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Tuesday

April 15, 2008
Volume 101, Issue 139
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Honors program hopes to increase numbers

Paul Moore, director of the Honors Program, hopes to recruit more students and tenure track faculty | **Page 3**

Iraqi troops rescue journalist

CBS News journalist Richard Butler was recovered after Iraqi troops raided a Shiite stronghold in Basra | **Page 8**

Boycotting the Olympics makes no sense

Columnist Zach Franks believes that to boycott the Olympic games would be silly and should be a matter of athlete choice, not country | **Page 4**

What is bold is not always popular

Columnist Brian Kutzley pays a tribute to those who voice their opinion or stand to make a difference, even if they're not well-received | **Page 4**

BG rugby warriors keep rolling along

Men's rugby continues their stellar season by trouncing University of Michigan, 47-0. BG has won 47 of the last 48 matches against the Wolverines | **Page 9**

'Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet' to combine singing and satire for campus

Kinsey Sicks hope network news parody will provoke critical thought on blurring of news and entertainment

By **Kristen Zenz**
Reporter

Four nationally recognized drag queens will combine a cappella singing, sharp satire, dancing and comedic sketches tonight in the Union as they address serious issues affecting society.

University Activities Organization member Eric Crumrine said he chose to invite the Kinsey Sicks to campus because "[It] hasn't seen a lot of things like this before."

"It's unique for our lineup," he said. "UAO is constantly looking to promote diverse ideas."

In tonight's show, "WAKE THE F@#K UP AMERICA!" the Kinsey Sicks will host their own morning network news and features show. The parody will examine the unsettling blur between news

and entertainment.

"They talk about things everyone knows about, and its controversial — everyone loves that," UAO member Shelly Willgreen said.

Willgreen saw the group, dubbed as America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet, perform a 10-minute act earlier this year at the National Convention for Campus Activities and was impressed with their brief performance.

"They do everything from putting on a comedy show to singing and dancing to talking about touchy subjects," she said.

Sophomore Gabrielle Repko also saw the show and said she enjoyed that the group could joke



PHOTO COURTESY OF KINSEYSICKS.COM

See **DRAG** | Page 2

WHAT A DRAG: The Kinsey Sicks, a drag queen troupe, sing a cappella, dance and perform comedic sketches.



FEMINISM: a heated controversy

By **Tim Sampson**
City Editor

There was no shortage of cookies or controversy yesterday at the College Republican's "Anti-Feminist Bake Sale." The event was met by a crowd of protesters who accused the Republicans of misrepresenting the facts about feminism.

As part of Conservative Week, the College Republicans held their bake sale on the front steps of the Education Building, selling cookies, brownies and other treats for 50 cents each.

Members of the club also handed out a sheet of quotes, which they labeled "The Radical Feminist

See **FEMINIST** | Page 2

PHOTOS BY ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

The free budget ride might be over

Congress asks Iraq to pay more for its rebuilding

By **Anne Flaherty**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Iraq's financial free ride may be over.

After five years, Republicans and Democrats seem to have found common ground on at least one aspect of the war. From the fiercest foes of the war to the most steadfast Bush supporters, they are looking at Iraq's surging oil income and saying Baghdad should start picking up more of the tab, particularly for rebuilding hospitals, roads, power lines and the rest of the shattered country.

"I think the American people are growing weary not only of the war, but they are looking at why Baghdad can't pay more of these costs. And the answer is they can," said Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska.

Nelson, a Democrat, is drafting legislation with Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Evan Bayh of Indiana that would restrict future recon-

struction dollars to loans instead of grants.

Their bill also would require that Baghdad pay for the fuel used by American troops and take over U.S. payments to predominantly Sunni fighters in the Awakening movement. Plans are to propose the legislation as part of a war bill to cover spending through September.

Likewise, Sen. Carl Levin, D-

Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said he wants to add a provision to a defense policy bill that would force the Iraqi government to spend its own surplus in oil revenues to rebuild the country before U.S. dollars are spent.

These senators, well-known war skeptics, could find allies in

See **IRAQ** | Page 2



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS | AP PHOTO

TESTIFY: Gen. David Petraeus, left, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington on April 9.

USG holds banquet to honor achievements

By **Kristen Vasas**
Reporter

Instead of holding their typical general assembly meeting, Undergraduate Student Government shed rules and technicalities for a night of commemoration and fine dining.

At last night's 2007-2008 Awards Banquet and Dinner, USG senators were honored for their past achievements and recognized outstanding senators for their hard work.

"It's great to break from the

normal mundane activities of USG," Arts and Sciences Senator Lauren Biksacky said. "It gives USG a more professional feel to be able to have a dinner celebrating accomplishments."

After enjoying a dinner catered by Dining Services, awards were presented for adviser of the year, senator of the year and executive member of the year, among others.

"I have made a difference on this campus and I didn't do it alone," outgoing USG President Johnnie L. Lewis said to the sen-

ators, professors and faculty in attendance. "I did it with each and every one of you."

But the night wasn't all food and fun.

USG met prior to the awards banquet in order to elect their new academic affairs and student welfare chairs, as well as the new speaker of the senate.

After facing no competition, freshman Kevin Bosch was elected as academic affairs chair while junior Jon Dinan took stu-

See **USG** | Page 2

Presentation focuses on civil rights struggles in present-day Ohio

By **Steve Kunkler**
Reporter

Though the Civil Rights Movement is decades past, racism hasn't disappeared.

That was one of several messages shared yesterday during a presentation by G. Michael Payton, executive director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

In his presentation, titled "Continuing Civil Rights Challenges in Ohio," Payton used stories from his work as the state's top investigative agency of mistreatment in employment, housing and credit, and even a noose, to explain his points.

Payton began by describing how his youth in the 1960s provided him with a fierce sense of urgency to promote equality.

He's still working — his agency investigates an average of at least 5,000 discrimination charges each year.

That said, Payton told those in attendance that affirmative action is still necessary.

"There is a negative connotation that affirmative action is giving people something they don't deserve," he said.

Payton also described what he called the three dimensions of life — where we live, where we work and where we play.

Where a person lives correlates most with his net worth, he said.

According to Payton, an estimated \$90 billion a year is lost by those who don't have the financial ability to supervise



G. Michael Payton
Executive Director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission

their child's academics, move to another school district or send them to college.

Then, Payton pulled out a rope tied in the shape of a noose and described how a noose was hung in a Columbus-area business.

Other, sometimes celebrated, symbols demeaning to minorities — such as the Confederate flag and the swastika — are also unnecessary, he said.

"If you're German you don't have to fly a swastika flag to celebrate your culture," Payton said.

These symbols prove that racism is still alive, he said.

Racial profiling is also widespread, Payton said, and affects society more than some people may think.

"I'm not talking about thugs and drug dealers. I'm talking about innocent people who are pulled over because of their race," Payton said.

Payton continued to describe situations where black teens were kicked out of Applebee's who were accused of dining and dashing.

According to Payton, despite the teens offering to pay for their meals in advance of eating, they were refused service.

Situations like this are

See **RIGHTS** | Page 2



If you were in charge of People on the Street, what would you ask?



JENNA HERZBERG
2007 Alumna, Physical Therapy

"New Flacons logo: Love it or hate it?" | **Page 4**



TODAY
Sunny
High: 58, Low: 37



TOMORROW
Sunny
High: 66, Low: 43

BLOTTER

THURSDAY

12:29 P.M.

A student reported her car was keyed outside of Harshman.

FRIDAY

12:21 A.M.

Andrew Johnson of Emporium, Pa., was cited for underage possession of alcohol.

4:20 A.M.

Craig Williams of Stone Mountain, Ga., was arrested for criminal trespassing after twice before being advised to stay away from campus.

10:04 A.M.

A window was reported broken in the dining area of Pi Kappa Alpha.

SUNDAY

3:07 A.M.

Seven students were referred to student discipline after being found to be drinking alcohol in a room that wasn't theirs, not cooperating with officers, and having alcohol in the room.

8:25 A.M.

A student was found to be in possession of a decal that had been tampered with. The student admitted to tampering with the decal to avoid paying for the second semester parking charge.

4:53 P.M.

David D. Hill Jr., 19, Aaron Frederick Oliveira, 20, Christian T. Howell, 22, all of Bowling Green, and Sean W. Loizou, 19, of Toledo, were cited for possession of drug paraphernalia.

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

FEMINIST

From Page 1

Agenda."

Some of the quotes included:

"All men are rapists, and that's all they are," said by author Marilyn French.

"The most merciful thing a large family can do to one of its infant members is to kill it," said by Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger.

Other quotes compared marriage to slavery, and life as a suburban housewife to life in a concentration camp.

Junior Emily Diepenbrack, a member of the College Republicans who helped plan the event, said these quotes were meant to demonstrate the extreme lengths of radical feminism.

"Radical feminist[s] don't support traditional family structure," Diepenbrack said, differentiating between mainstream feminism and more radical movements. "Also they hate men."

Diepenbrack said the College Republicans were protesting the kind of feminists who they say are opposed to any woman choosing to stay home and raise a family.

But those who came to protest against the bake sale said the College Republicans were maligning the overall feminist movement.

"These quotes are taken out of context," said graduate student Emily Hilleren, one of the first protesters to arrive. "They've taken quotes from first and second-wave feminists and provided no date, time or context."

Hilleren said the College Republicans were trying to create a false image of feminists as being against any woman who chooses to stay home. In actuality, Hilleren said feminism

is about supporting a woman's choice to do whatever she wants with her life.

Other protesters said the College Republicans were reinforcing old stereotypes.

"They stuck in the 1960s mentality of bra burning feminism," junior Jessica Kopp said.

The protesters came out with signs that said, "Anti-feminist is half-baked sale," and "Feminism is about choice." They handed out free candy to people passing by, saying, "Feminism: it tastes better."

But Jamie Napolski, another member of the College Republicans who organized the event, said that she supported mainstream feminism.

"I like to vote and have a job," Napolski said. "But don't criticize me if I choose to stay home."

