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The BG News January 12, 2005

Bowling Green State University

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BIG NIGHT: Both men's and women's basketball have a key MAC matchup against Eastern Michigan; **PAGE 10**

BIG NEWS

Bowling Green State University

NEWS

A daily independent student press

WEDNESDAY

January 12, 2005

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RAIN/THUNDER
HIGH: 52 | LOW: 48

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Carrie Whitaker BG News

A NEW HOME: After the closing of Carnation Cafe, Dining Services has moved all the specialty drink equipment to The Underground, a new shop next to the Founder's Dining Hall, offering Grounds for Thought coffee. Above, Manager Flo Kleppenstein prepares a drink. Gail Finan, director of Dining Services, said Starbucks will open in March and in a few weeks Grounds to Go will open in Chilly's Express.

Coffee finds new home

By Carrie Whitaker
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Starbucks opening expected in March, Grounds for Thought coffee keeps place on campus.

Carnation Cafe is now a memory for many, replaced in the Union by plywood and a sign proclaiming that Starbucks will be here soon.

But the goal for Gail Finan, director of Dining Services at the University, was not to take away coffee options while students wait for Starbucks to open or to butt out local coffee supplier Grounds for Thought.

Instead, the staff of Dining Services wanted to offer options.

This was the inspiration for creating The Underground, a coffee and snack shop that can create cappuccinos, lattes and espressos — just like Carnation Cafe.

The Underground is located in the basement of Founders Residence Hall taking the place of Keeper's Snack Shop.

Kelly Wicks, owner of Grounds for Thought, said he is happy with the creation of The Underground because it is a way for their coffee to stay on campus.

Grounds for Thought has been sold at the University since 1991, when the coffee was sold in the old Union. Today, Grounds for Thought coffee is sold in the Falcon's Nest, in the McDonald Dining Hall and athletic events.

"We knew several years ago that there was an interest to develop an identity."

KELLY WICKS, OWNER

"We knew several years ago that there was an interest to develop an identity in the Union for nationally branded products, so at that point we worked to strengthen our relationship with Dining Services to make sure that we offer the students a choice," Wicks said.

Another individual who is content with the decision to open The Underground is Daria

STARBUCKS, PAGE 2

FBI looks into laser targeting incidents

By Leslie Miller
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The FBI is investigating several more reports of lasers being beamed into aircraft cockpits following a rash of similar incidents at the end of 2004.

The most recent sightings of lasers, which can temporarily blind pilots, come as Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta planned to brief reporters today about the issue at the Federal Aviation Administration's aeronautical research center in Oklahoma City.

Mineta is expected to announce new measures for alerting pilots and preparing

them to react when lasers are shined at their aircraft. He is also expected to outline ways to notify law enforcement investigators more quickly.

Cathy Viray, spokeswoman for the FBI in Los Angeles, said the bureau is looking into a report that a green light was beamed onto the nose of an aircraft last week as it was taking off from the Burbank airport.

"It's happening all over the place," Viray said yesterday.

Beginning on Christmas night, there were reports from all over the country of lasers pointed at aircraft cockpits: in Cleveland, Houston, Colorado Springs, Colo., Medford, Ore., and Nashville, Tenn. Many of

the reports described a green beam.

A New Jersey man was arrested and charged last week under the Patriot Act for aiming a green laser at a small jet flying over his home near Teterboro Airport.

The man, David Banach of Parsippany, said he had been using the device to point at the stars from his back yard.

The laser pointer, which sells for \$119, is the most powerful that can be used in a public place without government regulation, according to Bigha, the company that manufactures it. It produces a bright green beam that can be seen up to 25,000 feet

LASERS, PAGE 2



Ashley Kuntz BG News

PIPE DOWN: Workers try to fix the water main break that occurred at 2 a.m. yesterday morning. Water was restored to campus buildings in the late afternoon.

New prescription program to help nation's uninsured

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Millions of uninsured Americans could save money on prescriptions under a discount program that 10 major drug makers unveiled yesterday.

The Together Rx Access Card program allows those who meet income and age requirements to save 25 percent to 40 percent — and sometimes more — on more than 275 brand-name prescription drugs and a host of generic drugs.

The program is the latest in a

trend by drug manufacturers to offer their own discount cards to those without health care coverage who struggle to pay skyrocketing drug prices.

"It's free to get, it's free to use and the savings are real," said Roba Whitely, executive director of Together Rx Access.

Consumer groups have called similar discount cards a way for drug companies, rather than the government, to control who saves money and how much is saved. The cards offer some savings from already high prices

while attracting new customers for the companies' products.

"I think what these drug companies are doing is very commendable and it will be of benefit to people who are uninsured," said Ron Pollack, executive director of the health care reform group FamiliesUSA.

"Of course, it's nowhere near being an adequate substitute for our nation making a real commitment to expanding coverage for the 45 million who don't have

INSURANCE, PAGE 2

Water main collapse causes large inconvenience for most of campus

For nearly 14 1/2 hours yesterday, several residence halls and academic buildings were without water, causing students and faculty to find bathing and drinking facilities elsewhere.

According to Teri Sharp, director of Marketing and Communications, the water main broke after a support bracket failed.

Throughout the day, Rodgers and Kohl Hall residents were advised to shower in nearby buildings — there were no documented complaints about the lack of water. Moreover, the

Student Health Center's clinic remained closed during the outage while the pharmacy stayed open. Additionally, all emergencies were being sent to Wood County Hospital.

The Student Recreation Center was also affected by the water main break, though assistant director Brady Gaskins said that he had not seen a decrease in patronage as a result of the lack of water.

The water main had been repaired as of 4 p.m. yesterday, though the water was not fully restored until 4:45 p.m.

Members of Industrial Power Systems worked diligently to fix the water main "ahead of schedule" according to one of the workers.

Despite the main break's timing at about 2 a.m., some sources reported water pressure outages as early as 10 p.m. Monday night.

Jim Zentmeyer of the office of Capital Planning urged campus residents to make sure they close windows over the weekend. Cold weather, he said, could cause problems by freezing pipes.

FOUR-DAY FORECAST

The four-day forecast is taken from weather.com

THUR
 Rain Showers High: 50° Low: 14°

FRI
 Snow Showers High: 23° Low: 10°

SAT
 Snow Showers High: 21° Low: 11°

SUN
 Snow Showers High: 22° Low: 10°

FOR ALL THE NEWS VISIT WWW.BGNEWS.COM

Discount cards to reduce drug costs for Americans

INSURANCE, FROM PAGE 1

coverage today."

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson praised the program as "a commonsense, pragmatic way to give the uninsured access to prescription medicines" and said it may stem the tide of those looking to Canada for affordable prescriptions.

"I'm sure there are some cynics out there who will say 'It's not enough,' but it's a wonderful program," Thompson said at a news conference.

