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January 15, 2008
Volume 102, Issue 83
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PEOPLE ON THE STREET

If you had a theme song what would it be?



SHELBY JEFFERSON
Senior, Journalism

"Fight the Power" by Public Enemy because I'm a radical theorist."
| Page 4



TODAY
Snow Showers
High: 31, Low: 21



TOMORROW
Mostly Sunny
High: 36, Low: 29

REALITY SHOW CONTESTANT STUNS



RACHEL RADWANSKI | THE BG NEWS

OUCH: Wayne Hoffman, mentalist and illusionist, pulls sharp razors tied on black thread from his mouth using only his tongue to tie the razors during his show. Hoffman is a contestant in the NBC reality show "Phenomenon."



STEVEN SENNE | AP PHOTO

REACHING OUT: Candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are out to prove they're more than just labels.

The politics of -isms

Racism, sexism worry Democrats

By David Crary
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Expressions of sexism and racism emerging from the contest between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama have been blatant, subtle and perhaps sometimes imagined, and they are renewing the national debate over what is and isn't acceptable to say in public.

Clinton's camp has perceived sexism

in comments about her appearance and emotions. Supporters of Obama have complained about racial overtones in remarks about his Muslim-sounding middle name, Hussein, and his acknowledged drug use as a young man.

Beyond the back-and-forth between a white woman and a black man seeking the Democratic presidential nomina-

See **DEMOCRAT** | Page 2

President Bush visits Saudi Arabia

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — President Bush delivered a sophisticated weapons sale for Saudi Arabia yesterday, trying to bolster defenses against threats from U.S. adversary Iran and muster support in this oil-rich kingdom for a long-stalled Mideast peace agreement.

On a surprisingly cold day with blustery winds, Bush received a warm embrace from King Abdullah, whose family wields almost absolute rule. Among

ordinary Saudis and across much of the Mideast, Bush is unpopular, particularly because of the Iraq war and unflinching U.S. support for Israel.

Bush and Abdullah were going to some lengths over two days to emphasize their strong personal ties.

Saudi Arabia holds the world's largest oil reserves and surging fuel costs are putting a major strain on the troubled U.S. economy. But White House officials said it was unclear if Bush raised

See **BUSH** | Page 2



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS | AP PHOTO
US BUSH MIDEAST: President Bush, left, holds the King Abdul Aziz Order

Seniors: Watch out for 100-level classes

By Janeen Morgan
Assistant Special Sections Editor

Taking a 100-level class as a senior can broaden your knowledge base or force you to graduate a semester late.

If you take Biology 101 as a senior, you can look forward to taking three extra credit hours in order to graduate. Taking a 100-level course as a senior can result in two or three docked credits.

"So, instead of the 122 hours needed to graduate, it will be 123 for those seniors with a 100-level course," said Matt Webb, advis-

ing director of program advisement for the College of Health and Human Services.

So if you're taking English 112, Math 128 or that 100-level tap dancing class, you might need to take another class or two to graduate, according to College of Arts and Sciences Adviser Lee Ann Koenigbauer.

The college's handbook does specify some exceptions. These include foreign languages or the entry-level computer science course: CS 100.

See **SENIORS** | Page 2

USG suggests prof evaluations go public

By Kristen Vasas
Reporter

The new year began with a bang for Undergraduate Student Government as they discussed the need for public instructor evaluations at last night's general assembly meeting.

"A new system will primarily focus on allowing students to register for classes with instructors who will suit them best," said Liesl Dye, the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. "It will not be used for pay increases or for criticizing instructors, but for the benefit of the students."

The idea for a new system arose after USG Student Welfare Senator Rob Hohler researched different forms of technology that would work to create a central database for instructor evaluations.

Hohler found that in order for more effective evaluations to be created, a new technological system would have to be implemented as well. However, before any work could be completed, Hohler left at the end of the fall semester and passed the task on to Dye.

"At first, we weren't sure about how we would go about this,"

"We want to eliminate things like hotness levels and star ratings ..."

Liesl Dye | USG Chair

Dye said. "But after talking with [Mike Sears] the USG president from 1991, it really opened my eyes to how serious this project really was."

Dye began her research on the subject by collecting information about instructor evaluations from other schools and studying the effectiveness of their programs.

According to her research, a new system at Bowling Green would be formed entirely around the students rather than on trivial details.

"We don't want this system to be like the online Web sites," Dye said. "We want to eliminate things like hotness levels and star ratings and make it more about student and instructor compatibility in order to ensure learning."

See **RATINGS** | Page 2

Flip-flopping over the vote

By Stephen Majors
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Republican Party has invited Republican elections board members from around the state to gather at a private meeting today to discuss "the party's response to the Secretary of State's voting proposals," according to an e-mail from a party official obtained yesterday by The Associated Press.

The e-mail, which said, "your efforts to keep the information above confidential are appreciated," comes at a time when Democratic Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner has directed and recommended widespread changes to touch-screen voting systems across the state.

Elections officials in at least three counties have balked at Brunner's directive that counties

CAMPUS BRIEF

Water shut off on eastern side of campus

Water was shut off on the east side of campus last night.

A high water alarm went off around 7 p.m., according to Associate Vice President for Administration Bryan Benner.

This was a result of a water line break by the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house, Benner said.

Water was eventually shut off so the excess could drain. Most of the University's water was turned back on by around 10:30 p.m. Though the pressure was initially low, the water was turned back on in Rodgers nearly an hour later.

At that time, Benner said only the University's Greek units were without water. He expected water to be back on in those units by 2:30 a.m. today.

At press time, Benner said the reason for the break was unclear but was likely the result of old pipes.

- Reporter Ryan Sullivan

See **VOTING** | Page 2

DEMOCRAT

From Page 1

ton, the situation has created a snapshot of the nation's sensitivity — or lack thereof — to certain kinds of comments. Is it more acceptable, for instance, to make a sexist remark than a racist remark?

"It's always been easier," says Marie Wilson, president of the White House Project, which encourages women's advancement in politics. "With women, you can get away with it."

"With race, you can hardly say anything."

Feminist leader Gloria Steinem, argued in a New York Times op-ed last week that gender is "probably the most restricting force in American life" — more so than race.

But others involved in politics suggest the situation is more complex and that both race and gender are used to discriminate

"In parts of the country, the racist terms fall just as easily off the lips as they always did. And there are also places that I can't go because I am a woman, and that bothers me just as much."

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich | Board member of Black Leadership Forum

against people.

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, a board member of the Black Leadership Forum, said that as a black woman she has experienced both racism and sexism, and suggested there was little point in ranking them.

"In parts of the country, the racist terms fall just as easily off the lips as they always did," she said. "And there are also places that I can't go because I am a woman, and that bothers me just as much."

Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, said sexist and racist expressions both remain all too

common in public discourse, though she said the racism often may be "somewhat coded."

"There's an awful lot of explicit sexist stuff," she said.

Certainly, Clinton's gender has been the spark for criticism, verbal and otherwise, of a sort that Obama has avoided. Available on the Internet are a Hillary nutcracker (the Clinton-like figure cracks nuts between her legs) and a Hillary toilet brush (the sales pitch: "You can have Hillary Clinton as your 'First Cleaning Lady.'")

Clinton's wardrobe, figure, hairdo—even her laugh—have generated commentary.

RATINGS

From Page 1

President Johnnie L. Lewis, although in favor of the public instructor evaluations, noted that many deans feel that a new system such as the one USG is proposing would result in a popularity contest among professors.

"Right now, the system we have is based around tenure and pay for instructors," Lewis said.

"How can this system possibly help the students when it comes to learning?"

Lewis hopes that a new system will focus specifically around class size, classroom materials and instructor effectiveness and that public evaluations lead to a system of uniformity throughout campus.

"Right now, [instructor evaluations] are not uniform across campus or at any one college," he said. "We have different forms for different colleges and this just enhances

the confusion we feel when it comes to evaluations."

In order to clear up the confusion, Dye hopes that if the system is implemented, all evaluations would be made public on the USG Web site.

"We are looking for something to attach our names to," Speaker Jeremy Lehman said of the Web site idea. "UAO has their thing and RSA has theirs. [Instructor evaluations] could be USG's."

SENIORS

From Page 1

Judge James W. Bachman, who co-teaches the entry-level criminal justice course, CRJU 210, said some upper-class students can underestimate the importance or difficulty of a class just because it's a not a 300 or 400-level class.

"Seniors and juniors have to realize that the level of the class does not determine its difficulty level," Bachman said.

Senior Lindsey Thompson thought it would be an advantage to take Geography 125 but she learned the hard way.

"I guess I undermined the difficulty of the class, which is why I am taking it over again for the second time," she said. Surrounded by freshmen

in the Weather and Climate class, she doesn't enjoy being the senior there.

"Most seniors don't really opt to take these courses, sometimes the reason they are in these classes as seniors is because they did not take [them] in the prior years, for whatever reason," Webb said.

Because she's retaking the course, Thompson said the course will only provide her with two credits.

But Bachman, a retired judge and now an adjunct professor, said he doesn't mind students who do take his class because it broadens their life experiences.

"It forces students to step out of their comfort zones to take courses they've never studied before," Bachman said. "I just want students to look at life very broadly."

BUSH

From Page 1

the subject with the king. The issue has come up in earlier stops on Bush's eight-day trip, largely in the context of his quest for alternate fuels and sources of energy, the officials said.

White House counselor Ed Gillespie said Mideast leaders have "talked about the nature of the market and the vast demand that's on the world market today for oil." He said that was "a legitimate and accurate point."

Bush, who dislikes late nights, also stayed up well past his regular 9:30 p.m. bedtime for after-dinner talks with the king in the walled compound of his opulent palace. Its marble floors and

walls contain sheets of gold, colored with precious stones and embedded jewels.

In a show of hospitality, the king invited Bush to come to his lavish horse farm today, where 150 Arabian stallions are stabled. The visit, including an overnight by Bush, is a payback for the president hosting Abdullah at his Texas ranch.

U.S. officials said much of conversation over yesterday's palace dinner was about chill temperatures that dropped into the 40s. Gillespie said there were predictions for snow today, the first to fall here since 1968.

Coinciding with Bush's arrival, the administration officially notified Congress it will offer Saudi Arabia sophisticated Joint Direct Attack Munitions—or "smart bomb"—technology and related equipment.

VOTING

From Page 1

with touch-screen machines make a certain number of paper ballots available during the March primary for voters who don't want to use the machines.

The counties also said they will have trouble complying with Brunner's recommendation the 57 counties that use touch-screen machines scrap them by November in favor of an optical-scan system, in which ballots filled out by hand are tabulated by computer scanners.

The private Republican meeting injects partisanship into a debate over voting technology that shouldn't be political, Brunner said yesterday.

"This is not about political gamesmanship," Brunner said. "It's about doing what's right for the voters of Ohio."

The meeting is an effort

"It's about doing what's right for the voters of Ohio."

Jennifer Brunner | Secretary of State

to gather feedback from Republican elections board members, said Jason Mauk, executive director of the Ohio Republican Party, who sent the e-mail. With Republican and Democratic members on the elections board, the process is partisan in nature, he said.

"I don't think it's any secret that Ohio has election boards made up of partisan members and we believe it's important to communicate with those people on the boards who are affiliated with the Republican Party," Mauk said.

"Our board members would not argue that this is a partisan decision."

BLOTTER

FRIDAY

1:09 A.M.

Brandon Cooper of Maumee, Ohio, was cited for criminal mischief, underage under the influence and theft. Cooper was caught by University police after breaking into a car in Lot J. According to police reports, he had 30 CDs in his rear pocket.

SUNDAY

4:08 A.M.

Andrew Clark of Grand Blanc, Mich., was cited for underage under the influence. A University officer was driving down East Wooster Street when Clark jumped in front of his car. After detaining the struggling suspect, the officer found an Ohio female's drivers license on him.

4:28 A.M.

An arson investigator was brought in to examine a smoke detector in Harshman. After a fire alarm went off it was discovered there were burn marks on the detector. Police are still investigating the incident.

2 P.M.

Tyler S. Donnell, 22, and Alyssa B. Morelock, 18, both of Gibsonburg, Ohio, were arrested for disorderly conduct for fighting in a Wooster Street parking lot.

2:16 P.M.

The deadbolt lock on an East Reed Avenue residence was reported broken overnight.

6:12 P.M.

A wallet was reported stolen from Uptown/Downtown Sports Bar and Deli on North Main Street sometime Saturday night.

MONDAY

12:33 A.M.

A South Main Street McDonald's employee reported seeing two open containers in a customer's vehicle at the drive-thru.

1:15 A.M.

Police are investigating an alleged robbery and assault that happened at Carter Park. Police said the victim did go to the Wood County Hospital and no arrests have been made.

ONLINE: Go to bgnews.com for the complete blotter list.

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We want to correct all factual errors. If you think an error has been made, call The BG News at 419-372-6966.

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Two at OU suspended for pro sports bets

ATHENS (AP) — An Ohio University pitcher and a former baseball player were charged yesterday with taking bets on professional sports, and two other players were suspended from the team for placing bets.

Authorities said the betting involved only professional sports. Athletic director Kirby Hocutt said there is no evidence that the players tried to influence the outcomes of games.

