

4-21-2008

## The BG News April 21, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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**Monday**  
April 21, 2008  
Volume 101, Issue 143  
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**Yale student's art project 'tests' abortion**

A senior art major sparked a community uproar when she allegedly impregnated herself and then induced abortions as often as possible over a nine-month period for a school project. The controversial tapes show her in the shower, bleeding into a cup | **Page 3**

**Pope Benedict visits site of Sept. 11 attacks**

The leader of the Catholic Church gave a blessing at ground zero amid a large, 'festive' crowd Saturday | **Page 10**

**BG falls to Kent ... three times**

The Falcons couldn't get their bats together as they lost an entire series over the weekend | **Page 7**

**Let's consider how effective GSS is, too**

Columnist Greg Chick analyzes the other student government body on campus to even out his past comments about USG | **Page 4**

**Equality isn't quite that easy**

For all the talk we do about equality in the workplace and society, a truly equal world could only happen in a utopia | **Page 4**

What are your sleeping habits for finals week?



**LAURA WURNS,**  
Senior, Social Work

"Probably up late, helped by caffeine." | **Page 4**

**TODAY**  
Mostly Sunny  
High: 71, Low: 50

**TOMORROW**  
Sunny  
High: 75, Low: 54



**Univ. senior publishes short stories**

By Kelly Metz  
Reporter

Kenny Rogers Jr. is not just a senior at the University; he is also a published writer. Rogers sent "Thoughts in Italics" to Publish America in January, and as of last month, the book was searchable as a published work on Amazon.com.



**Kenny Rogers Jr.**  
University senior and author of "Thoughts in Italics"

"When I was a kid, I wanted to be a writer, but I was young and stupid and didn't think writers are remembered," he said. "I'd been writing in my journal because of problems at home, and now I have six journals just full of thoughts." Rogers, a dual-major in political science and English, changed his traditional journal entries into short stories, and he started sending the stories out to literary magazines, but was never published.

Rogers said most of his inspiration comes from the people around him.

"I realized everybody is a role model and everyone is a character in a book. There are no heroes or villains in real life, but everyone is a teacher."

He said everyone has a history and something to teach about how to act and respond to things in life.

"Thoughts in Italics" could be compared to the writing styles of his favorite author, Ray Bradbury, he said.

"This book could be considered realistic fantasy. By reading all different books, I was taught how to portray each different character and was taught there is no specific style, as long as the message got across to the audience."

The book has 14 different short stories. Rogers said he loves them all, but "Race" is his favorite.

See **ROGERS** | Page 2

## The final warning

Shiite cleric threatens war in face of U.S.-Iraqi crackdown

By Robert H. Reid  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr gave a "final warning" to the government Saturday to halt a U.S.-Iraqi crackdown against his followers or he would declare "open war until liberation."

A full-blown uprising by al-Sadr, who led two rebellions against U.S.-led forces in 2004, could lead to a dramatic increase in violence in Iraq at a time when the Sunni extremist group al-Qaida in Iraq appears poised for new attacks after suffering severe blows last year.

Al-Sadr's warning appeared on his Web site as Iraq's Shiite-dominated government claimed success in a new push against Shiite militants in the southern city of Basra. Fighting claimed 14 more lives in Sadr City, the Baghdad stronghold of al-Sadr's Mahdi Army.

Fighting in Sadr City and the crackdown in Basra are part of a government campaign against followers of al-Sadr and Iranian-backed Shiite splinter groups that the U.S. has identified as the gravest threat to a democratic Iraq.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, also a Shiite, has ordered al-Sadr to disband the Mahdi Army, Iraq's biggest Shiite militia, or face a ban from politics.

In the statement, al-Sadr lashed back, accusing the government of selling out to the Americans and branding his followers as criminals.

Al-Sadr, who is believed to be in Iran, said he had tried to defuse tensions last August by declaring a unilateral truce, only to see the government respond by closing his offices and "resorting to assassinations."

"So I am giving my final warning ... to the Iraqi government ... to take the path of peace and abandon violence against its people," al-Sadr said. "If the government does not refrain ... we will declare an open war until liberation."

Al-Sadr's statements came as al-Qaida in Iraq announced a one-month offensive against U.S. troops. In a new audiotape released on a militant Web site, a man claiming to be the purported leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abu Ayyub al-Masri,

See **IRAQ** | Page 2

**FOUR ANGLES OF TROOP ACTION**

NABIL AL-JURANI | AP PHOTO

**IRAQ MILITARY OPERATION:**

Iraqi Army soldiers take positions during a military operation in Basra, Iraq, 340 miles south-east of Baghdad, Saturday. The government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki kept up the pressure on al-Sadr's followers in Basra, launching an operation early Saturday aimed at clearing militants from the Hayaniyah district, a Mahdi Army stronghold in Iraq's oil capital. British artillery and U.S. warplanes were supporting the Iraqi army operation, which met minimal resistance, military spokesman Maj. Tom Holloway said.

## ROTC cadets honored for achievements, commitment

By Adam Louis  
Reporter

Whether staying at the University to complete their training, venturing into the civilian world, or traveling to military bases around the world, Bowling Green's ROTC cadets are not ending the year without being recognized for their hard work.

ROTC cadets were honored for personal, military, academic and athletic achievements Friday night at the ROTC spring awards ceremony.

Maj. Steven Letzring said he is proud of all his cadets.

**"Over the course of a four-year period, they develop into amazing leaders."**

Steven Letzring | Major

"We [recruit cadets] out of high school, and over the course of a four year period, they develop into amazing leaders," Letzring said. He said he can send his cadets from the University "knowing full well they have the values, attributes and ability to be an absolute success in their job."

Seniors who choose to continue a military career will enter the Army as second lieutenants.

Navy Cpt. (ret) David Chilson, the night's guest speaker and 2004 ROTC Hall of Fame inductee, congratulated the cadets on their hard work and service to their country and school.

He recalls his experience when he was in his 20s aboard a C-130 cargo plane. Flying from a base in Oahu, Hawaii, Chilson was invited onto the flight deck. He was surprised to see the pilot

See **ROTC** | Page 2

## Art exhibit highlights survivor pieces

By Becky Tener  
Reporter

Senior Lindsey Melden was on her usual visit to the Wood County Public Library Friday. Along with her typical library necessities she also came away moved by effects of sexual and domestic violence from Victims Services of Behavioral Connections second annual Survivor Art Show.

The art show was one of the many events brought to the Bowling Green campus and community for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The exhibit displayed art-

work that was meant to bear witness to the violence committed against women, said Julie Broadwell, Victims Services program manager.

The art show displayed 23 pieces from different media, like paintings, photos and poems. Victims Services collected each piece from across Ohio and Michigan. Many were made by victims or by friends or family members of victims to help them deal with their emotions. A brochure given to each attendant was filled with the background of each piece and the artist, Broadwell said.

"The pieces are very strong and thought provoking," Broadwell said. "Each one in a way represents hope and recovery."

Melden said she was surprised to see the exhibit when she came to the library, but was moved by the works and the stories of the women who made them.

She said she was most moved by a painting of an abstract face conveying the emotional brokenness that can occur through violence.

"I think it's amazing that people are able to express

See **ART** | Page 2



GINA POTTHOFF | THE BG NEWS

**HITTING THE PAVEMENT:** Participants in the Seventh Annual BGSU-Kenya 5K Benefit Run race around campus Saturday to raise money for HIV and AIDS awareness overseas.

## Racing against AIDS/HIV

Kenya benefit run attracts almost 200 participants

By Gina Potthoff  
Assistant Campus Editor

People of all ages turned out for the Seventh Annual BGSU-Kenya 5K Benefit Run Saturday at 10 a.m. in support of HIV and AIDS awareness.

The "Race Against AIDS," which started and ended behind the University ice arena, took nearly 200 runners all through campus on a course just over three miles.

Students paid \$15 and non-students paid \$20 to run or walk in the race and received a free T-shirt.

Obed Ombongi, a senior and director of this year's BGSU-Kenya 5K Run, said the event makes a big difference because AIDS is rampant in Kenya, and raising awareness in the United States is important for the cause.

This year's 5K Benefit Run raised \$3,500 for AIDS awareness.

Youth Vision International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth in the U.S. and Kenya, channels the

raised funds into Kenya to provide books, magazines and other items with AIDS information at no cost to Kenyans.

Freshman Jason Dehm had been looking forward to doing a run this year.

"Kenya is a good cause," he said. Troy Schultz, 11, finished the race first with a time just over 18 minutes.

Schultz said he runs three miles three or four times a week for fun and his race time was a new personal record.

"My dad used to go here, so it was nice to see the campus," he said.

Schultz had never run the 5K Benefit Run before, and he said helping Kenya was a great reason to come out.

Schultz received two authentic African wood carvings for finishing first.

The age brackets determined prizes given with ages 1-15, 15-25, 25-35, 35-45 and 45 and over.

See **RUN** | Page 2

# BLOTTER

## FRIDAY

### 9:37 A.M.

Eric J. Raymond, 23, of Bowling Green, was issued a civil citation for failure to maintain a litter-free premise.

### 2:35 P.M.

A juvenile was arrested for disorderly conduct for threatening to bring a gun to the Children's Resource Center on Klotz Road and shoot a teacher.

### 8:34 P.M.

Johnathan P. Blackburn, 28, of Toledo, was cited for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

### 10:50 P.M.

Alison Orr Smith, 21, of Bowling Green, was arrested for open container.

### 11:04 P.M.

Henry J. Koenig IV, 20, of Bowling Green, was arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol and Ryan P. McDonough, 18, of North Royalton, Ohio, was arrested for underage possession of alcohol.

