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Bowling Green State University

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THE BG NEWS

ESTABLISHED 1920

A daily independent student press serving the campus and surrounding community

Tuesday
April 21, 2009
Volume 103, Issue 141
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CAMPUS

Ribeau welcomed

Sidney Ribeau was formally welcomed to his new home at Howard University | **Page 3**

FORUM

A competition of pointless means

CNN and Ashton Kutcher recently competed to see who could get more followers on Twitter, and columnist Marisha Pietrowski wonders why they even bothered | **Page 4**

NATION

Remembering Columbine

Dozens participated in a "lie down" to mark the 10th anniversary of the Columbine shooting and to demand greater gun control legislation | **Page 5**

ODD NEWS

Mismarked corners

The marker for the Four Corners is off by 2.5 miles, misleading tourists wishing to be in four states at once | **Page 9**

SPORTS

Falcon softball looks for win

With a 2-2 record after last weekend's games, the Falcon softball team is aiming for a win against Michigan State to pull ahead in the win column | **Page 6**



Who do you want to have a secret handshake with?



JOSH DECHANT
Junior, Film Studies

"Jimi Hendrix, because he's probably the greatest person who ever lived." | **Page 4**

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

New organization aims to raise BGSU pride with Falcon Friday

By **Lin Chafetz**
Reporter

Sophomore Nick North is a Falcon fan who wears his heart and spirit on his sleeve—almost literally.

North, who has been promoting the upcoming Falcon Friday, was on campus Saturday sporting an orange BGSU shirt, a brown hat and BGSU lanyard.

Falcon Friday is a program by recently formed SPIRIT, Students Participating In Residential Initiatives and Traditions. The first Falcon Friday is slated for

this Friday. The goal, North said, is to get as many students on campus to wear orange and brown as possible.

SPIRIT, which was formed this semester, aims to get more students involved on campus by extending membership to resident advisers and hall directors. The resident advisers are being encouraged to incorporate the Ay Ziggy Zoomba fight song into the first floor meeting, along with the newly created Falcon handshake, the "Falcon Flap." The "Falcon Flap" consists

of two people, each hitting the back of their hand against the other, hitting the front of their hands, sliding their hands down the other person's arm until reaching the elbow and then "flapping their arm like a falcon," North said.

This Thursday North will be on campus wearing a full array of falcon gear—orange soccer socks, brown BGSU sweat pants, two BGSU shirts, a stuffed BGSU Falcon on his shoulder and an orange wig—ready to high five all of those in Falcon colors.

"I've always been spirited," North said. "I was voted most spirited in high school, and I have high hopes for BG to be as spirited as some of the bigger schools."

North will also be carrying around orange and brown duct tape and asking students wearing fan gear from other universities to cover up with some Falcon colors.

Katie Goodlin, a resident adviser

See **FALCON** | Page 2



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TIFFANY ALAGO

SPIRIT: Sophomore Nick North puts on his Falcon gear to promote University spirit and Falcon Friday, which is later this week.

Iran president offends at U.N. racism

By **Frank Jordans**
The Associated Press

GENEVA — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused the West of using the Holocaust as a "pretext" for aggression against Palestinians, prompting walkouts by every European Union country at a U.N. conference on racism.

The meeting turned chaotic almost from the start when two protesters in rainbow wigs tossed red clown noses at Ahmadinejad as he began his speech with a Muslim prayer. A Jewish student group from France said it had been trying to convey "the masquerade that this conference represents."

Ahmadinejad—the first government official to take the floor—restarted and delivered his speech for more than a half-hour, saying the United States and Europe had helped establish Israel after World War II at the expense of Palestinians.

"They resorted to military aggression to make an entire nation homeless under the pretext of Jewish suffering," he said.

That prompted the walkout by some 40 diplomats from Britain and France and other European Union countries. The Europeans had threatened to leave the conference if it descended into anti-Semitism or other rhetoric harshly



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President of Iran offends members of U.N.



GLOBE IN JEOPARDY

Local organizations to host fair on environmental issues tomorrow for Earth Day

By **Becky Tener**
Reporter

The planet is in peril and local organizations will spend tomorrow fighting for it with information, opportunities and protests.

In light of Earth Day, which is celebrated every April 22, students will have the opportunity to learn how to save the planet at the Eco-Fair.

See **EARTH DAY** | Page 2

Today:

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Screening of "Burning the Future: Coal in America."

Union Multipurpose Room

Tomorrow:

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Eco-Fair

Union Oval

3:45 - 5 p.m.

Earth Day Rally and March

Union Oval

Union Oval

Union Oval



LAURENT GILLIERON | AP PHOTO

CLOWN PROTESTS AHMADINEJAD: A demonstrator dressed as a clown gestures from the media tribune against Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during his speech during the opening of the Durban Review Conference (UN's Conference against racism) at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday.

Possible House bill aims to study volunteerism nationally

By **Anthony Phillips**
Reporter

The Congressional Commission on Civic Service Act, known as HR 1444, was introduced in March and is aimed at studying volunteerism in the United States.

If the bill is passed, the Congressional Commission on Civic Service, will study the volunteer programs in the U.S. for 20 months. After the 20-months, there will be a 120 day period until they give their final report.

In that time, the commission will give its recommendations for proposed legislation.

Some options the commission

See **VOLUNTEER** | Page 2

STUDENTS PAINT FLOWER POTS FOR 'POT DAY'



ALAINA BUZAS | THE BG NEWS

PAINTING: (Left) Freshmen Kaitlin Fedor, Chassiti Smith and Lisa DeFrancesco cover their flowerpots in brightly colored paints during the "Pot Day" celebration in the Harshman Chapman-Dunbar lobby yesterday. (Right) DeFrancesco prepares to paint her flowerpot.



THIS WEEK'S CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY AGREE ON ISSUES
(Compiled by Kristen Vasas, city editor. Next Meeting: May 4)

Action: An ordinance was adopted providing additional monies for the current expenses of the city of Bowling Green during the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2009, and ending December 31, 2009.
Vote: 6-0

Action: An ordinance was adopted enacting an additional emergency code to the Code of Ordinance for the city of Bowling Green.
Vote: 6-0

Action: An ordinance was adopted certifying the unpaid cost of snow removal from 14 properties in the city to the Wood County Auditor Michael Sibbersen for placement on the tax duplicate.
Vote: 6-0

Editor's Note: Council-at-Large member Larry Sorrells was absent from last night's meeting and was excused by the council.

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BLOTTER

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

2:57 A.M.
Verbal warning was given to one student for disorderly conduct in Rodgers.

3:18 A.M.
Officer found a subject passed out outside the Union Pub. The subject was just taking a "breather" and is now on his way.

12:06 P.M.
Complainant reported his parking decal was being used by another student.

7:33 P.M.
Complainant reported his wallet was stolen from the Student Recreation Center.

8:27 P.M.
Complainant reported two males were hitting golf balls toward parked vehicles at the Mac Beach area. The subjects were gone upon officer's arrival, and no damage was found to any of the vehicles.

10:30 P.M.
Verbal warning was given for underage consumption in the 400 block of N. Enterprise.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

12:14 A.M.
Verbal warning was given for an open container and underage consumption in Founders.

1:45 A.M.
Officer observed three male subjects enter University Hall. When confronted, they advised they were looking for a cell phone but refused assistance and left the building.

2:40 A.M.
Bowling Green Police Department requested University police assistance with several loud parties in Copper Beech. The residents were given verbal warnings for disorderly conduct.

2:51 A.M.
Officer observed an intoxicated subject trying to take a bike off the bike rack that wasn't his at Offenbauer West. Subject was sent on his way.

9:32 P.M.
Complainant reported a table was stolen from her room in Founders.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

2:33 A.M.
Officer spoke with two students carrying a wooden "K" past Moseley. The property was returned to Kappa Delta.

