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The BG News December 2, 2010

Bowling Green State University

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THE BG NEWS

ESTABLISHED 1920 | A daily independent student press serving the campus and surrounding community

Falcons win 79-68 against No. 23 Vanderbilt. See recap on page 6



Volume 90, Issue 67

Thursday, December 2, 2010

www.bgviews.com



PHOTOS BY LAUREN POFF | THE BG NEWS

Fraternity loses University charter

By Danae King
Reporter

The fraternity Phi Kappa Tau had their charter rescinded for hazing new members.

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Christopher Bullins said Phi Tau forced their five new members to consume alcohol and to do physical activities like wall sits and push ups, and allegedly, the members were all under 21.

The consequences for this hazing were that "the chapter was rescinded from the institution for a period of a minimum of one year, which would mean at least to the conclusion of fall 2011," Bullins said.

The Phi Tau president, Ben Jasinski, declined to comment.

In addition to Phi Tau losing their charter, two other fraternities have also been in violation of the rules. The fraternities Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Phi Epsilon have been investigated for physical fighting, Bullins said.

"There were some allegations of fighting between members of two organizations," Bullins said. "All of

"The chapter was rescinded from the institution for a period of ... one year"

Christopher Bullins | Director

those issues I believe occurred off campus and ... no organizational charges were brought against either of those chapters from those situations."

The president of Pi Kappa Alpha Joseph Rainer III, said "that's all been taken care of." When asked for further comment, he refused.

The president of Sigma Phi Epsilon was unable to be reached for comment.

Associate Dean of Students Michael Ginsburg, said that the chapters have worked with his office as well as Greek Affairs, the issue has been resolved and the fighting has ceased.

Ginsburg said there have been five Greek chapters investigated so far this semester, but both his office and

See GREEK | Page 8

Global and local awareness

The Wellness Network recognizes World AIDS Day with carnival

By Danielle Rice
Reporter

As students lined up to enter the World AIDS Day carnival, they received free necklaces with a surprise inside — condoms.

The carnival featured six different booths providing students with information about HIV/AIDS and safer-sex practices.

Eric Teske, graduate assistant with the Student Health and Wellness Center stood at the booth and encouraged students to look at a poster with facts and myths about HIV/AIDS.

"The board is filled with questions that came from the Ohio Department of Health," Teske said. "Students can

read the question and determine whether the question is a myth or fact and this helps to address some of the misconceptions about HIV and how people can contract HIV."

Kim Person, peer educator with the Student Wellness Connection, said she volunteered to help educate her peers on safe sex and its importance.

"I'm educating students on the 17 steps to using a condom," Person said. "We want to educate people on the importance of condom use and World AIDS Day is the perfect opportunity."

As two students participate in a

See CARNIVAL | Page 8



PHOTO FROM SXCHU

Hillel celebrates Hanukkah with menorah lighting celebration

By Max Filby
Reporter

Wednesday night millions of people celebrated Hanukkah by lighting the first candle on the menorah. Tonight, students can light the second candle with Hillel.

Hillel is a Jewish student organization on campus that will celebrate the second night of Hanukkah with a dinner and games in the Union Multipurpose Room from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

"There is a smaller Jewish population on campus, so it started off as a smaller organization," said

Rachel Letwin, Hillel vice president. "But now it's something that people want to attend."

Students can purchase a ticket for the dinner for \$2 or trade two nonperishable food items for a dinner ticket at the Union tables today. Money will go toward funding the night's activities and food donations will be given to a food kitchen in Toledo.

When students purchase their tickets, they will receive a dreidel and chocolate coins called gelt to play with at the celebration.

See HANUKKAH | Page 8



TYLER STABLE | THE BG NEWS

CAMPUS BRIEF

University Provost aims to develop diversity

Initiatives to broaden diversity on campus were addressed last night at the "Charting Our Future" monthly forum. The discussion-based meeting was a part of the University's seven-step plan to embed diversity within academic policies. Students and faculty members met with Provost, Ken Borland, above, to discuss different strategies for making diversity a key value on campus.

"We are moving forward in a direction that's important for our University," Borland

said. "What we want to see accomplished is to convert diversity as a value and exercise it as a verb."

By January 2011, Borland plans to create a small group of students and faculty members to represent different diversity organizations on campus. "The Diversity and Inclusion Network" would work as a system for collectively addressing diversity issues.

"There are a lot of problems rising but there isn't much being done," said junior Tiffany Smith. "Sometimes I feel like I'm not valued because of my race. It's discouraging, but I'm

glad there are steps being taken in a different direction."

Borland hopes that by incorporating diversity within the University's value policy, students and faculty members will be able to grow and expand as individuals.

"I want to make sure everyone feels welcome and that every ship in the harbor rises," Borland said. "We're committed to increasing diversity at all levels because we know that it creates a more enriched and developed individual."

CAMPUS

Choir sings Christmas carols

UAO sponsored a performance by the Bowling Green Gospel Choir, who sang Christmas carols to Union visitors. See photos | Page 3

FORUM

Winter brings generosity

According to columnist Tyler Buchanan, Americans use the winter season to be merry and also give back to the less fortunate | Page 4

NATION

Senate argues over tax cuts

During the lame-duck session of Congress, Republican Senators threatened to block all legislation, unless Democrats extend expiring Bush-era tax cuts | Page 2

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What is your favorite thing to do during the first snowfall of the season?



ALEX SKALE

Freshman, Computer Science
"I like to sit in my footie pajamas and watch 'the Grinch.'" | Page 4

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NATION BRIEFS

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SOURCES

House vote extends fed spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House has given federal agencies another two weeks to continue normal spending programs while Congress wrestles with the larger problem of how to fund the government during the current budget year.

The stopgap measure extends government operations through Dec. 18 at budget-year 2010 spending levels. Without congressional action, most government agencies will have to shut down as of midnight, Dec. 3.

The legislation now moves to the Senate.

The temporary action was necessary because Congress didn't pass any of the 12 annual spending bills for the budget year that began Oct. 1.

Congressional negotiators are considering several longer-term options, including putting together a massive \$1 trillion-plus catch-all spending bill or extending current spending levels into next year.

White House taking steps to protect secrets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said it is taking new steps to protect government secrets after the release of thousands of classified U.S. diplomatic cables by the WikiLeaks website.

The White House announced Wednesday that National Security Adviser Tom Donilon has appointed a senior adviser to lead a comprehensive effort to identify and develop reforms needed in light of the document dump.

An independent board that advises President Barack Obama on intelligence matters also will examine how the executive branch shares and protects classified information.

The latest steps are in addition to actions taken by the White House Office of Management and Budget, and the State and Defense departments in response to the disclosures.

President Barack Obama's spokesman on Wednesday labeled as "ridiculous" an assertion by the founder of WikiLeaks that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton should resign if she was involved in asking U.S. diplomats to gather intelligence at the United Nations.

Economy appears headed for strong finish for 2010

WASHINGTON — The economy is showing new life in the final months of the year.

Factories are busier, construction spending is up and auto sales are rising. And on Wednesday the stock market had one of its best days of 2010 after a report that the private sector hired the most workers in three years.

"The economy is starting to show better overall momentum," said Brian Bethune, an economist at IHS Global Insight. "There's a steady improvement in the overall tone."

A private trade group said U.S. factory output grew for the 16th straight month in November as auto sales rebounded and businesses invested more in industrial machinery.

The Institute for Supply Management said its index of manufacturing activity came in at 56.6 for November. Any reading above 50 indicates growth. The October figure was 56.9. At the depths of the recession, it was closer to 30.

And a new survey by the Federal Reserve finds that almost all of the nation — 10 of its 12 regions — is growing economically. Only two regions, those around Philadelphia and St. Louis, report that business conditions are mixed.

—Christopher S. Rugaber (AP)

EPA investigates radiation release at NY nuke lab

NISKAYUNA, N.Y. (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is investigating whether the release of radioactive material into the air and water at a Cold War-era atomic power laboratory in upstate New York violated federal laws.

The investigation stems from the open-air demolition of an old research building at Knolls Atomic Power Labs near Albany. On Sept. 29, radiation above safe levels was discovered on workers' boots, and demolition work there has since been suspended.

EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck said in a statement Wednesday that the agency is investigating whether the releases of radioactive material into the air and the Mohawk River violated federal environmental laws.

EPA officials would not elaborate beyond saying the investigation is ongoing.

Partial rail service restored between NYC, Newark

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP) — Train service along the heavily traveled Northeast Corridor rail line is being restored after wire damage caused suspensions.

New Jersey Transit says it has reopened one of two tracks that were closed Wednesday. Spokesman Dan Stessel said partial service is being restored between Newark, N.J., and New York City, but riders should still expect major delays during the evening commute.

Amtrak spokesman Clifford Cole said its service also is being restored.

Both the regional and the commuter trains suspended rail service in both directions between Newark and New York City earlier in the day because of overhead wire damage near the Portal Bridge in Secaucus.

