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## The BG News February 18, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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**Monday**

February 18, 2008  
Volume 102, Issue 106  
WWW.BGNEWS.COM

**No more rollover for meal plans**

Graduate Student Senate met to discuss the discontinuation of rollover money and addressed the reasons behind the changes to questioning students | **Page 3**

**Bomb kills 80 in dog-fight crowd**

In Afghanistan, where dog fights are a popular form of entertainment, a suicide bomber joined the large audience and caused one of the bloodiest attacks since 2001 | **Page 11**

**Churchgoers pray for NIU families**

After the shooting at Northern Illinois University, members of the community gathered to help families affected by the attack through their grief | **Page 6**

**What does sexual preference have to do with love?**

Columnist Benjamin Swanson examines hypocrisy among some Christian churches that are against homosexuals | **Page 4**

**Affirmative action should be illegal**

"Racial quotas are unfair and may be unconstitutional because they leave out qualified candidates, writes columnist Greg Chick | **Page 4**

**Women's bball wins at home**

Falcons prevail in an ugly game against EMU despite shooting only 16.7 percent at the halfway mark | **Page 7**



Are you an organ donor?



**KEVIN PLIS**  
Sophomore,  
Computer Science

"Checks ID"  
"Apparently, I am."  
| **Page 4**



**TODAY**  
Snow Showers  
High: 31, Low: 13



**TOMORROW**  
Snow Showers  
High: 19, Low: 15



**ADVOCATE:** Former president Bill Clinton speaks at a campaign rally for his wife, Hillary Clinton, a candidate in the 2008 presidential elections. Clinton was well-received by supporters yesterday morning at the Toledo Technology Academy.

## Bill Clinton visits Toledo

### Former president outlines Hillary's plan

By **Tim Sampson**  
City Editor

Sixteen years later and it's still the economy, stupid. Much like during his own 1992 campaign, former President Bill Clinton spoke about the nation's economic woes while campaigning for his wife, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, at a rally in Toledo yesterday.

The former president spoke in a packed gymnasium at the Toledo Technology Academy, where he passed on his wife's message of creating jobs and fixing the nation's sagging economy.

"This school represents Hillary's vision for the way America ought to work," Clinton said.

Making his first of four campaign stops in Ohio, Clinton relayed his wife's three-pronged plan for repairing the economy, which included tackling the nation's housing foreclosure crisis, moving America toward energy independence and creating a universal health care system.

In a conversational manner, Clinton broke down the country's current foreclosure crisis. He explained how millions of Americans bought homes they couldn't afford after signing sub-prime mortgages that have since skyrocketed in price.

Clinton said homeowners were suckered into these mortgages without knowing their money would be

See **CLINTON** | Page 2

## Students in accident remembered

By **Kelly Day**  
Campus Editor

International Students Apsana Giri and Sweetie Mazumdar only studied at the University for a short time before they died in a traffic accident last month.

But their time in Bowling Green made a big impact on the people they encountered, friends said at a memorial service Saturday.

Friends, family and others from the University and the Bowling Green community gathered in the Union to remember Giri and Mazumdar and to participate in a traditional Hindu worship service

called a Puja.

"Apsana and Sweetie became very dear to us in a very short time. We miss them," said Anne Saviers, associate director of International Programs.

Friends and family of Giri said they will always remember her smile, energy and hospitality.

Giri came from Nepal to pursue a master's degree in biology. In a letter read at the ceremony, biology professor George Bullerjahn wrote about how impressed he was with Giri's work in the department.

"I was so impressed with her intellect and hard work that I offered her an assistantship to

be paid by my research funding," he wrote. "I had never before given a first-year student an assistantship, but she was doing such a good job, and I wanted to reward her for her efforts."

Jan Nielson, who met the women through the International Friendship Program, said she was impressed by the value both Giri and Mazumdar placed in earning an education.

"They were just brilliant," Nielson said.