To qualify for the card, applicants must be under 65, not eligible for Medicare and have no other private or public drug coverage. They also must have incomes no higher than \$30,000 for a single person, \$40,000 for couples and \$60,000 for a family of four.

Whitely said the benefits could cover 80 percent of the 45 million Americans who are uninsured and don't carry prescription drug coverage. That number has grown from 40 million just four years ago.

Many of the most popular drugs are included in the pro-

gram. Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, for example, is discounting some of its best-selling drugs, including Lipitor, Zolof and Celebrex. But card holders won't know the exact discount they get until they check at their local pharmacies.

Discounts will vary based on the pharmacy a cardholder uses, said Patrick Kelly, president of Pfizer's U.S. pharmaceutical business. Pharmacies that cooperate with the program are also offering their own discounts for each drug and will add both reductions to reach a final savings amount.

Kelly also downplayed any effect the program might have on his company's earnings. "To us, I think, this is a net wash," he said.

The new cards join an ever-growing muddle of drug discount programs for the poor and elderly. Seven of the 10 companies also joined in 2003 to offer a discount card for low-income seniors, the Together Rx card, which has enrolled nearly 1.5 million cardholders. Since last year, Pfizer has offered its own Pfizer Friends discount card, offering savings of 37 percent to 50 percent on its products.

Some pharmacists say they are overburdened running price checks for customers to see which card offers the best discount, said Ernest Boyd, executive director of the Ohio Pharmacists Association in Dublin, Ohio.

"Sometimes patients will walk into the pharmacy, it's like they have a deck of cards," Boyd said. "They'll say they just want prices on each of the drugs and ask which card is cheapest for each."

Busy pharmacies are beginning to limit customers to two requests for the best price per drug, he said.

Those who qualify for the new program can enroll by visiting the Web site, www.TogetherRxAccess.com, or by calling 1-800-444-4106. The card will be effective by mid-February.

Companies participating in the program include Abbott; AstraZeneca; Bristol-Myers Squibb; GlaxoSmithKline; Janssen Pharmaceutica and Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies; Novartis; Pfizer; Sanofi-Aventis Group; Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.; and TAP Pharmaceutical Products, Inc.

Speaker to shed light on current issues of obesity

THE BG NEWS

The first in a series of lectures sponsored by the President will deal with issues of nutrition and health in the 21st Century. Steven Blair, Adjunct Professor in Schools of Public Health from the University of South Carolina, Health Center and the College of Education at the University of Houston will speak today in room 206 in the Student Union. The lecture series, designed with issues of health and nutrition in mind,

is key for students returning from break and needing help keeping their new year's resolutions.

Dr. Fiona MacKinnon Associate Dean of the College of Education hopes Dr. Blair will motivate students to start thinking about health and nutrition and change eating habits.

She reiterates exercise is a good stress reliever. MacKinnon also hopes students will develop strong

values and implement them into society by being healthy interns, student teachers, and educators.

Blair is the president and CEO of the Cooper Institute in Dallas.

He will be discussing the shift in thinking that will need to happen to bring change in an obese population.

The lecture series is titled "Major Health Problems of the 21st Century," and starts at 4:00pm.

U. tries to meet students' wants with Starbucks

STARBUCKS, FROM PAGE 1

Blachowski-Dreyer, general manager of Founders' Dining Hall.

"We actually wanted it back, because when the Union was closed we housed all the coffee equipment here," Blachowski-Dreyer said. "Then when Starbucks came along they said, 'we need someplace for [the equipment] to go,' and we raised our hands first."

Selling specialty coffee had been a successful concept when housed in Founders, she said and she predicts it will again.

"It doesn't hurt that we are centered around several administration buildings," Blachowski-Dreyer said. "It is good for the faculty and staff to have someplace different to go."

Students with Flexfunds will also benefit from this change giving them a place to spend their food plans on specialty drinks outside of the Union.

"For breakfast this is one-stop shopping," Blachowski-Dreyer said. "We serve hot break-

fast, we have a la carte things, yogurt, cereal bars, doughnuts and pastries."

The Underground also extended the former shop's hours and is open 7-10 a.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on weekends.

It is Dining Services' hope to have Starbucks open later this semester, Finan said. Although its opening had initially been much earlier.

"It is under construction now," Finan said. "We plan to open in March, but we had hoped to open by fall break. So we are not holding our breath."

In a few weeks another location will open up for coffee drinkers, carrying Grounds for Thoughts specialty drinks. The store called Grounds to Go will be located in Chili's where the Neighborhood Deli was last semester.

The Neighborhood Deli has been moved to one of the lines in Common's Dining Center, uncluttering Chili's during busy business hours.

Wicks said he is equally excited about this second store opening and praises

Dining Services for recognizing student's needs. He said he understands the desire for national brands, but is happy Dining Services will keep their local ties.

A campus survey administered by Dining Services a few years ago found that many students wanted a Starbucks on campus. Wicks said that although many argue against national chains, he thinks Dining Services has done the right thing.

"A survey was done that showed students wanted a Starbucks," Wicks said. "If there is any resentment towards the national player it certainly shouldn't be focused at Dining Services. The hard work by Dining Services is why we are still here."

This, said Finan, was the goal.

"Starbucks is a branded, nationally known concept. Grounds for Thought is a business that is supporting the community," she said. "So I think we are offering faculty, staff and students a few alternatives."

Aircraft pilots report laser incidents to FBI

LASERS, FROM PAGE 1

away, and is used by bird watchers, astronomers and lecturers to point out faraway objects.

At least four more incidents have been reported in recent weeks, according to the FBI.

This past weekend, two pilots near Dulles International Airport outside Washington reported lasers beamed at them, according to FBI spokeswoman Debra Weierman.

The first incident occurred Saturday and involved the Fairfax County Police Department's helicopter; the other happened Sunday to a U.S. Airways Express flight.

Weierman said the bureau was

investigating. There have been no arrests and neither pilot was affected by the laser light, she said.

In Boise, Idaho, a pilot told the FBI that someone was possibly using a red laser on a small plane shortly after takeoff Friday evening, according to Dominic Venturi, the FBI supervisor.

"It did not injure the pilot or any of the passengers on board," Venturi said, adding the FBI believes it has identified the person responsible.

"We feel confident it is not related to terrorism," Venturi said.

In California, a pilot told law enforcement officials that a green light appeared on the nose of

his aircraft as it was taking off from the Burbank—Glendale—Pasadena Airport on Jan. 5 around 5:45 p.m., the FBI's Viray said.

"To our knowledge there was no danger to the aircraft," Viray said.

The FBI and Homeland Security Department sent a memo to law enforcement agencies in November saying they had evidence terrorists have explored using lasers as weapons. They have not linked the recent laser incidents to terrorism.

An FAA report released in June found that even the lowest-intensity lasers temporarily impaired the vision of most of 34 pilots who were studied in a flight simulator.