Warren Jeffs arraigned in Texas on sex charges

SAN ANGELO, Texas — Polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs was quietly extradited from Utah to Texas, where he was arraigned Wednesday to face trial on bigamy and sexual assault charges.

Jeffs, who was indicted more than two years ago, appeared during a brief hearing in San Angelo wearing glasses, orange jail pants and a gray sweat shirt. Texas Attorney General's Office spokesman Jerry Strickland said. The 54-year-old Jeffs was not asked to enter a plea, and spoke only to tell the judge that he needed more time to find a lawyer. Strickland said.

Texas authorities have charged the ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with felony bigamy, aggravated sexual assault and assault. Prosecutors plan to try the charges separately, with the first trial scheduled to begin Jan. 24.

The charges stem from the 2008 raid of the Yearning For Zion Ranch in Eldorado, where authorities seized more than 400 children and placed them in state custody on suspicion that the girls were being sexually abused and the boys were being raised to be sexual predators.

—Paul J. Weber (AP)

CORRECTION POLICY

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BLOTTER TUES., NOV. 30

11:27 P.M. Thomas Darnall, of Findlay, was cited for underage possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia at Kreisler-Darrow Hall.

WED., DEC. 1

4:39 A.M. Jeremiah J. Hughes, 24, of Bowling Green, was cited for operating a vehicle impaired within the 100 block of E. Court St.

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

Father charged with kidnapping his missing sons

Search crews continue to look in Ohio, Michigan for three brothers

By Corey Williams
The Associated Press

MORENCI, Mich. — A father charged with kidnapping his three missing boys fought extradition from Ohio to Michigan on Wednesday as an army of volunteers set off to trudge through fields, woodlands and dirt roads to search for the brothers who have not been seen since Thanksgiving.

John Skelton, a 39-year-old unemployed long-haul truck driver, sat throughout the court hearing in Toledo, in a wheelchair covered by a green blanket, answering the judge's yes-no questions in a whisper. His attorney told the judge his client would fight

his return to Michigan.

Skelton was arrested Tuesday on three counts of parental kidnapping, and so far, police say, he hasn't told investigators much about where the boys might be. After Skelton fought extradition, the judge in Ohio set bond at \$3 million and scheduled another hearing for Dec. 14.

Shortly afterward, Morenci Police Chief Larry Weeks said he expected the search for the boys to continue into next week, and said investigators hadn't spoken with Skelton in "some time." Asked whether he thought the children had been killed, he said he refused to believe that "at this point."

GOP says it'll block bills until Bush-era tax cuts extended

Senate Republicans tell Democrats they will not vote for 'job-killing tax hike' in letter

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans threatened Wednesday to block virtually all legislation until expiring tax cuts are extended and a bill is passed to fund the federal government, vastly complicating Democratic attempts to leave their own stamp on the final days of the post-election Congress.

"While there are other items that might ultimately be worthy of the Senate's attention, we cannot agree to prioritize any matters above the critical issues of funding the government and preventing a job-killing tax hike," all 42 GOP senators wrote in a letter to Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. The 42 signatures are more than enough to block

action on almost any item he wishes to advance.

The threat does not apply to a new arms control treaty with Russia that is pending, since it would be debated under rules that differ from those that apply to routine legislation. President Barack Obama has made ratification of the pact a top priority.

But it does threaten Democratic attempts to lift the Pentagon's ban on openly gay members of the military, a separate item to give legal status to young illegal immigrants who attend college or serve in the military, and a measure to expand first responders' collective bargaining rights. The tax and spending bills are likely to be the last to pass before Congress adjourns for the year.

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SING: Students from the Bowling Green Gospel Choir sang Christmas Wednesday as passersby took in the sounds of the season.

JINGLE ALL THE WAY

The Bowling Green Gospel Choir entertained Union visitors, spreading holiday cheer as snow fell outside

PHOTOS BY LAUREN POFF | THE BG NEWS



JOY: The Bowling Green Gospel Choir's caroling was put on by UAO as an introduction to the Christmas season.



SWEETS: Cookies and refreshments were set out for audience members as the group sang.

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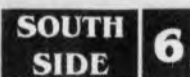
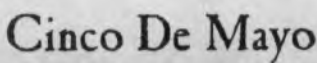
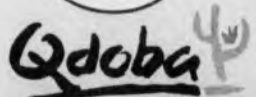


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PEOPLE ON THE STREET What is your favorite thing to do on the first snow fall of the season?



"Snow angels in shorts."

ANTHONY ROSAN,
Freshman,
Sport Management



"I'd like to try and make an igloo."

PHIL MURPHY,
Freshman,
Psychology



"Stay inside and sleep."

COLLIN YOST,
Freshman,
Marine Biology



"Celebrate."

TINA BAILLY,
Senior,
Community Health

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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 bgviews.com.

Christmas consumerism brings out the worst in people



MIKE THURAU
COLUMNIST

Does the holiday consumer frenzy make you irritable? Do you cringe at carols and sneer at snowmen? Do you like the heat miser better than the cold miser? Do people sometimes call you a grouch or a "Grinch"? Do you become nauseous at the thought of joining the gawking, groping, gaping masses descending on Walmart on Black Friday?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then you're like me, and if you're like me then why not do things differently this holiday season and not buy anything? Instead of celebrating Christmas by purchasing cheap consumer electronics and expensive plastic crap, why not use this time to do something more satisfying? You can go as far as you want with this.

I for one will still be purchasing modest tokens of my affection for my family, but I don't plan on spending much more in December than I did in November. I also made a point to tell them to not buy me anything for Christmas.

Asking for nothing is a great way to opt out of riding the consumer carousel without appearing cheap. This doesn't mean I'm not celebrating Christmas. I still have every intention of eating roasted birds while visiting relatives and watching "A Christmas Story" (even though I have every line committed to memory).

For me, not celebrating Christmas just makes sense. For starters, I'm not a Christian. This isn't really my primary reason for not celebrating though. As an outsider observer, Christmas seems to be about as necessary to Christianity as gamma rays are to a well-balanced breakfast. Furthermore, I don't even get the relevance of all these gifts in the first place. Is it because the wisemen gave gifts to the baby Jesus? This particular Biblical anecdote seems to be blown out of proportion.

The gift giving mania that overtakes us every year seems to be unmatched by any other Christian holiday. It's like beating up your bearded friends and barricading them in a cave every Easter while you listen to 'Here Comes Peter Cotton Tail' for three consecutive days.

The wisemen aren't even that important. From my reading of the Bible, they helped to spread the gospel in the same way my mailman helps me to cook bacon. But it isn't really about Jesus is it? And don't even get me started on Saturnalia. Never heard of it? Google it. It will blow your mind.

Anyway, the main reason I don't plan on celebrating Christmas by buying my weight in consumer goods is that it seems like the weeks between Nov. 24th and Dec. 25th are celebrations of all of our most vulgar characteristics as Americans. Piggishness and shopping are the two vocations I would like people to

remember me for. Furthermore, are we really so dull that we cannot think of a way to express our affection without making a major purchase?

The Christmas frenzy is America at its most uncreative, myopic, envious, and self centered. Instead of giving in to the temptations of your five planet lifestyle, go to the mall and just observe the narcotized shopping zombies shuffling from outlet store to food court and back again and tell me if these are the kind of folks you want to emulate.

We are at our most stupid and lethargic as consumers and the holiday gifting cycle is when our sedation is at its peak.

There is one thing I like about the holidays: it's the growing trend among people who choose to opt out of the market madness and devote their Christmas budget to funding relief efforts like KIVA, or the Heifer International project. This Christmas, I'm buying my sister half a goat and sending it to Zimbabwe. You're welcome Andrea.

In return, I would like you to go into the Gap and ask the cashier if the "1969" jeans have been on the shelf for over 40 years. Or walk into Victoria's Secret and loudly complain about it being the worst adult book store you've ever set foot in. Either one will do. I just want to be there to see the expression on peoples' faces.

Respond to Mike at thenews@bgnews.com

Americans should use winter season to be merry, give back



TYLER BUCHANAN
COLUMNIST

Last week, as Americans relaxed for Thanksgiving festivities, reunited with family (in some cases pleasantly), and enjoyed the feast of feasts, a drastic shift began. With the last line of cultural defense in Thanksgiving over, it became truly time for Christmas season.

It felt like a scene-change of a theatrical production, with coyly-disguised stage-hands rearranging the set for the new act.

The props, in the form of holiday spirit, are dusted off and shoveled off for the audience, mostly consumers, to take in.

At once, advertisements promoted products under the pretense of giving gifts. Stores and restaurants began playing appropriate music, much to the silent dismay of workers.

Bring on the decorations, the Hallmark television specials, the reindeer and a staggeringly generous, stocky man named Kris Kringle.