### 11:10 P.M.

Katherine Mary Midgley, 18, of Ottawa Lake, Mich., was arrested for underage possession of alcohol.

### 11:12 P.M.

Eric S. Raham, 20, of Bowling Green, was cited for underage under the influence of alcohol.

### 11:21 P.M.

Sarah L. Kosakowski, 22, of Bowling Green, was cited for disorderly conduct for urinating on Prospect Street.

### 11:36 P.M.

Jacob A. Linnean, 19, of Berea, Ohio, was arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol.

### 11:56 P.M.

Timothy J. O'Connell III, 18, of Litchfield, Ohio, was cited for underage possession of alcohol.

## SATURDAY

### 12:07 A.M.

Kasey B. Hilton, 19, of Toledo, was arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol.

### 12:16 A.M.

Dexter Bartholomew James Jr., 20, of Detroit, was cited for misrepresentation to obtain alcohol for using the ID of another person.

### 1:12 A.M.

Bryan S. Baker, 21, of Bowling Green, was arrested for nuisance party. Megan Lee Kinney, 18, and Jessica K. Russell, 19, both of Bowling Green, were arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol.

### 2:09 A.M.

Carl S. Boose, 28, of Toledo, was cited for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

### 3:07 A.M.

A Bowling Green woman reported an unknown subject broke into her garage on Clay Street, stole a ladder

and climbed onto the roof of her residence.

### 9:09 A.M.

Brian C. Clark, 22, of Rocky River, Ohio, was arrested for criminal trespassing for sleeping on a couch in a residence unfamiliar to him.

### 9:31 A.M.

Anderson J. Sedlay, 21, of Olmsted Township, Ohio, and Andrew H. Simm, 20, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, were cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Simm was also cited for underage possession of alcohol and failure to maintain a litter-free premise. Gregory R. Reitz, 21, of Bowling Green, was also cited for failure to maintain a litter-free premise. Addison W. Sedlay, 18, of Olmsted Township, Ohio, was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia.

### 10:03 P.M.

Haley A. Beier, 19, of Bowling Green, was cited for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and failure to maintain reasonable control after crashing into the divider at Starbucks on East Wooster Street.

### 11:29 P.M.

Jesus A. Ruiz, 23, of Archbold, Ohio, was cited for disorderly conduct for urinating on North Main Street.

### 11:37 P.M.

Michael Tovar Bono, 19, of Salina, Ohio, was cited for prohibited acts for attempting to gain entry to Uptown/Downtown Bar on North Main Street with an ID belonging to another.

## SUNDAY

### 12:03 A.M.

Brian C. Rupe, 24, of New London, Ohio, was cited for disorderly conduct for urinating on South Summit Street.

### 12:08 A.M.

Miles Kristopher Shipp, 19, of Detroit, was cited for underage under the influence of alcohol.

### 12:40 A.M.

Samuel S. Nichols, 19, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, was arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol, disorderly conduct and prohibited acts. Police said Nichols was discovered passed out on the 100 block of East Wooster and two fictitious IDs were found in his possession.

### 12:52 A.M.

Jonathan N. Shine, 19, of Sandusky, Ohio, was arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol and prohibited acts for attempting to gain entry to Uptown/Downtown bar on North Main Street with an ID belonging to another.

### 1:03 A.M.

Wade Joseph Finnigan, 22, of Bowling Green, issued a civil citation for urinating on East Wooster Street.

**ONLINE:** Go to [www.bgnews.com](http://www.bgnews.com) for the complete blotter list.

# ROGERS

From Page 1

ite because it is about running, and he loves to run.

Rogers learned a lot about fiction not only from his classes, but through his work for *Prairie Margins* Literary Magazine as the managing fiction editor.

Karen Craigo, adviser for *Prairie Margins* and an English instructor who focuses on publishing, said it is uncommon for undergraduates to get published.

"Kenny is a creative guy, and if anyone could do it, it would be him," she said. "He just grabbed

the bull by the horns and knew he wanted his work to be out there and seen."

Craigo said Rogers is very creative and imaginative, and he isn't afraid of emotion.

"He is not afraid to write a love story," she said. "He is a guy willing to take chances, and the readers will never know what they will get."

Dana Burriss, a friend of Rogers who bought and read the book, said the book is full of imagination and reflects the author's personality.

Rogers said he gets a lot of his creativity from being on the forensics team at the University; he was the national

champion and is the president of Pi Kappa Delta.

"I read scripts, and that really helped me get into each one of my characters," he said.

Rogers is now working on a novel that is in its final stages. He said he hopes to have it published as early as next year. Craigo said publishing a novel will be key in determining his success as an author.

"Publishers want to see novels because novels are really very marketable," she said. "Moving from a short story to a novel would be like a sprinter moving towards marathon racing. Everyone loves a good marathon."

Craigo says she hopes to see Rogers challenge himself, get an agent, and really focus on getting everything published.

Rogers said over the next five years, he hopes to only be alive and reading.

"I don't know where I'll be in five years, but I hope to be successful," he said. "My advice for young authors would be to read everything."

Rogers will be at the *Prairie Margins* release party on April 23 reading an excerpt from "Thoughts in Italics." The party is free and open to the public at the Arts Village at 7 p.m. Games and refreshments will be provided.

# ROTC

From Page 1

was almost his age. To have that kind of responsibility at that age, Chilson said, not only shows exceptional responsibility, but reflects the positions ROTC graduates could experience.

"You are in for a wonderful experience that's both challenging and rewarding," Chilson said. "I salute you for service to

our country. As they say in the Navy, I wish you fair winds and following seas."

Cadets were not the only honorees on Friday. Col. James Oman was inducted into the ROTC Hall of Fame.

Oman graduated from the University in 1978 and is the chairman of the Department of Command, Leadership and Management at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., according to Maj. Brett Bonnell. He served in

Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. He also supervised terrorism prevention plans after Sept. 11. Among his many military decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal and the Army Superior Unit Award.

Fellow hall-of-famer Col. David Wolf accepted the honor on behalf of Oman.

"He is flattered beyond words at this honor," Wolf said. Oman was attending a change-of-command ceremony honoring his oldest son that night.

He extended Oman's best wishes to the cadets and reminded them of the responsibilities ahead.

"You must not only prepare yourself, but also the soldiers in your platoon," Wolf said. "I'm confident each of you will be prepared. I wish the best of luck to each of you. You are about to embark on a great adventure in the noblest of professions."

"He is flattered beyond words at this honor," Wolf said. Oman was attending a change-of-command ceremony honoring his oldest son that night.

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# ART

From Page 1

themselves through art and are able to use that therapy as part of the healing process," she said.

Retired MD Marjoria Peatee said the exhibit really struck her because as a doctor she had many patients that dealt with violence.

"They have really done an excellent job of portraying it because it can be hard to face these things," Melden said.

After looking through the show attendants could pick up refreshments and information from Victims

Services volunteers.

Senior Stefanie Gadd said violence is more prevalent than most people think.

"I don't think people realize how often this happens to people in the community," she said.

Gadd said the response to the show was good and she felt her and the rest of the Victims Services volunteers were using the opportunity to inform people.

"I think that through the art show people have come away with a better understanding of how this kind of violence can affect people and how often it really happens," she said.

# IRAQ

From Page 1

called on followers to attack U.S. soldiers and members of awakening councils, Sunni Arab tribesmen and former insurgents who changed sides and are now fighting al-Qaida.

A week of violence has raised concerns that suspected Sunni insurgents are regrouping in the north. U.S. and Iraqi troops have stepped up security operations in Mosul, believed to be one of the last urban strongholds of al-Qaida in Iraq.

U.S. officials say the awakening councils and al-Sadr's truce were instrumental in reducing violence last year. But the truce is in tatters after Iraqi forces launched an offensive last month against "criminal gangs and militias" in the southern city of Basra.

The conflict spread rapidly to Baghdad, where Shiite militiamen based in Sadr City fired rockets at the U.S.-protected Green Zone, killing at least four Americans. U.S. officials say many of the rockets fired at the Green Zone were manufactured in Iran.

The Iranians helped mediate a truce March 30, which eased clashes in Basra and elsewhere in the Shiite south. But fighting persisted in Baghdad as U.S. and Iraqi forces sought to push militiamen beyond the range where they could fire rockets and mortars at the Green Zone. The Americans are attempting to seal off much of Sadr City, home to an estimated 2.5 million people, and have used helicopter gunships and Predator drones to fire missiles at militiamen seeking refuge in the sprawling slum of northeast Baghdad.

At a news conference Saturday, Iran's ambassador to Baghdad said his government supports the Iraqi move against "lawbreakers in Basra" but that the "insistence of the Americans to lay siege" to Sadr

City "is a mistake."

"Lawbreakers [in Basra] must be held accountable ... but the insistence of the Americans to lay siege to millions of people in a specific area and then bombing them randomly from air and damaging property is not correct," Ambassador Hassan Kazemi Qomi said.

Qomi warned that the American strategy in Sadr City "will lead to negative results for which the Iraqi government must bear responsibility."

At least 14 people were killed and 84 wounded in Saturday's fighting in Sadr City, police and hospital officials said. Sporadic clashes were continuing after sundown, with gunmen darting through the streets, firing at Iraqi police and soldiers who have taken the lead in the fighting.

The U.S. military said its forces in Sadr City killed seven "criminals," two in gunbattles and five in two separate airstrikes. The military said it does not engage if civilians are spotted in the area.