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STUDENTS DISCUSS BOOK-BUYING METHODS

According to the Student Monitor, a nationally syndicated market research study of the college student market, 67 percent of students say, "Instead of paying money for a new bundled version, I am more likely to buy a used copy of the book alone." For this survey 1,200 full-time undergraduates at four-year colleges and universities were interviewed.

www.bgnews.com/campus

CAMPUS

Popularity of business school increases with cash

By Justin Pope
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venture capital is agony and ecstasy, bust and boom, the stress of gambling and the thrill of a front-row view on the latest technologies. And when real money is involved, it's also one of the hottest classes on business school campuses.

In an effort to elevate their teaching beyond the usual case studies and guest speakers, a handful of schools are raising significant amounts of money to turn over to students who invest in real startups. The hope is to better train both aspiring venture capitalists and aspiring entrepreneurs, who will need to know what it takes to catch an investor's eye.

And while it hasn't happened yet, if a student venture fund happens to back the next Google and fills its university's coffers, so much the better.

"I went around to different VC firms in the (Salt Lake) valley and said I'd sweep their floors for them if they wanted. Then I saw this opportunity," said Mark Campbell, a University of Utah student involved with the University Venture Fund there. "It just kills what the classroom has to offer."

Utah is one of at least three business schools where students essentially run venture capital funds, along with the University of Michigan and Cornell University. Others, including the University of Maryland, sponsor venture funds that involve students to varying degrees in evaluating investment prospects. Several considering starting student-run funds plan to attend a conference in Utah next month.

It's nothing new for students to play with real money. Dozens of schools let students advise and manage equity funds to learn about stock picking, and many run business plan competitions or "incubators" that fund student startups.

The schools say having students really get their hands dirty in the VC world is a challenge of a different order.

"Unless they're really putting hard dollars into it, they say, 'Oh, it's probably OK,'" said Timothy Faley, managing director of the Samuel Zell & Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies, which oversees Michigan's fund. "The difference between, 'It's probably OK' and them staking their name on this deal is pretty significant."

Faley says the arrangement is also good for the companies. If they get turned down for funding they get better feedback than many professionals would bother to offer. And if they do get money, the businesses might also get continued help from students who advise them, and who may even come aboard for internships or full-time jobs.

Most grants run five or six digits, and are a small part of a funding package with other VC firms.

Utah's fund, which was founded in 2001 and plans to announce next month it has raised \$5

million, has backed one company with a \$100,000 investment, and plans to announce another deal soon. Cornell's BR (Big Red) Ventures Fund, which has raised \$500,000, has backed four businesses.

Michigan's \$3.5 million Wolverine Venture Fund recently saw one of its portfolio companies go public; Faley says profits from the stock sale mean the fund is earning a slight positive return for the university's endowment.

In some cases, like Michigan's, the fund is supported by donations and is essentially a sliver of the university's endowment that is farmed off to the students to manage. At Maryland, the university is one of many investors.

At Utah, the money comes entirely from outsiders, including individuals and large investment firms.

For students, the programs demand long hours outside of class and typically little course credit, but they are very popular: 60 to 100 students apply for eight slots each year at Michigan, while Utah selects five to 10 from 100 applicants. In some cases, engineers, lawyers and biologists participate, contributing their expertise. Utah accepts some undergraduates and students from other colleges.

The popularity stems in part from the desirability of jobs in venture capital, a tough field to break into.

"Apprenticeship is still the career path of venture capital," said Michael Grenier, a second-year Maryland MBA student from Columbia Falls, Mont. "I passed up going to some of the other top schools to have a chance to come here and participate in this program."

The programs also show students who want to start companies how to view their business through the eyes of a venture capitalist. About two-thirds in Michigan's program are "entrepreneur wannabes" rather than "VC wannabes," Michigan's Faley said.

Some academics are skeptical of the program's value. Michael Morris, a professor at Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management, says his school has avoided a true student-run fund, partly because it would demand full-time professional guidance and partly because of potential conflicts.

"If it's a campus based venture fund, you've got other objectives, other than the pure financial objectives," he said. "You've got learning objectives."

Maryland Professor Mark Grovic, who advises the \$20 million New Markets Growth Fund, says learning and earning go together.

"The more successful we are from a financial or community development perspective, the better it's going to be for the experience of the students," he said.

GOT BOOKS?



Jenn Paaf, BG News

BOOKSTORE BLUES: Students wait in long lines to buy their books at the University Bookstore. This is an all too familiar scene to them on the first week of classes.

get a life

The calendar of events is taken from <http://events.bgsu.edu/>

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Design Migrations Art Exhibition
Curated by BGSU UniGraphics director, designer, and instructor Paul Obringer, this exhibition will highlight current work by former student interns who are now establishing their own identity in the world of design.
Fine Arts Center - Willard Wankelman Gallery

4 p.m.

President's Lecture Series 2005
Advocates for change in the 21st century: Issues of Body, Mind & Spirit
Dr. Steven Blair president and CEO of Cooper Institute in Dallas
Discussion emphasizes the shift in thinking that needs to happen to alter trends in an

increasingly obese population
206 Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater

8 to 9:30 p.m.

Campus Worship
Sponsored by Active Christians Today
Prout Chapel

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Are you bored?
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Then this is a casting call to you to become more involved and join the campus fun. There will be over 100 organizations to check out.

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401 Bowen-Thompson Student Union
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He said... She said...
You're fired... You're the sole survivor...
Dad needs hitched...
Cheater... Accept this rose... Big brother

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January 20th, 10-2
LENHART GRAND BALLROOM 202A Bowen-Thompson Student Union
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IRAQ ELECTION, FROM PAGE 4

a region that locals already call Kurdistan. The Kurds have their own disciplined, 80,000-member military, the Peshmerga. Should the Sunni and Shiite Arabs begin tearing themselves apart in southern and central Iraq, the Kurds could take the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, then formally secede.

So a great deal rests on the election at the end of the month. The Bush administration has rejected postponing the election, probably because it realizes there is no real way to make the country any safer without bringing in another 100,000 or so American troops.

However, if the election makes things worse, our troops could be stuck in the crossfire between warring factions. Given the situation, it is due time for a well defined — and realistic — definition of what exactly "winning" is in Iraq. And, as horrible as it sounds, let's hope Pentagon planners are working on some sort of exit strategy should we fail to reach that goal.

NEW GOVERNMENT, FROM PAGE 4

broke, perhaps these words define Gonzales' outrage and disgust.

Why, this memo is so amazing, it inspired one critic (Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina) to remark, "When you start looking at torture statutes and you look at ways around the spirit of the law, you're losing the moral high ground. I do believe that we've lost our way." Remember kids, he's going to be our "top cop."

All in all, this stands to be one exciting political season. The lone dud is the return of Press Secretary Scott McClellan.

He's so inept, his reaction to the presidential Guard service story was more flawed than CBS News'.

Oh, well. I guess they can't all be gems.