The protesters — who eventually outnumbered the College Republicans — made some headway and convinced the Republicans to change their sign from "Anti-Feminist Bake Sale" to "Anti-Radical Crazy-Feminist Bake Sale."

"We felt we should add it," said freshman Ryan Coyle, a member of the College Republicans. "We're not trying to go crazy and cause a war."

But Mark Ingles, the outgoing president of the College Democrats who was at the event, said the College Republicans knew they were going to cause controversy.

"They're attention grabbers — no doubt about it," Ingles said. "I think it hurts their cause more than it helps."

When the event was over the protesters and the College Republicans parted, and the Republicans had raised about \$19 for the Yellow Ribbon Foundation.

DRAG

From Page 1

around about topics people get feisty over.

In an essence, the Kinsey Sicks are calling for action, Crumrine said.

"They raise interesting political points, but it's not as threatening and more fun," Crumrine said.

The Kinsey Sicks was formed by Ben Schatz and Irwin Keller in 1993 after they left their careers as lawyers and AIDS activists. Schatz and Keller are joined by actors Jeff Manabat and Charles Romaine.

"It's a really cool story," Willgreen said of the group's formation.

Because they quit their professional jobs and found their passion somewhere else, their work is more meaningful, she said.

This passion for entertainment has earned them national praise.

Since 1999, the group has been nominated for more than 11 awards. This year, the Manhattan Association of Clubs & Cabarets has nominated the Kinsey Sicks as the best comedy/improv group. The group has also been nominated for outstanding comic group in the New York Nightlife Awards.

In addition, Billboard magazine has been quoted saying the Kinsey Sicks are "one of the more uniquely original (and thoroughly fun and entertaining) acts [they] have encountered in years ... rich four-part harmony ... hilarious ... this is one act that should not be missed, either in person or on CD."

The Kinsey Sicks have recorded five CDs and filmed their first feature movie, "Kinsey Sicks: I Wanna Be a Republican."

People who haven't seen the group perform live or online should expect to come across a hysterical show that will leave them laughing for hours afterward, Repko said.

"The show was completely amusing, but with serious talent," she said. "They have awesome voices."

Immediately after the show, the quartet members will shed their drag and makeup and reappear in street clothes to answer audience questions.

"It'll be interesting to see them in normal street clothes," said Willgreen, who has only seen the muscular men in their dresses.

The Kinsey Sicks will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in room 228 of the Union. Admission is free and anyone can attend.

RIGHTS

From Page 1

reminiscent to segregation in the United States' past, he said.

"You still see things today which remind us of a time when we were on the back porch waiting to be served," Payton said.

Payton also discussed current Ohio Civil Rights Commission cases.

Among the current cases waiting to go to trial is a lawsuit by 20 black families in Zanesville that didn't have running water while every white family in the area had water.

Situations such as this show that without the involvement of everyone, other minorities could face similar issues, Payton said.

"Today it's a black family, tomorrow it could be a Jewish family or a gay family," he said.

Payton ended his speech by explaining his own definition of inclusion.

"Inclusion is not casting qualifications to the wind to have someone different on campus. It's allowing people to have the experience of others cultures," Payton said.

Some of the people in attendance believed the presentation delivered new information and reinforced their passion for equality.

This was true for alumnus Matt Boaz who said that while much has been attained through civil rights, there is much more which could be done.

"The struggle for everyone's civil rights is still a struggle, but it's still worth working for," Boaz said.

Darlene Sweeny-Newbern, the Toledo regional director for the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, agreed that there is still a lot of work to do in creating an equal society.

She said Payton's speech reminded attendees about regional concerns.

"It really raised the level of consciousness about what is going on in Ohio as well as America," Sweeny-Newbern said.

The event was co-sponsored by the Office of Equity and Diversity and the Office of the Executive Vice President.

IRAQ

From Page 1

lawmakers who support Bush's current Iraq policies. In hearings last week, Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., asked Defense Secretary Robert Gates whether Baghdad should start paying some U.S. combat costs, and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., raised the possibility that an anticipated Iraqi budget surplus this year could be used to help Afghanistan, whose \$700 million in annual revenue represents a small fraction of Iraq's \$46.8 billion budget.

Bush has suggested that Congress is preaching to the choir. Last week, he noted that Baghdad's latest budget would outspend the U.S. by more than 10 to one on Iraq reconstruction, with American funding for large-scale projects "approaching zero."

"Ultimately, we expect Iraq to shoulder the full burden of these costs," he said.

But lawmakers are dubious. Considering that past predictions on Iraq have fallen short, the legislation would ensure Iraq assumes more of the financial burden, they say.

On the surface, it looks as though the U.S. has about split the costs of rebuilding efforts with the Iraqis: Congress has appropriated about \$47.5 billion since 2003 while the Iraqis have budgeted \$50.6 billion. International contributions have totaled \$15.8 billion.

And, as Bush pointed out, Iraq's latest budget is on track to outspend the U.S. when it comes to rebuilding. Baghdad has devoted \$13.4 billion in 2008 for capital expenses, more than a quarter of its \$48.6 billion budget.

However, there is a key difference: Whereas the U.S. has spent most of the money it has approved, Iraq hasn't, according to the watchdog agency that audits reconstruction efforts. In 2006 and 2007, for example, Iraq spent only \$2.9 billion of its designated \$16.3 billion capital budget, which is used to invest in reconstruction projects.

Bush administration and military officials say the lack of spending isn't sinister.

"Part of it's a lack of expertise. Part of it is a lack of trained people. And part of it, in the past, has probably been politics," Gates told Congress last week.

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USG

From Page 1

dent welfare chair.

Although Bosch did not plan on taking the position, he said he would step up and fill the shoes of the former chair-head Liesl Dye.

"I'm not afraid to ask the tough questions," Bosch said. "There's no such thing as a stupid ques-

tion, and there is no task that I will say 'no' to."

Similarly, after running against Senator Melinda Grooms for the position of speaker, junior Eric Young won the nomination and plans on putting his heart and soul into filling outgoing Speaker Jeremy Lehman's shoes.

Young plans on holding senators more accountable for reports and issues, as well as serve as the main liaison between the executive branch and the senate.

"It requires a lot of dedication, and it's not something you run

for just for the title," Young said. "If you put a lot of dedication into the position like I plan on doing, it will be rewarding."

And though the student government is looking forward to next year's issues and debates, they still enjoyed spending the evening reflecting on past accomplishments.

"I can't pinpoint a date, but at some point we went from having silent meetings to heated debates," Biksacky said. "We had ideas and discussed them instead of just approving everything that came through — that made all the difference."

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We hope that you will take this opportunity to allow your voice to be heard, and we look forward to your participation!

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DEBBIE NODA | MCT

SHOOTING POOL: Terry Dalrymple and daughter Michelle, 18, play pool in their backyard patio in Modesto, California. Michelle and her parents will deliver 550 special wheelchairs to disabled people in the Philippines.

Family finds deeper faith after a bullet changes teen's life

By Sue Nowicki
MCT

MODESTO, Calif. — The petite girl in the Modesto Junior College music-appreciation class looks like everyone else in the auditorium—wearing blue jeans and sneakers, taking notes, exchanging grins with a friend.

Then the dismissal bell rings and she pulls a nearby wheelchair up to her seat so it is facing her. She almost falls because it's tough trying to turn 180 degrees when your legs are paralyzed. But her determination and upper body strength save her at the last minute, and Michelle Dalrymple is rolling out the door, looking up to chat with a classmate.

The 18-year-old does a lot of looking up these days, ever since the bizarre accident that left a bullet lodged in her spine.

"It's given me a completely different perspective on life," she said. "I used to be short and looked up to people, but now I'm really short. I know what it's like to lose a lot. I know what it's like to not know if you're going to live or die. It scares you. Then after everything happened, it made me value life more."

The "everything" that happened was the day in August 2005 when she was a Modesto, Calif., beauty college student

"I used to be short and looked up to people, but now I'm really short."

Michelle Dalrymple | Modesto

between her junior and senior years at Big Valley Christian High School. She was learning how to be a hairstylist to help pay for college.

"I thought it would be a fun job," she said.

The students were on a break and sitting in a circle talking about their weekend plans. Another student, Mick Rubalcava, had come back inside from a smoking break and sat in a chair behind Michelle. Rubalcava, a 23-year-old off-duty security officer, had a 9 mm handgun in his backpack. The gun discharged when he put the pack on the floor; the bullet went through Michelle's plastic chair, hit her backbone and traveled up along it, severing her spinal cord.

Rubalcava pleaded guilty to one felony and two misdemeanors in the case and was sentenced to 270 days. With credits for good behavior and jail overcrowding, he served about six months in the county jail in 2007.

Unless a miracle occurs, Michelle will spend the rest of her life as a paraplegic. She believes in the message of Easter, believes she'll walk again in heaven. But in a split-second, her earthly life changed totally.

GROWING UP
Michelle is the youngest of three children in the Dalrymple family. Her dad, Terry, and mom, Jeannie, were missionaries in the Philippines when Michelle was born. Terry now is the international coordinator with Modesto-based LifeWind International, a nonprofit organization that helps communities in impoverished countries.

Michelle's mom is a registered nurse at Doctors Medical Center. Tim, Michelle's 24-year-old brother, is on staff at Big Valley Grace Community Church. Her sister, Karen, 21, works in the banking industry in Modesto.

Talk to any of them and a picture of an energetic Michelle emerges.

"Being the youngest, she was always the scrapper," recalled Jeannie. "We called her the Energizer bunny."

That early love of activity continued into her teens. She jogged regularly and played volleyball and basketball at Big Valley Christian High School. She also loved soccer.

University hopes to enroll more students to the Honors Program

By Kyle Reynolds
Reporter

The BGSU Honors Program hopes to more than double its enrollment next year.

Currently there are about 900 students in the Honors Program but program director Paul Moore said would like to see that number increase to around 2,000 students.

Moore wants more students on campus who meet the requirements to get into the program.

"We can give them an educational experience for high achieving students," Moore said.