According to the Interior Ministry, at least 280 Iraqis have been killed in Sadr City fighting since March 25, including gunmen, security forces and civilians.

In Basra, Iraq's second largest city about 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, Iraqi soldiers backed by British troops pushed their way into Hayaniyah, the local stronghold of al-Sadr's Mahdi militia.

As the operation got under way, British cannons and American warplanes pounded an empty field near Hayaniyah as a show of force "intended to demonstrate the firepower available to the Iraqi forces," said British military spokesman Maj. Tom Holloway.

Last month, Iraqi troops met fierce resistance when they tried to enter Hayaniyah. On Saturday, however, Iraqi soldiers moved block by block, searching homes, seizing weapons and detaining suspects.

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# Art project stirs up abortion controversy

By **Kate Benner**  
U-Wire

PRINCETON, N.J.—Yale University senior art major Aliza Shvarts has caused an uproar at Yale and on online media outlets across the globe after The Yale Daily News reported Thursday that Shvarts' senior art project involved her impregnating herself and inducing abortions "as often as possible" during a nine-month process.

Though Yale University spokeswoman Helaine Klasky released a statement later that day calling Shvarts' project a "creative fiction," Shvarts disputed the statement in an updated story on the YDN website Thursday night, labeling Klasky's statement "ultimately inaccurate."

**"Had these acts been real, they would have violated basic ethical standards and raised serious mental and physical health concerns. The entire project is an art piece."**

Statement issued by Helaine Klasky, Yale University spokeswoman

Shvarts told the YDN Thursday night that during a nine-month period, she used a needleless syringe to insert semen into herself. At the end of each month, she took abortifacient herbs to induce bleeding, though it is unclear whether the bleeding was from an actual miscarriage.

To back up her claims, Shvarts showed the YDN clips of the footage that will be shown as part of her project.

"The tapes depict Shvarts -- sometimes naked, sometimes clothed -- alone in a shower stall bleeding into a cup," the YDN reported.

Shvarts is defending the project as real, though she is not sure whether she was ever pregnant.

"No one can say with 100-percent certainty that anything in the piece did or did not happen," Shvarts told the YDN, "because the nature of the piece is that it did not

consist of certainties."

Klasky's statement claimed that Shvarts told three Yale officials, including two deans, that she did not actually perform the procedures originally outlined in the YDN.

"Had these acts been real, they would have violated basic ethical standards and raised serious mental and physical health concerns," the statement said, explaining that "the entire project is an art piece, a creative fiction designed to draw attention to the ambiguity surrounding form and function of a woman's body."

Shvarts did not disclose the sources of the semen used for her project, though she did say that the individuals "were not paid for their services" and were regularly tested for sexually transmitted infections.

# Colleges that spend the most, make the most

By **Dionne Walker**  
The Associated Press

ETTRICK, Va. — Making money, administrators at Virginia State University have learned, takes money.

The majority black school has spent millions of state dollars renovating buildings, partly to heighten school pride among alumni they hope will respond by opening their own wallets.

It's working: Alumni support has risen from 7 percent five years ago to 10 percent, and individual gifts have increased from hundreds of dollars to thousands, development vice president Robert Turner said as he showed off libraries and academic buildings recently.

"This" — Turner said, surveying the hilltop campus — "obviously converts to good will."

As state and private funds shrink, historically black colleges are refreshing outdated efforts to solicit former students, by adding specialized staff, crafting personalized "asks," improving campuses and increasingly using Internet outreach.

They're targeting a wider base — more blacks are graduating — and younger alumni who've moved into a broader range of careers.

At VSU, efforts as subtle as adding a donor recognition dinner have heartened alumni like Anthony Spence.

"If I'm going to give my money to a university, I want to be sure that it's used for the very best," said Spence, 41, a Miramar, Fla., entrepreneur who's given about \$60,000.

Administrators plan com-

puter network upgrades devoted to online giving at Atlanta's prestigious Morehouse College, where alumni contributions dipped from about \$3.1 million in 2006 to \$1.3 million last year.

Wiley College in east Texas will use a nearly \$840,000 grant from the United Negro College Fund to help scout 200 major gift prospects a year, create new online giving opportunities and beef up staff.

Wiley, featured in Denzel Washington's 2007 film "The Great Debaters," has nine staffers focused on institutional advancement.

"At some of the larger, predominant institutions, they may have an advancement staff of say 20, 30, 50 people," said Karen Helton, vice president for institutional advancement. "That's how the Harvards and the Stanfords and the UCLAs generate billions."

Such measures are commonplace at some mainstream institutions. But they represent a major investment for the nation's more than 100 historically black colleges and universities, whose resources often are stretched.

The fundraising push by these schools foreshadows an expected slowdown in levels of state higher education funding, at the same time that predominantly white universities are pushing harder to attract high-achieving black students.

"There is an urgency about this as we look at our network of institutions and look at trying to sustain them," said Elfred Pinkard, executive director of the Institute for Capacity Building.

## DRAWING ATTENTION TO 4/20 CELEBRATIONS



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**LOOK AT THIS:** A student raises awareness of pot smoking near Mercer Street in celebration of 4/20. People across the country come together every year on April 20 to advocate a person's right to smoke marijuana legally.

## GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from [events.bgnews.edu](http://events.bgnews.edu)

12-2 p.m.

**Student Scholar's Luncheon**  
228 Union

12:30-4 p.m.

**Environmental Action Group's Swap-a-Palooza**

Students can bring clothes to trade and donate. There will also be clothes to buy. Alteration stations will be available to modify and embellish any clothes you bring or buy. Cosponsored by Good Will.

North Eppler Gym

8-10 p.m.

**Beyond BG**  
202 Union

9-10 p.m.

**Thrift Store Fashion Show**

Students can see how thrift store clothes can be fashionable and environmentally friendly. Clothes will also be available for purchase or exchange. Sponsored by Environmental Action Group and Fad Watch.

Union Oval

9-10:30 p.m.

**Transcendence meeting**  
Women's Center, Hanna Hall

9-11 p.m.

**Trivia Night in the Pub**  
Black Swamp Pub

## THE BG NEWS

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Mwai Kinnya

Shannon Rawski

Panera Free Bread for a year:

Lindsey Douglas

The Tanning Center Gift Certificate:

Mathew Zielinski

The Cookie Jar Gift Certificate:

Ryan Crow

John Travers

Ben Franklin's Desktop Casino:

Kelsey Anderson

Ben Franklin's Desk Clock:

William Schramm

Ben Franklin Sketching Pad:

Jason Werner

Qdoba Mexican Grill Free Burrito:

Ian Coldiron

Michael Bialorucki

Pisanello's 7" Pizza:

Jaime Haanan

Christopher Roost

Eric Bergner

Lee Norman

Laine Carnahan

Amy Helm

Laura Samson

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"What we have is a fat contractor in Colt who's gotten very rich off our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." — Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., criticizing the exclusive contracts with Colt Defense to make M4 rifles for the U.S. Army [see story, p. 10].

## PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What are your sleeping habits for finals week?



"I need my beauty rest, or studying does not happen."  
**COLLEEN BURRILL,**  
Freshman, VCT



"I don't sleep."  
**CHRIS LATOUR,**  
Junior, Marketing



"I don't really have finals this year, but last year I was up for a long, long time."  
**ROBIN MANSFIELD,**  
Junior, Social Work



"They don't change, just a nice glass of milk before bed."  
**MIKE VITTARDI,**  
Freshman, Undecided

**VISIT US AT BGNWS.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](http://bgnews.com).

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH USG



The Forum video blog is back for one last hurrah before finals week.

Greg Chick lets you know everything that's wrong with the University's Undergraduate Student Government.

Check it out at [www.youtube.com/TheBGNews](http://www.youtube.com/TheBGNews).

Let us know what you think at [thenews@bgnews.com](mailto:thenews@bgnews.com).



## GSS: Better than USG, but has its problems

"By having academic departments and student organizations represented, GSS has representatives from just about every major component of a graduate student's life."



**GREG CHICK**  
COLUMNIST

A lot of my friends ask me, with all the criticisms I've levied at Undergraduate Student Government, why I've never spoken about its graduate-level equivalent, Graduate Student Senate.

The truth is, GSS just doesn't affect the number of students that USG does or have a large presence, so I've never felt it was worth it. But for those unfamiliar, let me share with you some of the strengths and weaknesses of GSS.

Much like USG, GSS is intended to "act as the elected representative body of the BGSU graduate student community." That's simple enough — USG represents undergraduate student concerns and GSS represents graduate student concerns.

Like USG, GSS has its own repertoire of somewhat basic executive positions. This includes the president, treasurer, secretary and parliamentarian.

This efficient leadership system is in contrast to USG, whose officer list, found on their Web site, is a laundry list of impractical, resume bullet points, including two campus communication officers; a city, state and national liaison; an organization

liaison; a director of campus initiatives; a student welfare officer; a special events officer; and a community service officer.

Why these positions are necessary when the organization has several committees and general senators that fulfill these obligations is beyond me. You don't see the U.S. Senate having a money officer or Indian liaison; rather, there are committees (Committee on Finance and Committee on Indian Affairs, FYI) that fulfill these duties.

What really sets GSS apart is its level of inclusion. USG has representatives from every residence hall on campus in addition to all its executive board positions.

GSS, on the other hand, has representation from every academic graduate department as well as any graduate student organization.

While this is a fundamental difference that serves each organization's needs, GSS's structure is much more encompassing.

By having academic departments and student organizations represented, GSS has representatives from just about every major component of a graduate student's life. This is

much more representative of the constituency it serves.

