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**GOODBYE:** Famed **Cla-Zel Theater closes** curtains on showing films; PAGE 2

**Bowling Green State University** A daily independent student press

### WEDNES**day** May 25, 2005

PARTLY CLOUDY HIGH: 69 LOW: 49

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# University students talk about life on the front lines FROM BG TO BAGHD

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN IRAO FIRST IN A SERIES

#### By Angela L. Gorter

Within the walls of crowded media coverage in an unstable, war-stricken country are students of Bowling Green State University.

They are serving the United



BROTHERS: Brothers Dan and Jacob Sawmille

States as soldiers in Iraq. Most were deployed as of January 2005, and are not expected to return for another 15-18 months.

Twelve of these students - and many more - are stationed in Baghdad; where they unani-mously say that civilians are only trying to get on with their lives, not hurt the troops.

"I have discovered that a vast majority of the people here just want to get on with their lives and pose no threat or inconvenience to the coalition forces currently in the country," said Army Specialist Bryan Lieb, of Findlay, Oh.

"The violent image that has been assigned to this country is brought on by the anger of a few individuals who do not want the system they know and grew up with to disappear," he said.

Lieb was a fourth year Fine Arts major when he was deployed. He is a member of the 612th Engineer Battalion.

The 612th mission works the living making on conditions within the Forward Operating Base better, according to Sergeant Brian Meyers, a non-traditional student at the University who has served with the Armed Forces for 15 years. Meyers said that his battalion

conducts sweeps of the roads in and around Baghdad using large, heavily armored "boats on wheels," called buffaloes. The buffalo is then escorted by addi-tionally armored High Mobility, Multi-purpose, Wheeled Vehicle-pronounced humvees. Members of the battalion ride

in these buffaloes and are able to describe first-hand, the sights, sounds and smells of Baghdad.

"What's striking to me is the amount of trash and refuse lying around," Meyers said. "It's everywhere, along with the accompanying aromas." Lieb said that because there is

no garbage system in Baghdad, like there is in the U.S., that the trash piles up and ends up rotting in the heat.

"The environment here is an odd one to get used to. You have large semis traveling down the same roads as horse or donkeydrawn carriages," he said. "But,

the sounds are like any major city - horns, cars, trucks- the only difference is the occasional fire fight or mortar round sent blindly at U.S. soldiers."

Like many other troops serving overseas, the hardest part about being stationed in Iraq is the distance between family and friends. Meyers of Oregon, Oh., had to leave his wife and children behind when he was called to duty.

"When I raised my right hand and took the oath of enlistment [and subsequent re-enlistments] I knew the consequences of my actions," he said. "I knew that I might be asked to leave my family and put my life on hold." At age 35, Meyers would graduating from the be University this August, if not for

his deployment. "By far, I miss my wife and kids the most. But in addition, I really miss beer and pizza, and going to class and football season - and just being in the states," he said.

As a veteran, Meyers and his family have had time to adjust



SOLDIER: Sgt. Brian Meyers, who has served with the Armed Forces for 15 years, is a non-traditional University student.

to him not being home as often as they'd like.

However, for brothers Jacob and Dan Sawmiller, National Guard members also in the 612th Engineer Battalion, this was the first time that they had been deployed, after enlisting their first years of college.

Jacob, "Jake," was a junior when he went to Baghdad. He would have graduated this

past May. His call to duty was the first time that he had been away from his hometown of St. Mary's, Oh., besides when he was at college.

"I wake up to the worst feeling everyday it seems. I'll have a good dream about being

TROOPS, PAGE 2

## War families find it hard being apart

#### By Angela L. Gorter

This past Mother's Day was the first time that Cynthia Sawmiller did not have her sons, Dan and Jacob, by her side celebrating her day together.

The two are over in Iraq, serving their country as National Guardsmen in Baghdad. "Mother's Day was definitely

hard." Sawmiller said. She said that Dan had sent her

a picture of himself in full gear, on top of his vehicle, holding a sign that read "Happy Mother's Day Mom, I Love You. "We are a very close family, so

any time we have something with the family it is really tough because we are expecting them to walk though the door," she said. is my best Dan and Jacob, both friend, it is University students at the time of their hard not deployment, joined the National Guard

Crystal Heldman, 22, is engaged to Bryan Lieb, a fourth year Fine Arts major at the University who has also been deployed to Iraq. Like many of the troops from the University, he has been gone since January 2005.

"Everything is hard. He is my best friend, it is hard not having him around," she said.

Heldman found it difficult to say good-bye to Lieb. However, to return the support that she had given him for the last six years of their relationship, he tried to put her mind at ease about his deployment.

"It made me really sad, but then told me that he was help-ing out everyone over there, helping out the children; that "Everything is hard. He

made me feel better that he was making a difference," she said. The pair commu-

nicates via e-mail nearly once every week. And, when available, he calls her from the phone they have on his base weekly as well.

## BROWN AND ORANGE REMODELED | SECOND IN A SUMMER-LONG SERIES

## Summer renovations for Offenhauer

Miranda Bond MANAGING EDITOR Renovations on the two

voice and data communications for the building. Carney said that even though the Office of

adding new carpet, remodeling of lamps and painting corridors, stairways and residence rooms.

vation. Improvements included The ten and eleven story buildings may now house around 839 students in single and double occupancy rooms. When Offenhauer was built it

tallest buildings on campus, the Offenhauer towers, are projected to be completed by the first of August. The towers are in phase three of a three phase renovation that began in summer of 2003.

Phase three includes toilet and shower room updates, replacing old windows and exterior cosmetic work such as landscaping The project's goal completion date is August 1.

"Everything is on schedule we plan on meeting that date," Tim Carney, Assistant Director of Operations in the Office of Residence Life, said.

He said that the \$3 million project is running smoothly in its final stage. He said that they have experience with working on the buildings since this is the third summer that they have been working on them. Phase one and two were completed over the summer of 2003 and summer 2004.

The first two phases included the addition of a new fire alarm system, sprinkler system and Residence Life wasn't required by law to add a sprinkler system they decided to for student's safety. He said that based on the height of the buildings, they need sprinklers.

"The driving force [to update the Offenhauer Towers] was the safety factor with the sprinklers," he said.

The buildings will also be equipped with wireless Internet faster connections. Also, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system will be updated.

The updates are necessary because most of the current systems have been in operation since the building was opened 35 years ago," said Tim Burns, Senior Project Manager. "Other improvements are being made for [compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act) and life safety reasons."

The towers were last updated in 1999 when they received internal improvements after the Board of Trustees approved the \$2.2 million renoThose were the first renovations since it was built.

The Board of Trustees approved construction plans of Offenhauer in 1968. They wanted it to be different from the other residence halls and decided to build a "high-rise" dorm. It was completed in 1971 at a final cost of \$9.4 million.

was called the first "plush dorm on campus" and the Office of Residence Life is trying to keep up with that title with the

current updates. "We will be able to provide a safer environment, and better serve their data and telecom-munication needs," said Carney.

having him prior to Sept. 11, 2001, around." believing that their CYNTHIA SAWMILLER, enlistment would involve mostly good-MOTHER

"But then 9/11 happened, and all heck broke loose," Sawmiller all heck broke loose," Sawmiller as they do said. "We really weren't prepared for that.'