2:54 A.M.
Officer spoke with a student who was pushing a found bike. The bike was brought to the station.

3:39 P.M.
Complainant reported items were stolen from his room in Founders.

4:01 P.M.
Stephen Ireland, 23, of Milton Center, Ohio, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia after a multi-colored marijuana smoking pipe with residue inside it was observed in the ash tray of his vehicle.

6:12 P.M.
Complainant reported she was assaulted by her roommate after putting out a bonfire in their back yard. He grabbed her, threw her to the ground and hit her a few times.

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

FALCON

From Page 1

er in Offenbauer Hall and member of SPIRIT, said the objective is to instill more school spirit at the University.

"Spirit is about supporting your school on and off the field," she said. "It's all around taking pride in where you go."

Falcon Fridays are something that SPIRIT hopes to continue throughout the rest of this

semester and through the fall to promote school spirit at the University.

"The goal is to start getting students pumped up every Friday for things like athletic events and about being a falcon," North said.

Loveda Van Der Molen, a SPIRIT member, said she wants to see more students with spirit on campus.

"We really want to get more students to embrace their inner falcon," she said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TIFFANY ALAGO
FALCON: SPIRIT hopes Falcon Fridays will become a University tradition to promote school spirit.



U.N. RACISM CONFERENCE: European Union delegates, down, leave the assembly room during the speech of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad during the opening of the Durban Review Conference (UN's Conference against Racism) at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday.

U.N.

From Page 1

critical of Israel, which marred the U.N.'s last conference on racism eight years ago in South Africa.

The United States and eight other Western countries were already boycotting the event yesterday, the eve of Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day, because of concerns about its fairness.

Ahmadinejad also accused Israel of being the "most cruel and repressive racist regime" and blamed the U.S. invasion of Iraq on a Zionist conspiracy.

Most of his rhetoric was not new but its timing and high profile could complicate U.S. efforts to warm ties with the Islamic republic: Alejandro Wolff, the U.S. deputy ambassador to the United Nations, denounced what he called "the Ahmadinejad spectacle."

"We call on the Iranian leadership to show much more measured, moderate, honest and constructive rhetoric when dealing with issues in the region, and not this type of vile, hateful, inciteful speech that we all saw," Wolff told reporters at the U.N. in New York.

Protesters holding placards reading "This is a circus. A racist cannot fight racism," repeatedly interrupted the speech with shouts of "Shame! shame!" and "Racist! racist!"

Later, about 100 members of mainly pro-Israel and

Jewish groups tried to block Ahmadinejad's entrance to a scheduled news conference.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon met with Ahmadinejad before his speech and said he had counseled the Iranian leader to avoid dividing the conference. Ban later said he was disappointed Ahmadinejad had used his speech "to accuse, divide and even incite," directly opposing the aim of the meeting.

"It was a very troubling experience for me as a secretary-general," he told reporters. "It was a totally unacceptable situation."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry condemned Ahmadinejad's speech and Ban's meeting with the Iranian leader.

"It is unfortunate that U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon deemed it appropriate to meet with the greatest Holocaust denier of our time," Israel said. "This matter is especially severe, as it took place on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day."

Ahmadinejad has been praised by some in the Muslim world for calling for Israel's destruction and for other anti-Israeli comments. The hard-liner has often used international forums to criticize Israel including at last year's U.N. General Assembly where he said Israel was on "a definite slope to collapse."

Most Muslim delegations in Geneva declined to comment, but Pakistan said the protesters were wrong to interrupt Ahmadinejad's speech.

"If we actually believe in freedom of expression then he has the right to say what he wants to say," Ambassador Zamir Akram told The Associated Press. "There were things in there that a lot of people in the Muslim world

EARTH DAY

From Page 1

hosted by the Environmental Action Group and the University Department of Sustainability. The fair will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Union Oval and will provide information about environmental issues and eco-friendly lifestyles.

"We cannot continue to live the way we do," said Gary Silverman, director of Environmental Programs. "Change needs to come now."

He said there are many ways students can make changes, and the Eco-Fair will highlight some of them, specifically energy conservation.

"Our energy won't last forever," he said. "But fortunately, the changes we make now will have really positive outcomes in the future."

Silverman also said the Eco-Fair will localize environmental issues, such as changes in climate, the prices of food and other natural disasters.

"None of us are immune to the effects," he said. "And that's more of a reason to check out the fair."

EAG President Laura Winebarger said students will also have the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of environmental topics.

"We really want to get the students excited about these issues on campus," she said.

There will be about 30 different booths presenting, including the Outdoor Club, Dining Services, Geo Journey, the Department of Environmental Health, the Green Greeks, Progress BG, The Happy Badger, the College of Technology and the United States Postal Service.

"With all these different groups it really lets students know all the

options they have," Winebarger said. "It's a really good opportunity for people to learn about environmental issues."

Nick Hennessey, the University Director of Sustainability, said one of the biggest events at the fair will be the debut of the Orange Bike Program that will offer students access to bikes on campus whenever they need one. Hennessey said they will be offering test rides and students who participate will be entered into a prize drawing.

According to junior Melissa Greene, students will have the opportunity to take part in an environmental protest after the Eco-Fair. EAG and Progress BG have collaborated to bring attention to the 50-year contract that city officials signed with AMP-Ohio for a new coal plant, she said.

During the Eco-Fair, they will be gathering petition signatures against the contract, and at 3:45 p.m., students, faculty and community members will gather at the Union Oval to march to City Hall and hand deliver the petitions.

Greene said the march is meant to show city leaders that not everyone in the community supports the contract with AMP-Ohio.

"We want them to see that they should be more open with decisions like this that affect the whole community," she said. "We deserve to have a say."

The Eco-Fair will also have opportunities for students to win prizes, get ideas for how to live green and see what University groups are doing to be kinder to the environment. Hennessey said he hopes students and faculty will come and learn.

"It's going to be fun, free and informative," he said. "I encourage everyone to come."

VOLUNTEER

From Page 1

will explore are whether or not public service should be mandatory for all able youth, and the possibility of creating a 4-year institution funded by the federal government to focus on training public leaders.

The commission would also focus on developing a program to enlist and educate college students about national service.

Junior Conor Kendrick said he likes some aspects of the bill but also has some issues with it.

"It's good in concept, but when you make it mandatory," Kendrick said, "it's mandating something that people may not want to do."

Even though the bill does not have the power to mandate civil service, it does have the power to influence Congress on whether or not to make civil service a requirement.

The bill was introduced March 11, and has yet to be voted on by either the House or Senate.

The bill came into existence a few weeks before Congress passed the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act,

"It's good in concept, but ... it's mandating something that people may not want to do."

Conor Kendrick | Junior

or GIVE Act, which expands several different volunteer programs such as AmeriCorps.

The GIVE Act also will create a separate program called the National Civilian Community Corps, which will combine military and civilian habits into helping with energy conservation, infrastructure enhancement and national emergencies.

If the end result of HR 1444 is that these programs become mandatory, what might that mean?

Kendrick said the mandatory service may be what Rahm Emanuel, Obama's chief of staff, was talking about when he mentioned a civil defense organization.

More information on HR 1444 and HR 1388 can be found through the Senate's Web site at www.senate.gov.

CORRECTION POLICY

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

The name of the service group sponsoring "The Rescue of Joseph Kony's Invisible Children" film in yesterday's issue of The BG News was incorrect. Alpha Phi Omega will be sponsoring the film.

The headline on the front page of yesterday's issue of The BG News, "Hitting tough economic

times, Greeks at the University have seen a 27 percent decrease in numbers," was misleading. Although Phi Delta Theta fraternity has experienced 27 percent decrease in membership, the percent of students participating in Greek life at the University has increased from 12 to 13 percent as of fall 2008.