Christmas is but a glutton of a holiday. Not only does it extend from effectively Thanksgiving to New Years Day and beyond (everyone knows a certain neighbor that cannot help but keep festive house lights up well past February), it affects nearly every aspect of our lives.

While the very purpose of holidays are to momentarily alter normality, their motives are usually targeted ideas.

On Veterans Day, we pay special homage to our nation's veterans. On Halloween, we suspend our sense of fashion and dress up in crudely decorated costumes.

The entire winter season, however, does not limit itself to the mere alteration of music, decorations, fashion, or tele-

vision. The very basis of generosity, kindness and morality is on the line. The sometimes paper-thin difference between good and evil, right and wrong, is pressed into society's forefront.

The holiday spirit, unlike that of, say, Talk Like a Pirate Day, is concrete. For the good part of two or three months, we strive to give, not receive, be joyous to all, be good lest we hope for a stocking of coal, and to publicly contain our hatred for the song "Twelve Days of Christmas."

There is no other holiday or occasion which so greatly transforms our culture, in many ways positively. If there is, the change does not last for nearly as long.

Each Christmas season, some argue we as a society have lost, or at least forgotten, the "meaning of Christmas." Our nation, they say, is too focused on consumerism to care about the season's implied acts of good-will and togetherness.

Also, that the feelings of generosity and kindness are left behind due to the maelstrom of the rising importance of expensive gifts, a flood of advertisements, and lawn decorations.

I, too rolled my eyes at the 4 a.m. "Black Friday" store sales.

I attempt to shrug off the idea that my emotion is worth a numerical figure. However, it can be easy to look at such dominating presentations and conclude that the "true meaning" of anything is lost. I won't, and it isn't.

Beyond each store, both metaphorically and literally, one can hear a bell rattling ceaselessly as men and women across America collect charitable donations for The Salvation Army. Foundations such as "Toys for Tots" seek to provide toys to underprivileged children.

Food pantries, homeless shelters and thousands of other charitable benefits in every city in every state, while not specifically Christmas-related, work especially hard this time of year for our nation's less privileged.

This is a time of year that millions of Americans pull together, everyone doing their part, striving to provide for one another. Families will enjoy precious holiday memories, celebrate Christmas, or Hanukkah, or otherwise. Children anticipate their favorite time of year as adults will reflect on holidays past and carry out family traditions.

The season will bridge the gap between generations, as Americans young and old, of every faith and belief, celebrate the joyousness of each other's company.

I cannot pretend that the tangles of this holiday season do not play a significant role in our lives. Every year, it seems decorations become more abundant, the advertisements more appealing, and the music plays sooner. It is important to realize, however, that such things fluctuate from year to year.

I do not remember every gift I received as a child or what commercials I watched. Fifty years from now, I will remember the holiday seasons I spent for countless years with family and friends.

The intangibles of generosity and togetherness and anything else are not yet outdated or obsolete. They may appear buried beneath mounds of wrapping paper, but if we take the time to claw through, we will be greatly rewarded for our trouble.

Respond to Tyler at thenews@bgnews.com

For all you Thursday Night partiers...

It is estimated that at any one time, 0.7% of the world's population are drunk!!!

SPEAK YOUR MIND

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- 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.



The foot contains 26 bones, 33 joints, 107 ligaments and 19 muscles.



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THE BG NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

WORLD BRIEFS

BG NEWS
WIRE
SOURCES

Israel discloses technology to deal with rockets

TSRIFIN MILITARY BASE, Israel — An Israeli military unit on Wednesday showed off a new system to counter chemical attacks. It quickly measures temperature and wind direction to determine areas to evacuate and then feeds hospitals casualty assessments.

The high-tech Lotem unit gave a rare exhibition of the technologies it has developed to protect against rocket attacks — one of Israel's main security fears. The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah lobbed 4,000 rockets into Israel in 2006, and Hamas has launched thousands from Gaza. None of those rockets contained chemical warheads, but Israel claims neighboring states have them.

"We need to bring in advanced technology to meet these needs," said Brig. Gen. Ayala Hakim, commander of the Lotem unit that manages the military's computer and communications systems.

— Daniel Estrin (AP)

US: Special forces operations down by half in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Elite counterterrorism units in Iraq are running half as many operations this year as they have annually since 2008, in part because of a nationwide drop in violence, senior U.S. military officials said Wednesday.

Joint U.S.-Iraqi special forces missions have been one of President Barack Obama's top priorities for the some 50,000 U.S. troops still in Iraq. The teams hunt down insurgents and help train Iraqi commandoes and SWAT units.

The tempo of counterterrorism raids "is down in comparison to years past, in accordance with the decreasing level of violence," said Col. Mark Mitchell, commander of an Airborne special forces unit based in Balad, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

— Lara Jakes (AP)

Brazilian clown allowed to go to Congress

SAO PAULO — The congressman-elect may be a clown, but at least he can read and write.

The man who won more votes than any other candidate for Brazil's lower house has been cleared to take his seat because a judge has ruled he can read and write well enough to act as a congressman.

Judge Aloisio Silveira ruled on Wednesday that Francisco Silva did not lie when he signed a document swearing that he is literate.

Silva, who became famous as the clown Tiririca — "Grumpy" in Portuguese — received about 1.3 million votes in elections last October. But critics suggested he was illiterate and Silveira ruled there were discrepancies between the handwriting on Silva's application to run for Congress, on the document in which he swears he can read and write and in autographs he gave to fans.

— Tales Azzoni (AP)

Magnitude-6.1 earthquake rumbles near Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — A strong magnitude-6.1 earthquake has struck in waters near Fiji on Thursday, the U.S. Geological Survey says, but there are no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

No tsunami warning was in effect after the undersea quake struck 115 miles (185 km) east-northeast of Lambasa, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre website.

The tremor struck at 4:01 a.m. local time at a depth of 9.4 miles (15.2 kilometres).

Earthquakes are common to the region.

Vatican keen on solar-powered electric

VATICAN CITY — Anyone have a fast, solar-powered electric popemobile for his holiness?

The Vatican said Pope Benedict XVI would gladly use one as another sign of his efforts to promote sustainable energy and take care of the planet, but one has yet to be offered.

Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, who runs the Vatican City state, said Wednesday Benedict would certainly prefer an electric popemobile to a traditional, petroleum-powered one given the priority he has given to making the Vatican a leader in green energy.

His comments came during a presentation of a book on the Vatican's ecological efforts, "The Energy of the Sun in the Vatican." The book documents the 2008 installation of photovoltaic cells on the roof of the Vatican's main auditorium and the 2009 installation of a solar cooling unit for its main cafeteria.

— Nicole Winfield (AP)

1,000-man militia being trained in north Somalia

NAIROBI, Kenya — In the northern reaches of Somalia and the country's presidential palace, a well-equipped military force is being created, funded by a mysterious donor nation that is also paying for the services of a former CIA officer and a senior ex-U.S. diplomat.

The Associated Press has determined through telephone and e-mail interviews with three insiders that training for an anti-piracy force of up to 1,050 men has already begun in Puntland, a semi-autonomous region in northern Somalia that is believed to hold reserves of oil and gas.

But key elements remain unknown — mainly who is providing the millions of dollars in funding and for what ultimate purpose.

— Katharine Houreld (AP)

South Korean refugees struggle after attack

Island residents hold grudge against North Korea after attack

INCHEON, South Korea (AP) — A South Korean fisherman whose neighborhood was swallowed by flames in last week's North Korean shelling saw a TV image of the North's leader, Kim Jong

Il, and cringed.

"I want to kill him," said Kwak Yong-sun, who now lives on the floor of a public bath house on the mainland. "I almost died because of that man."

Kwak, 50, sleeps shoulder to shoulder with other evacuees from Yeonpyeong Island on a mattress in a huge room in the spa, which has been converted into a refugee center.

Sadrists expect major role in new Iraq government

Shiite movement successfully ran on anti-US fundamental platform

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Shiite Sadrist movement was the key bloc that assured Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's reelection, and now the fiercely anti-U.S. fundamentalist group wants its cut in return: A bigger

role in Iraq's new government. Already, it has gotten bolder on the ground.

One recent day, an intimidating group of Sadrists entered a lingerie store in the movement's Baghdad stronghold of

Sadr City and brusquely told its owner to take bras and underwear out of his display window.

"I am not doing anything wrong," the owner lamented to an Associated Press reporter after the men left.

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402 HIGH STREET

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One Year - \$490.00 per month.

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One Year - \$540.00 per month.

831 SEVENTH STREET

Furn. Or Unfurn. One Bath & Hall Vanity.
School Year - \$565.00 per month.
One Year - \$490.00 per month.

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Falcons upset Vanderbilt



NATHAN ELEKONICH | THE BG NEWS

RUSH: Tracy Pontius leads a rush down the court during BG's 79-68 victory over No. 23 Vanderbilt on Wednesday night.

Prochaska's 31 points, Hennegan's 11 rebounds lead Falcons to their third consecutive victory over No. 23 Vanderbilt

By Paul Barney
Sports Editor

They entered the game as the underdog, but when it was over, they were the top dog.