Andrew Shisila, 22, of Mentor, and Brent Decoster, 22, of Westlake, face misdemeanor gambling charges in Athens Municipal Court. They are accused of running the gambling operation. If convicted, they could get up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Two other baseball players have been suspended from the team for placing bets. The university declined to identify them because of privacy requirements.

The university also has notified the NCAA, which could strip a year's sports eligibility from the players. The NCAA prohibits betting on sports.

Decoster formerly played on the baseball team. Shisila, a senior, was primarily a relief pitcher last season, but started the final game and got the victory in a 15-0 win over Bowling Green. The Bobcats went 23-31 last season, including 8-19 in the Mid-American Conference.

The university was notified of the gambling operation in an e-mail last November. The school's police department investigated and turned its findings over to Athens Law Director Patrick Lang, who filed the charges Monday.

Accidents via overtraining see increase

By Cynthia Billhartz Gregorian
MCT

ST. LOUIS — Elaine Gill, 16, wanted to run faster. So she started running more. A lot more.

Sometimes she'd run 50 miles a week. At first the extra miles paid off, and Elaine cut several minutes off her 5K cross-country time.

Then, during a race, a bone in her foot broke. Now, she can't run at all.

Such is the plight of a growing number of athletes, both male and female, who train their young bodies past the point of diminishing returns and right into injuries. The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that more than 30 million children and teens participate in

organized sports each year. Of those, about 3.5 million seek treatment for overuse injuries and chronic fatigue from overtraining. Though no data exist, local sports medicine specialists say they've seen a steady increase in the number of injured and over-trained athletes between ages 8 and 18 by as much as 25 percent in recent years.

Experts attribute that increase to more and more children specializing in only one sport and playing it year-round for school, select and traveling teams. That leaves no down time for rest and repair.

Sometimes, experts point out, it's because parents and coaches put pressure on children to excel. But kids often put the pressure on themselves. Elaine, a sophomore at Gateway Academy

in Chesterfield, created her own high-mileage program to supplement workouts with her track and cross-country teams at school.

"I really have a fixation on

doing the best I possibly can, whether it's [academically], running or cheerleading. And this is one of those things I felt like I could do better," Elaine said.



ERIK M. LUNSFORD | ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

HEALING: Claire Dreyer, a 15-year-old Webster Groves High School sophomore tennis player, completes her therapy at the Sports Medicine & Training Center.

Student death from bacterial meningitis creates strife

The death of a University of Pennsylvania sophomore is being attributed to Penn emergency room

By Will Bunch
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—The death of a 19-year-old University of Pennsylvania sophomore from bacterial meningitis in early September has prompted a lawsuit and a war of words between the family's lawyer and the university hospital where she died.

The suit filed Friday by the family of Anne Ryan, a promising student from near Erie, Pa., accuses the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania of ignoring clear signs of the deadly bacterial illness when it failed to admit her after an emergency-room visit on Sept. 6 of last year. It seeks unspecified damages.

The family's attorney, widely known trial lawyer

"This was a young lady who had a life of promise ahead of her..."

Tom Kline | Ryan's Attorney

Tom Kline, leveled a new allegation Fri-day — that doctors at HUP performed an unnecessary procedure that contributed to her death on Sept. 9, after she returned to the ER the night before.

"This was a young lady who had a life of promise ahead of her, and she ended up tragically dying after two visits to the Penn emergency room," Kline said Friday.

University as well as hospital officials said Friday

that they were limited in discussing all of the specifics of Ryan's death, but insisted that the care she received during her emergency-room trips was appropriate.

Dr. P.J. Brennan, chief medical officer for the Penn Health System and a specialist in treating infectious diseases, did say without details that the allegations by attorney Kline "are shamefully inaccurate."

The one thing that both sides seemed to agree on Friday was that the sudden death of the vivacious Ivy Leaguer with a passion for modeling, music and exotic languages, was an unthinkable tragedy for her

parents, her brother—a Penn grad living in Philadelphia — and her three sisters from Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Kline said that when Ryan went to the emergency room at the Penn hospital on the second day of classes in September, she reported classic meningitis symptoms including neck pain and a fever of 103 degrees. What's more, he said, blood tests showed two signs of a bacterial infection.

However, Ryan was sent home and told she had a less serious viral infection after a test of fluid from a spinal tap.

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PEOPLE ON THE STREET If you had a theme song, what would it be?



"Like You'll Never See Me Again" by Alicia Keys. Because I value life."

CARLOTTA PRINCE,
Junior, Psychology



"Too Legit to Quit" by MC Hammer. It just has a special place in my heart."

MATT WULFF,
Freshman, Sports Communication



"G-5" by T-Pain. It's a song about how confident you are in yourself."

KARLA NOBLES,
Senior, IPC and Sports Communication



"Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns-n-Roses. Because I'm a badass."

PATRICK DOWREY,
Sophomore, Undecided

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Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgnews.com.

It's depressing out and about as classes and societies collide



MWENDAH M'MAILUTHA
COLUMNIST

"The world, from frigid Iceland to the prairies of the outback, is currently electrified by the enigma that is the U.S. presidential nomination race."

I had a great story about my travel to Washington, D.C. and the New England area over winter break. Maybe it might have been interesting; a friend once told me that in D.C., the sense of "politics" is so entrenched that politics leap at you on the street. While I thought New England from Connecticut to Maine is just so removed from the Midwest.

The story, however, has been overtaken by events.

The end of 2007 and beginning of 2008 has been a bit depressing for me and others across the world for many different reasons; some subtle, others not so.

For the student community, at the University in particular, and the entire Bowling Green community in general, it has been the tragic loss of two international students from India and Nepal in a traffic accident.

In Pakistan, the beast that rages in all humans, the ugliness that obviates the untrammeled progress of humanity, reared its head in the assassination of former Pakistan premier, Benazir Bhutto (Islamabad tried to save face by blaming her car's door for her death; she hit her head on the door, they said).

In Kenya, an erstwhile progressive and stable country, a bungled presidential election on Dec. 27, plunged the country into paralysis. That is really frustrating for yours truly, Kenya being my home country. The disputed results of the hotly contested and very close election has become a seriously contentious issue and touched off a class war like never seen before in the east African country.

Contrary to what you might have read in the popular press or watched on TV, it is not ethnic cleansing. It is the culmination of a pent-up class war, triggered by an arrogant elite that, like the French queen of yore, seemed to tell the dispossessed to eat cake if they had no bread.

To cap it all, there is a renewed war of words between the United States, and Iran over some saber rattling between the two countries in the straits of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. Though it is now being touted as a prank, it has touched off a lot of attrition words between

D.C. and Tehran.