The quarterback of a 50-yard pass during Saturday's intrasquad football scrimmage was incorrectly identified in yesterday's issue of The BG News. Redshirt freshman Aaron Pankratz threw the pass to Chris Scheidt.

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Howard welcomes Ribeau

After a thorough search, Howard University formally welcomes Sidney A. Ribeau as its 16th university president

By Linsey Isaacs
Hilltop

After an extensive search for a new university president in spring 2008, Sidney A. Ribeau, was formally welcomed to the Howard community as the 16th president at the Inauguration Commencement Friday morning. Faculty, staff and students agreed that Ribeau was the premiere candidate to take the university into the 21st century, and his work this year has proven so. "We agreed that the new president had to be someone who had superior relevance and had great vast experience and personality traits, most importantly," said Roberta McLeod, Blackburn director and president of the Howard University Staff Organization. "Great spirituality, someone who understands, loves and respects all that Howard stands for. Someone who pays close attention, assuring that students are first."

The Students First Campaign was launched in January in hopes to fix the disconnect between students and faculty, and Ribeau has been hard at work to make the initiative stick.

"For 142 years, we have struggled as an institution, and we still

stand here proud, committed to a brighter future," Ribeau said. "We must foster true academic excellence. We must be inclusive in our thinking on the world and how it exists."

He also said that every student who has the academic potential should have the opportunity to attend Howard University.

Faculty members such as Jeanne M. Toungara said Ribeau is on the right path.

"He's already, in his short time here, began his Students First campaign, and I've been impressed by both him and his wife's obligation to helping students," she said.

"President Sidney A. Ribeau emphasized getting our students involved in international studies, which includes the learning of international cultures and foreign languages. If we are going to create global citizens, they must have experience in other parts of the world."

Ribeau said he stresses the need to become the best university in the country, and not just among HBCUs.

With academic freedom, he encouraged students to imagine the unimaginable, and spoke once again that he and the rest of the faculty were there for the

students. His experience from Bowling Green State University will translate into improving Howard, and he is grateful to be the new president.

Special guest Bill Cosby attended the commencement, offering comic relief and words of wisdom for the medium-sized audience.

As a Temple University graduate, Cosby compared the vastly different culture to Howard.

The spirit of Howard, he said, was much closer than that of Temple. And for the crown of HBCUs, as Cosby described, Howard had a great stake in it and remained at the top.

"Howard has a beautiful jewel in that crown ... and the quality gets better," Cosby said to the audience. "It's important to understand that as a person who did not graduate from Howard, I envy what I imagined you went through."

One of the heavier topics of discussion at the commencement was the financial state of Howard.

By enacting the Budget Advisory Committee this year, the faculty's shared goal in managing the university's well-being and fixing the deficit will be attained. But some students yearned for more details.

"Overall, I thought his [Ribeau's] speech was very appropriate and had substance," Pierre Whately, a sophomore economics major, said. "I was hoping that he would go into more detail about his future agenda so that we, as students, can get a better picture as to how he plans to accomplish his goals."

Bryan Smart, president of The College of Arts and Sciences Student Council and junior political science major, said that more could be done regarding the financial issues Howard is facing.

"While the university has pledged to increase financial aid to students, I feel we have to reach out more to our alumni and other benefactors," said Smart, who is president-elect of Howard University Student Association. "Many students are already struggling to pay the tuition now; we should have a more concrete plan to alleviate this issue."

Joseph E. Harris Distinguished Emeritus professor of History, said the inauguration was a defining moment at Howard and that he has faith in Ribeau.

"Our new president seems to have a vision and commitment," he said. "It shows that we can get good and effective leadership across the board that will directly benefit the students of Howard."

HAVING A BALL



ALAINA BUZAS | THE BG NEWS

THE S.M.A.R.T. ONES: Claire Semer, senior coordinator for the Diversity Initiative in the Office of Residence Life, reviews the sequence of events for last night's S.M.A.R.T. Ball. The ball was an end of the year banquet for those involved in the mentoring program at the University.

GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Student Exhibition
The Little Gallery

8 p.m.
Graduate String Quartet
Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Center

9 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.
'Yes Man' Movie Event
Union Theater

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PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Who do you want to have a secret handshake with and why?



“My brother, because I’ve never met him before.”

DARION GOINS,
Junior,
Sociology



“My best friends, that way we’d have a secret communication system.”

ANNA GILLILAND,
Freshman,
Secondary Education



“Van Wright, because he always supports the dance team.”

KENDRA KOWALCZYK,
Sophomore,
Undecided



“Clayton Stewart, because he’s a new USG Senator.”

BRITTANY ZICKAFOOSE,
Freshman, Business

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



MICHAEL WEIGMAN | THE BG NEWS

Beck’s 9/12 project ludicrous

By Dave Beitzel
The Pitt News

Everyone remembers 9/11. That day tattooed itself onto our generation like the Kennedy assassination did to our parents’. But maybe you don’t remember 9/12 so much. Glenn Beck is here for you.

Recently, he created the 9/12 Project to remind Americans how united they felt the day after 9/11. According to his Web site, theglennbeck912project.com, we were “standing together to protect the values and principles of the greatest nation ever created.” Thankfully, Beck provides today’s values and principles to join his movement. He discerned them from the Founding Fathers, who “built this country on 28 principles ... culled from all over the world and from centuries of great thinkers.”

Beck then “distilled” those 28 down to nine. Principle No. 1: “America is good.” Bold. Some people might say it’s Jeffersonian — people like Glenn Beck.

Principle No. 2: “I believe in God, and He is the center of my life.” He must have “distilled” the Treaty of Tripoli, signed and declared to the nation by John Adams, in which Article 11 read, “the Government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion.”

Beck also posts 12 values — to complete the Project’s “9/12” double entendre — such as “Hope,” “Charity” and “Personal Responsibility.” On its face, Principle No. 7 might not jive with Value No. 6, “Charity,” but Beck encourages plenty of giving.

ing. The 9/12 Project currently advocates sending tea pouches to your congressional representatives. Apparently this is catching on with political challengers, leading a C-SPAN reporter to actually say, “Pat Toomey tea bagged Arlen Specter.”

Beck is reducing politics to this. He’s reducing the news to statements like, “America is good.” That’s what gets ratings in a post-5/8 world — the date in 2006 that Beck’s TV program premiered on CNN, though it inevitably moved to Fox News.

Beck admits that he’s a recovering alcoholic, but he’s found a new addiction: God and Country. Every night, Beck mainlines a spoonful of stars and stripes, huffs some sacrosanctity and starts pontificating. In April 2008, Beck started America on the road to recovery, telling followers that America needed a 12-step program — and he provided a list that he “distilled” down to six steps.

He claims to promote unity, yet Beck once said to Rep. Keith Ellison, the first Muslim congressman, “I feel like saying, ‘Sir, prove to me that you are not working with our enemies,’ and I know you’re not. I’m not accusing you of being an enemy, but that’s the way I feel, and I think a lot of Americans will feel that way.”

After he introduced the 9/12 Project’s tenets, this self-proclaimed bastion of brotherhood, this Jeremiah of jingoism who warns against a divided America, introduced his next segment by saying, “The climate change people are pulling

a page from Nazis’ Hitler Youth. What are your kids learning at school?”

He’s a raging celebration of mediocrity, a demagogue and a charlatan masquerading as a prophet. He’s Howard Beale from “Network” — a mad-as-hell paranoid schizophrenic breaking down live on-air. He’s a stricken animal, spiraling into the madness of rabies and unable to make sense of the bright lights and chaos that surround him. He whips the rubes into frenzy. Frothing at the mouth and feeling helpless, they follow their master’s commands.

Maybe Beck was right about some things, because I would like to forget that unquestioning herd mentality so prevalent on Sept. 12. There are a lot of other things I’d like to forget about that day, too.