Academic choices should not be major problems

MATTHEW LEE

U-Wire Columnist
Daily Trojan
University of Southern California

Welcome back from the much-needed winter holiday. If you're reading this, you have surprisingly managed to survive the fiery gauntlet of first semester — either that or you're desperately in need of some help for this semester. Well, look no further, for I, your friendly neighborhood procrastinator-in-reform, am here to make sure you will do well and get what you paid for.

I'm sure that by now, many of you have already chosen a major and are undergoing freshman year crises because of it. Others are frantic about minors and the classes you will need for your special programs.

Or, if you're like me, you might be worrying about how you're going to graduate in four years with a (not recommended) combination of majors in aerospace engineering and theatre, minors in biotechnology and business, a pre-med emphasis and participation in the honors in Multimedia Scholarship program.

The most important piece of advice that I can give follows this sentence, so please make a note of it and repeat it to yourself as often as you need to make decisions regarding choosing a major in college. Are you ready? The golden rule of surviving college: Don't panic.

It's easier said than done, but it's possible, and if you can keep a level head on your shoulders, you'll have a much easier time getting through your crises. If there's anyone who knows the truth behind this statement,

it is me. Remember that old saying that "no matter how bad your situation is, there's somebody who is worse off?" That would be me. If you think 18 units and Writing 140 is bad, try 20 units during your first semester of freshman year, plus worrying about getting articles in for three publications and actually having a social life.

So, returning to the topic of majors, yes, there may well be some students who arrive on campus and know what they want to major in and what they want to do with it, but if you don't, it's all right. There is no need to rush into the decision during your first year (although engineering and architecture usually take four years). Most students change their major at least once, so it's OK if you made a mistake with your major — don't be pressured into remaining in a track you cannot deal with.

If most or all of the courses required for a major look cool, then go ahead and take it (unless, of course, you're like me, in which case, it is good to have a few friends give you a reality check). If you feel that you can handle a double major and the extra courses (which include the pressures of extra units, lack of time, more work, etc.) it requires — and you can fit all your requirements in before you graduate in however many years you want — then go for that, too. But if it looks like it's going to be a tight squeeze, or you're afraid of burning out or sacrificing too many non-major classes, don't bother.

The great military strategist Sun Tzu once wrote "Know yourself, know your enemy. Fight a hundred battles, win a hundred battles." In the same way, before you choose a major, know yourself. Follow

your interests, not your concern about job prospects, because the truth is that many people go into professions that have nothing to do with their majors. Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, was a music major, of all things. Mick Jagger majored in economics. The lesson here is that you have more options than you think. Do what you're passionate about, not on the assumption that it's the only fast track to your lucrative dream job. If you choose a major just for a job, you might hate that major, do badly in it and subsequently rule out a career you might have been great at.

Don't spend all your energy deciding on a major. After all, there's still the little matter of actually surviving your next few years here at USC. For that, a few tips: Don't overburden yourself with classes, have enough time for yourself and get some sleep. I am perhaps not the best example of this, but even I have survived to write this article, though how long I will remain living, I can't say.

Now it's time for one of those periodic reality checks you'll need to make every once in a while, when you need to honestly evaluate your options. If you're a pre-med student, how are you doing in your science classes? Have you discovered a strong interest in the arts? Are you overloaded with units, and burning out too quickly? Is your bank account hemorrhaging from the strain you've put on it?

These answers might help you choose your path, but remember that for most students, picking a college major is not the same as picking a career. In the end, it will be up to you to decide what to do with your life.

Let's get rid of textbooks forever

JASON ROBERTS

Guest Columnist
Daily O'Collegian
Oklahoma State University

It's textbook buying time once again, and I'm sure more than a few people are as amazed at how much the dang things cost. Even though it's always like this, year after year, that number you never thought could fit on a cash register always takes me by surprise.

Everyone has these woes, but there's nothing we can do about it. We're required to have these trekkers, so we can be charged as much as publishers want.

Many books aren't even used, and I'm not just talking about people who never show up to class. One year, my whole class bought a "required" book, only to find out halfway through the year that the professor didn't even know the book existed.

It sucks, but there's nothing we can do about it. Or is there?

Giant tomes of indecipherable text are a thing of the past. I suggest we scrap the whole thing and adopt a new, technologically advanced system: The eBook.

The way it would work is pretty simple. Everyone at the university would be required to buy an eBook reader, basically an inexpensive handheld computer. You can get one for under \$200, well under the average cost of a single semester's texts. And if you have a personal digital assistant to begin with, you're already set.

When it comes time to buy your books, just download them from the Internet at a fraction of the cost of a book. I'd be willing to bet you could do this for under \$100.

Now there's no lugging heavy books to class every day! Simply put your reader in your pocket and you're off! Now sure, it might take some getting used to

— reading on the small screen and everything — but the money saved and other benefits will make up for it.

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WORLD

SEPT. 11 PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED

The last four Britons held at Guantanamo Bay and an Australian will be released within weeks after months of appeals to the United States, the three said yesterday. They were among 550 prisoners from 42 countries being held at the U.S. naval base in Cuba after being detained during the Afghanistan war.

Israel and Palestine come closer to peace

By Ramit Plushnick-Mastik
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Mahmoud Abbas yesterday to congratulate him for winning the Palestinian presidential elections, the latest sign the two sides are eager to restart peace efforts after years of stalemate.

Since Abbas' landslide victory Sunday, Israel and the Palestinians have signaled their readiness to return to the negotiating table. The election and the formation of a new Israeli government that includes the dovish Labor Party have raised hopes around the world that talks might soon resume.

Yesterday's phone call, confirmed by Israeli and Palestinian officials, was the first direct contact between the two leaders since the election.

Sharon "congratulated him on his personal achievement and his victory in the elections and wished him luck," said a statement issued by the prime minister's office. "They agreed they would continue talking in the near future."

Earlier yesterday, Sharon told his new Cabinet he hoped to meet Abbas in the "near future." He told the ministers the meeting would focus on security issues, especially efforts to "halt terrorism," according to participants.

Abbas is widely considered more moderate than his predecessor, Yasser Arafat, who died Nov. 11. Israel refused to negotiate with Arafat, accusing him of encouraging violence

during the past four years of fighting between the two sides.

The last meeting between Israeli and Palestinian premiers was in August 2003, when Sharon met Abbas during his brief term as Palestinian prime minister.

Fresh from his victory, Abbas expressed hope late Monday that the sides will be able to return to the negotiating table.

"We extend our hands to our neighbors," Abbas said. "We are ready for peace, peace based on justice. We hope that their response will be positive."

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said plans for the meeting were still in an early stage.

"When the right time comes, we will go for a well-prepared meeting. We will not go just for a meeting, but for a useful one," he said.

In another development,

Palestinian National Security Adviser Jibril Rajoub resigned yesterday. In a statement, he said he was giving a chance to Abbas to appoint his own adviser, leaving open the possibility he would return to the post.