Then there are the unremitting worries about the U.S. economy, and the attendant domino effect across the world. Credit institutions and mortgage companies are walking on quicksand and there are allusions to bad, old recession and inflationary pressures that might hit people hard. Across the world, investments are at risk due to exposure to the troubled U.S. economy.

Bewildered investors across the world don't seem to understand why they should incur losses just because of fluff words like "credit squeeze" and "sub-prime crisis" out of the U.S. The European Union is in knots trying to figure out its shooting Euro and waiting every moment to do the opposite of what the Federal Reserve in the U.S. does with regard to interest rates.

The world cannot have a worse start to a year!

Not all is gloom, however. The world, from frigid Iceland to the prairies of the outback, is currently electrified by the enigma that is the U.S. presidential nomination race.

True to the saying that "only in America," a helluva lot of people across the world do not understand heady stuff like "caucuses," "primaries" and "super Tuesdays." People zealously follow the process anyway; that's what the U.S. gets for being the boss.

Then there is the sojourn to the Middle East, a consequence of Annapolis, Md. last fall, or of \$100/barrel oil. President Bush has pointedly told the world that the troubled region will patch up the godforsaken peace process, re-establish the bearing to the road map, and get to a lasting peace in that region by the end of the year.

If it works, it might just revive my trust in a humanity that so far seems hell-bent on self-annihilation.

How do all these events tie? The two refreshing examples from the U.S. (the presidential candidate nomination process and President Bush's quest for peace in the middle east) underscore a profoundly fundamental issue in the international system: many people across the world look up to the U.S. for leadership on a plethora of issues, from

economic development to peace, security and the progress of democracy.

The U.S.'s waning moral standing in different parts of the world notwithstanding, the country is still the world's super power. It not only needs to restore the disappearing credibility but also recapture its magic of helping deal with the world's most pressing problems.

This does not overlook the ambivalence that attends to the U.S.'s engagement with the rest of the world.

Obviously, the U.S. has strategic interests that take precedence over other world issues. However, its super power position comes with obligations that cannot be shirked or tampered down.

A world where social, economic and political inequities run deep and wide is a very dangerous place. There is nothing as bad as disillusion; when people think that they will not improve their lot in life, they can be very dangerous. A more peaceful, secure and prosperous world will entail deliberate actions to bridge the ignominious socioeconomic inequalities that exist in the world.

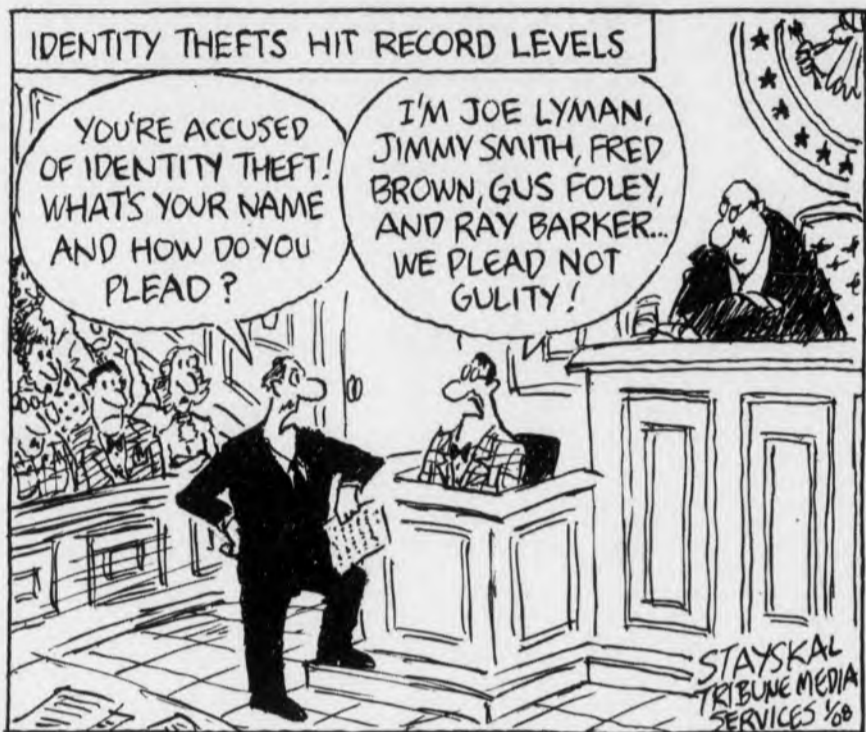
The sad state of affairs in the Middle East, Pakistan, even Kenya, (it is unbelievable that Kenya is on this list) is a testament to how dangerous feelings of despondency, denial and disenfranchisement can be.

Even as the U.S. grapples with re-establishing its "moral groove" in the world, even as it tries to reinvigorate its economy; run the primaries and the caucuses, and the ultimate Nov. 4 election; the world, from the Middle East to Pakistan and Kenya will still look upon the U.S. on issues so critical to these countries' survival and progress.

Send responses to Muendah's column@thenews@bgnews.com.

TOMORROW IN FORUM: DEBATING THE MERITS OF PRIVATE MILITARY CONTRACTORS

Sean Martin and Levi Joseph Wonder look at what private military contractors can offer to nations — and the deadly risks they can bring.



WAYNE STAYSKAL | MCT

We must not let President Bush deceive us with 'Iranophobia'

ERICK EVANS | GUEST COLUMNIST

"An objective observer would have to question the authenticity of both videos because of their conflicting stories. This leads one to ask why the U.S. version if the video lost its picture when Iran's did not."

Iran. The word, to millions of Americans, has a very negative connotation. This country, recently popularized by United States and British media, is famous for its president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Although allegedly elected by his people, Ahmadinejad is often portrayed as a ruthless Middle Eastern dictator famous for denying the existence of the Holocaust, oppressing women and refuting the existence of homosexuality within his own country.

The Pentagon released a video recently of a standoff between alleged Iranian speedboats and American military ships. The video shows some speedboats moving around the open waters hundreds of meters away from U.S. ships.

A U.S. Navy crewman can be heard saying over the radio, "We request you establish communications, identify yourself, and state your intentions, over." Suddenly, the screen goes black, and a heavily accented voice can be heard saying "I am coming at you. You will explode."

[Last week] Iran released its own video of the incident. This version, with better visual and audio quality, shows American

ships with radio communication in the background saying, "Coalition warship No. 73 this is an Iranian patrol." A Navy man on the U.S. warship responds saying, "This is coalition warship No. 73. I am operating in international waters."

An objective observer would have to question the authenticity of both videos because of their conflicting stories. This leads one to ask why the U.S. version of the video lost its picture when Iran's did not.