This highlights a weakness of USG. I'm not proposing USG add representation from every specific undergraduate academic department as well as representation from every undergraduate student organization.

But imagine the synergy and collaborations that could happen if it were done.

I know I've heard a lot of ruminations about strong opposition to USG by several student organizations, mostly about USG not including them or being supportive. There seems to be no forum for collaboration to occur.

If every student organization met regularly with USG, imagine the possibilities. Now I understand every student organization is free to attend and speak with USG, but an open invitation to speak is different than a constant working relationship.

Now don't think I'm just going to toot GSS's proverbial horn. There's plenty things awry with GSS.

As great as it is that GSS has such wide-ranging and inclusive representation, you may be wondering how it gets so much interest from graduate students. Not to say that undergraduate students aren't busy, but there are just bigger academic demands of graduate students.

There must be a reason all those graduate students are attending all those GSS meetings.

Well, if a department, program or organization fails to attend "...two (2) consecutive General Assembly meetings or three (3) General Assembly

meetings in one semester, the membership of that DPO shall be censured from the GA [General Assembly]."

So what does it matter if you're censured from the GA? Sadly, being censured means the DPO "... will immediately, regardless of application status, lose eligibility for all GSS honors and awards."

I know what you're thinking. Damn, skip a few meetings and you don't get the gold star on your report card, a perfect attendance plaque or one of the small little trophies for participation us millennials are famous for.

Well, one thing that differentiates GSS from USG is that GSS has control of a \$25,000 budget set aside for graduate students' professional development.

That means professional conferences, the common thread through all graduate students' lives, can be fully funded by GSS, or nearly so.

That's a big deal for all graduate students. But if you're a graduate student and you want that money, you or someone in your academic department has to attend these GSS meetings.

Picture this as if USG and the Student Budget Committee combined. Imagine if every student organization had to attend USG meetings to request funds from USG, and you get the picture.

So maybe that all-inclusive representation I mentioned earlier is at the expense of unfairly demanded attendance.

Coupled with many of the same problems USG has, namely an outdated Web site, general apathy across its constituency, lack of major action across campus and self-interested resume-padding members within the executive board, maybe GSS isn't perfect. But it tries.

— Respond to Greg's column at [thenews@bgnews.com](mailto:thenews@bgnews.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### China's support of Sudan tarnishes Olympics

In reference to last week's column concerning the Olympic Games in China and how we should support the athletes ("Don't boycott Olympic Games," April 15), I would just like to state that for all of those agreeing with Zach Franks' column, there is another set of games going on right now in Africa sponsored by the Chinese government: the Genocide Games.

Held in Darfur for the last four years, these "games" have resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of people. And with the U.N. passing resolution after resolution calling for action and the U.S. government declaring it a genocide, nothing has been done to stop it.

Why, you ask? Because China needs the oil in Sudan (Darfur is a region in Sudan) to fuel its economy to make most of the televisions you will be watching the Olympics on. They buy the weapons China produces to further use on the people of the Darfur region.

Although genocide is only widely excepted as one of the single most deplorable acts a country or person can commit, it seems to me a group of people running around tracks and playing badminton (yes, it is an Olympic sport) is far more important.

I mean, we did go to the Games in Germany in 1936, and look how well that turned out for

us. It really changed Hitler's mind on everything.

So let's support the Games and China's support of Sudan's genocide, and then we can watch the Genocide Games, Monk Chasing and then the complete destruction of our environment, all from the comfort of our own homes.

And then the athletes can take home their medals, which were probably mined from Africa and completely ignore the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, the displacement of millions and the ignoring of the rights of peoples all over the world — all for a sports contest.

— Kevin Hartman

Senior, Political Science/History

### 'Superhero' contest showed intolerance

Congrats, BGSU, you have upheld the reputation that the University is a place for rape, disrespect and lack of caring.

Last Thursday I competed in a "Super Hero" contest with the best intention to give my winnings to Vision, a group that tries to make the University a better place not just for the gays, but for all people.

I spoke of using my "super powers" to promote HIV awareness, the need for blood donation to be inclusive to clean people, and for women's rights. But as seen a lot lately, the University is more about cover-

See LETTERS | Page 5

### SPEAK YOUR MIND

Got something you want to say about an opinion column or news story? Here's how to get in touch with us for letters to the editor:

- E-mail us at [thenews@bgnews.com](mailto:thenews@bgnews.com).
- Drop a note into our new comment box at the Union Information Center.
- Call us at 419-372-6966.
- Come to our newsroom in 210 West Hall.

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

### WE'VE GOT A BLOG!

Check out your favorite Forum columnists, unheeded and online, reasoned and ranting:

[bgnewsforum.blogspot.com](http://bgnewsforum.blogspot.com)

## Alas, a utopia would work really well only in a perfect world



**LEMARQUITTA LOWE**  
COLUMNIST

Imagine a utopia where everything and everyone is equal; a world where equality is reached without any government power used or forced upon its citizens. I mention no force being involved because I want the imagination to reach beyond thinking of Communism.

Both men and women are treated equally in the workplace. A woman can reach the social ladder at the same rungs where a man can reach the social ladder.

All races, including Chinese, Japanese, African-American, Caucasian, Asian and more will be equally treated when it comes to equal opportunity. Every culture will be treated

equally, and everyone will know and celebrate the traditions of each one's culture.

Even when it comes to government, let's just say that every government will be a republic. After imagining this "utopia" of having everything equal and everything perfect, everyone knows that this is impossible. The best words to describe a world like this are impossible, absurd and unbelievable, because we all know that a society like this could never exist.

Why can't an equal world exist? Having a perfect world where everything is equal would lead to an unstable society. Where there is perfection, imperfection is bound to happen. That is where the saying comes in, "No one is perfect, or nothing is perfect."

A woman and a man are two different beings when it comes to thinking, and even when it comes to physical attributes. Using labor as an example,

typically a man is seen as physically stronger and more capable of carrying heavy objects. A man would probably be chosen as a truck driver over a woman who applies for the position because the boss would assume he could lift heavy objects.

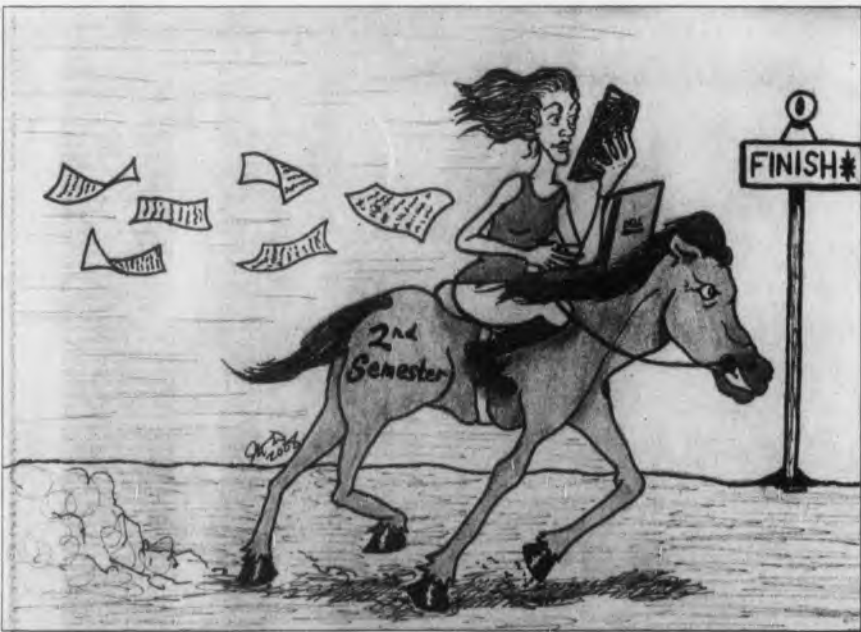
Yes, there are women who are stronger than men, and not just body lifters. Realistically speaking, society isn't set up to believe that women are stronger than men.

Can men and women really be equal in the workplace? I wish both men and women could be equal, but this is one example of why this perfection would fail.

When it comes to culture and race, treating everyone as equals is a good idea, but unfortunately, things aren't that way.

Throughout history, many race groups have been oppressed, and many struggles

See **LOWE** | Page 5



MICHAEL WEIGMAN | THE BG NEWS

## THE BG NEWS

LISA HALVERSTADT, EDITOR IN CHIEF

210 West Hall  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 | Phone: (419) 372-6966  
E-mail: [thenews@bgnews.com](mailto:thenews@bgnews.com)  
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## The BG News Submission Policy

**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](mailto: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.

**LOWE**

From Page 4

have come from oppression. For example, Mexicans and African-Americans have experienced different struggles, so it is difficult for both groups to be treated as equal. If no race in history ever had a revolution or civil war, it would be easier for everyone to be treated as equals.

Likewise, everyone has his or her own cultural background. Some cultures date back to their ancestors.

Having one's own culture is very unique; it is what forms the internal roots of a person. If everyone shared the same culture and style, it would be impossible to have one's own identity.

Every individual having his own identity is healthy for society, rather than everyone sharing the same beliefs.

It doesn't sound like a bad idea to have a perfect world where every country has a government that is exactly the same. The process of voting would be easier; everyone would have the same benefits like health care and Social Security.

No confrontation with foreign countries would start, which would lead to no wars or political conflicts.

Having equal governments everywhere would lead to world peace?

Or would it?  
Can world peace be maintained through perfect equality?  
No.

There will always be a person

who wants things to be different, a person who will disagree with the way the government is being operated. When the perspectives of one person is seen and heard, then other people will become persuaded.