Rajoub, one of the most powerful figures in the West Bank, was Arafat's security adviser for the last year of his reign.

After shunning Arafat for the last four years, Israeli officials have said they are eager to get to work with Abbas.

A senior Israeli Defense Ministry official said yesterday that Israel was ready to hand over security duties in West Bank cities to the Palestinians.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said discussions with the Palestinians on the issue likely would begin within days.

Israel has had security control

over all West Bank cities since launching a large offensive in April 2002 in response to a suicide bombing that killed 29 people in the coastal city of Netanya. But it eased its military presence ahead of Sunday's election, raising the possibility of a more permanent pullback.

Israel has said progress in peacemaking will be linked to Abbas' ability to take on Palestinian militants.

The Hamas and Islamic Jihad militant groups have said they are ready to work with Abbas, but so far they have resisted his calls for a cease-fire.

Hamas militants fired several barrages of mortar rounds and homemade rockets at Israeli towns and Jewish settlements in Gaza yesterday. No one was wounded, but several buildings were damaged.

An Israeli wounded Jan. 2 in a Palestinian rocket attack on the Erez crossing died of his injuries yesterday.

Abbas has criticized militant attacks as damaging to the Palestinian cause. But he is reluctant to openly confront the militants, hoping instead to persuade them to accept a cease-fire.

Sharon could face difficulties holding together his fragile coalition long enough to implement his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements by year's end.

Sharon formed the coalition with the dovish Labor Party late Monday after narrowly winning a 58-56 vote in parliament.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told the Cabinet yesterday that he expects the pullout, initially envisioned as a unilateral initiative, to be coordinated with the new Palestinian leadership. The pullout is scheduled to begin in July.

The Defense Ministry has



Alexander Zemlianichenko AP Photo
SHOWING THANKS: Interim Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas greets his supporters while visiting Al-Najah University, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2005.

asked Attorney General Meni Mazuz to review the legal implications of a plan to build a trench along a key patrol road on the Israel-Gaza border.

Defense officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said digging the trench would require demolishing as many as 3,000 Palestinian homes in the border town of Rafah.

Military planners say the trench is the best way to prevent weapons smugglers from digging tunnels under the border. Militants have used

tunnels to plant explosives under Israeli military installations.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat condemned the idea, calling it "a catastrophe and a disaster for the Palestinian people."

The Israeli army has demolished hundreds of homes in Gaza in the past four years, saying the structures are used for cover by militants.

The Palestinians and human rights groups have condemned the practice, which has left thousands of Palestinians homeless.

PROFILE Abbas known as a pragmatist

Mahmoud Abbas, the man who exit polls said overwhelmingly won Sunday's Palestinian presidential election, is well liked at home and stands in sharp contrast to Arafat's theatrics.

Birth — Born in 1935 in Safed, now in Israel; family later fled to Syria.
Political career — Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization; former Prime Minister; second-ranking PLO leader to Arafat and helped found the organization; led Palestinian negotiators in peace talks in 1990s; helped found Arafat's Fatah party in 1965.

Family — Married, has two sons.



Sunday's elections were the first presidential vote in nine years.

Abbas

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GLOBAL TSUNAMI HELP EFFORTS CONTINUE

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota Grain Growers is asking farmers to donate the gross revenue from one acre of wheat or barley to tsunami relief efforts. "We've had disasters in North Dakota, and the rest of the country has stepped up for us," President Greg Daws said Monday in Bismarck.

www.bgnews.com/nation

NATION

Muddy strife continues in California

By Chris Nguyen
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Scattered rain showers lashed waterlogged Southern California again yesterday, hampering efforts to find survivors buried by a mud slide in a coastal community and prompting hundreds to flee a mountain town below a rain-swollen reservoir and along rising streams.

The succession of storms that have brought heavy snow to the mountains of Northern California and astonishing amounts of rain in the south was blamed for the deaths of at least 19 people.

The National Weather Service said yesterday that downtown Los Angeles had recorded its wettest 15 consecutive days on record, with a total of 17 inches of rain falling in the period ending Monday.

The storm was forecast to taper off late Tuesday or early Wednesday and no new system is expected through the coming Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. More snow fell in the Sierra Nevada, but the mountains were expected to get a break in the weather this weekend with rising temperatures.

In La Conchita, a small community on a spit of land between the hills south of Santa Barbara and the Pacific Ocean, a

massive mudslide Monday killed four people, injured 14 and left up to 27 unaccounted-for.

Some of the missing may have been out of town, but firefighters were certain at least some were trapped in the 15 homes that were crushed under a pile of mud 30 feet high, said Keith Mashburn, the Ventura County Fire Department's chief investigator.

Rescuers using hand tools resumed their search before daybreak Tuesday when they detected what appeared to be slight movement in the mud and debris. Fire officials advised them to "look for small hands and small fingers" because three children were among the missing, said department spokesman Joe Luna.

Joining the search was Jimmie Wallet, who said he had left his wife and three daughters to buy ice cream and was leaving the store when he saw the river of earth curve toward his block. He ran toward his home but it was buried.

Wallet, 37, told The Associated Press he worked alongside firefighters to rescue two people from the debris Monday, and saw one of his neighbors pulled out dead.

Early yesterday, Wallet's face and clothes were caked with mud but he said he had not given up



Scott Smeltzer AP Photo

COMMUNITY TEAMWORK: Rescue personnel move a victim rescued from a house in La Conchita, Calif., Monday, Jan. 10, 2005 after a massive mudslide swept into the community covering at least a dozen homes trapping many residents.

hope of finding his family. "I know they've got to be there. I'm not going to stop," he said.

However, he said, there were no longer screams coming from beneath the debris, as there had been Monday. Some 20 miles away, about 350 people in Piru took shelter overnight at a school after the entire town of 2,000 residents was advised to evacuate. "Lake Piru is filling faster than it's

releasing water," said Rod Megli, division chief for the Ventura County Fire Department. "That volume of water could affect a number of residents. We'd rather be safe than sorry."

Some Piru residents, however, refused to leave.

"God is with me and I'm not afraid of anything," said Moses Hernandez, refusing to abandon his Elva's Center Market even

though others waiting out the storm had cleaned out most of his supplies. "I'm out of everything—eggs, milk, potato chips."

Southeast of Los Angeles, Orange County sheriff's personnel evacuated hundreds of people yesterday along a three-mile stretch of swelling San Juan Creek in San Juan Capistrano. The storm also forced the evacuation of an apartment

complex in Alhambra, a suburb on the edge of Los Angeles, where authorities feared a rain-saturated hill might give way, and a man was trapped yesterday in a cave in San Bernardino County. It was not immediately known how long he had been in the cave.

Merger creates largest Union membership

By Charles Sheenan
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — The United Steelworkers of America and PACE International Union announced a merger yesterday that will combine more than three-quarters of a million workers.