And it did not make it any easier that the brothers from St. Mary's, Ohio, were deployed simultaneously.

"Dan had to struggle a little bit [leaving] because he had to leave a newborn baby at home," Sawmiller said. "To watch Dan say goodbye was the hardest thing to watch - if he can do that he can make it through anything."

In addition to the struggles that parents of soldiers must go through to cope with their deployed children, the significant others of these troops have an even greater hurdle to jump when their fiances, for instance, are called to duty.

as they do.

"If a couple weeks go by and I don't hear from him it makes it harder, but I am glad that there is that use of the phone. It helps a lot, but sometimes I wish he could call more often," she said.

The communication technolhas enabled husband and ogy wife Brian and Marcia Meyers to speak to one another nearly everyday through international cell phones.

The option of speaking to her husband through the Internet, homemade videos or by phone virtually whenever they'd like, has made it easier on Meyers.

Brian, 35, is a non-traditional student at the University. He has

FAMILIES, PAGE 7

Mike Metzger BG No BOBCAT: As part of the renovations project of Offenhauer Towers the Bobcat is just one of the many pieces of equipment utilized





2 Wednesday, May 25, 2005

WWW.BGNEWS.COM



#### Mike Metzger BG N

CRIME: Within the Meijer parking lot last week a woman was held up at gunpoint and forced to hand over her purse

## Woman held at gunpoint in Meijer's parking lot

Police are looking for information that would lead to the apprehension of a suspect wanted for holding up a woman at gunpoint May 16 in the Meijer parking lot. The woman reported to police

that as she was loading her vehicle with groceries a man, accom-panied by a woman, drove up in a white Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera, with stickers in the rear window, and no wheel covers. She said that the man held her at gunpoint and demanded that the woman hand over her purse.

The suspect was described as being a white male, mid to late 20's, with brown hair, blue eyes, and a slender build. He was

wearing a red baseball cap, a light

colored T-shirt and blue jeans. The female in the car was described as being white with dark brown hair pulled back in a bun or pony tail and wore dark glasses

The purse was later discovered in a rest stop along I-75 south of Bowling Green.

If anyone has information that could help police they are encouraged to contact the Bowling Green Police Division at (419) 352-2571 or Crime Stoppers at (419) 352-0077. The police report that a reward of up to \$1000 is possible for anyone providing information leading to the resolution of the case.

## The Cla-Zel stops showing movies

#### By Lorien Bourne

The Cla-Zel Theater, located at 127 North Main Street, has showed its final movie.

The Cla-Zel Theater has been a fixture in the Bowling Green community since 1926 and has catered to the entertainment needs of both college students and townspeople alike. The Cla-Zel Theater is named after Clark and Hazel Young, the original owners, and is "consid-ered the oldest, continuously operating, first run, single screen movie house in Ohio," according to their Web site.

The Cla-Zel closing for regular business has had an impact on local businesses. According to Jessica Simmons, a former employee of the Cla-ZelTheater, the closing of the Cla-Zel for regular business will likely have an effect on restau-

rant and coffeehouse business. Jessica said that she would sometimes overhear people talk after a movie "They would just see a movie and say let's go to Grounds For Thought."

Miranda Liss, Manager of Pisanello's Pizza, says that there has been a decline in business on Saturday nights since the

Cla-Zel has stopped showing "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" regularly on Saturday nights. Miranda said that there would be a crowd after "Rocky Horror" let out. The closing of the Cla-Zel has also affected her personally "I am disappointed that the Cla-Zel is closed... I mean it was nice living downtown and being able to walk to a movie theater and not have to drive," Miranda said.

Teresa Boggs, waitress at The Corner Grill, said that when the Cla-Zel did matinee movies people would come to the Corner Grill.

According to Penny Parker, Formerly employed as General Manager of the Cla-Zel, the Cla-Zel will be used as a venue for special events, weddings, Black Swamp Players, Girl Scout func-tions, Woodlane, Horizon Youth Theater, BG city schools, etc.

"It is a really important place to me, but I looked at the paperwork everyday and understand the need to close the facilities for movies," Penny "I can see the business picking up when people in the community realize understand how many uses the theater has." Though the Cla-Zel Theater

CREDITS: After 79 years the Cla-Zel Theater decided to stop showing motion pictures, and instead will focus on community events.

will not be showing anymore movies, the theater will be available for community and private events. According to the Cla-Zel's Web site, at http://www. Cla-Zel.com, the theater "will

ichael A. Click BG Ner

continue to host live shows with community theater, local school events, and other hall events." The theater is available to rent

calling (419) 353 1361.

for public or private function by

## University students talk about time in Iraq during the war

TROOPS, FROM PAGE 1

home and then I'll wake up...," he said. "Once I'm fully awake I'm fine, but when I first wake up is when I'm pissed at

this place." Jake is presently engaged. He and his fiance', who he met at the University, plan on marrying when he returns in March.

Dan, 24, like his younger brother, enlisted in the National Guard for college money. But after hearing about his deployment, he dropped out of school.

"Just before I left, I was married and had a baby boy. He was just a month old when I left him," he said. "Not being able to be a father to him has been by far the toughest thing for me.

The soldiers of the 612th mission, though far away from their loved ones, have still been able to communicate with those in the U.S. rather easily and frequently. All of the families and troops

have military e-mail addresses and full access to the Internet. Some even have cell phones, like Meyers

"Technology has been a tremendous boon," Meyers said. "I have a cell phone, so I'm able to talk to my wife and kids whenever I want, and they can call me. It's rather expensive, but well worth it."

The advance in technology, however, has posed a burden to some of the troops. Dan

said that at times, soldiers may have to wait up to an hour and a half to use the phone at the base, which "feels like 10 hours in the heat.'

communication This consists for the most part, of the troops reassuring their families of their health and well-being, and being supporting husbands and fathers from afar.

"Its nice to be able to talk, and I try to do it as much as possible and be supportive of what my family has to go through at home. My wife being a single mother and a newlywed wife, who is all alone, is making a big sacrifice too. So I try and be there for her, but it is really difficult," Dan said.

For the troops, getting the love and support in return from their families and country reinforces the pride that they had when they first enlisted in the Armed Services enlisted in the Armed Services.

"Before arriving here, I really didn't feel I was going anything special," Lieb said, "until the day I left, when I witnessed a parade of become lines the treater of the people lining the streets of the surrounding towns [that] our bus was traveling through to get to the airport. The support and love of all of the people that support what we do over in Iraq are what make it worth while to me.

Interviews were conducted via e-mail with the troops over the course of three weeks.



# "goes live" on June 27 BG@100 will implement the

first "Go Live" of the project

to transition current administrative systems to PeopleSoft on June 27. This phase of the project focuses on such areas as Human Resources and Payroll.

#### What does this mean for you?

> After the June 27 "Go Live" date, those who receive a direct deposit pay stub from the University will receive pay check information via an online self-service application.

The View/Print pay check self-service application will be demonstrated in 117 OLSCAMP HALL on:

July 6 at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. July 7 at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. July 18, 19 and 21 hourly from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (a new demo will start at the top of each hour)

Sessions are open to all University employees. No registration is necessary.