Beyond the horrific images and zeitgeist of demanding war, I’d like to forget the endless lines of alpha-mourners who gauged their grief as more sincere than that of others — like Fox News anchor John Gibson, who ridiculed Jon Stewart’s emotional response to the attacks, fiendishly likening Stewart to a sissy and allowing a viewer to call his tears “phony.”

I’d like to forget the ambitious political goons who staged photo ops from the moment of the attacks and exploited a tragedy for a few witless votes. I want to forget about the craven entrepreneurs shilling merchandise and songs because patriotism sells, and there’s nothing to commemorate the lives lost like a No. 1 Billboard single.

I want to forget, but I can’t, or those wretches will do it again, just like Beck is trying to do right now.

Kutcher vs. CNN Twitter war is just shameful self-indulgence



MARISHA PIETROWSKI
COLUMNIST

Last week, actor Ashton Kutcher attempted to gain more followers on the social networking site Twitter than the breaking news Twitter page run by CNN. What started as a small scale joke became something bigger by Friday.

CNN followed the quest for Twitter dominance throughout the week and when Kutcher beat CNN to one million followers, the network decided to have Kutcher as the featured guest on “Larry King Live” and a general topic all day long.

On Wednesday, Kutcher upped the ante when he announced he would donate mosquito nets for World Malaria Day (1,000 if he lost, 10,000 if he won); his wife Demi Moore and Oprah also donated to the cause. This is definitely a positive aspect of this “war.”

However, regardless of the donations made, this whole incident still seems to be a giant act of desperation on both parties’ accounts, and that move seemed to serve merely as a means of legitimizing this otherwise useless contest.

Even though he is still making movies and producing television shows, Kutcher is not the tabloid magnet and trendsetter he was back in 2003 (I for one do not miss the Von Dutch trucker hats he helped to popularize). In fact, the only reason I have even thought about Kutcher in the past few months is by hear-

ing about his Twitter exchanges with his wife.

I still don’t know about any future projects in his future, but America is now more aware of Kutcher because of Twitter, a website which even he described as an “ego stream.”

This stunt allowed Kutcher to go on Oprah’s show and “Larry King Live” and get his name back in the limelight. Since CNN could talk about the contest on their show, they could generate even more self-congratulatory publicity for themselves. Even though CNN lost this battle, they still came out winners.

CNN could send out their breaking news bulletin to all those subscribed to e-mail and text message alerts, and made it a bright bold banner on their website, making it seem this seemingly pointless event was of the same importance and severity of a major event.

Even in losing this contest they were able to heavily promote their own Twitter page (it has since gained over one million followers), and numerous media outlets picked up the story.

Gaining more followers than an actor does not show CNN’s credibility as a news organization, and it does not prove they are able to investigate hard-hitting stories. It simply proves they are able to attract the attention of a Twitter user long enough to make them search for their page and click a button that says “follow.”

There was no reason for CNN to make such a big deal of Kutcher’s challenge, because it did nothing to show why CNN was credible, and the story was not important enough to warrant such coverage.

To make things worse, “The Hills” star Spencer Pratt now hopes Kutcher will accept his new challenge: if Kutcher gains more new followers than Pratt in 30 days, Pratt says will clean Kutcher’s house (Pratt hopes Kutcher will wash his car if he wins).

It’s funny that I assumed this Twitter contest couldn’t be any more irrelevant. Now that Pratt has joined in the circus it will become even more pointless.

At least something good came of Kutcher and CNN’s war. It’s doubtful Pratt would do anything more than invite “Us Weekly” out to his house to watch him update his Twitter on a regular basis. I can’t wait to see if Larry King gives him airtime to discuss this utterly selfish challenge.

Something as asinine as this Twitter war should not have taken up such a large portion of CNN’s airtime. This started as a simple publicity stunt for a celebrity, and while it’s great that a wonderful contribution was made to a deserving charity, it’s important to keep in mind this wasn’t the original intent of the competition.

It was an attempt at grabbing the attention of a demographic, plain and simple. The news value of this event was minimal, and CNN should not have covered it as much as they did.

I guess the stunt worked though, since we all know about the war now. Oh well, at least I’m not one of Kutcher or CNN’s followers on their respective Twitter pages.

Respond to Marisha at thenews@bgnews.com

End decades-long Cuba embargo

By Rod Swain
The Lantern

Nearly 48 years after enactment, America’s economic embargo on Cuba may finally be nearing its end.

During both Congressional visits to the island nation and discussions between President Obama and the Cuban government, the possibility of normal economic relations between both countries has drawn much closer to reality over the past few months.

Known simply as “el bloqueo” (the blockade) in Latin America, the embargo is the most enduring trade ban in modern history. According to the law, most American companies are forbidden from doing any business with Cuban interests. A similar provision also prohibits all travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens.

My first reaction to news of the

embargo’s impending removal was one of jubilation and relief. I envisioned a future where disaffected college students everywhere could purchase Che Guevara T-shirts directly from the country of his revolution. I imagined myself sitting on a balcony in Havana, sipping mojitos and smoking a fine Cuban cigar while laughing heartily with a few up-and-coming baseball prospects.

However, once the lavish fantasies ran out, I began to think more seriously about what a colossal waste of time the embargo has been, and why dropping it is so necessary.

First of all, it doesn’t work. The presidencies of Fidel Castro and his brother Raul have continued unimpeded despite the trade ban, which has failed to foment any kind of legitimate democratic uprising on the island. If anything, the embargo has only

served to strengthen Fidel’s regime by giving him a convenient scapegoat to pin any and all economic problems on.

Next, the embargo is completely irrational. When asked about good reasons for its continued implementation, pro-embargo politicians simply cite the Castro regime’s suppression of democracy and its human rights record. While this is an admirable sentiment, it is disingenuous at best.

In reality, the U.S. maintains trade ties with some of the world’s least democratic countries and worst human rights violators, including Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, the Central African Republic and China. Is adding Cuba to that list really going to harm our reputation?

ONLINE: Read the rest of this article on-line at bgviews.com

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

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

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

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

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

Obama backs releasing memos

By Pamela Hess
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Days after releasing top-secret memos that detailed the CIA's use of simulated drowning while interrogating terror suspects, President Barack Obama went to the spy agency's Virginia headquarters yesterday to defend his decision and bolster the morale of its employees.

"I acted primarily because of the exceptional circumstances that surrounded these memos, particularly the fact that so much of the information was public," Obama said.

Last week, Obama's Justice Department published previously classified memos that described the Bush administration's legal justification for CIA interrogation techniques that included methods criticized as torture. Republican lawmakers and former CIA chiefs have criticized the release of the memos, contending that revealing the limits of interrogation techniques will hamper the effectiveness of interrogators.

"I know the last few days have been difficult. You've got my full support."

Barack Obama | President

The memos detailed the use of waterboarding — a form of simulated drowning that Attorney General Eric Holder has denounced as torture — as well as sleep deprivation, isolation and physical violence.

According to the declassified memos, waterboarding was used on alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Muhammed 183 times in March 2003. Suspected al-Qaida logistics chief Abu Zubaydah was subjected to the treatment 83 times in August 2002.

Obama said yesterday that a court case was going to force the memos to be released and that much of what they contained had already been compromised through leaks to news media.

The president urged the hundreds of CIA employees who gathered in a secure auditorium to ignore the recent con-

trovery. "Don't be discouraged by what's happened the last few weeks," he said.

A round of cheers erupted when CIA Director Leon Panetta introduced Obama, who quickly reassured them that they had his backing.

"I know the last few days have been difficult," he said. "You need to know you've got my full support."

But Obama also heard a reminder of the intense criticism his decision sparked from many in the intelligence community. Four former CIA directors and several senior agency officials opposed the release of the memos.

"You don't get credit when things go good, but you sure get some blame when things don't," Obama said. Pausing when he heard an "amen" from someone in the crowd, Obama added, "I got an amen corner out there."