The combined force will

have more political clout and broader coverage of workers in the industrial sector, union officials said.

While the most recent filings with the U.S. Department of Labor show the combined union would have about 776,000 members, union officials say those 2003 labor figures are

outdated. Even using conservative estimates, the officials said, the new union will exceed membership of other large industrial unions such as the United Autoworkers of America and the International Association of Machinists.

PACE and the Steelworkers members will vote on the

proposed merger at concurrent conventions to be held in April.

The unions formed an alliance last year and it was anticipated that a formal merger would be forthcoming.

The Nashville, Tenn.-based PACE, or the Paper, Allied Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International

Union, was created in 1999 through the merger of the United Paperworkers and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers unions.

The Steelworkers, based in Pittsburgh, merged with the United Rubber Workers in 1995.

Steelworkers President Leo Gerard said the union's goal

is to "challenge anti-worker forces bent on undermining the futures of our active and retired members."

The new entity has a large pool of cash to draw on, a \$150 million defense fund and an organizing budget of \$30 million per year, said Boyd Young, PACE president.

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15 finalists named for NFL Hall of Fame

Marino and Young featured as best finalists from quarterback position while Irvin makes move towards Hall as wide out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dan Marino and Steve Young set dozens of NFL passing records in the 1980s and '90s, some of which Peyton Manning is erasing now. Marino and Young soon might have something else in common: membership in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The two retired quarterbacks are among 15 finalists for the hall announced yesterday. The class of 2005, which will have from three to six members, will be announced Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla.

"It's an honor to get to this stage of the selection process and to be considered along with 14 other deserving candidates," Marino said in a statement released by CBS, where he is a commentator on its NFL pregame show.

"I've always said that election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame was the greatest individual achievement in the game and it would be one of the highlights of my career to join the sport's greatest players in Canton."

Marino, who holds many of the NFL's career passing records, and Young, who led San Francisco to the 1995 Super Bowl title, are among four finalists who made the list in their first year of eligibility.

The others are Michael Irvin, a member of the Dallas teams that won three Super Bowls between 1992 and 1995, and the late Derrick Thomas, the Kansas City linebacker who died in 2000 after a car accident.

Marino completed 4,967 of 8,358 passes for 61,343 yards and 420 touchdowns from 1983-99 with the Miami Dolphins. He passed for 3,000 yards 13 times in a season, including six seasons in which he reached 4,000. The native of Pittsburgh, who played for the University of Pittsburgh, passed for 300 yards in a game 63 times and 400 yards 13 times.

He held the record of 48 touchdown passes in a season until Manning threw 49 this

season for the Indianapolis Colts.

Young, one of the top-rated passers in NFL history, was the 1995 Super Bowl MVP after throwing six touchdown passes in the 49ers' 49-26 win over San Diego.

"It's a huge honor to be considered with the names on this list, some of the all-time greats," Young said in a statement issued through ESPN, where he is an NFL analyst. "I have always had enormous respect for the Hall of Fame and all it represents, and should this come to pass it would be the capstone to my athletic career."

The left-handed Young threw for at least 3,000 yards in a season six times and had 20 or more touchdown passes in a season five times. Adept at avoiding onrushing defenders and scrambling for yardage, he rushed for 4,239 yards and 43 touchdowns.

His league record for passer rating in a season—112.8 in 1994—was also shattered this season by Manning, who finished at 121.1.

Two of the finalists had already been determined: senior nominees Fritz Pollard and Benny Friedman.

Pollard, who played in the 1920s, was the first black coach of an NFL team. Friedman played for several teams from 1927-34.

The other nominees are linebacker Harry Carson, who played for the New York Giants in the 1970s and 1980s and was a member of the 1987 Super Bowl champions; defensive end Richard Dent, MVP for the Chicago Bears in the 1986 Super Bowl; defensive end L.C. Greenwood, a member of Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" teams of the 1970s; guard Russ Grimm, a member of Washington's famed "Hogs"; defensive end Claude Humphrey, who played for Atlanta and Philadelphia between 1968-81; guard Bob Kuechenberg, who played on Miami's 1972 undefeated Super Bowl champions; wide receiver Art Monk, a member of three Super Bowl winners with Washington; Roger Wehrli, a cornerback for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1969-82; and the late George Young, who built two Super Bowl winners as general manager of the Giants.

Big Unit having problems in Big Apple with NYC media

By Tim Dahlberg
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

Welcome to the Big Apple, Big Unit. The honeymoon sure didn't last long, did it?

With the ink barely dry on the contract that will pay Randy Johnson \$48 million over the next three years, he's already had his first skirmish with the New York media.

As blowups go, this one wasn't much, lasting a few seconds on a Manhattan street while Johnson was on his way to take a physical for the Yankees. Seems Johnson was unhappy with a television cameraman who dared to take video of George Steinbrenner's latest gift to New York fans.

If Johnson hasn't figured it out already, the next three years of his baseball life will be spent under the relentless microscope that is the New York media. And it won't be just his pitching that will be scrutinized 100 different ways.

Everything Johnson does in public—like walking down a Manhattan sidewalk—is now fair game for the writers, television talking heads and radio talk shows that feed the voracious appetite New Yorkers have for their sports teams.

That's part of the price of playing for the Yankees. That's also the reason a pitcher who will be 44 when his contract expires will make \$16 million for each of the next three years.

If the media doesn't pay attention to the Yankees, Johnson doesn't get a half-million dollars every time he takes the mound for his new team. No buzz, no \$5,000 or so a pitch.

Johnson's been around long enough to know that, though in the insular world of baseball's spoiled multimillionaires sometimes things do take longer to sink in. They can't be bothered because they're stars, then they

wonder after retirement why no one cares anymore.

Johnson was to put on pinstripes for the first time yesterday, meeting the assembled media at Yankee Stadium as Steinbrenner's latest trophy catch. He already met one reporter Monday as he and a Yankees security official walked out of a Manhattan hotel.

The cameraman, identified as Vinny Everett of WCBS-TV, was just trying to do his job, which on this day meant giving New Yorkers a glimpse of the towering left-hander acquired from Arizona to prevent the kind of collapse that occurred against the Red Sox last October.

Everett wasn't trying to sneak into Johnson's hotel room, or even accost him at a restaurant. Johnson was walking down a public sidewalk in broad daylight when he put his right hand on the camera and ordered Everett to stop taping.

Everett dared to protest, which drew another rebuke from Johnson.