- An alternative to attending a session is to view the interactive demonstration available at www.bgsu.edu/BGat100. This interactive demonstration will allow you to view the format of the online pay check and learn how the details are displayed.
- > A letter dated May 23 has been sent to the homes of faculty and staff providing further details of PeopleSoft. The information is presented by your University affiliation: faculty, administrative staff or classified staff. Information to students will be distributed via Student Employment. An electronic copy of the letter is available online at: www.bgsu.edu/BGat100.
- Open forums to review contents of the letter and to answer questions will be held in 101 OLSCAMP HALL

June 7 at 1:30-3:30 p.m. June 15 at 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Sessions are open to all University employees. No registration is necessary.

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# Prof. becomes head of RNA program

#### By Sandy Meade REPORTER

Neocles

Leontis chemistry professor at Bowling Green State University, was recently appointed as the head of the RNA Ontology Consortium. The RNA Ontology Consortium

an international team of RNA scientists that have been assembled to help scientists communicate with one another. Scientists from the United States Great Britain, France, Canada and Australia are participating in this project.

"People work on creating ontologies so they can talk to each other with precision and not get all mixed up because they are using terminology in different ways depending on their past experience," Leontis said "People are creating ontologies for many fields of biology and are trying to unite all of biology by integrating the ontologies with each other."

People involved in creating this ontology include molecular biologists, genomicists, information scientists, and structural biologists. For this ontology, all repeated patterns of RNA, ribonucleic acid, will be identified and defined.

BGSU will serve as the host for



SCIENCE: Professor Neocles Leontis discusses a model of ribosome with graduate assistant Jesse Stombaugh. Ribosome is an "RNA Molecular Machine" found in the human body, which makes proteins

this project, and information will be accessible on the Web to RNA research communities.

This project is part of the Research Coordination Networks of the National Science Foundation. The project will receive \$500,000 from the foundation over a period of five years. In a press release, Leontis said that the ontology would make it easier for scientists to turn molecular information into useful knowledge. This knowledge can then be used to help scientists understand how and why different cells grow and develop the way that they do. "This knowledge is key to curing hereditary diseases, Leontis said.

As head of the RNA Ontology Consortium, Leontis describes his job as organizing meetings of other RNA scientists and working with them to create other biologi cal ontologies so that everyone is working in a consistent manner. Leontis is very excited about his new position and working with the other scientists and the

opportunities that this project will bring to all those involved. "For my students it will be

an opportunity to meet many excellent scientists in our field and to contribute to creating new vocabulary for describing RNA molecules and the roles they play," Leontis said. "For the team of scientists-we hope to achieve better understanding and communication and make it possible for other scientists who are not experts in RNA to understand and use the knowledge we are accumulating about RNA structure to understand evolution, viruses, cancer, etc.

Leontis is also known for research about RNA his bioinformatics.

"RNA bioinformatics is the effort to organize the vast amounts of information about RNA molecules in different species." Leontis said.

He added that even though all living things have similar RNA molecules, each living thing also has unique RNA molecules. This

is what makes them different from each other.

Bioinformatics is used in the fields of drug development, biotechnology drug and nanotechnology.

Leontis began studying RNA because he was interested in the fact that self-replicating RNA molecules were probably the first life forms, even before cells.

'Genomics is revealing that RNA molecules are probably the 'software' of life that made it possible for complex organisms such as our selves to evolve so rapidly-only eight million years separates us from chimpanzees and 98 percent of our DNA is identical with our nearest nonhuman cousins," he said.

Leontis was born in Midland, Mich. but he was raised in Michigan and Columbus, Ohio.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Ohio State University. He then went on to receive a master's degree at Harvard University and a doctoral degree from Yale University. Leontis completed his postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan.

Leontis has taught at BGSU for 18 years and is the currently the advisor of the American Chemical Society on campus.

## Lucas gets 'Revenge' on picky fans with best 'Wars' film in 25 years

#### By Sean Corp EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" George Lucas has delivered his most proficient and exciting Star Wars film in a quarter century. However, when competency is the highest praise you can bestow, you realize the sad state of affairs the Star Wars saga has been stuck in.

Where "The Phantom Menace" was cloying and childlike this final installment has a dark, serious tone and dramatic weight. Where "Attack of the Clones" was bogged down in political intrigue and laborious dialogue, "Revenge of the Sith" has a pared down story utilizing a few key relationships and interesting plot developments.

It seems like this is the one story of the new trilogy that George Lucas always wanted to tell and the first two installments were just precursors to the epic tale of the rise and fall of Anakin Skywalker.

The film begins with thrilling space battle that is more exciting than anything

> 9:15-Traditional rvice

11:30-Contem Service

the previous prequels brought to the table. Anakin and his mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi fight their way onto a ship in order to save the leader of the Senate the Republic, Chancellor of Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid).

Once saved, Palpatine insists that Anakin be placed among the Jedi Council, which doesn't go over well with the group of Jedi Masters as they do not trust Palpatine and worry about the growth of the troubled vouth, Anakin,

Eventually they relent, but insist that Anakin spies on his good friend Palpatine, who is trying to gain all political control of the Senate in a time of war. Palpatine, in turn suggests Anakin spy on the Jedi who he says are thirsting for power and don't trust the Senate to

make the right decisions.

This angle is regretfully only shallowly explored in the film. They imply that the duplicity of both sides makes the already conflicted Anakin question everything about his friends and the Force, which harnesses so much power.

If they went even deeper into this story a fascinating conflict could have emerged about how the most powerful Jedi was nothing more than a commodity to both sides and how nothing good can come from it.

But that doesn't detract from the fact that what Lucas sets out to do this time he generally succeeds. Easily eclipsing the previous prequels in every facet. The action is tighter and more interesting. The acting is less wooden. The plot is intriguing. The special

effects are much improved, espe cially the all CGI characters such as Yoda. The lightsaber battles are thrilling and never seem to overstay their welcome on screen.

That is not to say "Episode III" doesn't bring its own share of troubles. Far from it. George Lucas has proven himself incapable of writing romantic dialogue. The scenes between star-crossed lovers Padmé (Natalie Portman) and Anakin (Hayden Christensen) are pivotal in the transformation of young Skywalker from promis-ing Jedi into an evil Sith, but the dialogue wouldn't be suitable for a Hallmark card.

However, late in the film Lucas makes up for the oratory miscue with a strikingly powerful juxtaposition between Anakin and Padmé giving birth to the twins, Luke and Leia

INCLUDES

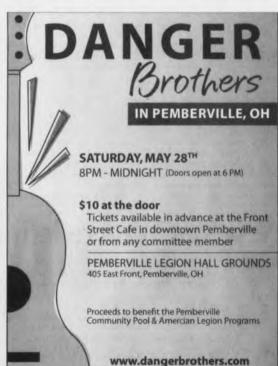
**Chassis Lube** 

In other instances the dialogue just doesn't do the situations justice. When Anakin belts out the line, "From my point of view the Jedi are evil" it elicits more snickers than tension.