People will start to think of new ways to form a government because it is impossible for every country to have the same government.

Countries differ in the way they live, economics, natural resources and many more important factors.

In the end, a true "utopia" of equality can never be reached because, with equality, there is bound to be an imperfection.

— Respond to LeMarquinta's column at [thenews@bgnews.com](mailto:thenews@bgnews.com).

**WEB SITE POLL**

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*The BG News poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.*

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

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

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**LETTERS**

From Page 4

ing its ears and maintaining the status quo.

When I was 12 years old, my parents and I were on a trip to Toledo, we passed by the stadium where BGSU was proudly displaced.

What came out of my dad's mouth when I said "Maybe I want to go there to college?"

What idea has been up held by the Pub-goers voting for "Monkey nuts," whose powers are "thrusting" and who had been bullying other contestants that evening?

Answer: the fact that the University has a high rape rate and tolerates the ideas that have caused it!

I was around 12 years old when a girl down the street who went to the University was raped in the bathroom (have you ever wondered why there are locks on the dorm bathroom doors?).

Would people admire Super Man or Wonder Woman or Spider Man if they acted like "Monkey nuts"? Ah, no.

Yes, I am bitter. Fine, call me a sore loser.

But what does it say when a couple of women-dissing, non-condom-using bullies win a "Super Hero" contest, while a hero that is out and about bringing attention to important issues is left with nothing but humiliation?

Though I thank the wonderful people who voted for the real heroes, I must raise my glass to the University for proving once again why this school is stereotyped as a place that does not care about the ideas that make people think date rape or having sex with a drunk partner is OK.

— Jennifer Dietsch Senior, Psychology

**Too much polarization in bake sale name**

Despite all they can do, computers only understand ones and zeros. Something either is or it is not; there is no in-between.

We are fortunate our forefathers sought to limit our actions, not our thoughts. They granted the freedom to think, without fear, without restriction — which means we also have the freedom not to think.

By their admission, the real problem with the College Republicans' Anti-Feminist Bake Sale was that not quite enough thought was put into its name. Yes, it would have more appropriately been billed as the "Anti-Extreme-Feminist Bake Sale."

The problem facing our coun-

try on a much larger scale — and the same problem that I believe caused the misnomer of the bake sale — is polarization.

These days, we can only be for abortion or against abortion. For corporeal punishment or against it. For feminists or against them. All of the presidential candidates are attempting to push us toward being for or against many things.

The imbroglio of absolutes is steadily robbing our culture of its intellectual freedom, diversity and a certain bounciness — the three wonderful qualities intrinsic to American life, which I find surfeiting every single day I work here at the University.

As much as I wish the College Republicans had put just a bit more thought into naming their event, when was the last time a demonstration hijacked a bake sale?

I can't think of a better example of intellectual freedom, diversity and, indeed, bounciness.

Humans are capable of much more beyond the "for or against" mentality. We are not computers and know that between one and zero there are innumerable gradations, an infinite amount of gray area.

It is precisely these questionable places, the spaces between the absolutes, where the purity of our human existence is proven again and again.

— Bo Butler  
Materials Management Unit Supervisor, Jerome Library

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# Rice: al-Sadr 'coward' for war threats

By Anne Gearan  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice mocked anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr as a coward yesterday, hours after the radical leader threatened to declare war unless U.S. and Iraqi forces end a military crackdown on his followers.

Rice, in the Iraqi capital to tout security gains and what she calls an emerging political consensus, said al-Sadr is content to issue threats and edicts from the safety of Iran, where he is studying. Al-Sadr heads an unruly militia that was the main target of an Iraqi government assault in the oil-rich city of Basra last month, and his future role as a spoiler is an open question.

"I know he's sitting in Iran," Rice said dismissively, when asked about al-Sadr's latest threat to lift a self-imposed cease-fire with government and U.S. forces. "I guess it's all-out war for anybody but him," Rice said. "I guess that's the mes-



**GREETINGS:** Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, left, kisses U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, right, as they meet in Baghdad, Iraq.

sage; his followers can go to their deaths and he's in Iran."

In a statement on his official Web site, al-Sadr said, "We denounce the visit of U.S.

secretary, asking the government to ban the entrance of the terrorists' occupiers to our pure land."

The statement asked Iraqis to

express their opposition to the visit through peaceful means.

A full-blown uprising by al-Sadr, who led two rebellions against U.S.-led forces in 2004, could lead to a dramatic increase in violence in Iraq at a time when the Sunni extremist group al-Qaida in Iraq appears poised for new attacks after suffering severe blows last year.

In a warning posted Saturday on his Web site, al-Sadr said he had tried to defuse tensions by declaring the truce last August, only to see the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki respond by closing his offices and "resorting to assassinations."

He accused the government of selling out to the Americans and branding his followers as criminals.

"So I am giving my final warning ... to the Iraqi government ... to take the path of peace and abandon violence against its people," al-Sadr said. "If the government does not refrain ... we will declare an open war until liberation."



VINCENT THIAN | AP PHOTO

**HOPING FOR PEACE:** Buddhist monks light up candles during special prayers at a temple in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Olympic flame arrived in the country yesterday.

## Heavily guarded Malaysia welcomes Olympic torch

By Vijay Joshi  
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The Olympic flame arrived in Malaysia yesterday ahead of a relay in which it will be guarded by 1,000 police watching for protests against China's Tibet crackdown and human rights record.

The flame arrived from Bangkok on a plane dedicated to carry it to all 19 international destinations of the torch relay before it lands in Beijing for the Olympic Games' opening ceremony in August.

A Buddhist group held special prayers yesterday at a temple in Kuala Lumpur to call for a trouble-free run of the torch Monday and a peaceful Olympics.

Some 300 Chinese students studying in Malaysia greeted the flame at the airport along with representatives from the National Sports Council and the police, a statement from Olympic Council of Malaysia said.

"Malaysia takes this opportunity to reiterate that the Beijing Olympics should not be politicized and remains confident that the Olympics will be successfully held in August 2008," Foreign Minister Rais Yatim said in a statement.

The flame was taken to a lux-

ury hotel in downtown Kuala Lumpur ahead of Monday's relay run starting at nearby Independence Square.

Its 10-mile route will highlight various landmarks, including the top of the Kuala Lumpur Tower, a telecommunications installation that provides a scenic aerial view of the city.

Protests in other cities have triggered an unprecedented security detail for the Malaysian leg.

Some 1,000 policemen and commandos will be deployed along the route even though police have not received reports of any planned protests, said a police spokesman, who declined to be named citing protocol. The relay through Bangkok on Saturday was unmarred by demonstrations.

Growing criticism of China's human rights record has turned the Olympics into one of the most contentious in recent history.

China's recent crackdown in Tibet, which forcefully put down sometimes-violent demonstrations against Beijing's rule over the Himalayan region, has triggered protests and attempted disruptions of the torch relay in Paris, London and San Francisco.

## Hamas militants killed after setting off explosives

By Ibrahim Barzak  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel killed seven Hamas militants in a series of airstrikes after the group detonated two jeeps packed with hundreds of kilograms of explosives at an Israeli crossing on the Gaza border.

Two of the militants were killed early yesterday.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak visited the area of Saturday's twin suicide attacks, which wounded 13 soldiers, and warned Hamas would "bear the consequences."

However, an immediate Israeli offensive appears unlikely — Israelis are currently marking the Jewish Passover holiday, and in May will celebrate their country's 60th birthday.

The Islamic militant Hamas said Saturday's attack on the

Kerem Shalom crossing was part of a campaign to break the nearly yearlong blockade of the Gaza. Israel and Egypt virtually sealed Gaza after Hamas seized control of the territory by force.

In Damascus, former President Jimmy Carter met with senior Hamas leaders on Friday and Saturday, defying U.S. and Israeli warnings that doing so would grant the group legitimacy. Hamas officials said Gaza's closure and a possible Israel-Hamas prisoner swap were discussed. They said the group did not respond to Carter's request that it halt rocket fire on Israeli border towns or that it agree to talk to Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Eli Yishak about a prisoner exchange.

Following the crossing attack, Israel targeted Hamas militants in a series of missile strikes, killing seven yesterday.

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# > Exchange

#### What is Microsoft Exchange?

A server-based messaging system that provides access to electronic mail, shared calendaring and scheduling, and other collaborative services.

#### What is Outlook?

An email client for Microsoft Windows and Vista users to access the electronic mail and calendaring features provided by Microsoft Exchange servers.

#### What is Entourage?

An email client for Macintosh users that allows OS X users to access email and calendar features.

#### What is Outlook Web Access (OWA)?

A Microsoft Web-based email client that offers access to email and calendar features via a Web interface that closely matches the features and appearance of Outlook.

#### BGSU will transition from the current email system and Meeting Maker to Microsoft Exchange during the first half of 2008.

Users will then be able to access their email and calendar using Microsoft Outlook 2007 (for Windows users), Entourage 2008 (for Macintosh users) or the Outlook Web Access (OWA) interface for Web users.

Check the Microsoft Exchange project Web site [www.bgsu.edu/exchange](http://www.bgsu.edu/exchange) for details on the project including:

- > Migration Details
- > FAQ's
- > "Rumor Mill" link to submit questions regarding the project
- > Migration Guides
- > Links to Self-help pages and Quick Reference Guides

Continuing and Extended Education will be offering training sessions on Exchange. Registration information is available at <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/exchange>.

For faculty and staff the migration process will begin by the user receiving notification of their migration date in an email message sent to their BGSU email account a minimum of two weeks prior to their migration date.