Toxins likely caused death of polo horses

By Brian Skoloff
The Associated Press

WELLINGTON, Fla. — The sudden death of 21 polo horses at a championship event in Florida may have been caused by a toxin in the animals' feed, vitamins or supplements, veterinarians said yesterday.

The horses from the Venezuelan-owned team Lechuza Caracas became ill just before a tournament match Sunday, collapsing and dying on the scene or while being treated at vet clinics or transported, officials said.

The deaths shocked this affluent equestrian and golfing community in central Palm Beach County, where the International Polo Club Palm Beach hosts the U.S. Open Polo Championship every year.


"This was devastating. It was heartbreaking, to see that many horses get sick all at once," said John Wash, president of club operations.

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9	8	1	7	5	2	3	6	4
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CHRIS SCHNEIDER | AP PHOTO

PROTESTING: Thirteen people lay down to symbolize those killed in the Columbine school shooting on the 10th anniversary of the Columbine attack, at the Capitol in Denver.

Columbine tragedy remembered with rally

By Catherine Tsai
The Associated Press

DENVER — Dozens of people participated in a "lie-down" at Colorado's state Capitol yesterday to demand stricter gun control and mark the 10th anniversary of the Columbine High School shootings.

A circle of 13 people representing those killed at Columbine reclined on their backs before the west steps of the Capitol. They had wrapped blue and white ribbons around their necks, the official colors of the suburban Denver school.

Others knelt next to the circle as the names of the 23 injured in the April 20, 1999, attack also were read.

Among them was Mallory Sanders, granddaughter of slain teacher Dave Sanders, and Steve Wewer, godfather of slain student Daniel Mauser.

Daniel's father, Tom Mauser, wore the Vans shoes his son was wearing the day he was killed.

"They did not kill their spirits. They did not kill ours, either," he told the crowd.

Above them, the U.S. and Colorado state flags flew at half-staff at the Capitol, as ordered by Gov. Bill Ritter. A giant blue ribbon memorializing Columbine hung from the outside of the Capitol's gold dome.

Yesterday's event was sponsored by Colorado Ceasefire, a gun control group.

"I don't necessarily think we need to get rid of guns entirely," said Richard Castaldo, who was partially paralyzed at Columbine. But he insisted background checks are needed at gun shows. "We need to know who they are."

The crowd at the rally included families commemorating the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings.

Columbine students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, armed with guns and pipe bombs, killed 12 students and a teacher. Harris and Klebold later killed themselves.

Harris and Klebold obtained three of the four weapons they used in the massacre from an 18-year-old friend at a gun show, where she wasn't subjected to a background check. The friend later insisted she believed the guns would be used for hunting or collecting.

After Columbine, Colorado's Legislature failed to pass a measure that would have closed the so-called gun show loophole.

Colorado voters then passed a ballot initiative to do so. People who buy guns at a gun show must now undergo criminal background checks by a licensed gun dealer, just as they would if they bought a gun from a federally licensed gun store.

New York Times claims five Pulitzers

By Deepti Hajela
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Las Vegas Sun won the Pulitzer Prize for public service yesterday for exposing a high death rate among construction workers on the Las Vegas Strip. The New York Times received five Pulitzers, including one for breaking the call-girl scandal that destroyed former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's career.

The Detroit Free Press won in the local reporting category for obtaining a trove of sexu-

ally explicit text messages that brought down the city's mayor. The judges also awarded a Pulitzer in local reporting to the East Valley Tribune of Mesa, Ariz., for revealing how a sheriff's focus on immigration enforcement endangered investigations of other crimes.

The awards were announced after one of the most depressing years the newspaper industry has ever seen, with layoffs, bankruptcies and closings brought on by the recession and an exodus of readers and advertisers to the Internet.


"These are tough times

for America's newspapers, but amid the gloomy talk, the newspaper winners and the finalists are heartening examples of the high-quality journalism that can be found in all parts of the United States," said Sig Gissler, administrator of the prizes. "It's quite notable that the watchdog function of journalism is underscored in this year's awards. The watchdog

still barks, and the watchdog still bites."

The only other multiple winner was the St. Petersburg Times. It was honored for national reporting for fact-checking what the candidates said during the 2008 White House campaign, and for feature writing for Lane DeGregory's story on a neglected girl who was unable to talk or feed herself.


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SIDELINES



WOMEN'S GOLF Falcons next Invitational cancelled

The Cleveland State Invitational, the next event for the Falcons, has been cancelled due to poor weather conditions and an unplayable golf course. The meet will not be made up. The Falcons will be in action Friday to kick off the MAC Championships.

ONLINE

The BG News Sports Blog

Be sure to log on to The BG News Sports Blog for continued coverage of your favorite Falcon sports teams. Visit the blog today to get the latest scoop on the weather for the Spring Game as well as vote in our new poll. For the remainder of the week, we will be covering spring football, baseball, softball and much more.

www.bgnewsports.com

SCHEDULE

TODAY

Softball
at Michigan State; 4 p.m.
Baseball
at Ohio State; 6:35 p.m.

OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

- 1996**—Chicago Bulls win NBA record 72 games.
- 1967**—The Los Angeles Dodgers are rained out for the first time in team history after 737 games.
- 1955**—The Brooklyn Dodgers start the season 10-0, then a record.

The List

While likely not to be the only postseason award for the Cleveland Cavaliers this season, Mike Brown took the first with Coach of the Year. Here are five great moments from Brown:

- 1. Franchise record:** Brown led the Cavs to their best finish in team history with 66 wins.
- 2. Ejection:** In a road game against the lowly Sacramento Kings, Brown got himself ejected to give life to his team, which grinded out an overtime victory.
- 3. Division title:** Brown led the Cavs to a Central Division for the first time since he took over for the 2005-06 season.
- 4. All-Star Game:** Brown was selected to coach the 2009 East Division All-Star Team. The East lost the game 146-119.
- 5. Playoffs:** Brown guided the Cavs to their first playoff win of the year last Saturday against the Detroit Pistons.



SWING AWAY: T.J. Blanton and the Falcons will be looking to put up some offense against Ohio State this evening.



SOLID D: BG has had some problems with defense this season, but the team is hoping that is behind them as they take on Michigan State this afternoon.

A break from the MAC

Falcon baseball set for evening contest at OSU

By Sean Shapiro
Reporter

Three days after facing off against No. 24 Kent State, BG will face a similar task in No. 26 Ohio State.

The non-conference contest for both teams will start with a 6:35 p.m. opening pitch at Ohio State's Bill Davis Stadium.

This past weekend, BG played well against the Flashes, taking one of three from them and improving their overall record to 17-16 and 8-6 in the Mid-American Conference.

For BG coach Danny Schmitz, Friday's 9-2 win over the Flashes was one of the Falcon's most impressive this season.

"We showed we can play with the best team in the conference," Schmitz said. "In fact, even one of the best in the country."

Ohio State enters the weekend boasting an impressive 29-8 (9-3 Big Ten) record after sweeping conference oppo-

See **BASEBALL** | Page 7

Michigan State next stop for Falcon softball team

By Paul Barney
Reporter

After posting a 2-2 record last weekend against Akron and Ohio, the softball team will look to get back in the win column today as they head to East Lansing for a 4 p.m. non-conference matchup with Michigan State.

The last meeting between these two teams was Mar. 16, 2008, in which the Spartans posted a 6-2 win at the Stetson Invitational in Florida.

The Falcons (9-24, 4-10 Mid-

American Conference) are 2-1 against the Spartans (14-24, 0-11 Big Ten) with coach Shannon Salsburg at the helm. Overall, the Falcons hold a 12-7 advantage in the all-time series.