Led by Lauren Prochaska's 31 points, the Falcons made timely baskets, took advantage of turnovers and fed off their home crowd in a 79-68 win against No. 23 Vanderbilt Wednesday night.

BG (7-1) has won seven consecutive games and is 3-0 against Vanderbilt since 2007.

"I can't be more proud of the team," said BG coach Curt Miller. "That's a huge win. There's not very many SEC teams that are undefeated since 2007 against Vanderbilt. That's a great victory for our pro-

gram."

Nineteen of Prochaska's game-high 31 points came in the second half, a half in which the reigning two-time Mid-American Conference Player of the Year made 6-of-10 shots from the field, including four from behind the arc.

Prochaska's shooting effort in the second half came after a first half in which she was 2-of-6.

"It wasn't really by design; it was something that just happened," Prochaska said about her offense in the second half. "I got some open shots."

BG took a 44-32 lead into the break in what was a back-and-forth game.

A total of seven ties and seven lead changes occurred in the first 20 minutes, but BG took the lead for good with 5:05 remaining, capped

off by a Tracy Pontius 3-pointer before the final buzzer sounded off in the first half.

The Falcons' biggest lead of the night was a 17-point advantage off a Prochaska 3-pointer with 4:58 remaining in the game.

Big leads were a key for BG in last year's game against Vanderbilt, and Prochaska's outburst provided her teammates with a sense of relief.

"She's our go-to player," Miller said. "She doesn't shy away from the moment. She gives our team a calming influence."

Prochaska's 31 points placed two other Falcons in double figures, as Jen Uhl and Chrissy Steffen finished with 15 and 11 points, respectively.

Pontius scored nine points as well as Maggie Hennegan, who also

"I can't be more proud of the team. That's a huge win. There's not very many SEC teams that are undefeated since 2007 against Vanderbilt."

Curt Miller | BG head coach

grabbed 11 rebounds.

At the other end of the floor, BG held the Commodores to 50 percent shooting, forcing them to turn the ball over 19 times, which Miller said was the story of the game.

A lot of the disruption was due in large part to the Anderson Arena crowd, which lived up to its name as "The House that Roars."

"The crowd was awesome," Prochaska said. "They knew when to get into the game and get us going.

The crowd was a huge factor."

Before the game Miller talked to his team in the locker room and asked how it was going to feel at the end of 40 minutes, over the next two hours, regardless of a win or a loss.

After the game, Miller simply replied, "I think we answered that after the 40 minutes."

The Falcons will look to build on Wednesday night's win and put it toward Saturday, when they host Cal State Fullerton at 1 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEF

Women's soccer team co-captains named to Academic All-MAC Team



Alicia Almond



Katie Stephenson

Seniors Alicia Almond and Katie Stephenson were named to the Academic All Mid-American Conference Team for 2010.

This is the third time both have earned the honor, making Almond and Stephenson the first student athletes in BG women's soccer history to be named three times.

Turnovers are the key to Falcons' victory

By Justin Onslow
Reporter

The BG women's basketball team faced its first ranked opponent of the season Wednesday night in Anderson Arena, and came away with a resounding victory against No. 23 Vanderbilt to improve to 7-1 on the season.

Despite being out-rebounded 34-26, the Falcons shot 47 percent from three-point range and 89 percent from the free throw line. Second-half efficiency was the key for BG as they cruised to the 79-68 win.

Team turnovers

The Falcons played stingy basketball in the first half against Vanderbilt on Wednesday night, turning the ball over just four times. The Commodores handed it over

14 times in the first half, and BG capitalized, despite shooting just 46 percent from the floor in that frame.

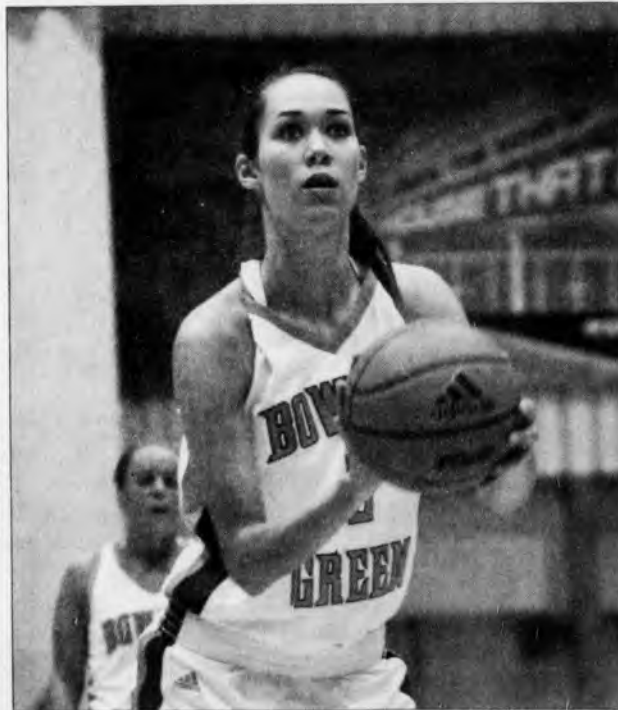
"I think the turnovers were the story," coach Curt Miller said. "We were having trouble stopping them percentage-wise if they weren't turning it over."

The Commodores only turned it over five times in the second half, but BG ended the night with 11 turnovers and maintained control of the game for most of the second half.

Momentum swings

BG took a 12-point lead into the locker room at half, but Vanderbilt began pressuring the Falcons in

See **NOTES** | Page 7



NATHAN ELEKONICH | THE BG NEWS

FREE-THROW: Laurin Prochaska attempts a free-throw during Wednesday's win against Vanderbilt.

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FOOTBALL

Six Falcons earn All-MAC honors

The BG football team had six players named to All-MAC teams. Kamar Jordan, Dwayne Woods, Eugene Cooper, Bryan Wright, Chris Jones and Willie Geter were all honored by the conference.

HOCKEY

Falcons head north for weekend

The BG hockey team returns to Central Collegiate Hockey Association play this weekend when they head north to take on Lake Superior. Check Friday's edition of the BG News for a full preview.

Peyton Hillis serving as an unlikely hero for the Browns

By Tom Withers
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — His hog-nosed facemask is unlike any in the NFL, just one of the many things separating Peyton Hillis from the pack of running backs.

With a straight-ahead, stop-me-if-you-dare smashmouth style, Hillis has emerged as an unstoppable force in his first season with the Cleveland Browns, who acquired him in a trade never envisioning he would emerge as their best offensive threat.

Soft-spoken off the field, Hillis is downright demonic when he's gets the ball.

"Dude's a beast," said Browns linebacker David Bowens.

Thus, the facemask.

"It looks like it has tusks," Hillis said in a distinct, Southern twang in describing the unique cage that protects the face of this football-crazed city's newest star. "It brings me back to my college days at Arkansas. It's ugly, but I like it."

Cleveland has fallen for Hillis the same way he drops linebackers.

At 6-foot-1, 240 pounds, he's a hulking hunk, who on the brink of surpassing 1,000 yards, has quickly made the Browns' female fanbase forget about quarterback Brady Quinn's model looks. Quinn, by the way, is the one Cleveland traded to Denver in March for Hillis.

Hillis is also a guy's guy. Dressed in rattlesnake-skinned cowboy boots, jeans, a camouflage jacket and a tattered baseball cap, Hillis is the antithesis of many pro athletes right down to his favorite hobby — hunting 400-pound, wild boars in the woods back home.

"You get a team of boys together, a bunch of dogs,

you lay 'em [the boars] up against a tree and shoot 'em or cut 'em," Hillis said matter-of-factly. "Pretty simple."

Bringing down Hillis, on the other hand, is anything but easy.

Knees churning, cleats kicking up dirt and grass, he's a terror to tackle. On his way to rushing for 131 yards in Sunday's win over Carolina, Hillis powered over an unfortunate Panthers safety at the 2 before going in for this third touchdown, and 11th this season, joining Hall of Famers Jim Brown and Leroy Kelly as the only Cleveland backs to score that many.

But Hillis isn't only three yards and a cloud of debris and dust. He's remarkably agile and has perfected a hurdle to elude defensive backs who try to cut out his legs.

"Not only does he bulldoze people," Browns center Alex Mack said, "he can jump over them, too."

Hillis will enter Sunday's game in Miami with 905 rushing yards and 414 receiving yards on a team-high 46 catches.

The Browns thought Hillis could help them. They had no idea he would carry them.

"I thought he would be pretty good and a great addition, but he's been outstanding," coach Eric Mangini said. "He just shows up, works like crazy. He's a great guy, loves being here and plays his heart out every week. He runs people over, catches everything we throw to him, blocks well." "Yeah, he's made for Cleveland."

And Cleveland seems made for Hillis.