Any student who is interested in volunteering to move to the new system may register for a date to migrate by selecting the "Exchange Volunteer Form" found under the Misc Services heading under MyServices in MyBGSU.

# BGSU

B O W L I N G G R E E N S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

## SIDELINES



## BASEBALL

## Twins outlast Indians, win in 10th

A single by Twins first baseman Justin Morneau drove in the winning run and sent the Cleveland Indians packing, 2-1, yesterday. The Indians have now lost two games in a row.

Page 8

## ONLINE

## The BG News Sports Blog

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

## TODAY

Women's golf:  
Falcon Invitational; all day

## OUR CALL

## Today in Sports History

**1996**—The Chicago Bulls win an NBA-record 72 games.  
**1990**—A National League umpire is arrested for stealing baseball cards.  
**1951**—The Toronto Maple Leafs win the Stanley Cup.  
**1948**—The Baltimore Bullets win the NBA title.

## The List

Chicks dig the long ball, and offense in baseball is just fun to watch in general. Today, we list five of the best hitters so far this season.

## 1. Chipper Jones:

Chipper has been lighting it up in Atlanta so far. He's sporting a league-best .449 batting average.

## 2. Derrek Lee:

He's finally healthy and back to making pitchers pay for their mistakes. He has seven homers.

## 3. Manny Ramirez:

Manny can just flat-out hit a baseball. He leads the A.L. with 20 RBIs.

## 4. Nate McLouth:

Pirates fans don't have much to cheer about, so McLouth's .384 average can provide some relief.

## 5. Rafael Furcal:

He's got 27 hits and a .409 average for the Dodgers.



## Flashes golden in sweep

Kent outplays BG in all facets on the way to a weekend series sweep

By Ethan Magoc  
Reporter

Kent State thoroughly outplayed, and often downright embarrassed, the Falcon baseball team this weekend in a three-game Mid-American Conference series.

The Golden Flashes (21-15, 7-5) came into Steller Field on Friday several games back of first-place BG. By the time their bus pulled away yesterday afternoon, those roles had pretty much been reversed.

The Falcons (17-16, 6-6) surrendered all three games without much of a fight, as Kent outscored their faltering opponents 32-5 in the three games combined.

Frank Berry got the start for the Falcons on Friday, but suffered his first loss of the season after he gave up seven earned runs in 5 1/3 innings. Kent's starting pitcher, Brad Stillings, gave his team a slightly better outing. BG managed only two earned runs off Stillings in seven complete innings.

"It was kind of like we were in awe of them. You just can't do that."

Danny Schmitz | BG baseball coach

"He was aggressive in the strike zone, and defensively we turned some double plays to get him out of some jams," said Kent coach Scott Stricklin. "Bowling Green had been swinging the bats well, and they did so again Friday, but we were fortunate to make the plays."

Friday's final score was 11-3 in favor of the Golden Flashes, and Stricklin had a simple explanation for his team's effectiveness at the plate.

"When we got guys on, we got

See SWEEP | Page 8



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

YIKES: Kent State outscored BG 32-5 in three games over the weekend. The Falcons' record dropped to 17-16 on the season.



TREVOR LEE | THE BG NEWS

CLOSE CALLS: The BG softball team won three games by one run over the weekend.

## Falcon softball team ekes out three weekend victories

By Sean Shapiro  
Reporter

The Falcons completed their 10-game homestand this weekend in exciting fashion, taking game one of a double header against Northern Illinois and then sweeping Western Michigan in a pair of one-run games.

In BG's first game Friday, junior pitcher Hayley Wiemer continued to be dominant in MAC play, throwing a complete game, striking out four and not allowing an earned run in the 5-2 victory.

At the plate, BG got on board early as senior Allison Vallas

doubled to straight away center, scoring Wiemer and Susan Sontag in the bottom of the third. BG would add two insurance runs later in the game, but the defensive efforts of the whole Falcon team and Wiemer's performance on the mound gave BG all it needed, despite a late scare from the Huskies, who tallied a run in the top half of the seventh.

In game two, the Falcons received another solid pitching performance, this time from senior Emily Gouge, who

See SOFTBALL | Page 8

## Brown bests Orange in annual spring football game with late TD pass

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

For 47 minutes of a possible 48 in Saturday's annual BG spring football game, defense was king.

Neither the Orange nor the Brown team could find the end zone all day, and there were only 49 seconds left to play in the game. A 44-yard field goal from backup kicker Matt Norsic had given Orange a 3-0 lead in the first quarter that seemed insurmountable.

But then Brown got one last shot on offense in the waning minutes of the game. After driving 69 yards on eight plays in two minutes, running back and receiver-combo Anthony Turner threw a jump ball-style halfback pass to receiver Freddie Barnes in the end zone for the game-winning touchdown.

The 7-3 win meant a little more this year than just intra-team bragging rights. According to Turner, the winners got steaks.

"[I like my steak] medium well, with extra A-1 sauce," Turner said. "A-1 adds more flavor."

If the offense during the game were a steak, it could've best been described as flavorless. That, or the unit that averaged 30.2 points per game last season just had the flavor pounded out of it by the defense. Both Brown and Orange defenders had their way with the offenses in a game that really resembled the overall tone of the spring

"The defense really kicked the offense's butt this spring. I thought the pressure by both teams, especially the Brown defense, was outstanding."

Gregg Brandon | BG football coach



## Diyril Briggs

Recorded a game-high five sacks for the Brown team



## Michael Ream

Recorded three sacks for the Orange team

practice season.

"The defense really kicked the offense's butt this spring," said BG head coach Gregg Brandon. "I thought the pressure by both teams, especially the Brown defense, was outstanding."

Quarterbacks Tyler Sheehan and Tony Hunter played for both teams in the game and were pressured early and often. The Brown and Orange defenses combined for nine sacks. Defensive end Diyril Briggs notched five by himself for the Brown, and defensive tackle Michael Ream had three for the Orange.

"I would rate [the spring overall as going] pretty well," Briggs said. "It was just coming out here as a defensive line, showing that a lot of guys are ready to step up and play. The experience shows that we're more mature

than last year and all we can do is get better."

While the defenses for both teams performed like well-oiled machines, the offenses left more than a little to be desired. Gaps on the line closed quickly for BG running backs, as both teams combined for 124 yards on the ground. Chris Bullock led all Falcon rushers with 54 yards on 17 carries for the Brown.

There were a total of 327 gained through the air during the game. Sheehan threw for 236 yards while taking snaps for both squads. Along with catching the game winner, Barnes tallied eight catches for 81 yards. Tyrone Pronty had four catches for 70 yards to lead the Orange.

Brandon said a big reason for

See FOOTBALL | Page 8

## Griffey's base hit lifts Reds over Brewers in thrilling extra-inning rally

By Joe Kay  
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — When Edwin Encarnacion came to bat in the bottom of the 10th against Brewers closer Eric Gagne, the few thousand rain-chilled fans left in the stands began to boo. Encarnacion expected it.

The third baseman let Milwaukee pull ahead in the top of the inning with yet another error. Then he hit a solo homer, his second of the game, that sparked the Cincinnati Reds toward a slump-busting, 4-3 win yesterday.

"I knew my error could lose the game," said Encarnacion, who has six of Cincinnati's 11 errors this season.

Instead, Paul Bako followed with another solo shot off Gagne (1-1), who was pitching for the fourth day in a row. Ken Griffey Jr. eventually ended it with a run-scoring single off Salomon Torres.

The Reds won for only the second time in their last nine games, a downturn linked to

their struggling offense. Down to their last at-bat yesterday, they finally got it going.

"I'm still excited," manager Dusty Baker said. "We needed that one so badly — big-time. That was a good script. I can sleep tonight. I haven't slept worth nothing."

Encarnacion helped the Brewers pull ahead 3-1 in the top of the 10th by booting a grounder as he hurried to try to start a double play. Jared Burton (1-1) let in a run with a wild pitch, and J.J. Hardy singled home another.

Milwaukee was only three outs from a series sweep. Manager Ned Yost didn't have any qualms about bringing in Gagne to pitch for the fourth straight day. The closer had been

throwing well lately, converting his last five chances, and assured Yost that he could get those last three outs.

"He felt good," Yost said. "I check with my relievers every day. It was pushing it a little bit, but he felt good, he felt loose."

The feeling didn't last. "I felt very good," Gagne said. "I got behind in the count. That's the thing: You've got to get ahead. I didn't do that today."

After Gagne gave up the back-to-back homers and walked Scott Hatteberg, Salomon Torres relieved and gave up an infield single by Brandon Phillips. Griffey singled over the head of right fielder Corey Hart to end the game and Encarnacion's misery.

"I'm still excited. We needed that one so badly — big-time. That was a good script. I can sleep tonight. I haven't slept worth nothing."

Dusty Baker | Reds manager



DAVID KOHL | AP PHOTOS

MAN OF THE HOUR: Ken Griffey Jr. of the Reds throws a fist into the air after driving in the deciding run in yesterday's come-from-behind win over the Brewers.





IN THE CLUTCH: The Minnesota Twins celebrate their 2-1 extra-inning victory over the Indians yesterday. JIM MOHE | AP PHOTO

## Twins top Tribe in extra-inning affair

By Jon Krawczynski  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Even as his average hovered in the .220s through the first two weeks of the season, Justin Morneau didn't have to look far to find encouragement.

He may not have been knocking the cover off the ball all game long, but when he came to the plate with runners in scoring position, he was as close to a sure thing as there is in this game.

"You try to always look for the positive, try to ignore the average and tell yourself you want to

be up there in the big situations," said Morneau, whose big 10th-inning hit gave Minnesota a 2-1 victory over Cleveland yesterday.