To clarify, the standoff took place in the Persian Gulf, just miles off the coast of Iran. It makes sense that Iranian patrol would be in the area.

A map also shows Iran sharing a border with Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. All four countries either have good relations with or are occupied by the U.S. This and the recent dispute in the Persian Gulf, show how U.S. troops and allies now surround the country of Iran,

the only Muslim country in the area with a poor relationship with the U.S.

Thank goodness an international committee investigated and concluded that Iran shut down its nuclear program in 2003. Otherwise, Iran would have been able to sell nuclear weapons to terrorist groups like Al Qaeda and the Taliban, making it a direct threat to the U.S. But one must remember the false accusations concerning the nuclear and biological weapons in Iraq, a country the U.S. has had a strong military presence in for over six years.

Although the average American may not agree with Ahmadinejad's opinions and values, one must understand his perspective. He is surrounded by Muslim countries occupied by or allied with the U.S. One of these countries was invaded over false pretenses concerning nuclear and biological weapons. And now a video has been released by the U.S. government making sketchy accusations of Iranians threatening U.S. military.

Americans must follow relations between Iran and the U.S. closely. Potentially false accusations like these led to a war in the past and could do so again in the future.

Evans is a senior majoring in early childhood education. Send responses to his column to thenews@bgnews.com.

SPEAK YOUR MIND

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- Call us at 419-372-6966.
- Come to our newsroom in 210 West Hall.

Be sure to read the submission guidelines at the bottom of this page.

THE BG NEWS

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

GUEST COLUMNS are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES: 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 submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." All submissions are subject to review and editing for length and clarity before printing. The editor may change the headlines to submitted columns and letters at his or her discretion.

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

NATION BRIEFS

BG NEWS WIRE SOURCES

MySpace to clean up its online act

ALBANY, N.Y. — MySpace.com has agreed with more than 45 states to add extensive measures to combat sexual predators.

An official familiar with the multistate agreement said MySpace, the online social networking Web site, has agreed to include several online protections and participate in a working group to develop age-verification and other technologies.

The official said MySpace will also accept independent monitoring and changes to the site.

The agreement is scheduled to be announced today.

Attorneys general have been seeking greater controls for online networking sites to prevent sexual predators from using those sites to contact children.

Supreme Court refuses to help terminally ill

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused yesterday to review a ruling that terminally ill patients have no constitutional right to be treated with experimental drugs — even if that means the patient will die before the medicine is approved.

A federal appeals court siding with the Food and Drug Administration last year said the government may deny access to drugs that have not gone through extensive testing and received FDA approval.

The Supreme Court did not explain its decision to leave the appeals court ruling undisturbed. Chief Justice John Roberts did not take part in the action.

Jindal vows 'new beginning' for Louisiana

BATON ROUGE — Republican Bobby Jindal, the nation's first Indian-American governor, was sworn in yesterday in Louisiana and moved quickly to make good on a campaign promise to clean up the image of this hurricane-battered state.

Jindal became Louisiana's first non-

white governor since Reconstruction.

Jindal said he will call a special legislative session to address the state's image as a haven for cronyism and self-serving politicians. In his speech, he made numerous references to a "new Louisiana" and a "new beginning" for the state.

Big bills expected from campaign visits

COLUMBUS — Communities that expect to be popular presidential campaign stops this year are bracing for the bills for keeping candidates safe.

Cleveland Public Safety Director Martin Flask says the security costs put a financial burden on cities.

Columbus and Franklin County together spent \$627,000 on security four years ago when President Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry made many local appearances.

Franklin County sheriff's Chief Deputy Steve Martin says of this year's potential price tag: "It's going to kill us."

Columbus City Council President Mike Mentel says the federal government ought to pay at least some of the costs. But city Public Safety Director Mitchell Brown says that's never going to happen.

Winter weather hits hard in New England

BOSTON — New England's first major winter storm of 2008 snarled the morning commute yesterday with heavy snow and closed schools.

Following the snowiest December on record for some areas and a spell of spring-like warmth, meteorologists said as much as 14 inches of snow was possible in southern New Hampshire and areas west and north of Boston.

Many communities declared snow emergencies in advance of the storm and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino ordered only essential city employees to report to work.

Snow piled up quickly with 11 inches by late morning at Winchendon, Mass., and in South Casco, Maine, the National Weather Service said.

Military chief may close Guantanamo

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE — The chief of the U.S. military said Sunday he favors closing the prison here as soon as possible because he believes negative publicity worldwide about treatment of terrorist suspects has been "pretty damaging" to the image of the U.S.

"I'd like to see it shut down," Adm. Mike Mullen said in an interview with three reporters who toured the detention center with him on his first visit since becoming chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff last October.

He stressed that a closure decision was not his to make and that he understands there are numerous complex legal questions the administration believes would have to be settled first, such as where to move prisoners.

"I'd like to see [the detention center] shut down."

Mike Mullen | Military Chief

During a tour of Camp Six, which is a high-security facility holding about 100 prisoners, Mullen got a firsthand look at some of the cells; one prisoner glared at Mullen through his narrow cell window as U.S. officers explained to the Joint Chiefs chairman how they maintain almost-constant watch over each prisoner.

Mullen, whose previous visit was in December 2005 as head of the U.S. Navy, noted that President Bush and Defense Secretary Robert Gates also have spoken publicly in favor of closing the prison. But Mullen said he is unaware of any active discussion in the administration about how to do it.

Different year, same veto for House Democrats

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Still smarting from the partisan wars of 2007, Congress confronts a sinking economy, a lingering war and election-year politics as it gets back to work for the 2008 session.

The Democratic-led House reconvenes today with the familiar scenario of having to deal with a President Bush veto. The White House objected to one provision in a massive defense bill that opened the way for lawsuits against the Iraqi government.

The defense bill contains an additional pay raise for the military and Congress is expected to quickly fix the problem, either with a veto override vote — that would probably fail — or by removing the offending provision.

House Democrats are planning a vote the following week on overriding Bush's second veto of legislation to expand

the federal child health insurance program. The bill passed by a veto-proof margin in the Senate but enough Republicans in the House have stuck with Bush to stop an override there.

Such legislative exercises had numerous precedents in 2007, when presidential vetoes — or veto threats — and Republican filibusters in the Senate blocked Democratic-proposed legislation or forced major changes.

Democrats claimed several successes in their first year in power, including raising the minimum wage, boosting fuel mileage standards for cars and small trucks, increasing security at seaports and airports, reducing student loan interest rates and requiring stricter mental health checks for gun purchases.

But the constant battles over domestic spending and the Democrats' futile efforts to curtail U.S. military involvement in Iraq drove public approval ratings of Congress to new lows.