Christie Collins, secretary and future president of the Honors Student Association, doesn't think upperclassmen realize that they can get involved with the Honors Program later in college.

"I think a lot of students don't know they can still get involved because a lot of the courses are more geared towards freshmen," Collins said.

For students on campus, a 3.5 GPA and a letter of recommendation from a BGSU faculty member are needed to join the program.

Applying for the Honors Program takes less effort once a student is at BGSU than trying to apply while still in high school, Moore said.

"It's much easier here to

"We can give them an educational experience for high achieving students."

Paul Moore | Director

get into the Honors Program because we don't require as many letters of recommendation," Moore said.

For a freshman entering the University, they need at least a 27 on their ACT, a 3.5 GPA in high school, demonstration of co-curricular activities and letters of recommendation to enter the program, he said.

Currently, there are no tenure track faculty members in the Honors Program, Moore said, and he hopes to recruit them. Currently, the chair of a given department simply assigns a professor to an honors course.

Moore said the Honors Program does have some power in course requirements but would like more.

Moore also would like a mentoring system in place for the Honors Program, in which a new student in the Honors Program would be paired up with an upper-classman and a faculty member.

A junior or senior would be able to help the new students find

extra-curricular activities on campus and meet people within the Honors Program, Moore said.

A faculty member could help new students with critical thinking and speaking skills that they will need in college.

Freshman Jesse Coder, thinks the mentoring program will help integrate new students into the program.

"It sounds like it could work pretty well and would help new students out," Coder said.

Moore also wants better advising for students in pre-professional programs, such as pre-law and pre-med, to be more consistent so they are following the correct path for their desired career.

"We want to develop advising so it's not just a checklist but recommend co-curricular activities for their career goals and aspirations," Moore said.

There are no fees associated with being in the Honors Program and events held by the group are open to all students.

However, there are fees for living in the Honors community in Harshman or Offenbauer and a \$15 fee for being a member of the Honors Student Association.

The \$15 fee for the Honors Student Association includes admission to all of the organization's events, which this year included attending the Broadway show "The Lion King" in Toledo, various trips and social events.

GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

11 am - 1 pm
GSS Shanklin Presentations
201 Union

3 - 4 pm
Quiz Bowl
208 Union

5:30 - 8 pm
Beer Tasting: Animal Beers
Black Swamp

6:30 - 8 pm
Arts and Sciences Honors & Awards Banquet
202 Union

8 - 10 pm
Kinsey Sicks - America's Favorite Dragapella
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STAND Presents the Apathetic Student Syndrome Prevention Conference

On **Tuesday, April 15**, STAND will be holding its second annual conference. This year the focus will be humanitarian efforts by other students, faculty, and YOU! Come hear engaging speakers tell what they've done to improve the world and what you can do as well.

Darfur 101: Intro to Genocide
11:00 (Union 208) Dr. Englehart discusses the genocide in Darfur

A BG Student's Life as a Relief Worker
1:00 (Union 208) BG student Martina's relief work in Ghana camp

APA's Quiz Show
2:45 (Union 208) APA's interactive quiz about Africa with prizes!

Lessons (NOT) Learned from Rwanda
4:00 (Union 208) Dr. Bell shares his experiences with Rwanda genocide

Impact of war on Public Health
7:30 (Overman 123) Dr. Fallon's work provide war victims care

Average College Student vs. Genocide
9:00 (Overman 123) STAND discusses what you can do to help

Questions?
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PEOPLE ON THE STREET

If you were in charge of People on the Street, what would you ask?



"Why are BG alumni so cute?"
AMANDA MURRAY,
2007 Alumna, Physical
Therapy



"Do you have any summer plans?"
BRIAN CANSIAN,
Sophomore, Marketing



"Which Spears sister do you think is trashier?"
STEPHANIE SEIM,
Freshman, Middle
Childhood Education



"Are you gonna be out of a job this summer, like me?"
MATT LENAHAN,
Junior, Sport Management

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

Don't boycott Olympic Games

A tribute to the truly courageous



ZACH FRANKS
COLUMNIST



BRIAN KUTZLEY
COLUMNIST

"America considering dropping out of the games as an attempt to thumb our nose at China is nothing short of silly."

"Those who question definitions of 'equality' and 'justice' are slandered as advocates of inequality and injustice. But these questions are terribly valid."

As you read this, all across the world sweat is falling like rain upon gymnasium floors, blood is trickling down legs running on a track and tears are rolling down cheeks as a testament to pain.

This may be something many have never experienced, but those who have know why it's all worth it in the end.

Of course I'm talking about athletes, but to be more specific, I'm referring directly to the men and women gearing up to compete in the Summer Olympics, if they get the chance.

Most of the Americans preparing to compete have been training and conditioning for years. For some, it may be their last chance to take a place upon the podium and have their hard work and dedication recognized on the world's largest stage.

The Olympics are the purest of competitions, where athletes compete not for corporate sponsors, paychecks and bonuses, but for pride, recognition and respect.

This is not only for themselves, but for their country.

Cheaters are completely stripped of their symbol of pride, as they should be, and the honest go down in history as the best in the world.

But I think the greatest accomplishment that the Olympics provide is the erasing of society's divisions.

The only race is the one that occurs on a track. The only class is the weight you're wrestling in. The only language is your body language. Every culture meshes

into one village to set aside differences and focus on their common interest.

Why in the world would our government want to take this opportunity from these men and women who have spent so much time and effort preparing and hanging their dreams on this chance?

I agree that Tibet deserves to have the freedom they plead for. I also think it is so admirable in the way they refuse to use violence to achieve their goals.

But America considering dropping out of the games as an attempt to thumb our nose at China is nothing short of silly.

I'll view any government no different than that of China if they restrain athletes from competing. Nothing makes sense about restricting the freedom of our athletes as an attempt to teach any country a lesson about freedom. In short, the idea is completely asinine.

The games have nothing to do with government and everything to do with respect for the competition and finding a common ground through all the muck and mire of everyday life.

For God's sake, we participated in the Olympic Games under fascist Germany and the eye of Hitler.

Why? Because I believe that back then our government understood that the freedom to either participate or protest was up to the athlete.

To infringe upon those rights is a slap in the face to the basic idea of what this one-time colony overcame to prove: None

other than life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To ignore the rights guaranteed to our own citizens is a mockery of what we would be protesting.

If an athlete feels the need to protest what he or she feels by not participating in the Olympics, good for them, and I admire their willingness to give up their dreams to raise awareness for another's cause.

What I don't agree with is forcing American citizens to stay home against their will. What do we prove when we sink to the same level of those we are opposing and what we are supposed to be protesting? The answer is nothing.

For one, even if the U.S. does boycott the Summer Games, China will know America will be there to kiss and make up as soon as the games commence. Let's face it; the Chinese are part of the workforce American corporations need and depend on. They know, and we know it.

Secondly, boycotting the Olympic Games has never really proved anything. It's just like taking your ball and going home because you aren't getting your way.

Furthermore, at a time when we really need to quit policing the world and focus on what is already on our plate, the last thing we need to do is make waves with a force such as China.

So by all means, support freedom for Tibet, but don't support a boycott of the Olympic Games. It is one of the last pure interactions left between nations in a world with so much brutality, hatred and fear.

We should use this occasion to celebrate that there is still some ability to come together in the spirit of sportsmanship.

Find another way to help Tibet raise awareness for its plight. Start looking where your goods are made at and make a sacrifice of your own before asking others to sacrifice their dreams.

— Respond to Zach at thenews@bgnews.com.

During my time in Bowling Green I've been repeatedly informed that my convictions are abusive to hold and easy to express. Those who represent my political and philosophical position are told by these same arbiters that their expressions are a practice in heroism.

While it is somewhat amiss to write a column commending — even circuitously — myself, this judgment must be challenged.

Is it heroic to side with prevailing views? Whether the opinion is valid is irrelevant for the moment; my point is simply that no courage is required on this campus of any movement involving the words "equality" or "progress."

On the reverse side, each column I submit to The BG News is a case study in endurance. I stand by every word I have written in the last two semesters. I believe in the causes I champion and the challenges I issue. And I know that the instant my words are published, my writing, my beliefs and my very person will be assaulted, sometimes threatened and inevitably ridiculed.

Every incidence in which I have been accused of utilizing demographic privilege in order to safely and effortlessly espouse "dominant" views is — in beautiful irony — an articulate statement to the contrary, proof that my expressions are neither safe nor effortless.

I would like, therefore, to pay tribute to individuals and organizations whose genuinely heroic efforts on campus are met with scorn and hatred.

First up has to be the College Republicans (full disclosure: from August 2006 to

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bgnewsforum.blogspot.com

December 2007, I and an individual also garnering public hatred, Daniel Lipian, spearheaded this organization).

The membership of College Republicans never exceeds more than about 30 individuals, and normally is whittled down to half that by year's end. Yet they succeed in being one of the most iconic, controversial and courageous organizations on campus.

When planning events, the group is confronted with the inevitable "offensiveness factor" — "can we actually afford to express an opinion on BG's campus?" As a natural evolution, we protect our members more viciously than a newspaper protects its reporters, and to this day no one is truly the wiser as to which member actually planned the notorious "Catch an Illegal Immigrant Day."

That aside, the College Republicans, in the last few semesters, has succeeded in making headlines on an almost weekly basis and packing the Union's Grand Ballroom to capacity — twice — regardless of student and faculty sentiment.

My next tribute is to Sam Kettinger and the stalwart supporters of Falcons for Life. While I am not personally a pro-lifer, I must bring to light Sam's and his predecessors' valiancy.

If the opposition to College Republicans is combative, Falcons for Life faces a verifiable militia. Despite this opposition, and very nearly being wiped out when they were denied status by the University, Falcons for Life has succeeded admirably in protesting abortion-friendly policies on campus, including successfully crushing the mandatory abortion coverage in the University-sponsored health insurance program.

Regardless of my opinion, it takes a singularly heroic individual and organization to weather that storm of furious opposition.