Friend Mahesh Pillai said

See **MEMORIAL** | Page 2



**REMEMBERED:** Friends and family of international students Apsana Giri and Sweetie Mazumdar light candles in remembrance of the two women who died in a car accident last month.

## Community projects recognized

By **Steve Kunkler**  
Reporter

Testing water for dangerous chemicals, rebuilding New Orleans and helping high school students stay on the straight and narrow path were just some of the programs showcased at the Experiencing Mutualism event held in the Union on Friday.

The program, which was presented by the Partnerships for Community Action and the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education, gave people the opportunity to view the results of last year's grant recipients and awarded new grants that will be used to better the community.

The amounts of the grants awarded ranged from as much as \$5,000 to as little as \$2,000 for the recipient programs from this year's awards.

The ballroom was filled with booths showcasing the results from projects undertaken by last year's grant recipients.

Among the recipients of last year's grants was Violetta Rhea, a social service coordinator for Fremont City Schools, whose project focused on providing education to students at Fremont Middle and High Schools to help those students make better informed decisions to avoid risky behavior.

"I was pleased — when [Violetta and her students] had question-and-answer periods, the students absorbed the information and gave that back in terms of making better choices," Rhea said.

While some of last year's programs dealt with area schools, others addressed concerns about the local community, including one co-directed by Bob Midden, an associate professor of chemistry at the University, and Brad Espen of the Wood County Health Department.

The program focused on addressing community concerns about factory farms around the area.

Research done by Midden found there are higher amounts of pollution in areas with failed septic systems. Midden added there is currently no clear evidence that the pollution is coming from the factory farms.

However, further testing will give a clearer picture about the relationship, Midden said.

"We are regularly collecting samples from sights which will show if the factory farms are the problem in polluting the water," Midden said.

After a period of time where people were able to view the results of last year's grant recipients' projects, the focus was

See **PROJECT** | Page 2

## Campaign to attract organ donors

By **Kristen Zenz**  
Reporter

Students can learn how to save eight lives and enhance the lives of 50 others by attending just one of the many on-campus events being held this week to promote organ and tissue donation awareness.

The events, organized by Donate Life and students in the Public Relations Theory and Application course, will encourage students to learn more about organ donation and help them register to be a donor.

Public relations student Taylor Copeland said that in an effort to educate students, there will be information tables in the Union and outside the Education Building, as well as a presentation featuring a video, organ models and real life tissue and cornea samples during the week. Freebies like T-shirts, buttons and candy will also be given out to spread organ and tissue donation awareness.

The campaign is an attempt to clarify myths and encourage

people to become organ donors, she said.

According to Life Connection of Ohio's Nancy Ellis, some of the most common myths about organ donation are that doctors may not try as hard to save organ donors, donors will not be able to have a traditional funeral and that donors will have to pay the medical bills for the removal of organs.

But looking past these myths, one of the biggest reasons people should become donors is because the need for organs and tissues is so high, Ellis said.

According to Ellis, there are 98,000 people on the national waiting list for a kidney, and 202 on the local waiting list.

"There were 193 unnecessary deaths last year because people were waiting for organ donations," she said.

In addition to educating others, the group will also compete against 12 other universities through a program called Do It Now to sign up the most new donors. The universities will implement their own campaigns

### DONATE LIFE

**Monday:** Free hot chocolate will be offered to students starting at 9 a.m. outside the Education Building.

**Tuesday:** The group will have an information table set up before the 9:30 p.m. showing of "American Gangster" in room 206 of the Union.

**Wednesday:** Free T-shirts to anyone who registers to be a new donor from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Union.

**Thursday:** Kara Steele, a community relations associate / education specialist from Life Connection, will speak from 6 to 8 p.m. in room 318 of the Union.

to help register new organ and tissue donors throughout the state.

"The program is set up to help students develop new ideas as

See **DONORS** | Page 2

## Bush opposes Democrat changes to AIDS program

International appeals seek end to 'squabbling'

By **Jennifer Loven**  
The Associated Press

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — President Bush rejected proposed Democratic changes to his prized AIDS relief program, issuing a challenge yesterday to Congress to "stop the squabbling" and renew it as is. Tanzanian leader Jakaya Kikwete made an impassioned appeal for the same thing, saying thousands in his country would orphan their children if U.S. lawmakers do not act.