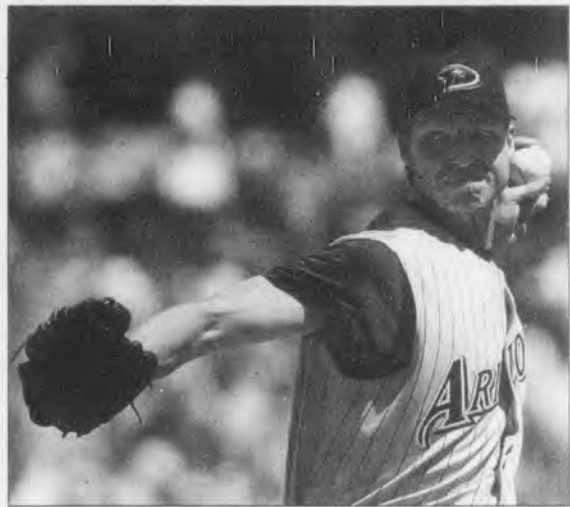
"Don't get in my face, and don't talk back to me," Johnson said.

Nice. Way to treat the common man with respect.

It will be three months before Johnson takes the mound on opening day against Boston. There's plenty of time for the mutual love affair with demanding New York fans to develop.

But if Johnson goes apoplectic over a camera on a public sidewalk, what's going to happen when he gives up five runs in the first inning of a critical September game against the Red Sox? What's he going to do when he is asked a question he doesn't like by some poor member of the media?

Johnson has always been wary of reporters, and detests stupid questions. He doesn't like to be



Ben Margot AP Photo

APOLOGY ACCEPTED: Randy Johnson has already had problems with the New York media but was quick to apologize for his actions.

hounded, preferring to be left alone.

That might have worked in Phoenix, where his scowling presence intimidated some. It won't in New York, where the media can be equally as intimidating.

If Johnson needed to be reminded of that, he needed only to look at the season that wasn't for the New York Giants, who have been ripped by both fans and the media for mortgaging their future on Eli Manning.

Or ask new teammate Kevin Brown, who made a career out of acting surly, arrogant and condescending to anyone who came near him, only to find the act doesn't work in New York.

Brown actually choked up and spoke contritely after coming back from a self-inflicted injury to pitch in the playoffs for the Yankees, though fans might have liked the crotchety Brown of old who could win games.

Luckily for Johnson, he's playing on a team of superstars who will deflect some of the spotlight from him. And if he pitches anything like he did last year, when he was 13-2 each time the offensively challenged Diamondbacks scored more than two runs, Johnson won't have many tough questions to answer.

To Johnson's credit, he was quick to apologize, or at least his agent was. Alan Nero issued a statement quoting Johnson as saying "the past few days have been a bit overwhelming and I wish I had handled the situation differently."

Johnson will get a pass on this one, and he should. Nothing was hurt except his image.

And, really, New Yorkers see a lot worse every time they climb down the subway stairs.

But if he's going to survive three years in the media jungle of New York, he'd be wise to smile at the camera next time.

Falcons bring talent to the court tonight

MEN'S HOOPS, FROM PAGE 10

than enough weapons to compete with a team like Eastern.

Forward Josh Almanson is one of the most improved players in the MAC and is averaging 19.1 points and five rebounds per game. Not to be outdone is fellow forward John Reimold, who is continuing his domination of opponents this season, averaging 16.5 points, five rebounds, 2.1 assists per contest all while shooting 51.6 percent from the three-point line.

And while these two and the rest of the Falcons have had some solid showings on the road they have yet to take down a team as talented as Eastern away from Anderson Arena.

"Eastern is a game that if we can win we, will show ourselves we can win a big game on the road," Reimold said.

The Falcons will get a chance to get a big win away from home tonight when they take on Eastern Michigan.

"Eastern is a game that if we can win, we will show ourselves we can win a big game on the road."

JOHN REIMOLD, BG FORWARD

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Colts chasing NFL title dreams

By Barry Wilner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peyton Manning knows his NFL history. He sees his name among the great quarterbacks who have won league MVP honors: Joe Montana, John Elway, Steve Young, Terry Bradshaw.

He also knows something is missing. Is this the year Manning gets that elusive championship ring to accompany his second straight Most Valuable Player award? Could be.

In none of Manning's previous six seasons with the Colts has his team been so well-positioned to challenge for a title. The offense is performing at an almost unfathomable pace, thanks to Manning's precise passing and the superb skills of receivers Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley, plus running back Edgerrin James and tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark.

The defense, while hardly in the class of the other three remaining AFC contenders, has improved. It has enjoyed the advantage of playing from ahead because of how prolific Manning and company have been. It has two playmakers in Dwight Freeney and Rob Morris, and a terrific coach in Tony Dungy.

The Colts also are not a "dome



Tom Strattman AP Photo

TITLE BOUND?: Reggie Wayne and the Colts are trying to make their rise to the top of the National Football League.

team," as Dungy readily points out.

"We don't subscribe to the indoor-outdoor theory," Dungy says. "We have a better record on the road than at home since I've been here."

Actually, it's the same 17-7 at home and away.

Where they have a terrible record, however, is against New England. And that's where the Colts (13-4) play Sunday,

versus the defending champion Patriots (14-2), a club that often befuddles Manning with intricate defensive alignments and shifts.

Forget the weather, which hasn't necessarily been the problem for the Colts. Their failures against the Patriots, including a defeat at the RCA Dome in the 2003 season, are due to Bill Belichick's schemes that have thrown off the always-prepared Manning.

But this edition of the Colts seems to possess a different mind-set than the team that claimed it could handle the Patriots in recent meetings, then failed.

"Your confidence has to be that you're playing well and we're playing more consistently at the end of the year than last year," Dungy says.

"At New England," said Manning, referring to last January's AFC championship game, "I played like an absolute dog. There's no question about it."

"We have to play great up there against a great team."

So are they capable of doing so, of eliminating a team that has won all six of its playoff games with Belichick as coach and Tom Brady as quarterback?

Yes. Here's why:

— The Patriots, even with a week off, are not completely

healed. They are hurting most in the secondary, a very bad situation when facing Indianapolis. And their best lineman, Richard Seymour, has an injured knee.

— Manning is operating on an unprecedented level, and he has more weapons to choose from than ever. Wayne has become a premier receiver, not just a complement to the brilliant Harrison. Stokley is a perfect slot man. Both tight ends are especially dangerous near the end zone. The offensive line gives Manning enough time to go through his progressions.

"I've never left the field saying I could have done more to be ready," Manning says. "I don't think I do more than any quarterback should; I give it the attention it deserves."

— The officials' stronger emphasis on not allowing receivers to be mugged downfield, a direct result of last year's AFC title game, favors the Colts.

— The Colts aren't intimidated by the Patriots.

"I don't think anybody in our building would say we can't go up there and beat them," Dungy says. "Part of what we have to do is realize it is just football, even if it's the playoffs and New England. We make the big plays, we'll win."

Few teams have made more big plays this season than the Colts.

Gonzalez makes return trip to Tribe

By Tom Withers
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free agent outfielder Juan Gonzalez, whose production has plummeted in recent years because of injuries, is close to signing a minor league contract with the Cleveland Indians.