Of course the only suitable tribute to follow Falcons for Life must be the local religious organizations.

While organizations like Creed, H2O or ACT do not face the singular fury unleashed on conservative groups, they are engaged in a constant, almost tacit struggle for distinction.

Between defamations by comparison to hellfire-and-brimstone evangelists (an unfortunate Union staple) and general skepticism by even University faculty, the immense value of religious organizations is constantly challenged.

True to their faith, however, these organizations face assailants with patience, grace, and humility — which, from the perspective of one not-so-gracious columnist, demonstrates quite eloquently who's right and who's wrong in this standoff.

Finally, my thanks and support to the individual: That one individual who takes on the entire class in order to stand up for what he or she believes in. Those who demand of the progressives to know what, precisely, they are progressing towards and why are labeled as patriarchy, reactionaries and inevitably compared to Hitler.

Those who question definitions of "equality" and "justice" are slandered as advocates of inequality and injustice. But these questions are terribly valid. As a former progressive I remember the leaf-in-the-wind phenomenon of cultural progressivism.

Regardless of whether I agree or disagree with a specific sentiment, I maintain that these organizations and individuals, not the exhibitionists and revolutionaries whose views are in precise alignment with the bulk of our campus, are the true bastion of courage. I hereby recognize and thank them for their valor.

— Respond to Brian at thenews@bgnews.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To cut drinking, look to schools — and beyond

This letter is in response to Greg Chick's column about student drinking ("Univ. needs to curb dangerous drinking," April 14). While I agree that the University administration should be concerned, so should every other social institution and individual in this country.

Mr. Chick has echoed what has become the "norm" for many people: Blaming someone else for their own bad behavior.

All institutions, schools in particular, are merely composed of the people that society brings to them. Yet, people expect these institutions to magically erase whatever individual and societal flaws they inherit from their members — without, I might

add, the authority and proper resources to do so.

Take secondary schools, for example. Students who misbehave there often get away with it for years.

Why? Because teachers do not have any authority to correct such misbehavior without facing harassment or abuse charges. (Take the recent case

of the student suing his teacher for ear damage when the teacher tried to wake him during class.) Blaming the student or the parents would be politically incorrect and might harm public relations.

Why don't we just blame all schools, both secondary and higher education, for all of society's woes? That would be

much easier than individuals taking responsibility for their own actions.

Does Mr. Chick blame schools for the current crime rate in the U.S.? How about the poor in the world who do not have enough to eat?

I'm not saying that schools have no blame, but they have no more than anyone else.

In fact, I might even blame our business schools for some of the unethical behavior found in, for instance, the former Enron executives. Schools did respond to this by adding more courses in ethics.

And, getting back to his point about the University, I guess he hasn't heard about Alcohol Edu. Ask any freshman about this.

It's just sad that a college would have to create such courses

in the first place.

Colleges should be filled with people who yearn to learn and can behave responsibly. Anyone who attends college for any other reason should think twice about their choice and not blame the institution for whatever trouble they get into.

— Kris Rosendale
Instructor, Mathematics

Talking about assault remains important

I just wanted to say I think that sexual assault is a very big issue, and that it is really good that someone wanted to write about it.

People need to realize that this world is crazy and that people need to focus on being safe. It is not really good to feel unsafe and

uncomfortable so sexual assault is not needed.

The University is in favor of getting a better education, and it is not made for sexual assault, rape or any kind of hurting. There are polices and other security people on campus to help make the University safe and sound.

The victims of the assault should stand up for what they believe in and should fight for their rights of freedom.

— La Tise Weaver
Sophomore, Theatre

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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.

Landfills growing as coal plants try for cleaner air

CONESVILLE, Ohio (AP) — The state has approved two landfills and is considering another four to bury millions of tons of ash and sludge produced at coal-fired power plants.

When Ohio's coal-based power plants updated their environmental safeguards to comply with federal rules, they reduced pollution coming from smokestacks. But they also kept more pollution on the ground so, instead of billowing into the air, more of the waste is carted away from the plants in dump trucks.

"It's obviously another problem with coal," said Sandy Buchanan, director of Ohio Citizen Action and critic of American Electric Power's plans for a new coal plant in Meigs

County in southeast Ohio.

"You end up with all this ash and sludge with coal that you don't have with other kinds of power."

Near AEP's existing plant in eastern Ohio's Conesville, a convoy of dump trucks moves the black ash and dried gray sludge to a new landfill. Columbus-based AEP, FirstEnergy and other Ohio utilities have built similar landfills to accommodate these millions of tons of sludge and ash.

"It's part of the whole process. You have the scrubber on one end and a landfill on the other," said Mark Durbin, a FirstEnergy spokesman.

The new landfills are lined with synthetic materials and clay to keep the waste from



CHARLIE RIEDEL / AP PHOTO

COAL FIRED PLANTS: Sunflower Electric Cooperative's coal-fired power plant churns out electricity Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007 in Holcomb, Kan. Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius vetoed a bill allowing two additional coal-fired power plants at the location.

groundwater. Companies still monitor the groundwater for toxic metals that can be in the waste and might seep into the water supply.

The state already has approved plans to build two landfills and is considering at least four more. Near FirstEnergy's plant in Jefferson County in eastern Ohio, the

state Environmental Protection Agency approved a site that would take as much as 1.6 million tons of sludge each year.

"It has to go somewhere," Durbin said.

A 2005 rule from the U.S. EPA required a 57 percent cut in sulfur dioxide emissions and a 61 percent cut in nitrogen oxide emissions by 2015.

Village lives on after power company's buyout in 2002

By Mary Beth Lane
The Columbus Dispatch

CHESHIRE, Ohio — This village crouched beneath the belching smokestacks of a coal-fired power plant didn't vanish when American Electric Power bought out most of its residents and bulldozed their homes.

Instead, the community along the Ohio River moved north and west, expanding its boundaries by annexing land and people from neighboring Cheshire Township.

Now, six years after the Columbus-based energy company announced the novel town buyout, on April 16, 2002, Cheshire lives on, and so does its big neighbor.

"We are trying to keep the village going, and it is going," said Mayor Jim Rife, among the

few who refused the buyout in the village 85 miles southeast of Columbus.

AEP's Gen. James M. Gavin plan continues to generate electricity by burning coal, billowing smoke high into the air. Complaints about pollution and a blue plume of sulfuric-acid mist — unleashed, ironically, by the plant's anti-pollution equipment — prompted the company to pay villagers to move.

They received up to 31/2 times the value of their properties in the Gallia County community. In exchange, they signed away their right to sue the company for health problems.

The old village, settled in the late 18th century and incorporated in 1953, had 221 residents. Most were bought out, and many have died.

Explosive levels of gas under Cleveland-area shopping center

GARFIELD HEIGHTS, Ohio (AP) — A shopping mall built on a dump has explosive levels of methane gas in sewer basins with the potential to blow off manhole covers.

City View is the first major commercial development in Ohio to be built atop a landfill and, at its 2006 opening, was billed by the builders as an engineering marvel.

Fire Lt. Dave McKee, who oversees the City View Center plaza for the Cleveland suburb, said an explosion wouldn't endanger people in stores and restaurants, but he's concerned nonetheless.

"The stores are safe on the inside, but we don't want anything happening on the outside," McKee said.

The gas buildup is just one of at least 20 violations cited

by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The agency has asked the Ohio attorney general's office to file a lawsuit accusing the owners of the development of not correcting problems fast enough.

According to Ohio EPA records, a paving machine ignited a small methane fire four months ago, with flames rising through the grate of a parking lot drain near an Applebee's restaurant. The fire was extinguished and no one was hurt.

The EPA says water containing dangerous substances continues to leak from the old dump into storm sewers, which empty into nearby streams and the Cuyahoga River.

"These are not normal things that should be experienced at a shopping center," Ohio EPA spokesman Mike Settles said.

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

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



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Delta, Northwest airlines to announce combination deal, pilot issues still linger

By Harry R. Weber
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Northwest pilots have threatened to oppose a combination with Delta if the decision-makers don't keep the pilots' interests in mind. That may not be enough to stop the carriers from pushing ahead with a deal.

Officials were mobilizing for an announcement as early as today provided the boards of the two companies give final approval to a deal that would create the world's biggest airline, three people familiar with the talks said Sunday.

Pilot contract issues still loomed and there was no guarantee the deal would move ahead, said the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

The boards of both companies have been having ongoing merger-related conversations. They could meet yesterday to discuss moving ahead with a deal, a person familiar with the talks said.



PLANE CRAZY: A Delta Airlines jet is pulled into position at left next to aircraft operated by Northwest Airlines at Sea-Tac International Airport.

Northwest pilot union leaders met Sunday in Minnesota. Afterward, they issued a memo they will oppose any merger that does not keep the interests of Northwest pilots "at the forefront of the decision-making process."

The union leaders said any combination must involve "fair and equitable seniority

list integration."

It was increasingly likely the two airlines would proceed without a prearranged seniority integration agreement between their pilots unions, so the main issue that remained was whether Delta pilots were willing to make changes to their contract to give Delta more flexibility after a combination, one of the people familiar with the talks said.

Medical care system not ready for aging baby boomers, study says

By Randolph E. Schmid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Millions of baby boomers are about to enter a health care system for seniors that not only isn't ready for them, but may even discourage them from getting quality care.

"We face an impending crisis as the growing number of older patients, who are living longer with more complex health needs, increasingly outpaces the number of health care providers with the knowledge and skills to care for them capably," said John W. Rowe, professor of health policy and management at Columbia University.

Rowe headed an Institute of Medicine committee that released a report yesterday on the health care outlook for the 78 million baby boomers about to begin turning 65.

The report from the institute, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, said:

•There aren't enough specialists in geriatric medicine.

"We know the problem and we know how to begin to fix it."

Jennie Chin Hansen | AARP

•Insufficient training is available.

•The specialists that do exist are underpaid.

•Medicare fails to provide for team care that many elderly patients need.