The buckle of the Rust Belt, it's where generations of families spent their work weeks in factories and steel mills and their Sundays in front of the TV or down on the shores of Lake Erie watch-

"I thought he would be pretty good and a great addition, but he's been outstanding. He just shows up, works like crazy."

Eric Mangini | Cleveland Browns' coach

ing the beloved Browns. Of course, times have changed, but there remains a strong identity to athletes who give it their all without complaint. It's a lunch-pail town.

And that's something Hillis sensed as soon as he arrived. He felt the pride, the passion and the connection between himself and the fan base.

"I feel like I can relate to fans on a personal level," said Hillis, whose No. 40 jersey is popping up all over Northeast Ohio. "They're hard-working people, they love football and they don't ask for much. They just want to see their team play. This city's hungry for a winning team."

On Sunday, there were banners hanging over the railings of Browns Stadium honoring the new hero. "Peyton's Place" read one. "House of Hillis" was another.

And through it all, Hillis is aw-shucks humble. He'll routinely answer reporters' questions with "Yes, sir" or "No, ma'am" and the 24-year-old, who was teammates with running backs Darren McFadden and Felix Jones when they played for the Razorbacks, goes out of his way to compliment his teammates.

Following Sunday's win, the deeply religious Hillis stood at the podium and gave glory to God. Then, he thanked fullback Lawrence Vickers, who helped open a few holes.

There's something else rare about Hillis — he's white. You have to go back to Craig

James in 1985 to find the last white running back to eclipse 1,000 yards. It is a position long dominated by African-American players, but Hillis has become an exception.

However, his teammates don't see color when they watch Hillis pulverize his way to a first down or a touchdown, leaving a wasteland of defenders in his path.

"It's something we really don't talk about," Bowens said. "He's a good running regardless of his color."

Hillis was mostly used as a fullback in college, paving the way for McFadden and Jones, who both became first-round draft picks. Hillis, on the other hand, was still around in the seventh round when the Broncos selected him with the 227th pick in 2008.

He began his pro career buried on the depth chart in Denver, but injuries to others gave him a chance and he rushed for 343 yards and five touchdowns before being put on injured reserve with a hamstring injury. Last season, he made only two starts and seemed to be a forgotten man.

The Browns, though, knew about him. Mangini had faced him with New York in '08 and remembered Hillis being more than a handful.

"We were pretty good," said Bowens, who played for the Jets under Mangini. "He ran the ball right down our face. We didn't expect that. I knew he was tough, and when we got him here, man, I was happy."

Hillis entered training

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

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

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camp as Cleveland's No. 3 back, behind rookie Montario Hardesty and Jerome Harrison. He showed flashes during the preseason, making a memorable run against St. Louis by breaking six tackles on a 9-yard run.

He gained just 76 combined yards in his first two games, but broke out for 144 in Week 3 at Baltimore and had 102 the next week against Cincinnati. Hillis rumbled for a career-high 184 against New England, steam-rolling through Bill Belichick's defense.

"With Peyton, the best stat would be yards after contact," Mack said. "He gets so much after that first hit. Our job is to give him a clear space as

far as possible and everything he does after that is what he's all about. He gets extra yards every time."

Hillis is taking it all in stride. After Sunday's win, he was asked about joining the company of Brown and Kelly.

"Absurd," he said. "I'm nobody."

That's not the case anymore. He's piling up yardage and fans by the week. In fact, on Sunday, Cleveland Indians manager Manny Acta attended his first NFL game. He came away impressed by the passion of Browns fans and the drive of one particular player.

"Peyton Hillis," Acta said, "is the man in Cleveland."



NATHAN ELEKONICH | THE BG NEWS
DRIVE: Chrissy Steffen drives to the rim during BG's win on Wednesday night.

NOTES

From Page 6

the second and cut the deficit to five points within the first five minutes of the second half.

That was the closest the Commodores would get to the lead, however. BG went on its own run and extended the lead back to nine with just over 12 minutes left in the second half. The Falcons tacked on to their lead throughout the game and maintained

momentum throughout.

Prochaska nearly perfect

Senior Lauren Prochaska entered the night shooting 51 of 52 from the free throw line, and connected on 10-of-10 against Vanderbilt. She ended the night with a team-high 31 points, and added six assists, five rebounds and two steals.

Prochaska got off to a rough start from the floor, but turned it on toward the end of the half. Nineteen of her 31 points came in the second half on four of six from behind the

three-point line. When the Falcons needed a big basket, Prochaska took control and set the tone for the team.

Miller's game

Coach Curt Miller is 3-9

against ranked regular-season opponents in his career at BG, but all three of those wins have come against Vanderbilt. This is the first win the Falcons have had against Vanderbilt in Anderson Arena under Miller.

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CARNIVAL

From Page 1

condom tug-of-war, volunteer Mindy Radabaugh explained the purpose of the game.

"The game is to simulate that nobody is too big to wear a condom," Radabaugh said. "Condoms can stretch and fit without breaking and this game is a way [of] showing that to students. Everyone can fit a condom."

Madeline Schmidt, a member of Ohio Advocate for Youth had a display asking students to join in the cause to end abstinence programs in Ohio schools.

"We want to end absti-

nence programs because we believe that schools need to have comprehensive sex education," Schmidt said.

Michael Lambert, a recent graduate from the University was there as a member of a newly formed Planned Parenthood Advocacy group here on campus.

"We want to gain as much support as we can from students, to fight for better comprehensive sex education," Lambert said. "We want the Ohio legislature to know that we are serious and that we do vote and that schools need better sex education."

Members from H.U.E. SGL-LGBT (Honoring, Urging, Empowering, and Same Gender Loving Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual and Transgender) had a booth that gave students quizzes on condom usage.

One student said this was a way for her to learn more about the HIV/AIDS disease.

"Someone in my family contracted HIV and now has AIDS and this carnival is a way for me to learn more about the disease and ways to practice safer-sex so that I don't contract the disease," she said.

Freshman Rianna Delgado said the carnival was insightful.

"It was very informative, I learned more about HIV/AIDS and they gave away a lot of free condoms to students, it was rather interesting," Delgado said.



LAUREN POFF | THE BG NEWS

INFO: Bianca Thomas-Veal, Bre Patman and Destiny Skipper give condom quizzes at the World AIDS Day Carnival on Wednesday hosted by The Student Wellness Network.

GREEK

From Page 1

Greek Affairs work to educate students.

"We work closely with Greek Affairs in educating students ... collaboratively at the beginning of the year we did a whole presentation on following policy, positive role modeling, and I would say about a half dozen chapters attended that presentation," Ginsburg said.

The presentation was optional, but Ginsburg said "my preference would be that we move to making that mandatory."

Bullins said Greek Affairs talks about many things with the leaders of the chapters, mostly the presidents and the officers that are in charge of managing risk within the organizations.

"Well, I certainly think that some of the behaviors that I have just described ... are completely inconsistent with

what the purpose of fraternities and sororities are on college campuses," Bullins said.

"Our organizations should really be about scholastic achievement and leadership development and helping those in need with service and philanthropy, and when these situations happen, it certainly detracts attention away from the many, many good things that other organizations are doing along those values."

HANUKKAH

From Page 1

Dreidel was originally created when Jewish children were forced out of school, said Abygail Frankel, vice president. The game was supposed to help teach them math skills through the use of coins.

Along with dreidel and the lighting of the second candle, Hillel will provide food including drinks, salad, latkes and other traditional Jewish foods.

"Latkes are kind of like potato pancakes," Letwin said. "They kind of have a hash brown taste to them."

Hillel also gathers to celebrate other Jewish holidays including Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Hillel has been celebrating Hanukkah together for two years.

Hillel has been an active organization on campus for approximately 10 years, and has slowly grown in size, said Kyle Ingle, Hillel faculty adviser.

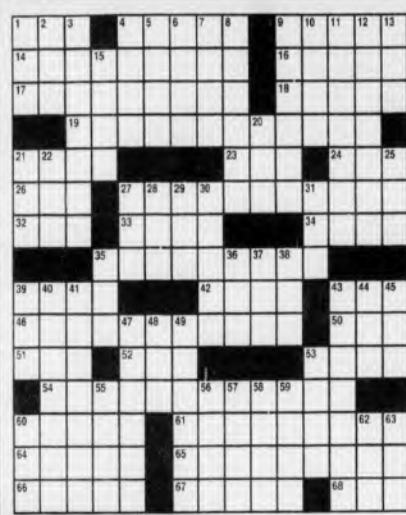
Last year Hillel welcomed about 50 students to its

Hanukkah celebration. This year Letwin and members of Hillel are expecting between 60 and 70 students to attend the celebration.

All students are welcome to attend the celebration tonight to try playing games and try traditional food, Letwin said.

"It's primarily for Jewish students, but a lot of our members bring guests too," Ingle said. "It's just a good opportunity to get together, play some games and have some traditional food."