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SIDELINES



FOOTBALL

Top Ohio State linebacker Laurinaitis coming back

Two-time All-American and Butkus Award-winning middle linebacker James Laurinaitis said in a statement yesterday that he will return to Ohio State to play his senior year **Page 7**

ONLINE

The BG News Sports Blog

Be sure to check out The BG News Sports Blog for updates and inside information on all of your favorite BG teams. The blog is also good for live game updates for hockey and men's and women's basketball games throughout their respective seasons <http://www.bgnewsports.blogspot.com>

OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

- 1981**—Bob Gibson elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame
- 1964**—Baseball agrees to hold a free agent draft in New York City
- 1957**—The Brooklyn Dodgers sign a new three-year lease for Ebbets Field
- 1942**—FDR asks commissioner to continue baseball during WWII
- 1900**—SCNEC soccer team forms

The List

The 2008 NFL draft looks like it's going to feature a number of very talented running backs. Here's our list of the five best running backs currently in the draft

- 1. Ray Rice (Rutgers):** He's fresh off a single-handed demolition of the MAC's own Ball State in the International Bowl
- 2. Kevin Smith (Central Florida):** He flirted with breaking Barry Sanders' rushing record in the offense-heavy Conference USA
- 3. Rashard Mendenhall (Illinois):** He had a stellar junior season for the Fighting Illini and looked pretty good against USC in the Rose Bowl
- 4. Steve Slaton (West Virginia):** Slaton's put together a very good career at West Virginia and will probably get picked in the first round
- 5. Darren McFadden (Arkansas):** What can we say? He was the focal point of the Arkansas offense and finished in second place for the Heisman Trophy twice

Tennis has solid showing in Indiana

By **Nate Parsons**
Reporter

The beginning of the new year was kind to the BG women's tennis team as they posted an overall record of 12-8 at the Indiana Doubles Invitational held in Bloomington, Ind., this past weekend.

BG, who hasn't competed since the weekend of Oct. 19-21, was second in wins only to host Indiana (16-4). Other teams in the two-day tournament included Louisville (9-7), Indiana State (2-7) and Ball State (1-14).

Sophomore Katia Babina led the way for the Falcons after posting an individual record of 5-0.

Freshman Christine Chiricosta and sophomore Sam Kintzel both had a 4-1 record on the

weekend, while juniors Kelsey Jakupcin and Stefanie Menoff both finished 3-2.

The Falcons handed the Hoosiers two of their four losses including an 8-3 victory by Chiricosta and Jakupcin over the No. 1 doubles team of Berdala and Zapadalo.

BG also pulled off some impressive come-from-behind wins. The tandem of Babina and Kintzel were down 7-2 to Louisville before winning the match 9-7.

Senior Jenna Nussbaum and Chiricosta dug themselves a 7-1 hole against Indiana State before tying it up at eight and forcing a tiebreaker. The duo went on to win the tiebreaker 7-3.

Rounding out the BG netters were junior Libby Harrison (2-3), Nussbaum (2-3) and senior

"[The tournament] gave me a chance to experiment and gave us a chance to play against some different teams that we don't see all the time."

Penny Dean | BG tennis coach

Andrea Volle (1-4).

The Falcons were excited to get back into action.

"I missed it so much," Chiricosta said. "Competing is my favorite thing in the world, and it was really hard to go those couple months without it."

With dual-match play vastly approaching, the tournament wasn't scored and allowed coaches to play different combinations of doubles teams.

Coach Penny Dean used 13

different doubles combinations over the weekend.

"I've found some combinations I like," Dean said. "Every combo that played over the weekend did a good job."

"[The tournament] gave me a chance to experiment and gave us a chance to play against some different teams that we don't see all the time," Dean said. "[The tournament] kind of helped us get out the jitters for when we start real matches next weekend."

BG tennis: 2007-08 individual records

- Katia Babina:** 4-4 singles, 10-2 doubles, 14-6 overall
- Christine Chiricosta:** 7-2 singles, 9-2 doubles, 16-4 overall
- Libby Harrison:** 5-4 singles, 7-7 doubles, 12-11 overall
- Kelsey Jakupcin:** 3-5 singles, 7-5 doubles, 10-10 overall
- Samantha Kintzel:** 7-3 singles, 10-3 doubles, 17-6 overall
- Stefanie Menoff:** 7-2 singles, 8-4 doubles, 15-6 overall
- Jenna Nussbaum:** 3-3 singles, 6-6 doubles, 9-9 overall
- Andrea Volle:** 6-3 singles, 6-8 doubles, 12-11 overall

Next Match: Saturday at 1 p.m. vs. Wright State at Toledo's Shadow Valley courts.

AP's Top 25 released



SARA D. DAVIS | AP PHOTO

TARHEELS ON TOP: Deon Thompson and North Carolina are 17-0 and received the AP's No. 1 ranking in the most recent college basketball poll. Their next game is tomorrow.



DAVE WEAVER | AP PHOTO

TALENTED: Darnell Jackson and the Jayhawks earned the No. 3 spot in the



RANDY SNYDER | AP PHOTO

ON THE PROWL: 14-0 Memphis has looked very impressive this season.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA | AP PHOTO

BIG MAN: Roy Hibbert and Georgetown are ranked fifth in the nation.



REED SAXON | AP PHOTO

MOVING UP: UCLA claimed the fourth spot in this week's rankings.

North Carolina, Kansas, Memphis on top, still undefeated

By **Jim O'Connell**
The Associated Press

The last of the unbeaten are 1-2-3 in the Top 25 — again.

North Carolina, Memphis and Kansas, the only Division I teams yet to lose this season, were the top teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll for a seventh straight week yesterday.

Arizona State moved in at No. 22, the Sun Devils' first ranking since the final poll of the 1994-95 season.

North Carolina (17-0), which beat North Carolina Asheville and North Carolina State last week, kept the No. 1 ranking it has held since the preseason poll. The Tar Heels received 45 first-place votes and 1,765 points from the 72-member national media panel.

Memphis (15-0) beat East

Carolina and Marshall in its first two Conference USA games last week and the Tigers were No. 1 on 24 ballots and had 1,739 points.

Kansas (16-0), which defeated Loyola (Md.) and Nebraska last week, received three first-place votes.

Three teams lost for the first time last week — Washington State, Vanderbilt and Mississippi — and each dropped at least two places in the poll.

UCLA, which downed Washington State 81-74 on Saturday, moved up one spot to fourth and was followed by Georgetown, Tennessee, Duke, Washington State, Indiana and Texas A&M.

Michigan State, which lost 43-36 to Iowa, dropped five spots to 11th and was followed by Butler, Marquette, Dayton, Pittsburgh, Vanderbilt, Wisconsin,

Mississippi, Texas and Xavier.