There is broad support in the Democratic-controlled Congress for the anti-AIDS spending that has become the largest-ever international health initiative devoted to one disease, so there is not much danger of failing to continue it.

But with the program expiring this year, a political

and ideological showdown is brewing in Washington over the initiative's terms and size. Bush hopes that putting real, grateful faces on the program — moms and dads controlling the disease and children who were born HIV-free to infected mothers, all because of U.S.-funded treatment — would strengthen his hand in the debate.

The president's three-night stay in this vast East Africa nation takes him to a part of the continent that is important in the U.S. fight against terrorism. The bombed-out former U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam still stands as a stark reminder of deadly attacks in Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya, in 1998.

The visit to Tanzania is the longest of Bush's six-day African trip and longer than usual for the president anywhere.

# CLINTON

From Page 1

invested — and lost — in the stock market.

He said lenders never warned these borrowers that "we'll play Russian Roulette with your mortgage."

Although Clinton praised President George W. Bush and members of Congress for addressing the problem by passing the recent economic stimulus package, he said his wife is the only one with a plan to actually confront the foreclosure problem head-on.

He said Hillary knows "when you realize you've dug yourself into a hole, the first thing you do is stop digging." He then added light-heartedly that Congress and the current president just want to switch to a smaller shovel.

Clinton then spoke about how America could create more manufacturing jobs by developing renewable energies, referencing Toledo's First Solar plant.

He said America's new great manufacturing industry could be hybrid car batteries.

"Once we get to a 100 mile per gallon car, it won't matter if oil's \$100 a barrel," he said.

Clinton then presented one of his wife's main campaign platforms, a plan to create universal health care.

He introduced the topic by asking members of the audience if they knew someone who didn't have health care. More than half the crowd raised their hands.

"It's disgusting so many of you are raising your hands," he said.

The former president distinguished his wife's plan from universal health care from Democratic rival Sen. Barack Obama's by saying his wife's plan would offer Americans a choice between keeping their existing coverage, taking part in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, or choosing a public plan similar to Medicare.

Clinton said the rising cost



**RALLY:** Clinton supporters at Toledo Technology Academy cheer on former President Bill Clinton yesterday.

of health care requires a major change.

"The insurance industry is bankrupting our economy," he said.

The former president's appearance at the rally highlighted the importance Ohio's upcoming March 4 primary will have on the Democrats' nominating process, said Gov. Ted Strickland, who introduced Clinton at the event.

"It's now coming down to two states — Texas and Ohio," Strickland said, predicting that the large working-class populations of these two states will help hand the nomination to Hillary Clinton.

And Ohioans are embracing their place of prominence.

Steve Steel, president of the Toledo Public Schools Board of Education, worked to fire up a crowd that was already waving signs, holding homemade banners and spontaneously chanting "Hillary."

"It's exciting the president is here and it's exciting that the Ohio primary is going to make a difference in the race," Steel said.

But it was the former president who displayed the most enthusiasm for his wife's candidacy.

"I'd be here today campaigning for her, even if we'd never been married," he said.

# PROJECT

From Page 1

changed to this year's recipients.

Introductions were given by Bill Armaline, director of CITE, and Kathy Faber, director of PCA.

The introductions were followed by a poem written by University Provost Shirley Baugher.

After that, the 2008 recipients of project grants were announced.

Thirteen separate groups were recognized for receiving grant money to support their projects.

The recipients were each awarded a plaque in recognition of the grant money.

Over the next year, recipients will attempt to put their programs' goals into action.

One such program is the Arts Enterprise for New Orleans. The program will allow University students and faculty to work with the New Orleans Outreach to improve the city's education system.