The study said Medicare may even hinder seniors from getting the best care because of its low reimbursement rates, a focus on treating short-term health problems rather than managing chronic conditions and lack of coverage for preventive services or for health care providers' time spent collaborating with a patient's other providers.

The American Medical Association responded that seniors' access to Medicare in

coming years "is threatened by looming Medicare physician payment cuts."

"This July, the government will begin steep cuts in Medicare physician payments, and 60 percent of physicians say this cut will force them to limit the number of new Medicare patients they can treat," the AMA said in a statement.

AARP, the organization for older Americans, said the report highlights the growing need for immediate action to improve and strengthen the health care and long-term care work force.

"We know the problem, and we know how to begin to fix it," said AARP President-Elect Jennie Chin Hansen.

The group said it is endorsing a bill by Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. and Susan Collins, R-Maine, intended to steer caregivers towards geriatric and long-term care roles, and create an advisory panel to analyze this critical sector and make recommendations to tackle its changing needs.

On eve of visit, religious leaders and others say Benedict understands US culture

By Rachel Zoll
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A theologian recalls the then-cardinal's deep understanding of Protestantism. A former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican was impressed by his interest in all things American.

Those who have met Pope Benedict XVI say the nation should expect a man who knows and admires much about the U.S., but also sees a culture in need of moral guidance.

Benedict arrives late today for a six-day visit to Washington and New York filled with high-profile events. He will meet President Bush at the White House, address leaders in Roman Catholic higher education, speak at the U.N., visit ground zero and hold two

stadium Masses before leaving Sunday night.

It will be the first papal visit by Benedict since he was elected in 2005. However, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — who will celebrate a birthday and the anniversary of his election to the papacy while in the U.S. — traveled to America five times during his many years as the Vatican's doctrinal watchdog.

The Rev. David Wells, a theologian at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, a prominent evangelical school outside Boston, met Ratzinger years ago at a conference.

During a coffee break, the Roman Catholic cardinal picked up on a point Wells had made, launching into a detailed

discussion of the "Institutes of the Christian Religion," the seminal theological book by John Calvin and a key work on the Reformation.

"I was very impressed by the wide range of his knowledge, his lucidity and the grasp of the issues, both historical and contemporary," Wells said.

Benedict, a former theology professor, has made ecumenical outreach a cornerstone of his papacy, although he has upset some Protestants by affirming that the Catholic Church is the only "true" church. The pope is holding a prayer service with Protestant and Orthodox Christian leaders Friday night at a Manhattan parish.

Ray Flynn, the former Boston mayor who served as U.S.

ambassador to the Vatican from 1993 to 1997, recalled Ratzinger walking by a newsstand outside St. Peter's Square where Flynn was looking at papers. Ratzinger stopped and discussed American current events with Flynn for nearly 20 minutes.

"I was just amazed by his level of curiosity and awareness about all that was taking place in the U.S.," Flynn said. "He kept using the phrase, 'the generosity of the United States.'"

Flynn is among those hosting a birthday party for Benedict on tomorrow night, his 81st birthday, in Washington. It's not clear whether the pope will attend. The party is among several events related to the visit that aren't on Benedict's official itinerary.



HOLY HELLO: Pope Benedict XVI waves as he is driven through the crowd during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

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Rising prices hinder working poor

By Alfred Lubrano
MCT

PHILADELPHIA — Twenty-five dollars. That's all Sandra Walerski can spend in the Save-a-Lot today for a week's worth of groceries.

Walerski, 47, who lives in Trainer, Pa., travels over the Pennsylvania line to shop in tax-free Delaware — part of a mighty fight to keep her family of six afloat as the hard-time economy grows wide and deep.

Food and gas prices soar while the dollar weakens and employers shed jobs. People like Walerski are among the worst casualties — a rising number of working poor, generally defined as families with one or more workers making no more than twice the poverty level.

Being working poor is like living in another America, a lesser country where you go to a job, pay bills — do everything right and still teeter perilously close to the edge.



MICHAEL S. WIRTZ | THE US NEWS

JUST GETTING BY: Susan Walerski, 46 of Trainer, purchases \$24.03 in groceries in a Wilmington, Delaware grocery store.

"Working poor is what I am," says Walerski, who possesses a broad, smiling face and a fighter's demeanor. "There are lots of us, and we look like everyone else."

Some weeks, Walerski spends as much as \$45. But overall, her precious dollars seem to buy less while her four kids are eating more.

Her carpenter husband works diligently to pay the mortgage on the family's cramped house, down the street from a refinery. But there isn't enough.

Meanwhile, a growing tumor in Walerski's brain, as yet unbiopsied, prevents her from being employed. She used to put in 50 hours a week, juggling a day-care job with telephone-survey work. She prays that the cancer that resulted in surgery to remove her breasts does not return.

As she places 3-year-old Gianna in the shopping cart, Walerski scans Save-a-Lot's specials with a practiced eye, using the calculus of a woman compelled to do without.

She will hunt bargains in a store that has practically no familiar brand names and whose cashiers never ask, "Paper or plastic?" because no grocery bags are offered.

In her head whenever she shops, Walerski tries to balance limited income with endless debt.

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling says encyclopedia is 'wholesale theft' of her work

By Larry Neumeister
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — J.K. Rowling testified before a packed courtroom in a lawsuit to block publication of a Harry Potter lexicon, telling a judge that the book amounts to a "wholesale theft" of nearly 20 years of her hard work.

"We all know I've made enough money. That's absolutely not why I'm here," Rowling told the judge in U.S. District Court.

The British author sued Michigan-based RDR Books last year to stop publication of Steven Vander Ark's "Harry Potter Lexicon," claiming copyright infringement. Vander Ark runs the popular Harry Potter Lexicon Web site, and RDR wants to publish a print version of the site and charge \$24.95. Rowling claims the book is

nothing more than a rearrangement of her own material and told the judge it copied so much of her work that it amounted to plagiarism.

"I think it's atrocious. I think it's sloppy. I think there's very little research," she testified yesterday. "This book constitutes wholesale theft of 17 years of my hard work."

She also said she has recently started work on her own encyclopedia but does not expect to complete it for two to three years because she wants to do it right.

RDR's lawyer, Anthony Falzone, has defended the lexicon as a reference guide, calling it a legitimate effort "to organize and discuss the complicated and very elaborate world of Harry Potter." The small publisher is not contesting that the lexicon



LOUIS LANZANO | THE AP

TESTIFY: J.K. Rowling arrives at Manhattan federal court yesterday in New York. Rowling will testify on the first day of her trial against a publisher. Rowling says her copyrights are being violated by a fan who plans to publish a "Harry Potter" encyclopedia.

infringes upon Rowling's copyright but argues that it is a fair use allowable by law for reference books.

Children seized in polygamist sect raid moved to larger shelter after mothers' complaints

By Jennifer Dobner
The Associated Press

SAN ANGELO, Texas — State officials moved 416 children seized in a raid on a West Texas polygamist compound to a new shelter yesterday after some mothers complained to the governor about conditions that were making the children sick.

Rows of white buses filled with children who belong to the renegade Mormon sect that is believed to practice polygamy with underage girls were seen leaving historic Fort Concho, where they had been held since being taken from their ranch earlier this month.

Mothers of some of the children wrote to Gov. Rick Perry this weekend, saying the children were getting sick in the crowded conditions. The children were taken from the shelter earlier this month on suspicion that they were being physically and sexu-



POLYGAMIST RETREAT | AP PHOTO

POLYGAMIST RETREAT: In this undated image taken by a cell phone camera and obtained by the Deseret Morning News, women and children from the Yearning For Zion (YFZ) ranch sleep in one of the makeshift shelters where they are being temporarily housed in San Angelo, Texas.

ally abused by older members of polygamist group.

Marleigh Meisner, a spokeswoman for state Children's Protective Services, said Perry's office had been in touch with CPS and the children were being moved, but

she declined to give further details.

Earlier yesterday, a court began laying the groundwork to sort out the custody arrangements for the hundreds of children seized from the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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School year - \$565.00 per month.
One year - \$475.00 per month.

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School year - \$590.00 per month.
One year - \$490.00 per month.

835 FOURTH STREET
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School year - \$590.00 per month.
One year - \$490.00 per month.

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Furn. Or Unfurn. One Bath W/ Vanity in Bdrms.
School year - \$620.00 per month.
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ENTRY DEADLINE:
Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 11:59 ET



Olympic torch makes its way through ancient Muscat amid tight security in Oman

By Zeina Karam
The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — The Olympic torch made its way through the steep streets of the Omani capital yesterday on the brief Middle Eastern leg of a 20-nation tour that has been marked by chaos and protests.

Men in traditional Arab white robes, with daggers tucked in their belts, danced to the beat of drums before the torch was lit by Muscat governor Sayyed Al Mutassim bin Hamoud Al Busaidy.

Muscat's festive mood was in sharp contrast to protests that have marred the torch relay in other countries. Officials here said any attempt to disrupt the parade would be dealt with severely.

"It's a great honor to have the torch in Oman," Habib Macki, vice chairman of the Oman Olympic Committee, said ahead of the opening ceremony.

Hundreds of people lined the streets to watch the torch descend from the heart of hilly Muscat and pass tourist attractions such as the Sultan's Palace before winding along the edge



HASAN JAMALI | AP PHOTO

OLYMPICS: Omani Nasser Darwish carries the Olympic torch through the streets of Muscat, Oman, yesterday. Violent protests against China's human rights record marred several earlier legs of the torch relay, which spans five continents.

of the Persian Gulf.

Dozens of policemen were deployed along the torch route, where streets were closed off and parking was banned. An army helicopter hovered overhead.

Macki said Oman was chosen for the relay because of the "excellent relationship that goes back a long way between Oman and China and the strong economic ties that bind us." Oman, a Muslim coun-

try at the southern end of the Arabian peninsula with a booming tourism industry, has strong economic ties with China, a major importer of its oil. Demonstrations or protests are virtually unheard of in this tightly controlled sultanate.