BG is coming off an up and down week at the plate, having recorded a combined six hits in their split with Akron, and a total of 15 hits in their split with Ohio. For the Falcons to have success, they will need

See **SOFTBALL** | Page 7

Men's golf team takes 14th at Purdue

By Bill Bordewick
Reporter

The BG men's golf team got another taste of Big 10 level competition this past weekend in West Lafayette, Ind., for the Boilermaker Invitational—and it did not exactly go well for the team.

The Falcons finished in 14th place out of 18 with an overall score of 901 in a tournament that was thoroughly dominated by the Big 10 teams in the field.

Illinois won the tournament with a collective score of 855—which was good for nine under par.

Big 10 teams Penn State, Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana rounded out the top five in team scoring.

"The Big 10 is very good this year," BG coach Garry Winger said. "An opportunity to compete against those schools is great."

The Big 10 dominance should be expected from Illinois and Indiana—as both are ranked in the top 16 in the country—but the performance from the other schools in the conference just proves how deep the conference is when it comes to golf.

Penn State, not ranked in the top 25 of the country, gave No. 16 Illinois everything they could handle in only losing to them by a single stroke and beating the sixth ranked team in the country, Indiana, by 12 strokes.

"Penn State's coach, Greg Nye, was my golf coach at BG," Winger



Drew Preston

Led the Falcons at Purdue and finished tied for 43rd place



John Powers

Was second on the team and finished tied for 48th place

See **GOLF** | Page 7

Brown is NBA Coach of the Year

Tom Withers
The Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE — Like his first year in Cleveland, LeBron James' second NBA season ended without a trip to the playoffs. The miss was inexcusable to Cavaliers rookie owner Dan Gilbert, who set out an immediate coaching search so it wouldn't happen again.

Gilbert plucked a highly regarded assistant off Indiana's staff, a likable guy who vowed to instill a defense-first identity in Cleveland.

The hiring wasn't well received.

"Who the heck is Mike Brown?" Cavs general manager Danny Ferry recalled as the overriding sentiment back then.

Four years later, here's an updated answer: coach of the year.

Brown, who has taken



WINNER: Cavs coach Mike Brown (front right) sits next to GM Danny Ferry as players applaud during his Coach of the Year award press conference.

Cleveland to the postseason in each of his four seasons, was honored yesterday as the league's top coach after leading the Cavaliers to 66 wins, a Central Division title and the No. 1 overall playoff seed following

the greatest regular season in club history.

With James and the other Cavaliers standing behind him

See **BROWN** | Page 7

Steelers begin quest to repeat as champions

Alan Robinson
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Super Bowl champions don't get much of an offseason.

Only 2 1/2 months after the Pittsburgh defeated the Arizona Cardinals for the franchise's sixth NFL title, the Steelers — at least most of them — were back on the practice field yesterday. Rain chased them indoors for the first of 14 organized team practices that run periodically through early June and are a supplement to next week's mandatory, three-day minicamp.

After winning their second Super Bowl in four seasons, wide receiver Hines Ward said the Steelers don't need to be pushed and prodded to return to practice.

Apparently not — All-Pro linebacker James Harrison was working out again only two days after the Steelers' last-minute,

27-23 win over the Cardinals in Tampa. Wide receiver Limas Sweed was talked out of doing conditioning work later that same week, but he waited only two weeks before resuming his personal workouts.

The Steelers are being driven by two factors, according to Ward: 1) A determination not to repeat the major letdown of their post-Super Bowl 2006 season, when they started 2-6 and finished 8-8. 2) A desire to match the three Super Bowls won in recent history by New England, and perhaps even the four won by the Steelers of the 1970s.

"I know I want to win another one," Ward said. "The teams in the 1970s, they won four. If we can win another one, then I think we'll be right up there with New England as one of the teams in the dynasty."

See **STEELERS** | Page 7

Nichols releases 2009 men's soccer schedule

- Aug. 26 - at Cleveland State (Exhibition); 7 p.m.
- Sept. 1 - vs. Marshall; 1 p.m.
- Sept. 4 - vs. Louisville; 7 p.m.
- Sept. 6 - at Kentucky; 1 p.m.
- Sept. 11 - vs. Richmond; 5 p.m.
- Sept. 12 - at Duquesne; 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 18 - at Dayton; 7 p.m.
- Sept. 20 - vs. IPFW; 2 p.m.
- Sept. 23 - at Michigan; 7 p.m.
- Sept. 26 - at Akron; 7 p.m.
- Oct. 3 - vs. Western Michigan; 1 p.m.
- Oct. 6 - vs. Valparaiso; 3 p.m.
- Oct. 16 - at Buffalo; 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 21 - vs. Michigan State; 4 p.m.
- Oct. 24 - vs. Hartwick; 1 p.m.
- Oct. 28 - at Wright State; 7 p.m.
- Oct. 31 - vs. Northern Illinois; 12 p.m.
- Nov. 4 - vs. Detroit; 2 p.m.
- Nov. 7 - vs. Florida Atlantic; 12 p.m.



SPORTS BRIEF

Two Falcon athletes cited

Leah Johnson, a starting forward for the women's soccer team, was cited early last Thursday morning for criminal trespass and underage drinking.

Johnson, 18, was observed jumping a fence and approaching a residence on South Prospect and seemed unsteady on her feet and unsure about entering the house she was at, according to police.

Johnson started all 20 games for the women's soccer team last season, piling up three points.

Justus Jones, a redshirt wide receiver for the football team, was cited early Sunday morning for underage possession and open container of alcohol.

Jones, 19, was observed carrying an open 12 ounce can of Busch Light beer and officers smelled of beer, police said.

The athletic department did not return messages seeking comment on both instances.

SIDELINES



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- 1967**—The Los Angeles Dodgers are rained out for the first time in team history after 737 games.
- 1955**—The Brooklyn Dodgers start the season 10-0, then a record.

The List

While likely not to be the only postseason award for the Cleveland Cavaliers this season, Mike Brown took the first with Coach of the Year. Here are five great moments from Brown:

- 1. Franchise record:** Brown led the Cavs to their best finish in team history with 66 wins.
- 2. Ejection:** In a road game against the lowly Sacramento Kings, Brown got himself ejected to give life to his team, which grinded out an overtime victory.
- 3. Division title:** Brown led the Cavs to a Central Division for the first time since he took over for the 2005-06 season.
- 4. All-Star Game:** Brown was selected to coach the 2009 East Division All-Star Team. The East lost the game 146-119.
- 5. Playoffs:** Brown guided the Cavs to their first playoff win of the year last Saturday against the Detroit Pistons.



SWING AWAY: T.J. Blanton and the Falcons will be looking to put up some offense against Ohio State this evening.



SOLID D: BG has had some problems with defense this season, but the team is hoping that is behind them as they take on Michigan State this afternoon.

A break from the MAC

Falcon baseball set for evening contest at OSU

By Sean Shapiro
Reporter

Three days after facing off against No. 24 Kent State, BG will face a similar task in No. 26 Ohio State.

The non-conference contest for both teams will start with a 6:35 p.m. opening pitch at Ohio State's Bill Davis Stadium.

This past weekend, BG played well against the Flashes, taking one of three from them and improving their overall record to 17-16 and 8-6 in the Mid-American Conference.

For BG coach Danny Schmitz, Friday's 9-2 win over the Flashes was one of the Falcon's most impressive this season.

"We showed we can play with the best team in the conference," Schmitz said. "In fact, even one of the best in the country."

Ohio State enters the weekend boasting an impressive 29-8 (9-3 Big Ten) record after sweeping conference oppo-

See **BASEBALL** | Page 7

Michigan State next stop for Falcon softball team

By Paul Barney
Reporter

After posting a 2-2 record last weekend against Akron and Ohio, the softball team will look to get back in the win column today as they head to East Lansing for a 4 p.m. non-conference matchup with Michigan State.

The last meeting between these two teams was Mar. 16, 2008, in which the Spartans posted a 6-2 win at the Stetson Invitational in Florida.

