitement as the team gears up for the upcoming season under the guidance of their new head coach, Ryan Sinnema. Sinnema, a standout lacrosse player and a 2020 Heidelberg graduate, has instilled hope in the team.

Fifth year Senior Jacob Brickman expresses his optimism, stating, “I believe Coach Sinnema has all the tools needed to take this group in the right direction. I couldn’t be more excited to get after it one last year.”

In contrast, the women’s program finds itself in a more challenging situation. In July 2022, the Heidelberg athletic department announced the pause of the Women’s Lacrosse program, leading to the absence of a women’s team last spring. For Heidelberg graduate student and former women’s lacrosse player Megan Vesely, the situation hits close to home.

Reflecting on her four years with the team, Vesely, who was a senior when the program was paused, shares her perspective, “I think it’s hardest for the seniors, including myself, simply because we did not know the last game we ever played would take place in the spring of our junior year.”

In response to the discontinuation of the women’s lacrosse program, Heidelberg graduate Katelin Romick, who created the women’s lacrosse club program, has initiated a petition on Change.org to save the Heidelberg Women’s Lacrosse program. Romick’s heartfelt plea emphasizes the profound impact the

sport had on her life, stating, “The ‘Save Heidelberg’s WLAX’ mission is so important to me because it’s where I found my purpose for lacrosse; it was an identity to me, it inspired and compelled me to seek success in the sport, my academics and other student organizations that I was involved in.”

The keynote speaker for the PALS event this month, Jenny Levy is a hall-of-fame women’s lacrosse coach. Levy, with an illustrious career at the University of North Carolina, ranks third in Division I history in career wins. Her visit to Heidelberg offers a fascinating juxtaposition with the discontinuation of the women’s lacrosse program.

Romick maintains an optimistic perspective regarding Levy’s visit, noting in the petition, “The visit of this Hall-of-Fame Coach will act as a promotional tool of intrigue. It would encourage more women to play the sport and be prospective players for Heidelberg University.” Despite the irony of Levy’s arrival amidst the discontinuation of the women’s lacrosse program, her presence on campus is indeed a welcome addition.

As the men’s team eagerly prepares to showcase the progress they’ve made in the upcoming spring season, supporters of the women’s program must patiently await Heidelberg’s decision to field a women’s lacrosse team once more. Vesely remains hopeful for the future, saying, “I hope that Heidelberg can someday bring Women’s Lacrosse back. I know that the athletic department has put its all into searching for us, and I am very grateful to know that the effort is being made to continue Heidelberg women’s lacrosse.”

Heidelberg Welcomes STUNT the Sport By Kami Stanfield

Heidelberg added STUNT as a varsity sport for this academic year. The team, led by coach Courtney Neering, is set to compete next semester with practices already underway. “Our first season will start in February and end in April and we will be playing 6 dates total which include conference games (Mid America East) with Alma College, Muskingum University, and The University of Olivet,” explained Neering.

According to stuntthesport.org, the official webpage, STUNT is one of the fastest-growing female sports in the country. STUNT was created to meet the strict Title IX requirements of a sport. The sport removes the traditional crowd-leading elements of cheerleading, focusing on the athletic components instead.

“When I heard Heidelberg was getting a STUNT team, I was extremely excited because competition cheer has always been my favorite season,” said Siera Octaviano, one of the captains of the STUNT team. “I think STUNT will help break the mentality that cheerleading is just waving your arms on the sideline and will show the athleticism that is required for the sport.”

STUNT has four quarters of play. Partner stunts make up the first quarter, followed by pyramids and tosses, jumps and tumbling in the third and the team routine in the fourth. Two teams take the floor to compete against each other during each quarter.

The organization STUNT the Sport will release routines levels 1-8 for teams to learn in the fall. Each team is expected to learn the routines that they are capable of executing. Less ex-

perienced teams may only learn up to levels 2 or 3, while more experienced teams may learn up to level 8.