The Olympic flame, which began its worldwide six-continent trek from ancient Olympia in Greece on March 24, has been the focus of protests over China's human rights record with major chaos and disruptions during its stops in Paris, London and San Francisco.

The turmoil over the torch relay and the growing international criticism of China's policies on Tibet and Darfur have turned the Beijing games — which begin Aug. 8 — into one of the most contentious in recent history.

However, the relays in Argentina and Tanzania were largely peaceful and without major incidents.

The torch next heads to Islamabad, Pakistan, where officials said that they had changed the route of the relay.



MUSADEG SADEQ | AP PHOTO

RED CROSS: An Afghan child Shahidullah talks with his father detained at U.S. military base in Bagram through a video conferencing system at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Red Cross urges military to allow outside evidence in Afghan hearings

By Fisnik Abrashi
The Associated Press

ended yesterday.

"They do not know what the future brings, how long will they be there and under which conditions will they be released," Kellenberger told a news conference.

While Kellenberger's comments were aimed specifically at Bagram, Red Cross chief spokesman Florian Westphal said there was "a strong parallel" with the U.S. military detention centers in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"We've talked about the absence of a clear legal framework and of sufficient procedural safeguards with regard to Guantanamo, in particular, as we have done for Bagram," Westphal said in Geneva.

In Iraq, the U.S. military currently holds about 23,000 detainees and schedules review hearings every six months to decide on release or continued custody.

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Red Cross criticized the way the U.S. handles prisoners at the highly secretive Bagram military base, urging reforms yesterday that would allow detainees to introduce testimony in their defense.

The criticism of the prison, which few outsiders have seen, goes to the heart of the system the Bush administration uses to justify holding detainees outside the U.S.

Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said many of the 600-plus detainees at Bagram complain they do not even know why they are being held. Kellenberger spent a half day at the prison during a one-week visit to Afghanistan that

The Office

quote of the day...

"I left a little present for Angela. I think she's going to like it. 'Cause I found it outside Vance Refrigeration all alone. And I told her in the note, that the cat came to find her. That they were destined to be together... I got game."
- Andy Bernard

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British journalist for CBS News rescued in Basra

By Kim Gamel
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi troops freed a kidnapped British journalist for CBS News yesterday after finding him hooded and bound in a house during a raid in a Shiite militia stronghold in Basra.

Richard Butler's rescue after two months in captivity was a welcome success story for the Iraqi military, which has been strongly criticized for its effort to impose order on Iraq's second-largest city, an oil hub 340 miles southeast of Baghdad.

It came on a day in which at least 37 people were killed or found dead nationwide — half of them in bombings near or in the northwestern city of Mosul.

Roadside bombings killed two U.S. soldiers, one in Baghdad and the other in the northern



FREEDOM AGAIN: This video image taken from Al Iraqia TV shows freed British journalist Richard Butler yesterday in Iraq.

Salahuddin province, the military said. At least 4,034 members of the American military have died since the war started in March 2003.

Butler, 47, was thin but in good condition and laughing as he was shown on Iraqi state television.

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SIDELINES



GOLF

Immelman is the latest golfer to make Woods a runner-up

After winning the Masters Sunday, Trevor Immelman joined last year's winner, Zach Johnson, as the second straight golfer to make Tiger Woods finish second.

Page 10

ONLINE

The BG News Sports Blog

Be sure to log on to The BG News Sports Blog to get updates and info on all your favorite BG teams.

<http://www.bgnewssports.blogspot.com>

SCHEDULE

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OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

1997—Baseball honors Jackie Robinson by retiring the No. 42 for all teams.

1991—Magic Johnson sets the NBA record for career assists with 9,898.

1965—The NFL changes the penalty flag color from white to yellow.

1910—Taft becomes the first president to throw out the first pitch at a baseball game.

The List

Every playoff team seems to have a really good coach leading it. Today, we're listing the top five candidates for Coach of the Year in the NBA.

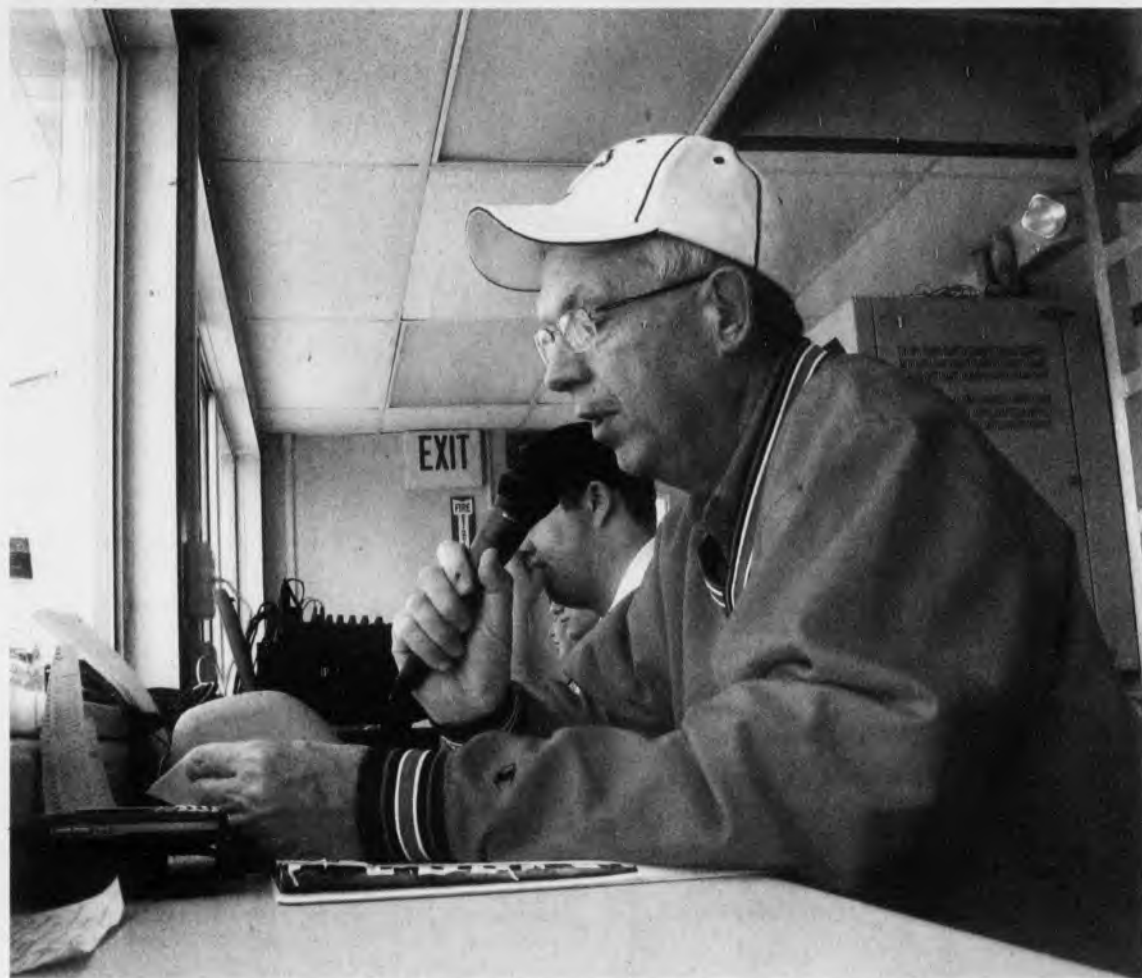
1. Byron Scott: He's led the Hornets from a cellar-dweller to one of the best teams in the league.

2. Stan Van Gundy: Orlando has blossomed into a serious contender under his watch this season.

3. Maurice Cheeks: Philadelphia has been one of the NBA's best teams over the past month-and-a-half.

4. Eddie Jordan: He's underrated as coach of the Wizards, who are in the playoffs despite losing Gilbert Arenas for such a long time.

5. Rick Adelman: His Rockets won 20 games in a row this season — many of them coming with Yao Ming injured.



BATTER UP: New Steller Field PA announcer Larry Weiss reads off a lineup during a recent Falcons home game.

ETHAN MAGOC | THE BG NEWS

Calling their shots

New baseball PA voice enjoying his job at Steller Field

By Ethan Magoc
Reporter

Fans attending Falcon baseball games at Warren E. Steller field this year can hear a new voice reading lineups over the loudspeakers.

But behind the standard "Now batting for your Bowling Green Falcons..." is a profound voice of caring for this University's heritage. That voice belongs to 63-year-old Larry Weiss, who was recently hired to be the public address announcer at every home baseball game this season.

Weiss, a native of Canton, Ohio, actually attended BGSU from 1963-67. He earned a degree in journalism with a specialization in public relations, but also enjoyed classes in TV, radio, and film production.

Upon graduation, he landed a job with a firm in Toledo for a few years, and then moved on to the PR department with a tire business in Akron.

In September 1973, 10 years after he arrived at BG as a student, he received a call from the alumni director at the time, asking him if he would be interested in returning to work here.

"I said to him then what other alumnis have said to me since," Weiss said, "That those were the best four years of my life, and I would love to come back."

Five years later, after leading

"No doubt about it. It sounds like he's worked at Major League parks with that voice. He's very professional and really good at what he does up there for us."

Danny Schmitz | BG baseball coach

a successful campaign to build the Mileti Alumni Center, Weiss became the alumni director himself. He spent the next 27 years in various positions within the Alumni Office, and in 2000 moved to administration under Dr. Sidney Ribeau.

All of these positions enabled Weiss to travel around the country, especially to Washington D.C. as a representative of BGSU. This past fall, he stepped down as associate vice president, making it exactly 40 years since he graduated as a Falcon.

But Weiss' service continues. President Ribeau requested

See WEISS | Page 10



ETHAN MAGOC | THE BG NEWS

BEEN AROUND: Larry Weiss has been connected to BG since he attended in 1963.

Tennis team splits weekend match-ups

By Nate Parsons
Reporter

The BG tennis team closed out the road portion of its schedule over the weekend with a win at Ball State and a loss at then-Mid-American Conference-leading Miami.