The Falcons (9-24, 4-10 Mid-

American Conference) are 2-1 against the Spartans (14-24, 0-11 Big Ten) with coach Shannon Salsburg at the helm. Overall, the Falcons hold a 12-7 advantage in the all-time series.

BG is coming off an up and down week at the plate, having recorded a combined six hits in their split with Akron, and a total of 15 hits in their split with Ohio. For the Falcons to have success, they will need

See **SOFTBALL** | Page 7

Men's golf team takes 14th at Purdue

By Bill Bordewick
Reporter

The BG men's golf team got another taste of Big 10 level competition this past weekend in West Lafayette, Ind., for the Boilermaker Invitational—and it did not exactly go well for the team.

The Falcons finished in 14th place out of 18 with an overall score of 901 in a tournament that was thoroughly dominated by the Big 10 teams in the field.

Illinois won the tournament with a collective score of 855—which was good for nine under par.

Big 10 teams Penn State, Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana rounded out the top five in team scoring.

"The Big 10 is very good this year," BG coach Garry Winger said. "An opportunity to compete against those schools is great."

The Big 10 dominance should be expected from Illinois and Indiana—as both are ranked in the top 16 in the country—but the performance from the other schools in the conference just proves how deep the conference is when it comes to golf.

Penn State, not ranked in the top 25 of the country, gave No. 16 Illinois everything they could handle in only losing to them by a single stroke and beating the sixth ranked team in the country, Indiana, by 12 strokes.

"Penn State's coach, Greg Nye, was my golf coach at BG," Winger



Drew Preston
Led the Falcons at Purdue and finished tied for 43rd place



John Powers
Was second on the team and finished tied for 48th place

See **GOLF** | Page 7

Brown is NBA Coach of the Year

Tom Withers
The Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE — Like his first year in Cleveland, LeBron James' second NBA season ended without a trip to the playoffs. The miss was inexcusable to Cavaliers rookie owner Dan Gilbert, who set out an immediate coaching search so it wouldn't happen again.

Gilbert plucked a highly regarded assistant off Indiana's staff, a likable guy who vowed to instill a defense-first identity in Cleveland.

The hiring wasn't well received.

"Who the heck is Mike Brown?" Cavs general manager Danny Ferry recalled as the overriding sentiment back then.

Four years later, here's an updated answer: coach of the year.

Brown, who has taken



WINNER: Cavs coach Mike Brown (front right) sits next to GM Danny Ferry as players applaud during his Coach of the Year award press conference.

Cleveland to the postseason in each of his four seasons, was honored yesterday as the league's top coach after leading the Cavaliers to 66 wins, a Central Division title and the No. 1 overall playoff seed following

the greatest regular season in club history.

With James and the other Cavaliers standing behind him

See **BROWN** | Page 7

Steelers begin quest to repeat as champions

Alan Robinson
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Super Bowl champions don't get much of an offseason.

Only 2 1/2 months after the Pittsburgh defeated the Arizona Cardinals for the franchise's sixth NFL title, the Steelers — at least most of them — were back on the practice field yesterday. Rain chased them indoors for the first of 14 organized team practices that run periodically through early June and are a supplement to next week's mandatory, three-day minicamp.

After winning their second Super Bowl in four seasons, wide receiver Hines Ward said the Steelers don't need to be pushed and prodded to return to practice.

Apparently not — All-Pro linebacker James Harrison was working out again only two days after the Steelers' last-minute,

27-23 win over the Cardinals in Tampa. Wide receiver Limas Sweed was talked out of doing conditioning work later that same week, but he waited only two weeks before resuming his personal workouts.

The Steelers are being driven by two factors, according to Ward: 1) A determination not to repeat the major letdown of their post-Super Bowl 2006 season, when they started 2-6 and finished 8-8. 2) A desire to match the three Super Bowls won in recent history by New England, and perhaps even the four won by the Steelers of the 1970s.

"I know I want to win another one," Ward said. "The teams in the 1970s, they won four. If we can win another one, then I think we'll be right up there with New England as one of the teams in the dynasty."

See **STEELERS** | Page 7

Nichols releases 2009 men's soccer schedule

- Aug. 26 - at Cleveland State (Exhibition); 7 p.m.
- Sept. 1 - vs. Marshall; 1 p.m.
- Sept. 4 - vs. Louisville; 7 p.m.
- Sept. 6 - at Kentucky; 1 p.m.
- Sept. 11 - vs. Richmond; 5 p.m.
- Sept. 12 - at Duquesne; 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 18 - at Dayton; 7 p.m.
- Sept. 20 - vs. IPFW; 2 p.m.
- Sept. 23 - at Michigan; 7 p.m.
- Sept. 26 - at Akron; 7 p.m.
- Oct. 3 - vs. Western Michigan; 1 p.m.
- Oct. 6 - vs. Valparaiso; 3 p.m.
- Oct. 16 - at Buffalo; 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 21 - vs. Michigan State; 4 p.m.
- Oct. 24 - vs. Hartwick; 1 p.m.
- Oct. 28 - at Wright State; 7 p.m.
- Oct. 31 - vs. Northern Illinois; 12 p.m.
- Nov. 4 - vs. Detroit; 2 p.m.
- Nov. 7 - vs. Florida Atlantic; 12 p.m.



SPORTS BRIEF

Two Falcon athletes cited

Leah Johnson, a starting forward for the women's soccer team, was cited early last Thursday morning for criminal trespass and underage drinking.

Johnson, 18, was observed jumping a fence and approaching a residence on South Prospect and seemed unsteady on her feet and unsure about entering the house she was at, according to police.

Johnson started all 20 games for the women's soccer team last season, piling up three points.

Justus Jones, a redshirt wide receiver for the football team, was cited early Sunday morning for underage possession and open container of alcohol.

Jones, 19, was observed carrying an open 12 ounce can of Busch Light beer and officers smelled of beer, police said.

The athletic department did not return messages seeking comment on both instances.

Obama urges Cabinet to cut \$100 million in spending

By Steven R. Hurst
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama ordered his Cabinet yesterday to find ways to slice spending by \$100 million, but acknowledged it's a "drop in the bucket" and said there's a "confidence gap" that he needs to overcome.

Just back from a Latin America summit, Obama told the first formal Cabinet meeting of his administration that vast spending to combat the economic crisis was "the right thing to do." But he also said taxpayers still need to know that every dollar they give the government is being spent wisely.

"We also have a deficit — a confidence gap — when it comes to the American people," he told reporters. "And we've got to earn their trust."

Obama said the \$100 million would come from "efficiencies" in agency operations, and would be in addition to future cuts in programs that aren't working.

Yet the red ink in the annual budget is currently in the hundreds of billions. He was asked if the efficiency saving isn't just "a drop in the bucket".

"It is," he replied. "None of

"None of these things alone are going to make a difference. But cumulatively, they make an extraordinary difference because ... pretty soon...it adds up to real money."

Barack Obama | President

these things alone are going to make a difference. But cumulatively, they make an extraordinary difference because they start setting a tone ... \$100 million there, \$100 million here — pretty soon, even here in Washington, it adds up to real money."

The federal deficit for March alone was \$192.3 billion, and \$100 million would represent a minuscule portion of that sum, roughly one-twentieth of 1 percent. Obama in February brought forward a \$3.6 trillion budget for the 2010 fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1, a proposal that would produce \$9.3 trillion in deficits over the next decade.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said he applauded all attempts to cut government spending but insisted that a \$100 million cut would only cover one day's interest on Obama's \$787 billion stimulus spending plan.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said later that the cuts were part of a larger cost-cutting effort by Obama. He said the president "has laid out cuts large and small in administrative costs" and in programs throughout the government.