Morneau whiffed on his first chance to beat the Indians but the 2006 AL MVP had a pretty good feeling with two outs and Brendan Harris on third base in the 10th.

After striking out with a runner on second in the eighth inning, Morneau squeezed a single through the right side of the infield and pumped his fist as Harris jogged home with the winning run.

Morneau has hit safely in 13 of his last 15 games to raise his

average to .269. He is 9-for-15 (.600) with 12 RBIs with runners in scoring position this season.

"He's the guy we want up there in big situations," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said.

Rafael Perez (0-1) took the loss in relief of an impressive start from Paul Byrd, and the defending AL Central champions have lost eight of their last 11.

"We've got to figure this offense out," Indians manager Eric Wedge said. "We've got better players in there. We've got better hitters in there. There is no excuses. The guys that are spinning their wheels have to find a way to get going."

## SWEEP

From Page 7

them in," Stricklin said, whose team left only four runners on base in Friday's opener.

Kent put even more runners on, and then put them across the plate, early in Saturday's win.

So many, in fact, that the top half of the first inning took 30 minutes to complete.

BG starter Kevin Light walked Chris Tremblay to start the game. Doug Sanders singled. Anthony Gallas homered. Greg Rohan singled. Jared Bartholomew walked. Ryan Mitchell singled.

Soon it was 8-0 Kent, without a single Falcon coming to bat, and the rout was on.

It didn't help BG that Chris Carpenter started on the mound for the Golden Flashes that afternoon. The 6-foot-4-inch hurler was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 2004, and the same size advantage that enabled him to become his school's leading basketball scorer surely intimidated the Falcon offense on Saturday.

"He's probably our best prospect," Stricklin said. "He just has great stuff."

"I can't explain it. I give Kent State all the credit in the world. For whatever reason, we didn't come out and play with the confidence that we should have."

Danny Schmitz | BG baseball coach

Carpenter tossed seven scoreless innings, giving up two hits and two walks. Had his offense not taken up so much time scoring 15 runs to BG's one, it is likely that he would have thrown a complete game shutout.

Instead, he settled for letting his offense pound out 20 hits, including three home runs, two doubles and two triples, to crush the Falcons 15-1.

Anthony Gallas hit two of those home runs, and added another yesterday. He attributes his recent success to a simple matter of punctuality.

"Being on time and prepared in the on-deck circle has been key for me lately," Gallas said. "I didn't think I did enough of that early in the year, but now I am."

Such a simplistic approach paid great dividends for Kent, while BG was caught on their heels for

nearly the entire weekend.

"It was kind of like we were in awe of them," BG coach Danny Schmitz said. "You just can't do that."

The Falcons let Kent take it to them again yesterday. A final score of 6-1, another strong start by Kent hurler Kyle Smith, and another errorless game were in the books in just over two hours.

"I can't explain it," Schmitz said. "I give Kent State all the credit in the world. For whatever reason, we didn't come out and play with the confidence that we should have."

Kent now rides an 11-game winning streak and a first-place berth in the MAC East into this week's non-conference tilts with Marshall and Duquesne.

BG, meanwhile, is left to pick up the pieces as they host Division III foe Albion tomorrow at 3 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

From Page 7

the sputtering offenses was a lack of continuity on the offensive line. The Falcons have a handful of new faces on the line due to the loss of three key seniors to graduation.

"I think the continuity we're trying to establish with the offensive line, you didn't see that today because we split the squads," Brandon said. "Those guys have a lot of time



**Tyler Sheehan**  
Threw for 236 yards on 38 attempts in Saturday's game



**Freddie Barnes**  
Had eight catches for 81 yards in Saturday's game

to get bigger, faster, and stronger in the off-season and this summer."

"Our offense will go as our offensive line goes and as our quarterback goes, and I thought Tyler did some good things today," he said.

In a game dominated by the

play of both teams' defensive lines, Ream was satisfied with the results, even though the Orange ultimately lost.

"The d-line's looking good," Ream said. "We're not a young group anymore. We're more like a veteran squad ... I look for the d-line to step it up this year."

## SOFTBALL

From Page 7

struck out a career-high 15 batters despite taking a 3-2 loss in extra innings. In the contest, both teams struck early as the Huskies scored two runs in the top of the first on a pair of RBIs: the first a double to center, the second a single that snuck through the left side of the infield.

BG answered right back in the bottom of the first as one swing

of the bat by Wiemer gave BG a two-run homer, scoring senior Dawnjene DeLong. From that point on, it was a pitchers' duel between Gouge and Northern reliever Joreigh Landers, who took over for the Husky starter after the first.

Both Landers and Gouge dominated batters, only allowing six hits by either team until the game was forced into extra innings. In the extra frame, Gouge made the first mistake as Husky shortstop Michelle Nendza homered to left

center with two outs.

The Falcons couldn't respond in the bottom of the eighth, and Landers picked up her third win of the season.

"The team played really hard today," said head coach Shannon Salsburg. "In the first game we came out, set the tone and took advantage of opportunities. In the second game we had some opportunities where we didn't push a run across, and that came back to get us. We have to continue working on getting our bunts

down to advance the runners, but overall the team played well. I thought that Emily Gouge threw really well, as did Wiemer."

BG responded to the Friday afternoon loss by picking up two one-run victories against the Broncos. In the first game, BG secured a 2-1 victory thanks to the pitching tandem of Wiemer and Gouge, who combined to allow seven hits and one earned run.

Despite several chances for each team, scoring in the contest was held to late as, in the fifth, freshman Rachel Delp hit her second career home run, a high fly to left field. In the top of the sixth, the Broncos responded scoring on a wild pitch by Gouge, who had just relieved Wiemer.

BG took the contest in the bottom half of the inning, loading the bases but only able to get one run home.

"We didn't hit the ball exceptionally well, but found ways to score through good base running and people being able to work the count," said Salsburg. "Gouge did a great job of coming in and shutting them down and mixing it up. Today is a great example of a MAC tournament game, which is preparing us for later in the season."

Game two against Western proved to be much of the same as game one, as once again Wiemer and Gouge combined to give the Falcons the victory. The tandem did it all in the contest, as Gouge scored the Falcons' first

run in the second after walking, and Wiemer put the stamp on the contest, homering to right on the first pitch she saw in the bottom of the eighth, giving BG a 2-1 victory.

At the plate, both teams struggled to generate runs and hits, as there were only eight hits between the two teams and only three extra-base hits.

The weekend capped BG's best stretch of the season as they went 8-1 during the homestand and Wiemer improved to 9-4 on the season, eight of her wins coming in MAC play.

Next the Falcons head to East Lansing, Mich., to face off against the Michigan State Spartans Tuesday at 4 p.m.

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# Superdelegates search for race winner when deciding between Obama, Clinton

By Stephen Ohlemacher  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many of the Democratic superdelegates who are still undecided say the most important factor in their decision is simple — they just want a winner in November.

Problem is, after nearly four months of primaries and caucuses in 46 states, territories and the District of Columbia, they still aren't sure who that is, don't seem to be in any hurry to make up their minds and aren't interested in any artificial process that might force them to choose between Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Most of the more than 100 undecided superdelegates who discussed their decision-making with The Associated Press in the past two weeks agreed that the primaries and caucuses do matter — whether it's who has the most national delegates or the candidate who won their state or congressional district. But few said the primaries will be the biggest factor in their decision.

"I think it's really important that we keep our eye on the prize, and the prize is the win in November," said Gail Rasmussen, an undecided superdelegate from Oregon.

That's good news for Clinton, who cannot catch Obama in delegates won in the few remaining primaries and caucuses.

Obama has been arguing for months that the superdelegates would be overturning the will of the voters if they don't nominate the candidate who has won the most pledged delegates.

He has a 164-delegate lead in that category. Clinton, meanwhile, has argued that superdelegates should exercise independent judgment.

Many of the undecided superdelegates say they don't want to be perceived as elite insiders, cutting backroom deals to select a nominee. But that doesn't mean they're ready to forfeit their status.

"The way the system is set up, the superdelegates are able to weigh in because we are the most experienced people in the party," said Blake Johnson, an undecided superdelegate from Alaska. "We are the ones who have been part of the party the longest and keep it running on a day-to-day basis."

There will be nearly 800 superdelegates at the party's national convention in Denver this summer. They are the party

### "I think it's really important that we keep our eye on the prize, and the prize is the win in November."

Gail Rasmussen | Superdelegate

and elected officials who automatically attend the convention and are free to support whom-ever they choose.

They are in high demand now that neither Clinton nor Obama can clinch the nomination without them.

Clinton leads in superdelegate endorsements, 258-232, according to the latest tally by the AP.

However, Obama has been eating away at her lead for much of the past two months, picking up 84 percent of the superdelegate endorsements since Super Tuesday.

About 250 superdelegates have told the AP they are undecided or uncommitted. About 60 more will be selected at state party conventions and meetings this spring.

AP reporters across the nation contacted the undecideds and asked them how they plan to choose. Of those, 117 agreed to discuss the decision-making process.

—About a third said the most important factor will be the candidate who, they believe, has the best chance of beating Republican John McCain in the general election.

—One in 10 said the biggest factor will be the candidate with the most pledged delegates won in primaries and caucuses.

—One in 10 said what matters most is who won their state or congressional district in the primary or caucus.

—The rest cited multiple factors or parochial issues.