The Falcons defeated BSU, 6-1, on Saturday after losing to MU, 6-1, the day before.

With the loss, BG (15-3, 4-3) is knocked out of the running for the MAC regular season crown. MU (12-6, 6-1) was also knocked out of the running after it lost to Western Michigan, who clinched its fourth consecutive MAC regular season title.

The Falcons once again took an early lead in both matches by winning five of the six doubles matches over the weekend.

The Falcons swept all three matches against BSU and took 2-of-3 from MU.

Against the Cardinals, the duos of Kelsey Jakupcin/Christine Chiricosta and Andrea Volle/Jenna Nussbaum both won, 8-4, at the first and second flights, respectively. Libby Harrison stepped in for Sam Kintzel, who is out with an injured foot, and teamed together with Katia Babina to win, 8-6, at the third flight.

"Libby really stepped up to the plate and played well," said coach Penny Dean. "Katia played very well, too, and made the adjustment of playing with a new partner."

Harrison was excited about stepping in and helping the team.

"Being able to step up when I'm needed is a great feeling for me, and I know everybody else appreciates it because they can count on me when a situation like that comes up," she said.

"It's just a really good feeling to be able to step it up for my team and help them win the match."

Volle/Nussbaum and Harrison/Babina also won, 8-4 and 8-6, respectively, against the RedHawks the day before.

While the Falcons won the doubles point in both matches, the difference came in singles action. BG won 5-of-6 singles matches — all in two sets — against the Cardinals after losing all six against the RedHawks.

Jakupcin beat BSU's Sophie Quist, 7-5, 6-1, at the top flight, while Chiricosta and Babina each lost only two games on their way to a second and third-flight win, respectively.

Volle lost only five games in her fifth-flight win, while Harrison won by identical scores of 6-3 at the sixth flight against Katherine Rist to record her first MAC singles dual-match victory

See TENNIS | Page 10



ROGER MAZZARELLA | BGSU RUGBY

ON THE MOVE: Bryce Pitney, a prop on the BG rugby team, attempts to maneuver past several Michigan defenders during Saturday's 47-0 win.

Ruggers rough up Michigan over weekend

By Jason Jones
Reporter

The year was 1982 when Michigan captain Dave Perpich got the better of Bowling Green captain Roger Mazzarella. The Midwest regional final game of that season went to Michigan, by way of a 44-12 victory for the Blue and Yellow.

Now fast forward 26 years to Saturday, where the Falcons, now coached by Mazzarella, trounced the Wolverines 47-0, giving them their 47th win over Michigan in their last 48 tries.

While Perpich may have found a way to get his Wolverines into the win column before anyone playing in this game was born, he couldn't even manage to get them into the end zone on this day.

"That game was a methodical dissection of a team whose offense is very familiar to us," Mazzarella

"That game was a methodical dissection of a team whose offense is very familiar to us. They had a great run early in the game, all of that effort only netted them seven yards."

Roger Mazzarella | BG rugby coach

said. "They had a great run early in the game, but all of that effort only netted them seven yards."

It was a typical Midwestern spring game for the Falcons on Saturday, with a mix of rain, sleet and, at one point, even some snow, hitting the players dead on, no matter the direction they ran. Mazzarella stated that he made the decision early in the game to rein in his offensive scheme, in an attempt to avoid fumbles and to give his forwards a chance to run more.

That, and everything else the

Falcons threw at the Wolverines worked to perfection. Nick Vivian, as expected, led the way, scoring 22 of the Falcons' 47 total points including several kicks that were made incredibly difficult by the gusting winds. Eric Nutter made the initial, and go ahead score, early, and Nick Vivian's brother Mark scored soon after. Nick added tries to each score, as well as a penalty kick in between, and the Falcons jumped out to a

See RUGBY | Page 10

Immelman one of few to leave Woods in second

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — They were together in the Butler Cabin, then on the putting green for the trophy presentation, both times Zach Johnson helping Trevor Immelman get his arms into a green jacket at the Masters.

They now belong to an exclusive club.

Not just because they have access to the upstairs locker room at Augusta National where only champions are allowed. Not just because they will break bread — or whatever Immelman puts on the menu — the Tuesday night before next year's tournament. And not because Johnson and Immelman have an invitation for life to play in the Masters.

Both turned Tiger Woods into a runner-up.

It was only the fifth time in 45 majors that Woods had been awarded the silver medal, and the second straight year at Augusta.

"What does it take? Part of that was just ignorance," Johnson said.

He was more worried about a brutally hard golf course than any name on the leaderboard, even if one of those names was Woods. Johnson heard the ground-rattling roar from the 13th and knew Woods had made eagle, but he never looked at a leaderboard until he stood on the 16th tee. Then, he made birdie from 12 feet and hung on for a two-shot victory.

"I just play my game and hopefully make some putts," he said.

That kind of thinking also worked for Immelman.

Even though Woods started the final round six shots behind, Immelman knew the world's No. 1 player would be around at the end. The South African looked shaky on the 11th, when he faced a slippery 20-footer for par, and on the 12th, when a tee shot into the pine straw behind the green required two chips to reach the green.

Both times he sank clutch putts — one for par, one for bogey.

"Obviously, it's just so damn difficult," Immelman said. "I knew he was going to play well. The guy is probably going to end up being the greatest golfer of all time, so I knew he was going to make a run. And I was just trying to be strong."



MORRY GASH | AP PHOTO

ELITE COMPANY: New Masters champion Trevor Immelman (right) and last year's champion, Zach Johnson (left), smile for the cameras.

"Obviously, it's just so damn difficult. I knew he was going to play well. The guy is probably going to end up being the greatest golfer of all time, so I knew he was going to make a run. And I was just trying to be strong."

Trevor Immelman | 2008 Masters champion

probably going to end up being the greatest golfer of all time, so I knew he was going to make a run. And I was just trying to be strong. I was just trying to play my own game, and I was hoping that it was going to be good enough."

It is easy to find failure when measuring Woods' back nine at the Masters the last two years.

When he was chasing Johnson last year, Woods failed to convert a

15-foot birdie on the 14th — from about the same spot where Johnson had earlier made birdie — and hit into the water on the 15th going for the green in two. Trying to put pressure on Immelman, Woods missed a 5-foot birdie on the 13th, three-putted for bogey on the 14th and didn't convert birdie opportunities on the next two holes.

But neither Johnson nor Immelman were handed anything.

Johnson closed with a 69, matching the best score of the final round, and won from the third-to-last group. Immelman faced additional pressure of playing in the final group, sleeping on a one-shot lead. He shot 75, the highest final-round by a Masters champion since Arnold Palmer in 1962, but it is worth noting a couple of things.

The average score Sunday was 74.7, the highest for a final round at the Masters in nine years. And for most of the back nine, Immelman was headed toward the largest margin of victory since Woods in 1997 (a record 12 shots) until a mistake he could afford, hitting his tee shot into the water on the 16th for a double bogey.

So it was a three-shot victory, and it still puts Immelman in some fast company. In the last 10 years, the only players to win by that margin in a major were Woods, Jim Furyk, David Duval and Vijay Singh.

WEISS

From Page 9

that Weiss lead the University's 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2010. He also asked if Weiss could author a history of women's basketball at BG.

He dutifully accepted both. "I thought, 'You couldn't find two things that I would enjoy more here in retirement,'" Weiss said.

But perhaps he spoke too soon.

This past winter, Weiss contacted Kevin Shields of the Office of Sports Information, and asked if he might need a PA announcer. Shields, who has numerous other duties to take care of this season, including PA work, gladly accepted the offer for someone to share the burden in the press box.

Weiss has been able to use prior experience in broadcasting with WBGU-TV's programs, "Timeout" and "Northwest Ohio Journal," along with radio work with WBGU-FM when he was a student.

Those experiences helped shape his voice into one of the most recognizable around campus this spring.

"No doubt about it," said Falcon baseball coach Danny Schmitz. "It sounds like he's worked at Major League parks

"This has just been wonderful for me this season to stay close to baseball, which is what I enjoy doing."

Larry Weiss | PA announcer

with that voice. He's very professional and really good at what he does up there for us."

Besides the way he sounds inside the press box, there is another element Schmitz feels Weiss possesses that adds to the atmosphere at Steller Field this season.

"When you think of BGSU, you think of Larry Weiss," Schmitz said. "He's been a Falcon for a long time and has a great support of athletics. He's also just a tremendous baseball fan."

The passion for his work above the diamond is highly evident to anyone around Weiss on game day, even his wife.

"This has just been wonderful for me this season to stay close to baseball, which is what I enjoy doing," Weiss said. "My wife says, 'I always know when you're going over there because you have a big smile on your face.'"

TENNIS

From Page 9

of the season.

"It's great because I work hard throughout the season trying to not only make myself better, but to get my team ready to be at the best level they can be," said Harrison about her win after being out of the lineup for most of the year.

"I've always tried to be prepared because you never know what's going to happen."

While the Falcons did get swept by the RedHawks in singles action, Dean said the match was a lot closer than the score indicated as two of the matches went to a third set and one came down to a tiebreaker in the second.

The two matches that went to



Libby Harrison

Picked up two doubles wins and a singles win

a third set were Jakupcin's first-flight match with Anastasia Dracheva and Babina's third-flight match with Leda Pesatova. Jakupcin lost the third set, 6-0, while Babina lost, 6-3.

Nussbaum's match at the fourth flight went to a second set tiebreaker. Nussbaum lost the tiebreaker, 7-3.

The Falcons will play their final regular season game this Saturday as WMU comes to town on Senior Day. The match will begin at 1 p.m. at the BG tennis complex.

RUGBY

From Page 9

17-0 lead.

Later in the half, Scott Wallace scored on a try from the 25 yard line, and, after two more kicks from Nick Viviani, made it 27 - nothing. It was clear that the route was on. The perfect example of Michigan pure inability to stop the Falcons came in the second half, when Bryce Pitney broke the tackles of three separate Michigan defenders on his way in for the score.

After another Nick Viviani conversion and a successful penalty kick try, the Falcons had cemented their lead at 47.