Asked to elaborate on what Obama meant by citing a "confidence gap," Gibbs told reporters:

"He knows and the American people know that continuing to run up deficits ... and to continue to have those expand year after year after year is unsustainable. Despite much derision, that's why the president is seeking cuts both large and small. That's why the president has undertaken greater transparency as it relates to spending and the stimulus and I think the president overall wants to give the American people assurance that the government can use the money from them wisely."

Banks lose even more money than projected, lending still remains tight

Tim Paradis
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Investors are back to worrying about banks.

Long-present unease about soured loans bubbled over yesterday after Bank of America Corp. said it set aside \$13.4 billion to cover lending losses even as it posted earnings that beat expectations. Other big banks have also increased loss provisions in the past two weeks.

Major market indicators tumbled more than 3 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 290 points. Bank of America shares plunged 24.3 percent.

Traders had been looking for some pullback after the Dow jumped 24 percent from 12-year lows in early March, led largely by a recovery in banking stocks.

The renewed worries about banks' stability were aggravated by news reports that their lend-

ing remains tight and that the government may swap its debt in banks for ownership stakes as its \$700 billion bailout fund runs down.

Because of the central role lending plays in keeping businesses of all kinds going, investors have been hunting for signs of a recovery in banks before they get more optimistic about the broader economy.

The market has been encouraged by early indications that a government drive for lower interest rates has been helping banks step up lending, but investors are still sensitive to any signs of trouble. Now they're on high alert about what the government will say in two weeks when it reports results of in-depth examinations to see which banks might need more help to stay afloat if the economy gets even worse.

Energy and materials companies also fell along with the prices of key commodities they

rely on such as crude oil.

The market declines were broad and deep, outweighing what would otherwise be positive news about a step-up in deal activity. After a deal with IBM Corp. didn't work out, troubled technology company Sun Microsystems found a buyer in Oracle, a leading maker of business software, while PepsiCo Inc. said it would bid \$6 billion to buy its two biggest bottlers.

Joe Saluzzi, co-head of equity trading at Themis Trading LLC, said traders are now viewing bank earnings with more skepticism amid concerns that even the better-than-expected results are disguising problems.

Income from trading and low-cost borrowing rates have boosted results but not erased more difficult problems with bad debt, he said.

"They're looking at bank numbers and are saying they are not that great," Saluzzi said.

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Team works to cover up patients

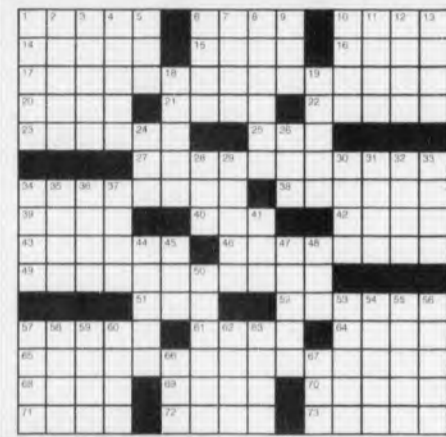
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Federal law prevents hospitals from revealing information on a patient, but hospital gowns occasionally allow a patient to reveal too much of themselves. The News & Observer of Raleigh reports that a North Carolina State University design team is working to end the issue of partial disclosure. It's not the first time someone has tried to conceal what is sometimes exposed because

of the gown's flimsy fabric and loosely tied open back. But North Carolina State textile design professor Traci Lamar has the financial backing and research to develop a restyled garment that could finally be practical for hospitals across the country. Lamar has been working on a solution since November 2006. Researchers hope to have the product ready for market in about two years.

Tourists visiting Four Corners miss mark by miles

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Tourists who think they're putting a hand or foot in each of four states at the Four Corners area are apparently missing the mark — by about 2.5 miles. National Geodetic Survey officials say the Four Corners marker showing the intersection of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah is about 2.5 miles west of where it should be. The only place in the United States where four state boundaries come together was first surveyed by the government in 1868 during the initial survey of Colorado's southern boundary. The survey was inaccurate. Officials said yesterday the accurate location lies to the east of U.S. 160 in Colorado and northeast of the San Juan River as it flows into New Mexico.

The Daily Crossword Fix brought to you by



- DOWN**
- 1 Head wrap
 - 2 Female vampire
 - 3 Omitting nothing
 - 4 Impressionist painter
 - 5 Do tailoring
 - 6 Codger
 - 7 Spanish water
 - 8 Units of magnetic flux
 - 9 Behold
 - 10 Tractor-trailer
 - 11 Stratford, ___-Avon
 - 12 Lima's land
 - 13 Ooze
 - 18 Shallow-water hunter
 - 19 Legendary Brave southpaw
 - 24 Ram's partner
 - 26 Actor Erwin
 - 28 Civil War soldier, briefly
 - 29 Air current
 - 30 King of comedy
 - 31 North of Paris
 - 32 Attract a cab
 - 33 Form a vortex
 - 34 Actor Gregory
 - 35 Graphics image
 - 36 Start of a motive?
 - 37 Overwhelm with flattery
 - 41 Three in Italy
 - 44 Item of value
 - 45 Rwy. stop
 - 47 Concise concession
 - 48 QB Manning
 - 50 North American capital
 - 53 Spear
 - 54 Dough
 - 55 Sadat of Egypt
 - 56 Brooding places
 - 57 Bahrain ruler
 - 58 PBS program
 - 59 Lobster pot
 - 60 Big budget item
 - 62 From the start
 - 63 Females of the species
 - 66 DDE's predecessor
 - 67 Barbie's ex

ACROSS

- 1 Pares down
- 6 Webber play
- 10 Dines
- 14 Tippy vessel
- 15 Curved molding
- 16 Fencer's foil
- 17 Start of definition of a scholar
- 20 Irritate
- 21 And others, briefly
- 22 Poster star
- 23 Miss a step
- 25 Simile center
- 27 Part 2 of definition
- 34 Light lager
- 38 Remove cargo
- 39 Coll. course
- 40 Cave denizen
- 42 Extra dry
- 43 Chocolate browns
- 46 Amicable
- 49 Part 3 of definition
- 51 Made a lap
- 52 Wildcatter, e.g.
- 57 ___ nous (confidentially)
- 61 Soviet news agency
- 64 First-class
- 65 End of definition
- 68 Terrible ruler?
- 69 Popeye's ___ Pea
- 70 Great brilliance
- 71 Engrossed
- 72 Shooting marbles
- 73 Approaches

ANSWERS



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CARACAS VENEZUELA
 A leading opponent of President Hugo Chavez has decided to seek political asylum abroad rather than face a corruption charge in a trial he says would be stacked against him, an ally said yesterday.

MINGORA PAKISTAN
 Pakistan was trying to end bloodshed when it let the idyllic Swat Valley fall under Islamic law. Instead, it may have emboldened the militants. The local spokesman for the Taliban, which controls the valley, tells The Associated Press he'd welcome the likes of Osama bin Laden if they want to settle there. "Yes, we will help them and protect them," he says in his first interview with a foreign journalist since Islamic law was imposed.



B.K.BANGASH | AP PHOTO

NEWS From around the world

MEXICO CITY MEXICO
 An escalating arms race among Mexico's drug cartels casts doubt on whether Mexico or the U.S. can stop the flow of weaponry, despite renewed vows last week from presidents of both countries.



GREGORY BULL | AP PHOTO

NARABI KENYA
 Pirates in speedboats fire rockets at two cargo ships in the latest hijacking attempts in the Gulf of Aden. Another band of brigands frees a freighter steaming to pick up food aid for Somalia — but only after receiving a \$100,000 "reward" from the Somali contractors organizing the delivery.



PROVIDED TO THE AP BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

COLOMBO SRI LANKA
 Sri Lankan troops breach one of the last Tamil Tiger rebel fortifications and rescue thousands of trapped civilians, some wounded and carried by their relatives. The country's president gives the rebels 24 hours to surrender or face a final assault to end their 25-year insurgency.



ERANGA JAYAWARDENA | AP PHOTO

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