Nathaniel Zeisler, an assistant professor in the College of Musical Arts, said he hopes the program will bridge art and business students at the University in their attempts to help New Orleans continue its rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

"After Hurricane Katrina, an education system that was already failing went into disaster, and as they are rebuilding, the education system is rebuilding and reinventing the way they are thinking of the structure of education," Zeisler said.

# DONORS

From Page 1

we guide them along the way," said Laura Waltz of Do It Now.

Each campaign was allotted \$5,000 from a Toledo-based public relations firm to develop and fund a successful campaign.

Public relations students at the University will use their money to help meet their goal of 5,000 new registered donors in Wood, Sandusky and Henry counties. Right now the group has collected 31 percent of their goal, or 1,582 people. The University of Toledo, on the other hand, has a larger goal of 9,918 new donors and has already signed up 3,665 people.

"Registration goals were set for the universities in order to meet the federal goal," Waltz said.

Each university has a different goal depending on the population of its county. For example, the University of Cincinnati and the Ohio State University have larger goals than Ohio University and BGSU.

In May, the participating universities will come together to present their campaigns. The university that reaches its goal with the best campaign will win \$5,000.

Students can help save these lives in the future by registering to be an organ and tissue donor at any of the events. Those who wish to be an organ donor but are unable to attend one of the events throughout the week can go to <http://www.doitnowohio.org/bgsu/> to register.

# 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.

In Friday's issue of The BG News, a campus brief on the front page misspelled the name of Apsana Giri.

# MEMORIAL

From Page 1

Giri loved to dance at parties and was an "amazing cook."

Mazumdar would also try to help their guests have fun. "Her passion for music was known to everyone," Pillai said.

"She had a very melodious voice and she loved singing and making other people sing as well." In a picture slideshow presented by other international students, Mazumdar was pictured working on her laptop with the caption "DJ Sweetie."

She was also described as a nice person, good listener and good teacher.

Mazumdar came from India to pursue a master's degree in geology. She was awarded "Best Teaching Assistant Award 2007" by the geology department.

Geology professor Robert

Vincent said students loved Mazumdar in the classroom.

"Sweetie was somebody whose smile could light up an entire room," Vincent said.

To honor Mazumdar, the geology department created the "Sweetie Mazumdar Award" for the best graduate assistant of the previous year.

University President Sidney Ribeau said it is difficult when the University has to mourn the loss of its students.

"I know this is now the most difficult of times. There seems no rhyme or reason for what occurred to take them away from us," Ribeau said.

"But perhaps some comfort can be found in the fact that love does not diminish in the face of absence nor does memory or friendship. We are forever connected by the experiences we share, by our time together, by the ties we build."

# BLOTTER

THURSDAY

**11:23 A.M.**  
A woman driving a silver Mitsubishi Eclipse failed to pay for \$23 in gas from a North Main Street gas station.

**6:35 P.M.**  
A woman reported a man in a gray or blue hoodie tried to pull her into a van on Frazee Avenue.

FRIDAY

**3:05 A.M.**  
Kyle J. Kruse, 20, of Toledo, was issued a civil citation for urinating on South College Drive.

**3:04 P.M.**  
A subject in a blue vehicle failed to pay \$30.01 of gas from Kroger on North Main Street.

**3:27 P.M.**  
A man with a gray beard failed to pay \$15 of gas from Circle K on North Prospect Street.

**7:05 P.M.**  
Todd J. Sheldon, 21, of Bowling Green, was cited for drug abuse and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**10:09 P.M.**  
A juvenile was caught stealing pocket knives from Wal-Mart on West Gypsy Lane Road.

SATURDAY

**12:26**  
David W. Polacek, 19, of Bowling Green, was cited for open container and underage possession of alcohol.

**12:32 A.M.**  
Aaron Calhoun, 22, of Toledo, was arrested for possession of marijuana.

**12:55 A.M.**  
Christopher M. Young, 19, of Chicago, was cited for open container and underage possession of alcohol.

**1:00 A.M.**  
Stephen D. Gray, 19, of Westerville, Ohio, was issued a civil citation for urinating on East Court Street.