Unfortunately George Lucas still insists on sets that are completely digital with absolutely no real physical elements. These continue distractingly noticable. to be

In the end George Lucas ends

his space opera the way it started -with a bang. He may not be the best director, or the best writer, but he has created a world that is wholly unique in the cinematic universe. He has done justice to the story of the creation of one of the movies' most fascinating villians: Darth Vader. While it falls short of greatness, it is entirely proficient and will please the fans that have felt the last two pre-quels didn't meet expectations.





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**QUOTE**UNQUOTE

"Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind."

> Albert Einstein (quotationspage.com)

# OPINION

## U-WIRE EDITORIAL UCLA **U.S. leadership cheats environment**

Before former President Clinton left office in 2001, he signed an executive order placing nearly 60 million acres of public land off-limits to logging, road-building and development. Emboldened by the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, President Bush has now moved to strike down the federal ban that is a key part of Clinton's legacy. Bush's actions encourage

industry to fight for increased access to land, while making

it harder for states to conserve roadless areas. But the Bush administration puts a positive spin on this regulation relapse by insisting that it puts more power in the hands of state governors. This actually means that governors allied with business

in industry-friendly states will have the go-ahead they've been waiting for to open up federally owned lands to development and resource extraction.

Under the Bush administration, the government is foregoing its responsibility to preserve our last remaining resources. Bush recently made an Earth

Day stop at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In his speech, he stated, "We have a duty and an obligation to protect our environment. We're meeting that obligation."

This blatant attempt by Bush to deceive the American public is even more ironic considering he's referring to the Smokiesnamed the country's most pollut-ed national park by the National Parks Conservation Association on the basis of its levels of haze, ozone and acid precipitation.

administration also The claims that by allowing logging, fire managers will be able to control the destructiveness of forest fires. Proper thinning retains the older, better-established trees and removes younger adjacent trees. This reduces competition for nutrients producing althier trees.

But in the absence of regulations to prevent abuses of

with problems as they arise. The problem with allowing

logging is in determining which trees will be cut. The timber industry wants to cut down the straightest and oldest trees, which bring the most money This practice leaves us with a bunch of crooked, crooked, decrepit-looking trees

More importantly, it lowers the quality of the gene pool, leav-

t's tough for me to imagine what I would do in specific

themselves in on a daily basis. My emotions would range

from frustration to paranoia if I couldn't manage to teach a

second grader why two times

teacher conference with a father who's angry that his kid

received an F after she didn't

I can't imagine teaching kids

Thankfully, there are people

who are patient and courageous

My rhetorical question, thus,

enough to do the unspeakable

and educate America's youth.

is obvious. Why on Earth are

they being paid like their job is some walk in the park?

I have no direct interest in

their salaries as I never plan to

don't pose this question for my

My fear, however, is that by the time that I have children in school, education will be looked

upon indifferently and that my children's teachers will show the same level of apathy as a

handful of mine did when I went through grade school. It all comes down to money.

As most people know, yet

refuse to say, money can (and does) buy happiness. In most

the happier you are.

cases, the more money you have,

It's very simple, and like Ben Affleck said once in a movie, the

people who say that money can't

be in a classroom again, so I

own personal sake.

about punctuation marks or Afghani independence move-ments in the late 1800s.

turn in a single homework assignment all semester?

A fistfight would ensue.

It would be my own personal Hell.

three equals six. And what would happen in a parent-

situations that teachers find

increased salaries

logging privileges, Bush is essen-tially giving logging free license and letting individual states deal

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The idea that the primary purpose of public lands should be to serve people is a basic premise of the Forest Service, the agency that oversees public lands in national forests.

With an administration wal-lowing in the pocket of industry, Bush has left the states to fend for themselves. Bush's antics would be laughable if we weren't the ones being shortchanged.

## Child discipline teaches courage

#### ADAM Shapiro

**Opinion Columnist** 

esus and discipline are a bad combination. Through personal experience I have come to learn that the two don't go well together and when mixed have

damaging results. In my case, Jesus stopped loving me. Now I have always believed in disciplining children. This is mostly because I just don't like them, but also because it teaches the little devils valuable skills. First of all, it teaches them

to be courageous in the face of danger. It takes a lot of bravery for children to misbehave while being fully aware of the possibly painful consequences

Discipline also teaches them how to be more cunning. Children will do what they want regardless of punishment, yet discipline forces them to be clever in order to avoid painful reprimands.

Despite the positive outcomes of punishment, it is important to choose the tools of discipline very carefully as they can have devastating results.

My parents were firm believers in the paddle, and they had an amazing ability to turn anything into one as long as it was within reach. I soon learned to fear normally harmless objects

**AARON BLYE** 

U-Wire Columnist

University of Florida

Independent Florida Alligator

like newspapers, potholders and wooden cooking spoons. It wasn't until a favorite toy of mine broke, however, that they

found a seemingly perfect tool for discipline. It was a bouncy-ball paddle, a plastic paddle with a rubber ball

attached to it via an elastic string. I'm sure many of us remember such primitive toys from our early childhood days. Not only did they improve your handeye coordination, but they also allowed you to repeatedly pummel your siblings or pets without loosing the ball.

I remember mine all too well. It was translucent green and had a multi-colored ball attached to it. Painted on the front was a cross with a lamb lying under it, and on the top it read "Jesus Loves You."

Once the ball snapped off, my parents confiscated the paddle to enforce their dreadful punishments. They didn't seem to find too much irony in the fact that they were using a "Jesus Loves You" paddle to spank my two siblings and I; hence, it became their favorite mode of discipline for years to come.

My parents always advocated the "What Would Jesus Do?" approach to life, and every time that little lamb hit my butt I couldn't help but wonder if this is something Jesus would be doing. I found it hard to believe that

New Star Wars redefines the nerd

around the audience thinking

about today's image of a nerd. To my left was an attractive

college couple on their weekly

Jesus would want to punish me just for feeding my entire dinner to our dangerously obese dog or for kicking my brother in his

"no-no special spot." Nevertheless, my parents had convinced me that Jesus was a firm believer in discipline

Jesus loves you, but he has no problem beating your ass. After years of being abused

in the name of Jesus, I finally decided to put a stop to it. Having searched the house for months, I finally came across my once-cherished toy in the back of my parents' nightstand next

to a Bible. I gathered up enough courage and cracked the paddle in half, and, in the process, decapitated the lamb that was so delicately painted on the front. At 7 years old it was my way of saying, 'Jesus, I have had enough!'

I think that was the moment Jesus stopped loving me.

The next time my parents went to get their weapon of choice they were shocked to discover its absence. When they furiously interrogated me, I told them I got rid of Jesus along with his paddle because our relationship had become too abusive. Even though the next paddle

was a lot bigger, the words "Jesus Loves You" were nowhere to be found on it.

Send comments to Adam at ashapir@bgnet.bgsu.edu

# Who is your favorite

character from Star Wars?



SENIOR, EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY "Princess Amadala. Natalie Portman

is hot.'

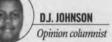


MATT PAGEL JUNIOR, HISTORY "Darth Vader - I'm evil and mechanized."



**DENNIS KISELA** JUNIOR, SPORT MANAGEMENT "Yoda. He's a pimp with a limp."

#### buy happiness don't have any. Money and happiness, thus, go hand-in-hand. This basic desire for money, aided by



been teaching biology for 50 years, why do we persist with the latter?