The Daily Crossword Fix



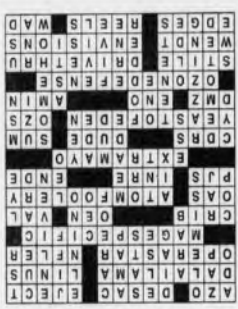
- 1 Trouble
- 2 Cook with waves
- 3 Oxford campus
- 4 TV screen meas.
- 5 Ultimatum end
- 6 Concerns for jrs. and srs.
- 7 "... draw you ___?"
- 8 Package directive
- 9 Sea change with far-reaching effects
- 10 Two shakes, with "a"
- 11 Pep up
- 12 It helps prevent stumbling
- 13 Original Dungeons & Dragons co.
- 15 Kaffiyeh wearer
- 20 Corp. boss
- 21 One on a beat
- 22 "The Big Bang Theory" character from India
- 25 Soap component
- 27 --en-Provence
- 28 Rubble creator
- 29 First NHL defenseman to score 40 goals in a season
- 30 Maryland's Fort ___
- 31 Sign of summer
- 35 What can turn one into many?
- 36 Campaign weaponry?
- 37 Product at a stand
- 38 Nickel 225 unit
- 39 Actress Charisse
- 40 Taken down a notch
- 41 Rookie's initiation
- 43 By doing whatever it takes
- 44 Scary magazine holder
- 45 Explorer initials
- 47 Beliefs
- 48 Single
- 49 Raw material
- 53 Piedmont product
- 55 Merrie ___ England
- 56 Atlantic flier
- 57 What musicians take between sets?
- 58 Austin Powers' nemesis Dr. ___
- 59 It's a loch
- 60 Northern Eur. land
- 62 Cellular messenger
- 63 Amer. capital

ACROSS

- 1 Type of pigment used in artists' paints
- 4 Cul-__
- 9 Panic button
- 14 1989 Peace Prize winner
- 16 Blanket-toting toon
- 17 Met notable
- 18 One often working on Sun.
- 19 Designed for ancient sorcerers?
- 21 Digs
- 23 Sonoma prefix
- 24 Batman after Michael
- 26 Western treaty gp.
- 27 Pranks at the Bohr Institute?
- 32 Late party attire
- 33 Dealing with
- 34 "The Neverending Story" author
- 35 Sandwich request, and a literal hint to how the answers at 19-, 27-, 46- and 54-Across are formed
- 39 USN officers
- 42 "C'mon, man!"
- 43 Do a little math

- 46 Genesis baking ingredient?
- 50 Soda bottle meas.
- 51 Former Vietnam area mostly S. of the 17th parallel
- 52 Co-producer of U2's "Achtung Baby"
- 53 Exile of 1979
- 54 Banning CFC production, e.g.?
- 60 Stadium entrance
- 61 Like some windows
- 64 George of "Cheers" are formed
- 65 Foresees
- 66 Beats 1-0, say
- 67 Film holders
- 68 Mess of dough

ANSWERS



Did You Know?

The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life."

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A black and white illustration of a gift box. The box is wrapped in paper with a repeating pattern of stylized evergreen trees. A large, dark ribbon bow is tied around the box. A white tag with a hole at the top is attached to the bow. The tag contains the text "HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE" in bold, uppercase letters. A photograph is placed on the right side of the box, showing two cartoon penguins. One penguin is holding a gift box, and the other is holding a gift box with a bow on top. The penguins are smiling and appear to be exchanging gifts.

**HOLIDAY
GIFT
GUIDE**

ANDY
BATES

Take time to recollect on Christmas memories



JESS JAMES
SPECIAL SECTIONS
EDITOR

Underneath a starlit night, a little girl and her father are making an unforgettable Christmas memory. It's Christmas Eve, 1996 and Santa just delivered a brand new telescope to the James home. The father wakes the girl in the middle of the night and tells her, "Santa dropped something off early this year." He leads the girl outside where she finds the telescope set up on the porch. She smiles and gives her father a hug. The two

gaze into the sky, mesmerized by the spirit of Christmas.

It's a night I consider my most special Christmas memory. Yes I can recall sleeping on the living room couch and calling out my dad for eating Santa's cookies. But this particular night made me value Christmas and all the people that made me feel loved.

However now that I am older, another Christmas passes and I find myself depressed and overwhelmed with holiday stress. I wouldn't go as far to say I'm the female version of Ebenezer Scrooge, but at times I do feel the spirit of Christmas is lost. "The reason for the sea-

"I reflect on all the moments that made me appreciate my family and the ones I love."

son" couldn't be more overshadowed by cheesy commercials and discounted presents.

But like all life situations, I try to stay positive and look at the glass half full. Instead, I think about all the Christmas memories that take me back to my childhood. I reflect on all the moments that made me appreciate my family and the ones I love.

Holiday gift ideas that won't break the bank



ALISSA O'NEIL
NEWS EDITOR

"For college students, gift buying can be daunting on a budget."

Christmas is right around the corner, and that means the list of gifts that need to be bought will appear even sooner. For college students, gift buying can be daunting on a budget, but have no fear—here are a couple ideas to get you started that are quick, easy and won't drain your bank account.

1. Bath and Body Baskets: Girls love bath and body products, but the trick is to remember that those products don't necessarily have to come from Bath & Body Works. Hit up the dollar store, pick out a nice lotion, a bubble bath and maybe a bodyscrub. Then pick up a bathpouf or another kind of bath sponge and a small towel, and nicely arrange all the products in a basket (which can also be purchased at a dollar store). Instant bath and body gift set without the large price tag.

2. Cocoa or Baking Mixes: For the people on your list who appreciate a little creativity or cuteness in their presents, put together a baking or cocoa mix in a jar. The premise is very easy—for the cocoa, simply combine six cups of dry milk, one cup of sugar, one cup plus two tablespoons of baking cocoa and if you like, one cup of miniature marshmallows in a bowl. Then pour the dry mixture into a two-quart jar, seal on the lid and add a ribbon to the top. Presto—hot cocoa in a jar. If you want to step things up with a layered jar of brownie mix, check out Nestle's website for that recipe, too: <http://www.verybestbaking.com>.

3. Photo Album: If you cringed when you read the words "photo album" and thought, "I am not creative enough" or "I don't have

the time." keep reading. There is a website, <http://www.blurb.com>, that does all the work for you. They provide you with a free program, easy-to-follow instructions and templates to help you create a coffee table book with your digital pictures. And with 20-40 page books starting at \$12.95, it's pretty reasonably priced.

4. Movie Night: Since all the gift ideas so far have been leaning toward the females, here's one that could go for the guy or the girl in your life. Find a DVD the two of you would enjoy watching together, buy some popcorn and then for the finishing touch, find those red and white striped popcorn boxes to put it all in. A movie night is always great during those cold winter nights.

5. Food Basket: Once again, this could go for the guys or the girls, but since guys can be harder to shop for (sorry, guys, it's true) we'll do this one geared toward the guys. They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, so start baking, ladies. Guys appreciate homemade goodies—not only because they're delicious, but also because of the time you put into making everything. Start out with the basic Christmas cookie, a cut-out sugar cookie with frosting and sprinkles. Add a little more variety with the cookies and also add in some other homemade goodies like granola, energy bars or candies.

You can find recipes for everything online now, so take advantage of Google. Plus, throw in a gift certificate to make them their favorite meal and you've got them hooked.

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Did You Know...

Hummingbirds are the only animals able to fly backwards

Christmas cheer found through love



ALISSA WIDMAN
COLUMNIST

I've never been a big fan of Christmas. This is no surprise to my friends, family or anyone who knows me. In fact, when I told my dad I would be writing a column for the holiday tab, he cleverly asked if it would be titled "How the Journalist Stole Christmas."

Although I can't guarantee an animated movie depicting my life, I can tell the tale of how my heart recently "grew three sizes" in my attitudes toward Christmas. Don't get me wrong — I'm a Roman Catholic and I have always loved celebrating Jesus' birthday at church. What the commercialized Christmas is to capitalist America, however, makes me cringe.

You'll never see me freezing my rear end off in a Black Friday line. I hate feeling pressured to buy presents with my mediocre budget. When the snow starts to fall and "Jingle Bell Rock" starts to play, I would love to retreat like a hermit and hibernate for winter.

But I know God sometimes puts people in our lives to change our perspectives; and He definitely revealed His humorous side when a special person was placed in my life three years ago.

My boyfriend, Brandon, is a Christmas addict. The cliché saying "opposites attract" couldn't have manifested itself any better. He calls me the Grinch, while I call him Father Christmas.

Fittingly born on St. Nicholas' birthday, Brandon anticipates the holiday season with unmatched enthusiasm. For anyone who was in our hometown of Sandusky, Ohio, on Halloween, he was the genius wrapped in a snowman blanket

"I've learned a lot about how I can appreciate the holiday through our relationship."