**1:07 A.M.**  
Nicholas J. Veselka, 20, of Bowling Green, was arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol and for urinating on East Wooster Street.

**1:08 A.M.**  
Caitlin M. Byrne, 21, of Bowling Green, was arrested for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

**1:46 A.M.**  
Two juveniles were cited for prohibited acts for trying to gain entry to Uptown/Downtown Sports Bar and Deli. They were also arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol and were transported to

Wood County Juvenile Detention Center.

**2:29 A.M.**  
Katie Cubbedge, 19, and Alexander J. Beat, 20, both of Toledo, were issued civil citations for urinating on East Reed Avenue.

**9:56 A.M.**  
Alissa Mindy Highley, 22, and Joseph M. Lipchek, 22, both of Bowling Green, were arrested for domestic violence. Police said both subjects were involved in an argument that resulted in Lipchek grabbing and pushing Highley against a wall. Police said Highley then bit Lipchek in the ear.

**10:55 A.M.**  
A man driving a red vehicle failed to pay \$47.07 of gas from Barney's Convenience Mart on East Wooster Street.

**12:39 P.M.**  
A subject in a black vehicle failed to pay \$17 of gas from Barney's Convenience Mart on North Main Street.

**10:54 P.M.**  
Timothy E. Heck, 19, of Payne, Ohio, and Amanda Jeanne Yoh, 20, of Van Wert, Ohio, were both cited for underage under the influence of alcohol.

**11:41 P.M.**  
Daniel R. Fial, 20, of Bowling Green, and Joseph N. Schiavone, 19, of Maumee, were both arrested for underage possession of alcohol. Schiavone was also arrested for open container of alcohol.

**12:34 A.M.**  
Steven P. Dunlap, 22, of Kettering, Ohio, was issued a civil citation for open container of alcohol. Fred Joseph Rodriguez, 19, of Defiance, Ohio, was cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

**1:08 A.M.**  
Dustin J. Canterbury, 19, of Rudolph, Ohio, was cited for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol.

**1:13 A.M.**  
Scott N. Brackman, 20, of Bowling Green, was cited for underage under the influence of alcohol.

**1:40 P.M.**  
Nicole Regina Coates, 20, of Bowling Green, Ill., and Amanda R. White, 18, of Walbridge, Ohio, were both arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol.

**2:27 A.M.**  
Chad W. Bruskottter, 25, of Ottawa, Ohio, and Sean P. O'drobinak, 22, of Bowling Green, were both cited for disorderly conduct for fighting.

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

From the age of thirty, humans gradually begin to shrink in size.



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**BGSU**

Message **12:10** Contacts

The Office



quote of the day...

"Yes, money has been a little bit tight lately. But, at the end of my life, when I'm sitting on my yacht, am I going to be thinking about how much money I have? No. I'm going to be thinking about, how many friends I have. And my children. And my comedy albums. I mean, I have a yacht so I obviously did pretty well money wise." - Michael Scott

ALL IS NOT QUIET AT THE WOOD COUNTY LIBRARY



BRIAN BORNHOEFT | THE BG NEWS

THE RIGHT NOTES: Walter Baker, pianist for the Bowling Green Chamber Players, performs Beethoven's Sonata No. 31 in A-flat major at the Wood County Library yesterday.

GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

- 7 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
**Presidents Day Easel**  
301 Union
- 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
**Alumni Affairs**  
314 Union
- 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**PLA Presidents Day**  
207 Union
- 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
**Presidents Day Alumni**  
316 Union
- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Bake Sale**  
Union Table Space
- 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Campus Tours**  
201B Union
- 1 - 4 p.m.  
**RSA Annual Ice Sculpture**  
Union Oval

- 1 - 5 p.m.  
**Teacher Open House**  
301 Education Building
- 2 - 4 p.m.  
**Guess the Amount in the Jar**  
Union Table Space
- 5 - 6:30 p.m.  
**Seminar: The Business of Broadway**  
Bryan Recital Hall
- 7 - 11 p.m.  
**"White Man's Burden"**  
Union Theater
- 8 p.m.  
**Music at the Forefront Series: Marilyn Nonken**  
Bryan Recital Hall
- 9 p.m.  
**Pub Trivia Night**  
Black Swamp Pub

Rock-a-Thon volunteers raise money for cancer research

By Kelly Metz  
Reporter

Alpha Tau Omega helped "rock the cure" on Saturday to benefit the American Cancer Society.