Competition yields efficiency, and if this old biology teacher wants to keep her job, then she's going to have to fight to keep her job instead of

becoming complacent. Part of the problem is that money generated from taxes is being misallocated. There are places in the country where teachers make less than garbage collectors or postal workers.

The reasoning behind this (we have to pay people to do disgusting jobs that no one wants to do) is deplorable and inexcusable while we have such a high unemployment rate in this country. Unemployment rate and

laziness are synonyms so they can be used interchangeably; no one should be receiving my tax money until every job is taken here within the United States. In turn, money will be properly allocated to those who deserve it, making me (a little) happier of

where my tax dollars are going. Our teachers need money, and they ought to have it more so than anyone else. To make that happen, it takes a genuine interest to make our schools better. Even though districts within affluent neighborhoods have an advantage, the best teachers are the ones that are being constantly challenged by members of the community.

That's how this revolutionary cycle has to begin, folks. Those teachers who can't handle the pressure of persistent parents can quit their jobs and pick up one of these sanitation jobs, leaving the teaching to those

an elderly woman heightened by her AquaNet hairdo. Behind me was the typical all-American long time ago, in a high school far, far away A School far, far away ... One's character and popularity were determined by a family, barely able to control the kids from repeatedly playing soccer with the back of my seat. map of the school lunch tables.

An examination of other recent box-office blockbusters further alludes to the proliferation of nerd culture. movie date. To my right, and thankfully not in front of me, was Stories about wizards and elves used to be a far cry from what the majority of people considered "cool," but look at the success of Lord of the Rings

or Spiderman. Even the use of the word "nerd" seems to have changed.

### **Educators** deserve PEOPLE ON THE STREET

The tables, labeled according ly with the cliche of every teen movie known to man, would have read jocks, preps, drama nerds, metalheads, band geeks, stoners and today's subject, nerds.

Ah yes, the fashionably challenged individuals who always knew the most about computers, played video games, read comic books and obsessed over Star Wars

Although I hate to use stereotypes, this was what we knew to be the typical "nerd." Today, this definition has significantly changed. As I waited for the famous

yellow text signifying the start of "Star Wars: Episode III --Revenge of the Sith," I looked

Star Wars," a bastion of nerd pop culture, has officially infiltrated the mainstream.

In the past, playing video games after middle school was social suicide, but this is no longer the case. You cannot even watch MTV, the epitome of mainstream television, without seeing famous people tout their Xbox or PlayStation 2 as essential to a home theater system.

Technological savvy is no longer exclusive to nerds. The streets are crowded with people whose ears are plugged by the headphones of an iPod. Recently, I found out my grandfather caught my grandmother e-mailing and playing solitaire on the computer at 3 a.m.! You go, Grandmal

Instead of being defined by the previously mentioned characteristics, nerd merely includes them in a far more encapsulating definition. Today's nerd is someone unafraid to "drop it like it's hot" as sober as a Catholic schoolgirl, as long as it brings him joy. The nerds of yore were never

too self-conscious to read a comic book, play video games on a Saturday night or dress up as a Jedi knight. Enjoyment, not appearance, took precedence. So if it makes you happy to read a comic book before class starts, admit you are a "Star Wars" geek to your frat buddies or simply dance like an idiot for some laughs, then go ahead and do it.



**JOSHUA EVANS** PROFESSOR, SPANISH "Boba Fett, because he captured Han.'

capitalism, plays its way into the education system like it does in every other industry.

The more money the average teacher makes, the higher number of people who will be interested in becoming teachers. The more applicants a school district has, the pickier the district can be about hiring new teachers. So competition arises, providing society with the best and the brightest students to educate our future. Because of money, everyone involved is happy.

Money and job security drive everything in the education system, so why not use it to our advantage? Eradicate tenure and seniority. If a kid fresh out of college is able to do more for the students than a woman who has

who can.

Basic economics dictate that the demand for teachers will increase the money the government gives them. Then, once college students see how lucrative this career is financially, the fighting for positions will commence where the best teachers emerge

It has to be this way. I know that teachers should have a drive to do this job other than money, but everyone knows that deep down, adding \$30,000 onto an annual salary would help motivate you find that drive.

And I think I'm speaking very conservatively in that regard!

Send comments to D.J. at worldpeace83@hotmail.com



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usuall in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 600 and 800 words. These are usually also in response to a cur-rent issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

#### POLICIES

Letters to the Editor and Guest Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submis-sions will not be printed. sions will not be printed.

1.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." Only e-mailed letters and columns will be considered for printing. All letters are subject to review for length and clarity before printing.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the views of The BG News.

#### WWW.BGNEWS.COM

#### **By DAVID ESPO**

ASSOCIATED PRESS Breaking WASHINGTON years of gridlock, the Senate on Tuesday cleared the way confirmation of Priscilla Owen to the U.S. appeals court amid fresh debate over an ambiguous compromise on President Bush's current and future judicial nominees

'I appreciate the fact I'm finally going to get a vote," said Owen, swiftly invited to the White House for a presidential show of support. "She is my friend and more importantly she is a great judge," said Bush, a fellow Texan.

The vote was 81-18 to clear Owen for a final vote after Democrats abandoned four years of blocking action, well above the 60 votes needed to cut off debate. That made confirmation a mere formality, with a vote likely Wednesday.

At the same time, senators disagreed over the precise meaning and staying power of a compromise forged by centrist senators Monday night that averted a showdown over judicial nominees including any to the Supreme Court \_ and the Senate's own filibuster rules.

"I do not agree with it because it does not get the job done of ensuring fair, up-or-down votes on all judicial nominees sent to the Senate by the president," Majority Leader Bill Frist said in an e-mail to political supporters.

In remarks on the Senate floor, he said the agreement, "if followed in good faith, will make filibusters of judicial nominees in the future, including Supreme Court nominees, almost impossible." At the same time, he said his ability to seek a limitation of the rights of Democrats to filibuster "remains on the table."

Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada disagreed, and said so quickly.

"The agreement that will allow Justice Owen to receive an up-or-down vote also had the effect of taking the nuclear option off the table," he said, referring to Frist's threat to strip Democrats of their ability to filibuster. "This agreement makes clear that the Senate rules have not changed. The filibuster remains available to the Senate minority."

His office sought political gain from the agreement, e-mailing outside groups to suggest they hail the pact as a "victory over the radical right." Some complied, but the Congressional Black Caucus and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force were sharply critical.

Under Senate rules, opponents of legislation or a nomination can prevent final action by erecting a 60-vote hurdle, a parliamentary device known as a filibuster.

Republican Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, one of seven Republicans and seven Democrats to sign the accord, sided with Frist's



JUSTICE: California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown is among a handful of judges whose nominations are tied up in partisan politics

interpretation, although he and other members of the bipartisan group of negotiators said they expected good faith to prevail. Those who say otherwise "are the same ones, I think, who said

we would never get an agree-ment," said John McCain, R-Ariz. That accord was sealed

Monday evening around a table in McCain's office.