If the two-time American League MVP makes the Indians' 25-man roster in spring training, he would get \$600,000 and would have a chance to earn another \$1.65 million in bonuses based on plate appearances and \$300,000 based on time on the active roster.

"We have no deal yet, but remain hopeful that we can get something done soon," Indians general manager Mark Shapiro said Monday night.

Once one of baseball's most feared right-handed power hitters, the 35-year-old Gonzalez has been limited to just 185 games the past three seasons with Texas and Kansas City because of a variety of injuries.

A lower back problem hampered him last season when he played in just 33 games with

the Royals, batting .326 with five homers and 17 RBIs.

Gonzalez hasn't played a full season since 2001, when he had one of his best all-around years as a pro with the Indians. In 140 games, he batted .325 with 35 homers and 140 RBIs — the third most of his career — and helped Cleveland to the AL playoffs.

If he's healthy, Gonzalez would give the Indians some much-needed pop from the right side. He would also alter Cleveland's plans in the outfield.

Gonzalez could take the right-field job away from Casey Blake, who is moving there from third to make room for Aaron Boone. Blake could then go to left and Coco Crisp to center. Grady Sizemore, projected to be Cleveland's starter in center field, would likely begin the season at Triple-A Buffalo.

"There's a comfort zone for him and us," Shapiro said of Gonzalez. "If he's healthy, he's not a bench player."

Gonzalez has hit 439 career homers for Texas, Detroit, Cleveland and Kansas City.

Lots to play for on court for BG

FALCONS, FROM PAGE 10

season after suffering some losses in the offseason. If BG can pull off two wins this week, my (former) friends can have a large slice of I told you so pie.

The only way basketball could get more exciting in BG is if the women were playing defending MAC champion Eastern Michigan and following it up with a game in Toledo this weekend.

That just so happens to be the case.

Eastern is arguably the Falcons' number one enemy this season.

On top of being the defending MAC champions, they took down BG in the MAC title game to win that championship.

Mix in the fact that they knocked out BG from the MAC tourney two seasons ago and you have a team that has been a rather large pain in the neck, back and kidney for the Falcons.

Eastern would make a great rival if it weren't for those rascals from the city that brings the IQ of Ohio down dramatically,

Toledo (please make them part of Michigan).

As usual, the Rockets are and will always be the Falcons' biggest rivals. After all, driving down I-75 are the only directions they can remember well enough to play enough games to establish a solid rivalry with anyone.

Add in the ever present "BG girls are ugly" shirts and chants of BGSU ... CKS and this becomes the strongest rivalry in the conference and the girls will be right in the middle of it when they travel to Savage Hall this weekend.

The Rockets have had troubles this season but as usual are solid.

BG head coach Curt Miller said they were the sleeper team in the conference and have plenty of talent to take this year's MAC title.

To say the least, if any game has a chance to be bigger than the game against Eastern, it is the game against the Rockets.

And to say the least one more time, this should be the biggest week for BG basketball this season.

Information Technology Spotlight

SPAM filtering and your BGNET account... Did you know?

- > Each BGNet email account has, by default, the flexibility to filter email, including email considered to be SPAM. Some account holders have opted to activate and configure these filters.
- > Inbound BGNet email messages are analyzed by the server to determine the possibility that they contain SPAM. Messages with SPAM characteristics are given a SPAM content tag and will include a X-MASF:xxx% line in the header of the message.
- > The content tag assigned to a message can then be used to filter suspected SPAM in email applications like BGSU WebMail and Eudora.
- > Samplings of inbound BGNet email messages indicate that email messages with a content tag at the 100 percent confidence level can account for as much as 60 percent of inbound mail.
- > Increased sophistication in the product used to generate the confidence score for email messages has allowed us to be confident in the decision to begin to block messages marked with a 100 percent confidence score.
- > Beginning January 19, 2005, email messages with a 100 percent confidence score will no longer be delivered. Messages sent between BGNet accounts will not be affected.

See <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page7677.html> for

- further details on your BGNet email account and SPAM
- information about the method used to mark a message with a confidence level
- information on how to configure your BGNet account with filtering capabilities
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MAN ACCUSED OF RAPE PLEADS GUILTY

COLUMBUS, OH - A man accused of raping 37 women since 1987 pleaded guilty yesterday to 135 charges of rape, kidnapping, burglary and robbery. Patton was known as the "Linden-area rapist" and has confessed to news agencies and police that he has raped several dozen women in Columbus.

www.bgnews.com/state

STATE

Supreme Court drops lawsuit

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Three dozen voters challenging the presidential election results in the Ohio Supreme Court asked to drop their lawsuit yesterday, saying it is moot with last week's certification of the electoral vote and the upcoming inauguration.

Citing fraud, lawyers representing 37 voters on Nov. 2 had asked the court to examine several problems with voting procedures in the hopes of overturning President Bush's victory in the state.

The election turned on Ohio's 20 electoral college votes, and not until preliminary results were available early on the morning of Nov. 3 did Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry concede.

Chief Justice Thomas Moyer of the state Supreme Court must still rule on the motion to dismiss the

case, and is expected to go along with the request.

In a ruling last month declining a request that he remove himself from the case, Moyer, a Republican, called voters' evidence "woefully inadequate."

Without giving specifics, attorney Cliff Arnebeck said challenges of the results would continue in state or federal courts. But he conceded that there was nothing available now to try to prevent Bush's inauguration.

"We are not quitting. We are going on to any other forum that's available and we intend to pursue those avenues aggressively," Arnebeck said.

The Bush campaign welcomed the announcement.

"This lawsuit was going to be dismissed by the Supreme Court because it has no merit — it looks like the people who filed it understood that," said Mark Weaver, an attorney representing the Bush campaign.

Bush defeated Kerry by about 118,000 votes, according to a recount of the official results paid for by two independent party candidates.

In their lawsuit, voters pointed to long lines, a shortage of voting machines in predominantly minority neighborhoods and problems with computer equipment.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson backed the lawsuit, alleging what he called "high-tech vote stealing" and holding rallies in Ohio and Washington in support of the effort.

In a quadrennial joint session, the House and Senate on Thursday tallied the electoral votes and affirmed Bush's victory over Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

Before the final verdict was in, some Democrats angry over the Ohio irregularities forced a challenge to the vote count for just the second time since the 19th century.



Jeff Hinckley AP Photo

FRAUD: The Rev. Jesse Jackson and Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, R-Ohio, of Cleveland, rally at the Riffe Center in Columbus, Ohio. The rally was held to support a challenge to President Bush's Nov. 2 election.

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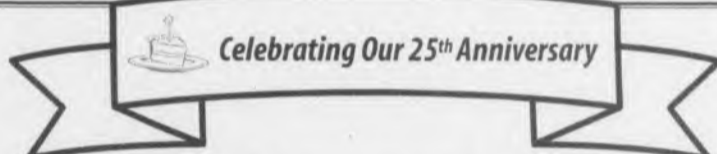
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