The second annual ATO Rock-a-Thon started at 7 p.m. and continued until 7 a.m. yesterday, bringing teams of three to five individuals to rock in rocking chairs. Each team had to have at least one member in the rocking chair at all times.

The 12-hour event was a huge success. ATO philanthropy chair Johnnie Lewis said. There were estimated to be 175 to 200 participants, and throughout the night, up to 275 people came to support the cause and the rockers.

"It seemed this year, a lot more people came out than last year," said Devin Conklin, ATO brother. "It was good to see so many people coming together for one common cause."

The cause was chosen last year after much debate over whether ATO should sponsor a worldwide cause such as hunger. Cancer was chosen because it hits closer to home and is something everyone can relate to, Lewis said.

"We really wanted anyone involved to have fun all night," he said. "But we needed to remind them what they were there for, so we had slideshows running and we shared our stories."

To provide a better forum for sharing stories, the "community hour" was new to the Rock-a-Thon this year, said Eric Young, one of the three ATO emcees.

During the hour, the three

**"It was a very serious and emotional time because we all know someone with cancer, or know someone who knows someone. It really helped people see and feel our cause."**

Eric Young | ATO Emcee

emcees, Brendan Carroll, Young and Lewis, all shared stories of personal experiences with cancer and how it affected them.

"It was a chance for people to remember why we were there," Young said. "It was a very serious and emotional time because we all know someone with cancer, or know someone who knows someone. It really helped people see and feel our cause."

Lewis said it is important for people to understand this event is more than just a form of Greek philanthropy.

After the community hour, music was reintroduced to the dining center and everyone talked about experiences and started becoming more energetic, an energy that lasted all night, Carroll said.

Random dance parties were scheduled at peak exhaustion hours, trivia questions were asked to grant people a 15-minute rocking pass and prizes were

given through a raffle.

All the prizes were donated from area businesses such as Wal-Mart and Kroger, which gave gift cards, and the University Bookstore, which donated an iPod. CD players, hooded sweatshirts and free haircuts were also among the prizes given.

The chairs were an even bigger donation, Lewis said, which came from Cracker Barrels in Findlay and Perrysburg. ATO held a voluntary mini Rock-a-Thon at the Findlay store last week, which brought in donations and helped increase the chair donation to 25 from last year's 20.

For first-time participants like Tiffany Bennett of Phi Mu sorority, the event was eye-opening and amazing.

"A few of my sisters did the Rock-a-Thon last year, and when we heard about it, we knew we had to do it again," she said.

Lewis said he sees the Rock-a-Thon becoming much bigger in the future because cancer affects everyone. He said even though the BGSU Rock-a-Thon currently consists of college kids rocking, it will someday be bigger and spread to the community.

"The Rock-a-Thon will be an annual event, even after those who started it have graduated," he said. "It is a success and will continue to be a success, and I have faith in my fraternity and I believe they will exceed our expectations."

WEB: Check out photos from the Rock-a-Thon at [www.bgnews.com](http://www.bgnews.com)

GSS explains end to rollover

Leftover money to go toward renovating campus dining halls

By Kate Snyder  
Reporter

Starting next year, students' meal plans will not roll over.

Last Friday, the Graduate Student Senate discussed why the rollover plan is being discontinued.

Previously, students' leftover meal-plan money was automatically added to the next semester and could still be used. Next year, though, the University will begin keeping the leftover money.