The last five ranked teams were Miami, Arizona State, Rhode Island, Clemson and Villanova.

Arizona State (13-2) moved into the rankings on a nine-game winning streak that includes a 3-0 start in the Pac-10. It is only the third time in their 30 years in the conference the Sun Devils have started 3-0 and the first time since 1987-88.

ASU coach Herb Sendek welcomed the ranking as a sign that his rebuilding effort is paying off. But he said it's premature for Sun Devils fans to celebrate.

"It most certainly is an indication that we're making progress," said Sendek, who went 8-22 last season, his first in Tempe. "But at the same time, I think we all recognize that it's a real-time snapshot, and this early in the season, especially this early in

conference play, those rankings tend to be very volatile."

The Sun Devils lost their season opener, 77-54 to Illinois at the EA Sports Maui Invitational, and their other loss was in their only true road game of the season, 62-47 at Nebraska. The most impressive wins have been over Xavier, Oregon and Arizona, a 64-59 overtime victory last week.

Arizona State is 11-0 at home this season after finishing 7-11 there last season. The three conference home wins are one-third the total the Sun Devils had in the previous four seasons.

Freshman James Harden, Arizona State's first McDonald's All-American since 1984, leads the Sun Devils in scoring (18.2) and is shooting 54.9 percent

See **TOPS** | Page 7

For the BCS, skewer the system, not the teams



COLIN WILSON
REPORTER

It's become pretty apparent that the cool thing to do among the nation's sensation-seeking columnists and commentators is to pile on Ohio State University for their second consecutive loss in the BCS National Championship.

As we all know, they lost to faster, better teams from the Southeastern Conference. We also know that over the past two seasons, the Buckeyes won their conference and lost just one regular season game.

So what else are they supposed to do to earn their keep? I think what's happening is that people are taking out their frustrations with the system on the teams that benefit from it. OSU was top-ranked in all the polls, not just the BCS when they earned their spot in the title game in both of the last two seasons.

They deserve criticism for losing the games, but certainly not for being there. As weak as the Big Ten has been lately, it's still a BCS conference. With all the two-loss teams in college football's elite, there was no choice but to put the Buckeyes in the game.

As the system stands, OSU deserved a place in the game. Everyone else blew their chance two weeks after OSU did. In a system that takes more account in when a team loses than who it loses to, OSU found itself at the top when the dust settled.

Many other teams blew their chances.

West Virginia lost to Pittsburgh, Oklahoma blew it with losses to Colorado and Texas Tech. Missouri lost in its conference title game and Kansas lost to Missouri which made it the third best team in its conference. Oregon lost to Arizona, Arizona State lost two late-season games to USC and Oregon and USC lost to Oregon and lowly Stanford. Georgia couldn't get into the SEC title game because of weak, early-season losses.

Confusing and complicated I know. Any other year it might have turned out differently. A lot of "what ifs" were tossed around, but OSU won all but one game — something only Kansas can say for itself. But the Jayhawks didn't win their conference. So it's a moot point.

I'm certainly not a Buckeye fan by any stretch, quite the opposite actually, but I've seen enough. OSU is going to have a ruptured spleen if the pundits keep piling on at the rate they are.

All a college football team can do is play the games on its schedule. They can't sway

See **COLUMN** | Page 7

OSU All-American Laurinaitis will return



TERRY GILLIAM | AP PHOTO

ONE MORE YEAR: Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis will return for his senior season. He's a two-time All-American and a Butkus Award winner.

By Rusty Miller
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Two-time All-America linebacker James Laurinaitis said yesterday he will stay at Ohio State for his senior year.

"After a long thought process and strategic evaluation of the pros and cons of this decision with my close family and friends, I've decided to stay at Ohio State," Laurinaitis said in a statement issued by the school.

Laurinaitis, a 6-foot-3, 244-pounder from Hamel, Minn., won the 2007 Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker and the 2006 Nagurski Award as the top defensive player in college football.

The Big Ten defensive player

"You only get to do this once, so I want to take full advantage. There are a lot of things that money can't buy, and some of those things are the experiences of a senior season."

James Laurinaitis | Ohio State linebacker

of the year this past season, he set a BCS championship game record with 18 tackles against LSU in the Buckeyes' 38-24 loss, their second in a row in the title game.

Laurinaitis, the son of WWE professional wrestler Animal from the Legion of Doom, led the Buckeyes with 121 tackles for the season.

Most NFL mock drafts have pegged Laurinaitis as a high first-round draft pick. During Ohio State's preparations for the game with LSU he had battled away questions about what he would do next season.

"I know I can still improve as a player, and I know there is still much more to me and for the Buckeyes to accom-

plish," he said. "I want to stay a Buckeye for another season. You only get to do this once, so I want to take full advantage. There are a lot of things that money can't buy, and some of those things are the experiences of a senior season."

Coach Jim Tressel disclosed in December that he had urged 13 juniors to file the paperwork with the NFL to receive scouting evaluations to determine what round the players might be taken in this spring's draft.

So far, only second-team All-American defensive end Vernon Gholston has said he will give up his senior year to make himself eligible for the draft. The deadline for third-year players to declare their intentions is today.

TOPS

From Page 6

from the field, including 44.7 from 3-point range. Arizona State heads to Northern California this week for games against California and Stanford.

Sendek said he's not worried about his players growing complacent now that they've achieved a ranking.

"I think our group has been really good, even last year, about focusing on the task at hand, the next practice, the next game," Sendek said.

Stanford (13-3) dropped out from No. 23 after beating Oregon State 66-46 and losing 71-66 to Oregon last week. The Cardinal were ranked in the preseason poll and the first of the regular season then fell out for six weeks before returning the past two weeks.

Undefeated or close to it: AP Top 25

No losses to speak of: North Carolina (17-0), Memphis (15-0), Kansas (16-0)

Undefeated until last week: Washington State, Vanderbilt, Mississippi

First time in a long time: Arizona State is currently ranked 22nd in the country. It's the Sun Devils' first time in the top 25 since 1995. They're currently riding a nine-game winning streak and are 3-0 in Pac-10 play

The bottom five: Miami (FL) (14-1), Arizona State (13-2), Rhode Island (15-2), Clemson (13-3), Villanova (11-3)

Out: Stanford (formerly 23rd)

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

						2	1	4
6								
2	1	9				5		3
			7	3				1
1	6		2					
	4	8		6				
4	9	3						
			8					
				9	7	1		2

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2	4	1	7	6	8	9	8	5	
9	6	8	7	5	8	1	7	2	
7	5	8	7	9	1	6	8	4	
5	7	7	9	1	6	8	4	8	
6	8	4	5	8	2	7	9	1	
1	8	9	8	4	7	2	5	6	
8	9	5	8	7	6	1	7	2	
8	7	6	1	2	5	4	8	9	
4	1	7	2	6	8	9	5	7	8

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Cavaliers' coach Brown receives contract extension

By Joe Milicia
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cavaliers have struggled to stay on top of the Eastern Conference after coach Mike Brown helped take the team to its first NBA finals last season.