Like any other sport, STUNT involves referees and coaches making calls. Each STUNT game will begin with a coin toss to determine possession. The team that executes the skills the best will win the round and have the choice of calling the next level of the routine.

Adding STUNT as a varsity sport has created opportunities for female student-athletes at Heidelberg. “STUNT The Sport is very demanding physically and mentally and is a welcomed challenge to all those willing to try it,” Neering shared. “It is also a sport where no previous experience is required as there are so many areas one can try and excel in with the right dedication.”



Image courtesy of bergathletics.com

Tiffin’s 44th Hertiage Festival a Success By Alyssa Kordish

The weekend of Sept. 16 saw another successful run of Tiffin’s annual Heritage Festival. The festival had a wide variety of events from the parade, fun activities for kids, food and live music.

The festival was split into two main areas, one called the Downtown area, located in downtown Tiffin, and the other was the Living Village, located in Rotary Park. The Downtown area housed live music at the amphitheater, a variety of food trucks and the beloved car show that takes place every year.

The Living Village was like stepping back in time. The park had many volunteers dressed in old fashioned clothing as they provided activities for kids, such as music or other performances. Toward the back of the park, there was the children’s craft area, where kids were able to make their own time period accurate crafts to take home.

According to Chad Kaiser, the vice president of the festival this year, “It really is fun to see so many families in Tiffin come together.”

This year Kaiser worked as a manager for all of the volunteers. He shared his contagious enthusiasm throughout the festival, even if trying to keep everything organized was a hassle. He was a great help throughout the day when it came

to keeping all this year’s volunteers informed. According to the Tiffin-Seneca Heritage Festival website, Chad has been volunteering for multiple years and has a lot of experience when it comes to running this event, which shows in how well it turned out.

Overall the Heritage Festival was highly successful. Between the amazing food, entertaining atmosphere and wide variety of activities, the festival is always a great experience for any age range.



Image courtesy of Alyssa Kordish

JT’s Bagels is Closing for Good By Lexi Cheek

JT’s Bagels, the well-known bagel shop in downtown Tiffin, closed its doors on Sept. 23. The owner, Tina Schank, announced on Facebook on Sept. 11 that she would be closing the restaurant due to a lack of staffing and new business opportunities. After eight and a half years of making bagels and bringing smiles to Tiffin, this chapter will come to an end.

Schank owns two food trailers and will be exploring new opportunities after closing JT’s Bagels shop. Fortunately, one of the two trailers she owns is affiliated with JT’s Bagels.

Schank mentioned in an interview that she will be making her rounds back to Tiffin to ensure that the whole town can still satisfy their bagel cravings at the place they know and love.

JT’s was named for Schank and her sisters, Jackie, Tanya, and Tina herself. The three of them worked together on the business and created a place that was loved not only by college students but also by the city of Tiffin. As they eventually pursued other ventures, Schank found herself overwhelmed with running the store on her own.

“I’m super busy with the food trucks, and I can’t be at the shop all the time,” explained Schank. This made it challenging for her to juggle her time between all three establishments. Additionally, retaining reliable employees to run the store the way she wanted it to be run has been a struggle.

Schank is saddened to see the place go, but she is ready to open new doors for herself and her new businesses. She said, “I love what I do, and life is too short to wake up and not enjoy what you’re doing.” She has a deeper passion for the mobile trucks she owns.

Students at Heidelberg were shocked by the closure. Jaws dropped as the information quickly spread around campus.

Schank expressed her gratitude for all the support received over the last eight and a half years and will miss her loyal regular customers who have been with her and her business from day one. Schank hopes that everybody remembers the great times they had at the shop.



Image courtesy of dawnfu at pixabay.com

Has JT’s Bagels’ closure left you with a hollow feeling only bagels can satisfy? If so, perhaps the classic peanut butter bagel could fill the void. Requiring only a hearty dollop of peanut butter per bagel half, this protein packed delight can be enjoyed toasted or cold, perfect for the on-the-go Student Prince.