## THE BG NEWS

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66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

**ACROSS**

- Hurt
- Immigrant's subj.
- Scottish Gaelic
- Dennis of "Brewster's Millions"
- Actress Ruby
- Atlas contents
- Harry Anderson sitcom
- See 12D
- Give out
- Track down
- Writer Levin
- Of the nose
- Outfielder Kirby
- Ms. Thurman
- Quick training session
- Bookstore section
- Wrap up
- "M\*A\*S\*H" star
- Track org.
- Protest-singer Phil
- Harrumph!
- Brownie pic
- Gem in the Smithsonian
- Frozen
- Leading
- Chick of jazz
- Luau loop
- Edberg of tennis
- Links grp.
- Ms. Minelli
- "Norma Rae" star
- Adam's garden
- Simile center
- The Tower of London
- Cooking fat
- Singer Ritter
- Feels

**DOWN**

- Sharpn
- Actor Tamiroff
- Elton's real first name
- Conductor Zubin
- Young newt
- Assert
- Part of NEA
- Lofty angel
- Paper money
- Common center?
- Sword with a double edge
- With 19A, part of 17A, 30A, 48A and 64A
- Landed manor
- Comic French comment
- MBA course
- VMI, e.g.
- Acclaim
- Made in the
- Torne or Tillis
- Burst of energy
- Pen name?
- West Coast-based petroleum company
- Faddish plants
- Ad committee
- Pigs' digs
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# Military considers new rifle as Colt's contract ends

By Richard Lardner  
The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — No weapon is more important to tens of thousands of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan than the carbine rifle. And for well over a decade, the military has relied on one company, Colt Defense of Hartford, Conn., to make the M4s they trust with their lives.

Now, as Congress considers spending millions more on the guns, this exclusive arrangement is being criticized as a bad deal for American forces as well as taxpayers, according to interviews and research conducted by The Associated Press.

"What we have is a fat contractor in Colt who's gotten very rich off our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan," says Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.

The M4, which can shoot hundreds of bullets a minute, is a shorter and lighter version of the company's M16 rifle first used 40 years ago during the Vietnam War. At about \$1,500 apiece, the M4 is overpriced, according to Coburn. It jams too often in sandy environments like Iraq, he adds, and requires far more maintenance than more durable carbines.

"And if you tend to have the problem at the wrong time, you're putting your life on the line," says Coburn, who began examining the M4's performance last year after receiving complaints from soldiers. "The fact is, the American GI today doesn't have the best weapon. And they ought to."

U.S. military officials don't agree. They call the M4 an excellent carbine. When the time comes to replace the M4, they want a combat rifle that is leaps and bounds beyond what's currently available.

"There's not a weapon out there that's significantly better than the M4," says Col. Robert Radcliffe, director of combat developments at the Army



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH | AP PHOTO

**THE GUN WARS:** U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Ruben Romero, from Fort Benning, Ga., demonstrates new technology making use of a magnifying video camera and thermal imaging on the M4 weapon, during a demonstration on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Riga.

**"The fact is, the American GI today doesn't have the best weapon."**

Tom Coburn | Senator

Infantry Center in Fort Benning, Ga. "To replace it with something that has essentially the same capabilities as we have today doesn't make good sense."

Colt's exclusive production agreement ends in June 2009. At that point, the Army, in its role as the military's principal buyer of firearms, may have other gunmakers compete along with Colt for continued M4 production. Or, it might begin looking for a totally new weapon.

"We haven't made up our mind yet," Radcliffe says.

William Keys, Colt's chief executive officer, says the M4 gets impressive reviews from the battlefield. And he worries that bashing the carbine will undermine the confidence the troops have in it.

"The guy killing the enemy with this gun loves it," says Keys, a former Marine Corps general who was awarded the Navy

Cross for battlefield valor in Vietnam. "I'm not going to stand here and disparage the senator, but I think he's wrong."

In 2006, a non-profit research group surveyed 2,600 soldiers who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan and found 89 percent were satisfied with the M4. While Colt and the Army have trumpeted that finding, detractors say the survey also revealed that 19 percent of these soldiers had their weapon jam during a firefight.

And the relationship between the Army and Colt has been frosty at times. Concerned over the steadily rising cost of the M4, the Army forced Colt to lower its prices two years ago by threatening to buy rifles from another supplier. Prior to the warning, Colt "had not demonstrated any incentive to consider a price reduction," then-Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, an Army acquisition official, wrote in a November 2006 report.

Coburn is the M4's harshest and most vocal critic. But his concern is shared by others, who point to the "SCAR," made by Belgian armorer FN Herstal, and the HK416, produced by Germany's Heckler & Koch, as possible contenders.

# Pope Benedict XVI visits ground zero, offers up prayers for peace and love

By Rachel Zoll  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pope Benedict XVI began the final day of his American journey by blessing the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and pleading with God to bring "peace to our violent world."

The visit by Benedict to ground zero was a poignant moment in a trip marked by unexpectedly festive crowds anxious to see the former academic who for three years has led the world's Roman Catholics.

Benedict was driven in the popemobile part-way down a ramp now used mostly by construction trucks to a spot by the north tower's footprint. He walked the final steps, knelt in silent prayer for a few moments, then rose to light a memorial candle.

Addressing a group that included survivors, clergy and public officials, he acknowledged the many faiths of the victims at the "scene of incredible violence and pain."

The pope also prayed for "those who suffered death, injury and loss" in the attacks at the Pentagon and in the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa. More



JULIE JACOBSON | AP PHOTO

**POPE:** Maria Ferrino, of Brazil, Brazil, holds up a photo of Pope Benedict XVI while waiting for his arrival at a rally Saturday at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

than 2,900 people were killed in the four crashes of the airliners hijacked by al-Qaida.

"God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world," the pope prayed on a chilly, overcast morning. "Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred."

Benedict invited 24 people with

ties to ground zero to join him: survivors, relatives of victims and four rescue workers. He greeted each member of the group individually as a string quartet played in the background. In his prayer, he also remembered those who, "because of their presence here that day, suffer from injuries and illness."

# Lawsuit alleges affairs department is not providing adequate care for U.S. veterans

By Paul Elias  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs isn't doing enough to prevent suicide and provide adequate medical care for Americans who have served in the armed forces, a class-action lawsuit that goes to trial this week charges.

The lawsuit, filed in July by two nonprofit groups representing military veterans, accuses the agency of inadequately addressing a "rising tide" of mental health problems, especially post-traumatic stress disorder.

But government lawyers say the VA has been devoting more resources to mental health and making suicide prevention a top priority. They also argue that the courts don't have the authority to tell the department how it should operate.

The trial is set to begin today in a San Francisco federal court.

An average of 18 military veterans kill themselves each day, and five of them are under VA care when they commit suicide, according to a December e-mail between top VA officials that was filed as part of the federal lawsuit.

"That failure to provide care is manifesting itself in an epidemic of suicides," the veterans groups wrote in court papers filed Thursday.

A study released this week by the RAND Corp. estimates that 300,000 U.S. troops — about 20 percent of those deployed — are suffering from depression or post-traumatic stress from serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We find that the VA has simply not devoted enough resources," said Gordon Erspamer, the lawyer representing the veterans groups. "They don't have enough psychiatrists."

The lawsuit also alleges that the VA takes too long to pay disability claims and that its internal appellate process unconstitutionally denies veterans their right to take their complaints to court.

The groups are asking U.S. District Court Judge Samuel Conti, a World War II U.S. Army veteran, to order the VA to drastically overhaul its system. Conti is hearing the trial without a jury.

"What I would like to see from the VA is that they actually treat patients with respect," said Bob Handy, head of the Veterans United for Truth, one of the groups suing the agency.

Handy, 76, who retired from the Navy in 1970, said he founded the veterans group in 2004 after hearing myriad complaints from veterans about their treatment at the VA when he was a member of the Veterans Caucus of the state Democratic Party. The department acknowledges in court papers that it takes on average about 180 days to decide whether to approve a disability claim.

# U.S. sergeant faces charges of premeditated murder

By Audrey McAvoy  
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A platoon sergeant accused of shooting an unarmed Iraqi and then ordering another U.S. soldier to "finish him" faces a court martial this week for premeditated murder.

Sgt. 1st Class Trey Corrales, of San Antonio, faces a minimum of life with parole if convicted.

The Iraqi man was shot multiple times in the head and chest near the town of Kirkuk when Corrales' platoon raided a suspected insurgent hide out on June 23. The U.S. military hasn't been able to identify the man by name.

Pvt. Christopher Shore, the soldier Corrales allegedly ordered to fire additional shots at the man, was found not guilty of third-degree murder in a February court-martial but convicted of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to 120 days in prison and a two-grade reduction in rank.

Shore, 26, admitted he shot at the man but said he intentionally missed. The Winder, Ga., native said he fired his weapon because he was afraid of outwardly disobeying Corrales, a soldier his defense team portrayed as abu-

sive and prone to violence. Shore is expected to testify at Corrales' court-martial.

Besides premeditated murder, the Army is charging Corrales, 35, with wrongfully soliciting another soldier to shoot an unarmed, wounded Iraq. A third charge alleges Corrales planted an AK-47 rifle next to the victim after he was shot.

Frank Spinner, Corrales' lawyer, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

A jury — called a "panel" in the military justice system — of at least five soldiers will determine Shore's guilt or innocence. They would also sentence Corrales if they convict him.

Corrales is due to be arraigned today, while the trial is expected to start Wednesday and last three or four days.

The prosecution and the defense are expected to argue several motions before Wright today, including one submitted by the government to prevent the introduction of evidence related to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Corrales and Shore deployed to Iraq for 15 months starting in mid-2006 with the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team based outside Honolulu.

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