Among the final barriers to a deal, according to officials

in both parties, was finding language flexible enough to satisfy Democrats who wanted to say that their right to filibuster had been preserved while allowing Republicans to say they could always go back and

seek a change. In the end, the compromise said senators would filibuster future nominees only under extraordinary circumstances. It added, "In light of the spirit

and continuing commitments made in this agreement," senators would oppose any change in the filibuster guidelines.

If that was good enough for those around the negotiat-ing table, others divined a lack of clarity

"The jubilation over the deal... suggests that this is the first time a Band-Aid has been invented," said Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo.

The agreement was clear enough on the fate of Owen and two other stalled nominees, Janice Rogers Brown and William Pryor, guaranteeing them a yes-or-no vote on confirmation. It made no such guarantee for two others, Henry Saad and William Myers, although Republicans promised to press for their approval as well. Apart from the impact on any

future nominees, the agreement rearranged the political terrain.

Sen. George Allen, R-Va., a potential presidential contender, criticized the deal as a "major disappointment on principle," since it failed to guarantee a yes-or-no vote for all of Bush's nominees

Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., also a potential White House contender, sidestepped when asked whether he would have signed the agreement. "Any kind of cooperation is a good place to start," he said.

Frist, also expected to run for the White House, emphasized he had not been a party to the agreement.

The Congressional Black Caucus strongly opposes the 'deal' that trades judges who oppose our civil rights for a temporary filibuster cease-fire, they said.

Democratic Party Chairman Howard Dean, in an interview with The Associated Press, said, "I would be hesitant to say it's a win for the Democratic Party.' That won't become clear, he he added, until "we find out if the president consults with the Democrats" on future judicial nominees.

Dean said the deal "was a huge loss for the right wing. ... It was clearly a loss for the president because he was getting accustomed to ramming things through the House and the Senate without any confrontation. It was a win for America because minority rights were supported.

debate The over the agreement overshadowed the rhetoric on the Senate floor about Owen.

"During the last four years, Justice Owen has shown cour-age, patience and judicial temperament," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, referring to the protracted confirmation struggle. "This irrefutably wellqualified woman will finally take her rightful place on the federal bench.

## House passes stem cell bill despite Bush veto threat

#### By Laurie Kellman

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON Ignoring President Bush's veto threat, the House voted Tuesday to lift limits on embryonic stem cell research, a measure supporters said could accelerate cures for diseases but opponents viewed as akin to abortion.

Bush called the bill a mistake and said he would veto it. The House approved it by a 238-194 vote, far short of the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a veto.

This bill would take us across a critical ethical line by creating new incentives for the ongoing destruction of emerging human life," the president said Tuesday. "Crossing this line would be a great mistake."

An alternative offered by Republican leaders that would fund research using stem cells derived from adults and umbilical cords rather than from embryos, passed 430-1, with Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, the lone opponent. But the focus was on the embryo bill. Majority Leader Tom

R-Texas, DeLay, said the embryonic research would bill force taxpayers to finance "the dismemberment of living, distinct human beings.

The rhetoric didn't sway many Democrats.

"I don't need a lecture from the majority leader on moral and ethical leadership," said Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., referring to questions that have been raised about DeLay's travel, fundraisand associations with a lobbyist now under federal criminal investigation.

Supporters of the measure said many embryos that would be studied would otherwise be discarded rather than implanted in the wombs of surrogate mothers. The moral obligation, they argued, rested on Congress to fund research that could lead to cures for diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

"Being pro-life also means fighting for policies that will eliminate pain and suffering," said Rep. James R. Langevin, D-R.I., who was paralyzed at 16 in a gun accident.

Many members voted for both

measures, saying that together they represented hope for the largest number of people critically ill with diseases that scientists say could be treated or even cured through stem cell research.

To support only one measure, said Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio., would be to "offer hope to some and sympathy to others

The more controversial bill, sponsored by Reps. Mike Castle, R-Del., and Diana DeGette, D-Colo., would lift Bush's 2001 ban on federal funding for new research using stem cells from embryos that had not been destroyed before August 2001.

The House vote on the Castle DeGette bill was intended mostly as a show of force to help propel it through the Senate and, the sponsors hope, into compromise talks with the White House.

In the Senate, Arlen Specter, -Pa. and Tom Harkin, R-Pa. and D-Iowa, asked Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., to immediately bring the stem cell issue to the Senate floor. Backers of embryonic stem cell research said the measure was supported

by 60 senators, enough to break a filibuster by opponents, and could even get a two-thirds majority that would be enough to overpower a presidential veto. The House floor discussion

often echoed the emotional terms of the abortion debate and Terri Schiavo's right-to-die case.

Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Texas, a doctor of obstet-rics, played the sound of a fetal heartbeat over the House speaker system, declaring, "This is what it's all about, folks." The bill favored by GOP

leaders and Bush was widely supported by members of both parties. Sponsored by Reps. Chris Smith, R-N.J., and Artur Davis, D-Ala., it would provide \$79 million to increase stem cell research using umbilical cord blood and establish a national database for patients looking for matches. It also would clear the way for studies on stem cells derived from adults.

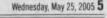
Blood saved from newborns umbilical cords is rich in a type of stem cells that produces blood in the same way that transplanted



FAMILY: Tracy Jones, of Houston, accompanied by her husband, J.J., holds their Snowflakes frozen embryo adoptee child Trey, one-month, during a stem cell news conference on Capitol Hill.

Institute of Medicine estimated that cord blood could help treat

bone marrow produces it. The about 11,700 citizens a year with leukemia and other devastating diseases, yet most is discarded.





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## THIS WEEK IN **BG SPORTS**

BASEBALL Wednesday MAC Tournament at Miami, 4 p.m.

TRACK Saturday and Sunday NCAA Regionals in Bloomington, Ind.

#### **BG SPORTS** BRIEFING Warnock named MAC Scholar Athlete of the week

A Falcon baseball player as been honored for has academic achievement. Senior outfielder Jeff Warnock has been named Mid-American Conference Male Athlete of the Week. Male Scholar

Wanock hit .538 last week, helping the team become 4-0. He had seven hits in 13 at-bats, with five run and four RBIs.

Warnock is an Early Childhood Studies major from Cincinnati, Ohio. Track Women given Academic All-MAC

honors

Three women of the Falcon Track and Field team were awarded honorary spots on the Academic All-Mid-American Conference Team.

Senior Kerri McClung earns the honor for her third straight season. McClung earned a 3.85 grade point average as a Special Education major.

McClung joined Falcon teammates senior Andrean Bunko and sophomore Melissa Krueger who also earned the honor of being named to the Academic All-MAC Team.

Bunko earned a 3.9 gpa as a Pre-Physical Therapy major. Krueger won the honor with a

3.48 gpa as an Early Childhood Studies major. Thirty-two women were

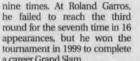
honored with these Falcon track athletes as members of the Academic All-MAC Team.

McClung named to **All-MAC First Team** 

Senior Kerri McClung joins 16 other stand-out Track and Field as honorary members of the All-MAC Women's First Team.

McClung received the honor after winning the shot put title at the MAC Championships with a toss of 51-07. She's already broken her own school record twice this season in the shot put.

McClung has been named to the Academic All-MAC team the last three years.