Fall Sport Success at ‘Berg By Conor Sukel

The fall semester has started and the athletic teams have begun competition. Each team is looking to have a successful season and improve from last year’s results. During the fall semester, volleyball, football, men’s and women’s golf, soccer and cross country are all in season.

Last fall the women’s volleyball team roster was full of talent but injuries derailed their season. The early stages of this season show promise. After losing their first match, the team won 10 consecutive matches. As of Sept. 18, their record stands at 11 wins and 4 losses.

“One of the best opportunities and blessings I’ve had has been getting to be a part of the volleyball program here at Heidelberg,” claimed senior middle hitter Anamya Truex. “My team is my family and has helped to shape me into the leader I am today. I look forward to the rest of our season and getting to play next to the people I love!”

Heidelberg’s golf teams have competed in a few tournaments to kick off their seasons. Women’s golf has been led by freshman standout Lydia Dietz, who is helping the team rewrite the record books. Individuals on the men’s golf team have improved across the board from their first tournament to their second. Both teams will compete in the OAC Fall Preview, Sept. 30 through Oct. 1.

After struggling last season, the men’s soccer team won two games early in this season. Through their first seven matches, their record sits at 2 wins and 5 losses. This year’s team features a lot of new young talent.

“I feel super proud of this team because we have improved so much from last year already. I love the squad because it is full of people that will

have your back no matter what,” said Harrison Burge, midfielder for the men’s soccer team.

The women’s soccer team has competed four times so far this season. In those matches they have earned a win, loss, and two draws. The team full of upperclassmen and experienced players hopes to improve upon their 6-9-2 record from last season. All of the team’s wins last season came at home.

Football opened the season by dominating Hiram in a 68-14 blowout win. After an early bye week, football went on the road again to take on conference rival Ohio Northern. ‘Berg came out victorious again with a score of 35-14. Last year’s team was ranked within the top 25 Division III schools in the nation during the regular season.

The men’s and women’s cross country teams have competed in three races as of Sept. 18. In their first race of the year three men’s team runners finished in the top 30 of the entire race. They were led by junior Connor Ladd. For the women’s team, junior Kenzie Fountain crossed the finish line first. In their most recent race, senior Rick Cimino finished fifteenth overall, leading the men’s team, and junior Caitlyn Mauger led the women’s team.



Image courtesy of Morgan Kocher at bergathletics.com

“I feel like our cross country team is on the verge of a really good season. We have high goals and if we continue to progress and believe in them, we think we can accomplish those,” said second year runner Hudson Black.

All of the fall sports teams at Heidelberg work hard to be successful on and off the field of competition. These teams will be competing for the next couple of months. Go out and support your friends and ‘Berg sports at their home games, matches and competitions!

Interested in supporting our student athletes?

Listed below are a few upcoming opportunities to show our athletes support at home:

Football

Oct. 7 at 1:30 p.m. versus Mount Union

Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. versus Otterbein

Volleyball

Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. versus Ohio Northern

Men’s Soccer

Oct. 11 at 4 p.m. versus Ohio Northern

Women’s Soccer

Oct. 7 at 1 p.m. versus Mount Union

Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. versus Otterbein

These home sporting events are only a handful of events our student athletes will be participating in this fall. More information regarding away games and invites can be found on bergathletics.com.

Images



Top left: Ryan Sinnema, head coach of the men’s lacrosse team.

Middle left: The 2023 women’s golf team



Bottom left: The women’s cross country team at Hedges Boyer Park.

Bottom right: Heidelberg vs. John Carroll University



Top right: Volleyball sophomore Grace Dohan-yos during their match against Adrian College

Middle right: Men’s golf sophomore, Josh Ferdon, at the Lourde’s Invitational.



All images courtesy of Bergathletics.com!

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