Because it gives students back money every year, Dining

Services have no idea how much money it may have year to year, Parliamentarian Steve Lerer said, and so the organization can't budget its money. The money will be used for renovation of the dining halls.

"They can't renovate dining halls if they can't budget money," Lerer said.

The GSS also spoke about the proposed meal plan rates for 2009. The average meal-plan increase is 4.73 percent, while the food increase is from 4.5 to 5.5 percent. The proposed semester room rates for 2009 have an average increase of

2.83 percent.

The Top 10 Graduate Concerns was also discussed at the meeting.

A resolution was proposed to make it official to address those concerns they have control over and do their best to take the issues seriously and request the University to do something.

An update was also announced on the budgeting for next year. The Student Budget Committee went through 117 budgets so far, and it finished up the last 64 this past weekend.

Roadkill Casserole

Did you know that in West Virginia, if you run over an animal, you can legally take it home and cook it for dinner!

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Perrysburg 25996 N Dixie Hwy 419-873-0911	North Towne 222 W Alexis 419-476-7121	Bowling Green 999 S Main St 419-352-5788
Woodville 3725 Williston Rd 419-698-1863	South Toledo 750 S Reynolds 419-535-3033	Monroe, Michigan 1986 N Telegraph 800-498-6009
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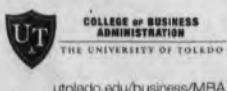
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## PEOPLE ON THE STREET Are you an organ donor? [see story, p. 1]



"Yeah. Why not?"

**SPENCER JACOBS,**  
Junior, Aviation Studies



"No. I just never thought about it."

**TAMARA LAWRENCE,**  
Junior, Journalism



"Yes. Once I die I don't need my body."

**MATT GRAMZA,**  
Sophomore, Construction Management



"Yes. You don't really need them after you die, and it's for a good cause."

**SARAH BROWN,**  
Sophomore, Biology

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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.

### OUR VIEW

## A way to save meal plan rollover

It's not too late to save our meal plan rollover, is it?

After a few years of "here today, gone tomorrow, here again" treatment, Dining Services has apparently pulled the plug on allowing students to keep their unused meal plan dollars from one year to the next.

But now there's a twist: Upperclassmen won't be grandfathered into a rollover plan.

Getting rid of rollover hurts students in several ways. But all hope isn't lost.

The system offers huge benefits to students. They can save money if they over-budget spending on one year. They can have an easy option to eat even, after they move off-campus. They won't spend hundreds on junk food at the end of each year if they don't spend their money.

Yet Dining Services is in a difficult position. It's one of the few campus entities whose purpose is to make a profit. Combine that with students who demand dining halls offer everything they can get with an off-campus meal, and it's tough.

Not coincidentally, Dining Services says it needs

the extra cash to help pay for a renovation of the MacDonald dining hall.

But why can't we have both? Now that students realize the huge financial loss they could be walking into, maybe they'll be willing to cut back on some amenities in a new dining hall.

Dining Services should offer a campus-wide forum where students can find out what will be put into the dining hall and what can be taken out.

Dining Services can tell students what would have to cut to keep rollover. Students can tell Dining Services which deal they'd prefer.

Who knows how the deal would turn out. Maybe it can't work.

But when Dining Services claims it needs to cut one student service to better another, why not make sure it's doing things right? All it has to do is ask.

### YOU DECIDE

What would you give up to keep meal plan rollover? Send an e-mail to [thenews@bgnews.com](mailto:thenews@bgnews.com) and tell us what you think, or post feedback on our Web site.

### WEB SITE POLL

**Q:** One month in, how is this semester comparing to Fall semester?

**A lot harder. I'm freezing cold and pulling all-nighters: 52%**

**Piece of cake! I get my homework done early and kick back with some hot chocolate: 23%**

**About the same. I do my homework but at least I make hot chocolate, too: 15%**

**Not sure yet. Ask me when it's actually spring: 10%**

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

## Time to rethink affirmative action?



**GREG CHICK**  
COLUMNIST

I'm all for diversity. Getting people together of different backgrounds and perspectives contributes to the greater good. It enlightens and strengthens our culture and society as a whole. What I'm not down with, however, is unequal treatment.