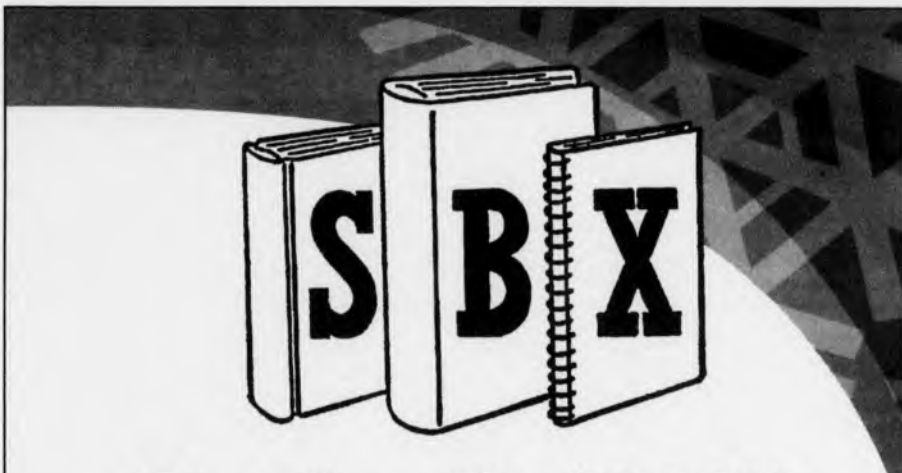
and wearing a Santa hat, confusing every trick-or-treating child who came to my house for candy.

Unsurprisingly, Brandon asked me out when he was at the peak of Christmas bliss: Dec. 27, 2007. We've been together for nearly three great years, and unless he breaks out Mariah Carey's Christmas album in the summer, holiday-related issues usually aren't a top priority in our relationship.

I've learned a lot about how I can appreciate the holiday through our relationship. Although I wouldn't yet consider myself a Christmas convert, it's definitely changed my perspective. The commercialized Christmas still baffles and irritates me, but Brandon has helped me learn that I can still celebrate the holidays in my own way, and even look forward to them at times.

My biggest holiday anxiety, gift giving, has been made much more tolerable. I've learned through experience that the best present doesn't have to be the biggest or the most expensive.

One of my favorite presents Brandon bought me last Christmas was the book "P.S. I Love You" (which inspired the movie) with a letter inside and a Starbucks gift card for a bookmark. I loved it because it perfectly reflected my interests — romantic stories and coffee. Likewise, Brandon has said some of his favorite presents from me also show how well I know him — a scrapbook I made, a fleece soccer



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See CHEER | Page 6

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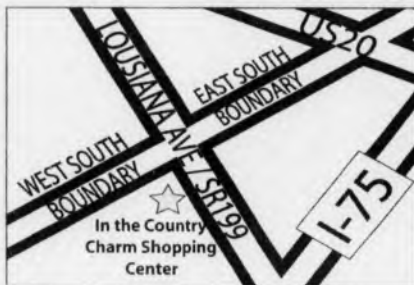
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Sweeten the holiday with Christmas cookies

By Kristen Thiebaud
Guest Columnist

With the holidays quickly approaching I cannot help but be excited for my favorite part besides being with family... cookies. Where I am from all of the ladies back home get together and share their favorite cookie recipes by having a cookie party. Everyone bakes a cookie of their choosing, well make that several dozen cookies. At the party everyone swaps cookies and their recipes. It's the best way to check out new recipes and at the same time try new cookies. Here are a few of my favorite cookie recipes that have been obtained over the years.

Let's start with the basics. Everyone needs a great chocolate chip cookie recipe and the nice thing about a basic recipe such as this is that you can mix it up. Change up the chip type for a new experience. You can even use the red and green swirled chips for a festive touch to these cookies. Recipe courtesy of Irma Wengerd.

2 cups brown sugar (light not dark)
4 teaspoons baking soda
1 cup white sugar
6 eggs 2 teaspoons salt
4 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 cups shortening (such as Crisco)
6 cups flour
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 packages chocolate chips

Mix together all the ingredients starting with brown sugar and drop by teaspoon fulls onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes

These cookies have a rather funny name, Horny Toads. They require no baking and use just a stovetop for heating of ingredients. They aren't too sweet and the peanut butter adds a nice salty touch to these cookies. You can use either smooth

or crunchy peanut butter depending on your preference. Recipe courtesy of Charlotte Curry.

1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
Pinch of salt
1 cup peanut butter
3 cups cornflakes

Mix together sugars, corn syrup and salt in a medium saucepan.

Cook on low heat until it bubbles and then add peanut butter. Make sure to mix well. Add cornflakes and mix until coated. Take off heat and then drop by teaspoonfuls onto wax paper.

These cookies are delicious and are a nontraditional way to spice up your cookie plate for friends. The coconut and the pecans complement the white chocolate chips very nicely. If you prefer walnuts those can always be swapped out instead of pecans. Recipe courtesy of Alice Horrisberger.

3 1/2 cups flour
4 eggs
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 teaspoons salt
2 cups pecans
1 pound unsalted butter
2 cups shredded coconut
2 cups white sugar
3 1/2 cups white chocolate chips
1 cup brown sugar

Preheat oven until 350 degrees. Cream butter and sugars with an electric mixer until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time until incorporated. Add flour, baking soda and salt and beat just until blended. Add vanilla, pecans, coconut and white chocolate chips. Drop in teaspoonfuls onto a parchment lined cookie sheet and bake for 18-20 minutes.

Last but not least is a fireside

Holiday parade

Local residents gather downtown to celebrate the start of the holiday season

PHOTOS BY | ANDREA FEHL



BAND: Ostego High School marching band member rocks out to Jingle Bells at Friday's parade.



DANCE: Members of Jules Dance Studio waltz down Main Street. Their dance routine was a mixture of classic and mainstream holiday songs.



GIFTS AND GOODIES: Middle school students from Milligan Workshop pass out candy and treats to attendees of the holiday parade.

COOKIES

From Page 5

favorite made into a cookie bar. These smore cookie bars are a less messy way to enjoy a great summer treat in the winter. They are a whimsical touch to finish off your cookie plate. Recipe courtesy of Hersheys.com

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened
3/4 cup white sugar

1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup graham cracker crumbs
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 (1.55 oz. each) HERSHEY'S Milk Chocolate Bars
1 cup marshmallow creme

Heat oven to 350°F. Grease 8-inch square baking pan. Beat butter and sugar in large bowl until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla; beat well. Stir together flour, graham cracker crumbs,

baking powder and salt; add to butter mixture, beating until blended. Press half of dough into prepared pan. Arrange chocolate bars over dough, breaking as needed to fit. Spread with marshmallow creme. Scatter bits of remaining dough over marshmallow; carefully press to form a layer.

Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely in pan on wire rack if you cut early the bars will crack and crumble. Cut into bars. 16 bars.



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The Flower Basket

CHEER

From Page 3

blanket and of course a Christmas ornament with our picture in it to further his obsession.

I anticipate the holiday season (and now going home for it) to celebrate our anniversary. Although some may see a gift-killing anniversary near Christmas as a downside, I enjoy it. Instead of scrambling to find gifts the week before Christmas, we can focus on spending time together, something we don't get too often because we attend separate colleges.

The fact that this time together takes place in December has made me appreciate the month a little more. I've realized that maybe some people get amped for the hol-

"But I know God sometimes puts people in our lives to change our perspectives; and he definitely revealed his humorous side when a special person was placed in my life three years ago"

iday season, maybe not just for the gifts, eggnog and decorations, but maybe because this is also the only time they get to see loved ones in a while.

Still, one doesn't become a Christmas junkie overnight. I'm still learning more about embodying the Christmas spirit, but I will admit that I've had a 6-inch glittery Christmas tree on my desk since October.

My eyes don't burn when I look at it, either. Instead, I've learned

to remind myself of what that little tree represents: The wonderful season where I fell in love and Father Christmas asked me to be his girlfriend while snowflakes fell all around us.

So I guess, most importantly, I've learned that it's possible for a Grinch to fall in love with a wannabe Santa, and I'm so glad I did. By next year, maybe my heart will grow four sizes, and I'll be jamming to "Jingle Bell Rock" in July, too. Well, maybe.



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Electronics top list for popular holiday gifts

Televisions, appliances and video games hot sellers for 2010 Christmas season

By Alissa Widman
Reporter

Reporter's note: This article first appeared in The Sandusky Register, Nov. 27, 2010.

The holiday shopping season has already begun and researchers estimate consumer spending on electronic gifts will reach historic highs, despite an overall decline in gift spending.

Here are the top 10 electronic gifts for adults this Christmas, according to an Oct. 19 press release by the Consumer Electronics Association:

1. Laptop:

Personal computers have become increasingly popular for business and personal use and will take the top spot this Christmas.

2. iPad:

Apple's newest gadget, released this year, is a tablet computer marketed for online media like books, movies, music and more.

3. eReader:

Also known as an eBook, an eReader is a portable electronic device used to read digital books and periodicals.