But team owner Dan Gilbert showed support for Brown hasn't wavered by giving him a two-year contract extension yesterday that will keep him with the club through the 2010-11 season.

"This is a way for us to show him that we believe in him and that we look for more great things to come," general manager Danny Ferry said.

Brown is in his third season with the Cavaliers, who were swept in the finals by San Antonio. His contract was to expire after the 2008-09 season.

Ferry and Gilbert had been discussing an extension since the summer for Brown, a first-time coach when he joined the Cavaliers who now has a franchise-best .592 winning percentage (119-82).



MARK DUNCAN | AP PHOTO

EXTENDED: Brown will coach the Cavaliers for two additional seasons.

However, the Cavaliers (19-18) have had an up-and-down start this season, with restricted free agents Anderson Varejao and Sasha Pavlovic holding out in contract disputes and superstar LeBron James missing six games

"This is a way for us to show him that we believe in him and that we look for more great things to come."

Danny Ferry | Cavaliers general manager

because of a finger injury. "We've had our challenges this year with injuries, contract situations, etc., and we've done a pretty good job over-all of battling through those," Ferry said. "We've kind of had the mantra, and it was started by Mike, of a no excuses team, and that's something Mike and LeBron and our players have all hung onto."

In addition to facing opponents without James and Varejao for extended stretches, Brown also has had issues with players like reserves Damon Jones and Ira Newble, who refused to play late in the Cavaliers' Christmas Day win against Miami.

The contract extension leaves no doubt what the front office thinks of the defensive-minded Brown.

"It sends a message to everyone that Mike is our coach," Ferry said. "We believe in what he's doing."

James, who credited Brown with helping him become a better defensive player, felt the extension was a positive not just for Brown, but the team.

"It's some security for himself and our organization," James said. "He's done a great job. He's won a lot of ball games for us."

Brown, who previously was an assistant with Indiana and San Antonio, downplayed how the extension would affect him. "No matter how much money I make the bottom line for me is I want to win a championship," he said. "I'm thankful. I feel blessed. I'm excited about it. My family is excited about it. But it doesn't change my thought process."

COLUMN

From Page 6

"All a college football team can do is play the games on its schedule."

the votes, and they certainly won't and shouldn't apologize for the votes they get. It's absurd to think that anyone should apologize for playing their schedule and winning all but one game. OSU benefited from the perfect storm of losses and played in the game that it was assigned.

So if a face needs to be put on the problem the BCS poses, that face probably doesn't reside in Columbus.

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It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a UFO



DONNA MCWILLIAM | AP PHOTO

ALIEN SIGHTING: Standing near the area where he saw a large silent object in the sky, Ricky Sorrells talks about the sighting, Monday, Jan.14, 2008 in Dublin, Texas.

By Angela K. Brown
The Associated Press

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — In this farming community where nightfall usually brings clear, starry skies, residents are abuzz over reported sightings of what many believe is a UFO.

Several dozen people — including a pilot, county constable and business owners — insist they have seen a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some reported seeing fighter jets chasing it.

"People wonder what in the world it is because this is the Bible Belt, and everyone is afraid it's the end of times," said Steve Allen, a freight company owner and pilot who said the object he saw last week was a mile long and half a mile wide. "It was positively, absolutely nothing from these parts."

While federal officials insist there's a logical explanation, locals swear that it was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane. They also said the object's lights changed configuration, unlike those of a plane. People in several towns who reported seeing it over several weeks have offered similar descriptions of the object.

Machinist Ricky Sorrells said friends made fun of him when he told them he saw a flat, metallic object hovering about 300 feet over a pasture behind his Dublin home. But he decided to come forward after reading similar accounts in the Stephenville Empire-Tribune.

"You hear about big bass or big buck in the area, but this is a different deal," Sorrells said. "It feels good to hear that other people saw something, because that means I'm not crazy."

Sorrells said he has seen the object several times. He said he watched it through his rifle's telescopic lens and described it as very large and without seams, nuts or bolts.

Maj. Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, said no F-16s or other aircraft from his base were in the area the

night of Jan. 8, when most people reported the sighting.

Lewis said the object may have been an illusion caused by two commercial airplanes. Lights from the aircraft would seem unusually bright and appear orange from the setting sun.

"I'm 90 percent sure this was an airliner," Lewis said. "With the sun's angle, it can play tricks on you."

Officials at the region's two Air Force bases — Dyess in Abilene and Sheppard in Wichita Falls — also said none of their aircraft were in the area last week. The Air Force no longer investigates UFOs.

About 200 UFO sightings are reported each month, mostly in California, Colorado and Texas,

according to the Mutual UFO Network, which plans to go to the 17,000-resident town of Stephenville to investigate.

Fourteen percent of Americans polled last year by The Associated Press and Ipsos say they have seen a UFO.

Erath County Constable Lee Roy Gaitan said that he first saw red glowing lights and then white flashing lights moving fast, but even with binoculars could not see the object to which the lights were attached.

"I didn't see a flying saucer and I don't know what it was, but it wasn't an airplane, I've never seen anything like it," Gaitan said. "I think it must be some kind of military craft — at least I hope it was."

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- 8 Waterproofs
- 9 Hold back
- 10 Oriental nursemaid
- 11 English port
- 12 Before, once
- 13 Sound of a slow leak
- 21 Beer buy
- 22 Lute's cousin
- 26 Medieval note
- 27 Jazz clarinetist
- 29 Thug
- 30 Greenland Eskimo
- 32 Lone man
- 33 Peak cut
- 34 Subsequently
- 36 Scale for minerals
- 38 Exult blatantly

- 40 Like Fuller's dome
- 44 Son of Judah
- 45 Newly conceived
- 49 Ming of the NBA
- 52 Colorists
- 54 Adulaters
- 55 Capability
- 56 Bridal path?
- 57 Stand-in
- 59 Dr. Jekyll's alter ego
- 60 Miscellany
- 61 Computer operator
- 62 Optical storage device
- 63 Classic car

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- 1 "Fame" star
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- 14 Pindar products
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- 16 U.A.E. rulers
- 17 Half MMMCD
- 18 Zola novel
- 19 Puts aside
- 20 Start of John Burroughs quip
- 23 "High Noon" star
- 24 Half of the UAR
- 25 Cellular letters
- 28 Leslie Caron role
- 31 Gravelly voiced speaker
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