Even before this dominant performance against the Wolverines, the boys in orange and brown had received a bit of good news.

Following a loss by Air Force the previous weekend, Bowling Green had moved to no.3 in the

nation, behind only California and Brigham Young. The team's record for the entire year now stands at an outstanding 47-3, with one loss attributed to each team, a, b and c.

The B squad also put on a dominant performance on Saturday, blanking the Wolverines 43-0. The squad spread the points around, and, as was the case with the first game, made the Michigan offense look more discouraged than a Wolverine football fan at an Appalachian State game.

The Falcon C squad, while not in quite as dominating of style, still managed to once again blank the Wolverines, winning 10-0.

Next up for the Falcons is a sweet 16 match up with Kutztown State this Saturday in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Another impressive performance for the Falcons this weekend will land them in California on March 3rd for the national championship — a perfectly obtainable goal.



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TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE DAY

Today BGSU dorm residents have a telephone in their rooms for unlimited personal use. However, prior to 1965, there was a time limit stating that "no phone calls could last more than..."

- a. 3 minutes
- b. 5 minutes
- c. 7 minutes
- d. 10 minutes

ANSWER: b. 5 minutes

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After 2 days on defense over 'bitter' comments, Obama turns tables on Clinton

By Beth Fouhy
The Associated Press

STELTON, Pa. — Democrat Barack Obama lashed out Sunday at rival Hillary Rodham Clinton, mocking her vocal support for gun rights and saying her record in the Senate and as first lady belied her stated commitment to working class voters and their concerns.

"She knows better. Shame on her. Shame on her," Obama told an audience at a union hall here.

The Illinois senator has spent three days on the defensive after comments he made at a San Francisco fundraiser were disclosed that suggested working class people are bitter about their economic circumstances and "cling to guns and religion" as a result.

Obama reiterated his regret for his choice of words at the fundraiser but suggested they had been twisted and mischaracterized. He said he'd expected blowback from GOP nominee-in-waiting John McCain, but had been "a little disappointed" to be criticized by Clinton.

Then, laughing along with the union audience, Obama noted that Clinton seemed much more interested in guns since he made his comments than she had in the past.

"She is running around talking about how this is an insult to sportsmen, how she values the Second Amendment. She's talking like she's Annie Oakley," Obama said, invoking the famed female sharpshooter immortalized in the musical "Annie Get Your Gun."

He continued: "Hillary Clinton is out there like she's on the duck blind every Sunday. She's packing a six-shooter. Come on, she knows better. That's some politics being played by Hillary Clinton."

Clinton has told campaign



JAE C. HONG | AP PHOTO

ON THE DEFENSIVE: Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks during a labor gathering in Steelton, Pa., on Sunday.

audiences that she supports the rights of hunters. Saturday, she reminisced about learning to shoot on family vacations in Scranton, where her father grew up. She's also said she once shot a duck in Arkansas, where she served as first lady.

Clinton, who is trailing Obama in the popular vote and pledged delegates, has pounded Obama since Friday, when audio from his San Francisco appearance was posted on The Huffington Post Web site. She hoped the comments might give her a new opening to court working-class Democrats less than 10 days before the Pennsylvania primary on April 22, which she needs win to keep her campaign going.

At the San Francisco fundraiser, Obama tried to explain his

troubles in winning over some working-class voters, saying they have become frustrated with economic conditions: "It's not surprising, then, they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

Campaigning in Scranton on Sunday, Clinton denounced those remarks yet again as "elitist and divisive" and suggested they would alienate voters in Pennsylvania and other states holding primaries in the coming weeks.

"Senator Obama has not owned up to what he said and taken accountability for it," she told reporters during an informal news conference outside a home.

McCain seen as independent despite conservative voting

By Libby Quaid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The independent label sticks to John McCain because he antagonizes fellow Republicans and likes to work with Democrats.

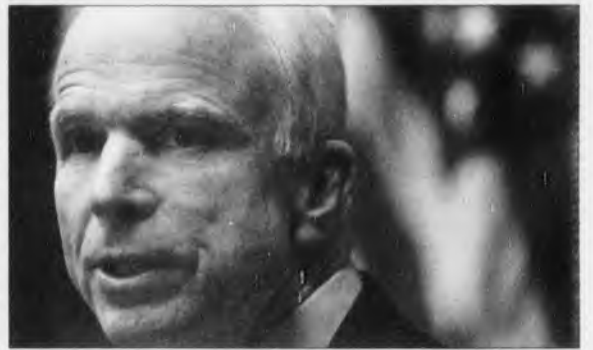
Another label applies to his actual record: conservative.

The likely Republican presidential nominee is much more conservative than many voters realize. McCain leans to the right on issue after issue.

The four-term Arizona senator, a longtime member of the Armed Services Committee, criticized the earlier handling of the war but has been a crucial in increasing and maintaining U.S. forces in Iraq.

Besides the war, McCain agrees broadly with Bush and other conservatives on:

-Abortion. McCain promises to appoint judges who are likely to limit the reach of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. But he said once, in 1999, that Roe v. Wade should not be overturned. But that was



MARY ALTAFFER | AP PHOTO

SO INDEPENDENT?: Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks to reporters at Dallas Love Field Friday, April 11 in Dallas. The independent label sticks to John McCain because he antagonizes fellow Republicans and likes to work with Democrats.

an aberration in an otherwise unbroken record of opposing abortion rights for women.

-Gay rights. McCain opposes gay marriage. True, he does not support a federal ban on gay marriage on grounds the issue traditionally has been decided by states. But McCain worked to ban gay marriage in Arizona. He also supports the "don't ask,

don't tell" policy, and opposed legislation to protect gay people from job discrimination.

-Gun control. McCain voted against a ban on assault-style weapons and for shielding gun-makers and dealers from civil suits. He did vote to require background checks at gun shows, but generally sides with the National Rifle Association.

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Becoming a diamond in the rough at jewelry school

By Darrell Smith
MCT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — As jewelers struggled to fill their employment ranks with new talent in the late 1970s, Dee Rouse Huth spotted an opportunity in their frustration.

"I'd ask, 'How do you find jewelers when you need them?'" Huth recalled. "They said, 'You don't.'"

Huth decided to link her passion for jewelry design with a career in teaching, founding the California Institute of Jewelry Training in Carmichael.

"Truly encouraging people to 'Do something you love and success will follow,' and encouraging those who think a trade or career is not enough to get by in this world of ours is truly an opportunity."

In the Sacramento area, she said, apprentice jewelers start at about \$12 an hour, while experienced jewelers can earn upwards of \$60,000 a year.

Fernando Leon, a 2002 graduate, has worked as a jeweler for Nan-Den Gems in Fairfield, Calif., for six years. The 41-year-old Winters resident had worked in trash disposal for Davis until suffering a back injury in 2001.

Leon started from the ground up at the institute, learning the basics of soldering, stone setting and sizing, and the hard work paid off almost instantly. Nan-Den scooped Leon up a week after graduation day.

"For me, it was one week. I finished school one week and got the job the next week," Leon said.

The school provides a pipeline of jewelry talent here and abroad. They're a mix of high school graduates looking for a creative career track; stay-at-home parents; and individuals embarking on a second career.

OFFBEAT BRIEF

BIG NEWS WIRE SOURCES

Chewing tobacco might have saved cashier's life

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A cigarette store cashier has snuffed out a robbery.

Police said a masked man flashed a knife at the Cigarette Outlet on Friday and forced one employee to the floor, then demanded money from another worker, Ruth Wright.

Instead of cash, Wright threw two cans of chewing tobacco at the robber, and one hit him in the face.

Officers said a customer then tackled the man, but the robber broke free and bolted out the door. A cashier, Kittie Peacock, said the store had been robbed at least once before.

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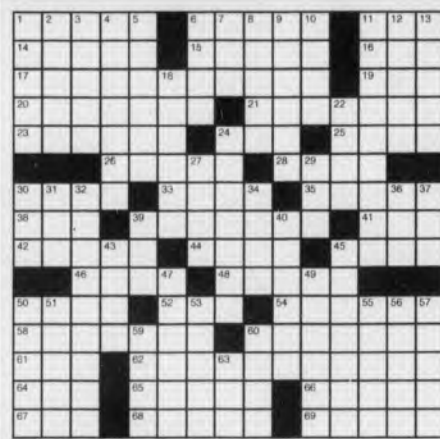
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- Esther of "Good Times"
- Expect
- Waterfall
- Tempt
- Twitches
- Sawbones' org.
- Relative degree
- Puts
- Roy Rogers at birth
- Duck product
- Olds model
- Period in power
- Cornell's town
- Muffed
- Gary Collins' Mobley
- Small lumps
- Touch tenderly
- Son of Noah
- Ms. Thurman
- Soda fountain treat
- Old gas
- Spectra maker
- Gas additive letters
- Saloon
- Middle East nation
- Ballerina garb

- The Knack hit, "My ___"
- Falling-blocks game
- Walked leisurely
- Senate sessions station
- Respond to
- Alabama city
- "Separate Tables" star
- Tractor man
- Bushy dos
- Capital of Peru
- Bygone bird
- Part of IRA

ACROSS

- Buttress
- Infield covers
- Organ of equilibrium
- Dubuque man
- Poker statement
- de-France
- Dress shirt part
- Roman gods
- Brings out
- Floating mountain
- Take off
- Curly's cohort
- Scientologist Hubbard
- Singer Carter
- Zoomed
- Actor Cronyn
- Magic bullet
- "Return of the Jedi" critters
- French friend
- Watch the kids
- Humor
- Mediterranean republic

- Wise off
- Ginger cookie
- Statesman Waldheim
- Novelist Lofts
- Thespian group
- Long period
- Blake of "Gunsmoke"
- Gangster "Dutch"
- Interrogate after a mission
- Sch. group
- Investor's option
- Thumbs up for John Glenn
- Bogged down
- January in Leon
- 67 Map dir.
- Invite
- Hamlet and Ophelia

ANSWERS



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