## WEDNESDAY May 25, 2005

www.bgnews.com/sports **BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY** 

## BASEBALL Falcons get MAC Tourney bid

Despite a loss and a cancellation, Bowling Green's lone win over Western Michigan was enough to clinch a bid to the MAC Tournament.

#### By Jessica Ameling SPORTS REPORTER

It was definitely a good week for Falcon baseball as the team went 2-1 and claimed a spot in the MAC tournament for the first time since the 2002 season.

Last Wednesday the Falcons beat Toledo 10-4 in a non-confer-ence game and then BGSU split a weather-shortened two-game series with Western Michigan over the weekend. The Falcons took the first game 8-3 on Friday before falling to the Broncos 3-1 on Saturday, concluding regular ason play with a 33-16 (12-8 MAC) record.

"I thought we played very well," Schmitz said. "Definitely on Friday we had all three phases going-pitching, defense and hitting.

Behind the pitching of sophomore Alan Brech, who allowed only two runs and nine hits in eight innings, BGSU recorded 13 hits in their victory over Western (26-22, 13-8 MAC). Falcons who batted in runs in the contest included Eric Lawson, Kevin Longstreth, Josh Stewart,

Andy Hudak and Steve Raszka. Bronco pitcher Dan O'Brien quieted the Falcon's bats on Saturday, holding BGSU to just four hits. Junior Nolan Reimold's homer in the fourth solo was BGSU's only run of the afternoon. Reimold batted .625 in the past three games, earning the MAC West Division Player of the Week award for the fourth time this season

Senior pitcher Keith Laughlin allowed three runs on nine hits while striking out 10 batters in BGSU's second game against



THE WIND UP: Bowling Green sophomore Alan Brech throws a pitch last season in this file photo. Brech recorded his eight win of the season against Western Michigan this past weekend. In eight innings of work, Brech struck out five batters while only allowing two runs and nine hits.

Western. The third game of the series was cancelled as a result of the weather conditions. Although BGSU didn't get

the two wins over the Broncos needed to secure an automat-ic bid in the MAC Conference Tournament, a Kent State loss to Ball State gave BGSU a spot in the six-team tournament. "We're excited about getting

BGSU is seeded fifth and will

back to the tournament after a two year absence," Schmitz said. "We just have to take

MAC) at 4 p.m. today. Ball State swept BGSU in the three-game series played at the beginning of the season, however that was advantage of this opportunity because it doesn't come along almost two months ago.

"I don't think we played our best baseball against Ball State," Schmitz said. "We're a very

pulled a forehand winner cross-

lay No. 2 Ball State (36-16, 17-5

good team when we have our pitching, hitting and defense working all at the same time."

The tournament runs from May 25-28 and will be hosted by the regular season champions Miami (39-14, 17-4 MAC) at McKie Field at Hayden Park in Oxford, Ohio.

## Agassi loses in first round of French Open again

#### By Steve Wine The Associated press

Andre Agassi, the oldest player at the French Open, felt his age Tuesday.



that often

court to take the next game, Agassi walked off even before his opponent hit the ball. Agassi held serve in the next just two points the rest of the set. Before the final game of the three-hour match, he buried his head in his towel in discomfort and dejection. When Nieminen closed out the victory, he looked to the sky as if in disbelief. A former top-40 player now ranked 95th, he considered the win one to savor, even with Agassi hurting. "Mentally it's tough to beat Agassi," Nieminen said. "I used to have posters on the wall when I was young, and now I play against him. So it's big thing to beat him." Agassi graciously waited for the Finn before walking off the court, then acknowledged cheers from the center court crowd with a halfhearted wave before disappearing through the exit.

"A very strange match," Henin-Hardenne said. "I knew I would be nervous. This is why a Grand Slam is so different. You have to be able to manage your Henin-Hardenne, seeded 10th but the top choice of oddsmakers, improved to 21-1 since returning in March from a seven-month layoff due to a blood virus and knee injury. The biggest question about her French Open chances is whether she has recovered the necessary stamina for a two-week run on clay, and she needed 2 hours, 16 minutes to beat Martinez. "I feel much better on the court than I did a few months Henin-Hardenne said. But I have to build confidence back, because I lost a lot of confidence last year." Sharapova was one point from falling behind 4-1 in the third set before she rallied against compatriot Linetskaya, playing in just her third Grand Linetskaya, Slam event. Sharapova smacked three winners in the final game for the harrowing victory. "These are the sorts of matches I play for," she said. "You feel like you were losing the whole match, and all of a sudden you pulled it out."

Hobbled by an inflamed nerve in his back that dates back months, Agassi lost in the opening round for the second year in a row. He didn't request treatment from a trainer but rarely ran after shots in the final sets and lost to Finnish two qualifier Jarkko Nieminen 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (6), 6-1, 6-0.

The 35-year-old Agassi said the injury flared up in the third set.

The nerve in my back started getting inflamed and sending pain all the way down my leg, and it was getting worse by the minute," he said. "To serve was painful, to move, to stand and even to sit. It was getting worse and worse.'

Agassi said a cortisone injection he received in February alleviated the symptoms for a while, but his back began to bother him again about a month ago. He said he might need another shot to compete at Wimbledon.

"I have every intention of playing," he said. "Something tells me I'm at the stage of my career where I'm going to be living with these injections."

Coincidentally, Agassi set an Open era record for men by playing in his 58th major event. He has lost in the opening round

Also eliminated was Gustavo Kuerten, a three-time French Open champion who has battled hip trouble for years. The unseeded Kuerten, who has won just two matches in 2005, lost to David Sanchez 6-3, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1.

No. 2-seeded Andy Roddick improved his modest career record at Roland Garros to 4-4 by beating French wild-card Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. No. 3 Marat Safin also won.

Two top contenders among the women survived close calls.

Dominant at the start and shaky at the finish, Justine Henin-Hardenne extended her winning streak to 18 matches, all on clay, by beating Conchita Martinez 6-0, 4-6, 6-4.

In a matchup of 18-year-old Russians, No. 2-seeded Maria Sharapova overcame 59 unforced errors, including 11 double faults, and a third-set deficit to beat Evgenia Linetskaya 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-4

The No. 6-seeded Agassi looked out of sorts from the start, and double-faulted four times in one game. He overcame a set point in the tiebreaker and won it with a forehand return winner from the backhand alley.

But even with the lead, he said

Francois Mori AP Photo FRENCH OPEN FAULT: Andre Agassi listens to reporters during a press conference after being defeated by Finland's Jarkko Nieminen in a first

round match of the French Open tennis tournament yesterday.

he considered defaulting before deciding against it. "I almost shook hands at two

sets to one," he said. "I didn't want to leave that way." Agassi sought relief by taking Advil but said a trainer could

have done nothing to help him. Instead, he moved stiffly and suffered through the final two sets. double-faulted to fall He behind 2-0 in the fourth set, and from there the match quickly slipped away. When Nieminen

"It's disappointing not to be in a position to be competitive out there," he said.

Henin-Hardenne, women's favorite and 2003 champion, won a lopsided first set and a 36-point game to start the second set. But she double-faulted nine times, and in the final set she nearly blew a 5-1 lead before closing out her first match in a Grand Slam event since September.