4. iPod:

Apple's classic portable media player remains popular, in part due to new models released this September.

5. Video Game System:

The Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii and Playstation 3 are still in high demand for kids and adults alike.

6. Digital Camera:

With a variety of types available, most digital cameras record video and photographs and are useful tools year round.

7. Big Screen TV:

Big screen TVs have almost completely replaced cathode ray tube TVs and it appears they are only getting bigger and better.

8. TV (unspecified):

TV has become ubiquitous in homes, and it doesn't matter how big or what kind — they are still in high demand.

9. Computer (unspecified):

On the path to becoming as universal as TV, computers are such a must-have that consumers will buy any kind.

10. Desktop PC:

Although not nearly as popular as laptops, desktop PCs for home use will still make the top 10 this year.

Nearly a third of consumers' total gift budgets will be allocated to consumer electronics this holiday season, according to the release.

"Giving electronics as a holiday gift, either to a loved one or to yourself, is more popular than ever," said Steve Koenig, CEA's director of industry analysis, in the release. "Not only are three in four adults planning to give [consumer electronics] as a gift this year, but more consumers want electronics as a gift for themselves, demonstrating that electronics will be the must-have gifts of the season."

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New Christmas songs, albums add to list of all-time greats



MATT LIASSE
PULSE EDITOR

Below are some of the newest, note-worthy Christmas albums hitting the shelves, as well as lists of holiday favorites in pop, country and rock 'n roll.

'Tis the season for fun tunes with a holiday spin. Amid the tree decorating, twinkling lights and snowman building (if Ohio's notorious first snow storm ever comes, that is), the only thing that can make someone feel the Christmas spirit is a great Christmas song.

Sure, such jingles can anger people when played before Thanksgiving, but listening to Christmas music can steer even the biggest Scrooge down a winter wonderland of cheer. They promote joy and remind everyone why it's okay to smile this time of year.



GLEE:
The Music - The Christmas Album. Even though the biggest sell-

ing albums this year were made by Eminem, Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga, even they can't match the success of the music from "Glee." What started as campy satire about a high school glee club has quickly become a cultural phenomenon, and the music may just be its most successful aspect. The Glee Cast's versions of Christmas classics are

now available in stores and \$9.99 on iTunes. The compilation includes twelve songs sung by your favorite gleebs, featuring "Deck The Rooftop," an up-tempo mash-up of "Deck The Halls" and "Up On The Rooftop." The album's other notable tracks are Mercedes singing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and Rachel singing "Last Christmas."



MARIAH CAREY:
Merry Christmas II You. Mariah Carey's original Christmas tune, "All I

Want For Christmas Is You" (originally recorded in 1994) continues to climb the charts year after year. This year, the imperfect angel will be releasing her second Christmas



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CHRISTMAS 4:
The famous series of

compiled top 40 hits is up to its 36th issue. But the fourth special Christmas compilation hit shelves in October. The album is a two-disc set and includes 36 tracks; the first disc featuring today's biggest stars offering their jolly tunes such as Rihanna, Sheryl Crow, Sean Kingston, Lady Gaga and Michael Buble, while the second features older artist's classics

like Elvis Presley, Sting and David Bowie.



THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA:
The Christmas Trilogy

Finally available together, all three Christmas epics by one of the most original musical assemblies of today can put anyone of any age in the mood for the season. All of the tracks from "The Lost Christmas Eve," "Christmas Eve and Other Stories" and "The Christmas Attic" are featured together for the very first time.

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Celebrate holidays with favorite Christmas flicks



BRYAN WARRICK
COLUMNIST

major films to watch during the Christmas season.

The last two films to mention could both be argued as the best Christmas movie ever made. Both of them are considered clas-

sics that everyone needs to see at least once.

The first one is 1947's "Miracle on 34th Street." Starring Maureen O'Hara and John Payne, this movie takes place in New York City's

famous Macy's department store and concerns the shop's Santa, who may or may not be the real deal himself. All about miracles and the feelings of the holiday, this movie is great for everyone who

likes a good Santa story.

The final film is the 1946 classic "It's a Wonderful Life," starring

See **MOVIES** | Page 10

There are a lot of traditions people follow during the holiday season. A very popular one is watching holiday movies. Every year, different stations show countless holiday classics, sometimes for 24 straight hours. These movies can also make a great gift to anyone during the Christmas season and can become a family tradition just as important as gift giving or Christmas trees.

One of the most popular Christmas movies is the animated classic, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." First aired in 1964, this film is based on the famous song and poem written in the 1939 by Robert L. Mays. The movie follows the outcast Reindeer with a glowing nose who saves Christmas by helping Santa fly through the fog. It's a movie that kids love and adults who have grown up with it always remember.

Another famous holiday movie is 1954's "White Christmas" starring Bing Crosby and some of the most gifted singers and dancers of the era. The movie stars Danny Kaye and Crosby as old war buddies and famous performers who put on a show to help their commanding general and fall in love with a pair of singing sisters. The movie starts and ends with Crosby's famous voice singing the song White Christmas.

One holiday movie that people either love or find annoying, and yet is still a modern Classic is "A Christmas Story." From 1983, this film has its own brand of humor as it follows one kid's attempts to get the Christmas gift that he wants. With his weird family, including his bundled up brother and his furnace-fighting Old Man., this movie has become one of the

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Appetizing gift ideas for holiday food lovers



AMANDA MCGUIRE
RZICNEK
FOOD COLUMNIST

The holidays are any food lover's dream come true. The thought of a table clothed in red and lined with shining china place settings and a perfect row of rolls, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, turkey, and bean casserole propels me into a food coma even before a morsel hits my lips. It's the cooks behind this spread who make the holidays so special. While many dread the thought of rising at 4 a.m. to dress and then baste a turkey for the better part of a day, a passionate cook is awake before

the alarm even goes off.

For those who find joy in the kitchen year round, an item or two from this wish list will bring a smile to their faces and more harmony to their kitchens.

Le Creuset French Oven (\$200-400)

Even though this is the most expensive item on the list, it's the one that any serious home cook deserves and will use for a lifetime. Made in France, this porcelain enamel cast iron cookware distributes heat evenly on any stove top and can withstand oven temperatures up to 450 degrees. Perfect for braising, roasting, and just plain cooking, Le Creuset comes in a variety of vibrant colors. I use my kiwi 5-quart French oven nearly every day for soups, stews, casseroles, and

roasts. If you don't believe me, consult Oprah: Le Creuset made her Favorite Things list.

Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams Splendid Holiday Collection (\$85)

Mail order foods are quite the rage for foodies who can't get to their favorite delicacy destinations, and Jeni's is no exception. Rather than sending off a mediocre bottle of wine or traditional fruitcake, let the postmaster deliver an assortment of locally made and nationally praised ice cream. With flavors like Sweet Potato with Torched Marshmallows and Star Anise with Candied Fennel, I guarantee this lively gift basket of nine unique pints will be a memorable finish to any holiday meal.

Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture (\$37.50)

A must-have for any foodie who loves art, a subscription to "Gastronomica" offers much more than recipes. According to its Editor in Chief Darra Goldstein, "Gastronomica" uses food as an important source of knowledge about different cultures and societies, provoking discussion and encouraging thoughtful reflection on the history, literature, representation, and cultural impact of food." Since 2008 I have not let my subscription lapse; any food lover will appreciate the intelligent articles and artistic layout.

Local Restaurant Gift Card (\$20+)

Looking for a stocking stuffer or more affordable present? Pick up a gift certificate to a local restaurant that's a favorite of the food lover in your life or one they've been dying to try. Dining

out gives a home cook a much-needed break and often inspires new recipes or techniques. Also, supporting local restaurants supports local economies, which many foodies go out of their ways to do. For casual dining, give the gift of Happy Badger. For an extra-special experience, Revolver Restaurant is the perfect choice.

Homemade Cookies with Accompanying Recipe Card (\$5+)

During the holidays, the best gifts are handmade. Make your loved one your favorite recipe of holiday cookies and attach the recipe to the package. Depending on your skill level, this could be extravagant enough to shame Martha Stewart or a simple family activity. What matters most: it comes from the heart and fills the tummy.

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1062 N. Main
352-9055

Oregon

693-8826

Monroe St.

843-2055

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MOVIES

From Page 10

Jimmy Stewart. While some have argued that it's not technically a Christmas movie, it is still a touching film about a man looking at his life and realizing the importance he has to his friends and family. It has the kind of message that we all need to know during the holiday season.

These movies are seen every year during Christmas along with other countless holiday movies like "Christmas Vacation," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and "Eight Crazy Nights." These films can make great gifts to loved ones and can help to spread the Christmas cheer.

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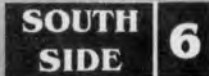
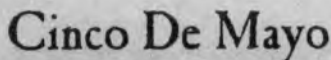
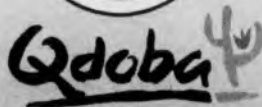
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