Safin, the reigning Australian Open champion, opened a bid for his first Roland Garros title by beating Raemon Sluiter 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.



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#### **Families cling** to hope for loved ones

FAMILIES, FROM PAGE 1

two sons, and his wife who live in Oregon, Ohio.

Since her husband's enlistment in the Armed Forces 15 years ago, the largest struggle for Meyers is that she has had to play the part of father as well as mother to her 5- and 8-year-old boys.

"I am the only one back here to keep the boys going and Brian going. It makes it difficult that there is no one else to rely on but me to make it smoothly stateside," she said.

Before his deployment, Brian had given his sons special gifts so that they can always have their dad with them.

It is called a "Daddy Bear," Meyers said. It holds a picture of Brian with each of his boys inside, along with a taped story that has Brian's voice as the narrator.

"They [his sons] are proud of him," Meyers said. "The oldest was student of the week and put a picture of his dad on his poster board. And the youngest said that he wants to go in the Army and be a paratrooper like his daddy."

## **Bursar** will charge new convenience fee

#### 2.5 percent fee added to credit card transactions.

#### By Matthew Clark

In an e-mail sent to students on Thursday, the University announced that effective July 1 it will no longer be accepting Visa credit or debit cards for the payment of a bursar bill, and that all Discover and MasterCard transactions will incur a 2.5 percent convenience fee.

According to the Office of the Bursar, the change was made so that the University could reallocate more than \$700,000 a year in credit card merchant fees. The bursar cited reductions in state funding as the justification for the charge of the fee, and a Visa credit policy that prevents the bursar from charging a percentage of the total bill is the reason for

refusing payments made with that card

The bursar will continue to accept payments via electronic check without an added fee, which can be done online using the University's myBGSU web portal or the bursar's web page. Other no-fee payments include cash or check delivered in person and credit card companies' and credit card companies' convenience checks.

Students who wish to continue paying by credit card may do so using either of those web sites or the bursar's toll free number, 1-866-364-4176. Such payments are not accepted in person, by fax, by mail, or any other method.

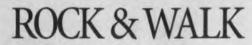
According to the bursar, the convenience fee will appear as a separate transaction on the students' credit card bill and will not appear on their bursar bill. The company hired to handle the transaction is Sallie Mae Solutions, which will collect all of the fee.

Several other universities charge the fee, including the University including the University of Toledo, Cleveland State University, Miami University, and Ohio University.

State funding for the University has decreased by 7 percent or \$5.8 million since 2001, and has been calculated to be reduced by another 5.45 percent or \$4.5 million by 2007, according to state share of instruction calculations from the Ohio Board of Regents.

"The state funds that are coming our direction have continued to go down," said Gaylyn Finn, University treasurer. "If we were to keep this expense and make up for it in income we'd have to raise fees, which we can't do because the state has a cap on tuition increases

Visa will continue to be accepted by other University offices, including the bookstore and ticket offices





Ashley Kuntz BG Phot WALKING: Local band provides entertainment during the Relay For Life. The annual relay raises money to find a cure for cancer.

## Marine remembered

For Ren

OBETZ, Ohio (AP) - An 18-year-old Marine remembered at his funeral for popping wheelies on his bike and showing off bowling tricks was the youngest Ohioan killed in Iraq combat.

Hundreds of people who live in the small community outside Columbus lined the streets Monday in what became a somber parade as the hearse carrying Pfc. Christopher R. Dixon's casket passed on the way to the cemetery. Dixon was killed May 11

when an explosion hit his vehicle in western Iraq. Two other members of Dixon's Columbus reserve unit, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, were killed in that attack, and another died earlier that week, the Marine Reserves said.

Several 19-year-olds from Ohio have died in Iraq, but Dixon was the first 18-year-old, according to the

U.S. Defense Department. Before enlisting, Dixon worked at a bowling alley, where he perfected tricks to show his friends.

Friends and family recalled Dixon's daredevil attitude and charming personality as they packed the Good Shepherd Community Church. Dixon, who graduated from Hamilton Township High School last year, was excited to serve in Iraq, friends said.

"He wasn't scared at all, he was really happy to be going," said Jordan Wall, a sophomore who lived near Dixon.

"He was always trying to help somebody, and he knew he would be helping people in the Marines serving his country," she said.

The Rev. William L. Snider lamented that Dixon had died so young but praised him for making the most of his youth.

## Professor gets suspended without pay

to class and killing the stu-Dr. Eckel suspended dents after one student arrived for intimidating considerably late for class. remarks to students.

By Sean Corp EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A three-member panel at the

University has ruled that Dr.

Norman Eckel, an account-

ing professor who was suspended following allegedly threatening remarks made in

the classroom, will be suspend-ed without pay until Jan. 1 for

violating the University's Academic Charter. As the BG News first report-

ed on Feb. 9 several students

complained after Dr. Eckel, a member of the BGSU faculty

since 1979, made remarks on

Feb. 1 about bringing a gun

"We were all joking around about the kid coming in late," said Scott Leigh, a student in attendence during the incident, to The BG News at the time, "When he

made this comment we all dropped our jaws. We were all in shock." University The

deemed that it was no laughing matter and conducted an internal investigation consisting of three panel-ists from within the College

of Business according to Kim McBroom, a spokesman in the Office of Marketing and Communication. After the four month

investigation it was decided that Eckel, who had been suspended since Feb. 1 with pay would continue his suspension until Jan. 1 without pay due to violations of University policy.

The exact policies violated by Dr. Eckel within the Academic Charter were unknown, but "they Charter

NORMAN ECKEL University Professor

infrequent" and suspend a tenured associate professor without pay, such as the case with Dr. Eckel, as "very infrequent."

Following the suspension Dr. Eckel will be required to take part in "professional development and to undergo peer reviews of his teaching each semester, according to the University.

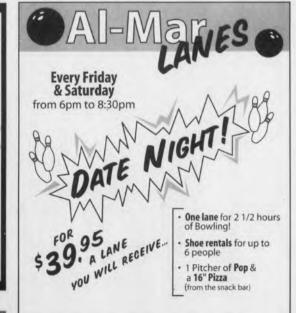
The exact nature of the investigation is unknown as Dr. Eckel has 60 days to file an appeal of the suspension and those involved could not comment on procedures involved in the investigation until the 60 days had elapsed.

McBroom said she was unaware of an appeal and as of press time Robert Boughton, chairmean of the Faculty Senate could not be reached for comment on whether Dr. Eckel had appealed his suspension.

were characterized as dealing with intimida-tion" McBroom said. While the num-ber of suspension of

professors was unkown McBroom deemed them "fairly

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802 SIXTH: Two bdrm. furnished, dishwasher, one bath. School Year - One Person - \$485.00. One Year- One Person Rate- \$430.00

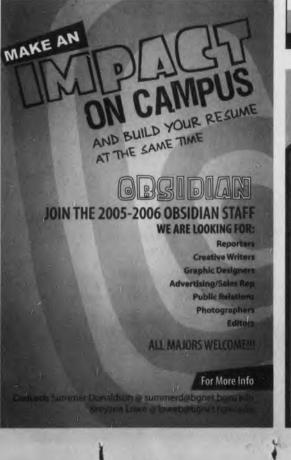
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