If two people apply for a job, college admission, scholarship or other scrutinized entity, should one be given better treatment than the other because of their skin color?

If you had read that sentence 50 years ago, you would have assumed I was speaking about racism against African-Americans and how white individuals were unfairly given preference. Nowadays, we know this statement is more reflective of institutional and organizational practices designed to ensure diversity in specific environments.

Why then, is affirmative action undertaken? In response to Brown v. Board of Education and racial desegregation, organizations had to respond to public criticisms of racism. Wanting to appear credible and embracing of diversity in a period of heightened awareness, organizations had to do something.

What better remedy, then, to draft practices that gave special consideration to race? Given the centuries of slavery and unfair treatment African-Americans endured, creating deliberate attempts to make amends for past injustices initially seemed logical.

After desegregation, through the civil rights movement, and with more socially conscious generations of individuals, African-Americans slowly and steadily gained access. Education, employment and government assistance, however flawed, were open to traditionally underrepresented groups.

Affirmative action began to reflect a practice undertaken to ensure a more diverse environment. Recent Supreme Court decisions show where the country stands now.

Jennifer Gratz was denied admission to University of Michigan as an undergraduate and filed a lawsuit against the institution. Michigan had a 150-point scale that candidates were graded on, with 100 points needed to be guaranteed admission. The University gave students of "underrepresented" ethnic groups an automatic 20-point bonus on their scale. In 2003 the Supreme Court found this methodology to be unconstitutional because it was too mechanistic and in violation of the Equal Protections Clause of the 14th Amendment.

Barbara Grutter was also denied admission, but to University of Michigan's Law School. The Law School used race as a "predominant" factor in admission decisions, just one of many considerations in

**"Let's have a discussion about how rightly we can ensure a diverse environment for all of us."**

their decision making process. This practice was upheld by the Supreme Court.

In the decisions made in the Grutter case, justices on both sides of the issue agreed that within 25 years this should not be an issue. They believe in that time frame, society should move to a point where racial intolerance is a non-issue and should not play a role in an admissions process.

Racial quotas are unfair. Permitting admittance of unqualified individuals to achieve some type of racial proportionalism is illogical. The practice of affirmative action has two major consequences.

It permits unqualified individuals admittance to an environment they otherwise would not have entered. Now initially we may all think this is a positive experience for the individual, but their lack of merit may show in their performance. Unqualified students admitted under affirmative action practices may not have the skills necessary to succeed in certain environments. It would be to their benefit not to be admitted so as to find another opportunity elsewhere that better fits them.

The second consequence is qualified students will be left out. Many individuals under affirmative action practices who otherwise would be fully qualified for admittance will be left with the difficult fact that they were rejected based solely on their race. This reverse discrimination will fuel a new form of racism that is in opposition to the years of progress this country has made.

Already, a movement has been started across the country to change this. Notably California, Washington and Florida have banned the consideration of race in all government contracting, hiring and state-supported education. As a state and a nation we need to critically assess the justifications we have for using affirmative action and decide if we are willing to live with the consequences of that decision.

The Supreme Court has already laid out a specific time-frame for us to move forward. Their explicit nudge is good, but we need to be ahead of the curve.

Diversity is a good thing. It makes us a better institution, state and country. But let's not unfairly and wrongly achieve this admirable goal. Let's have a discussion about how rightly we can ensure a diverse environment for all of us, not at the expense of qualified individuals being left out.

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

## You can't tell me what love is



**BENJAMIN SWANSON**  
COLUMNIST

**"You cannot tell a gay or lesbian person that there is something wrong with homosexuality and expect any form of kindness to come across: You've just debased their love."**

When I heard that the h2o church had planned to feature Jerry Armelli, a speaker from "Exodus Ministries," I was angry (most gay students here were), but I was also very shocked.

The h2o church that I knew, though not affirming, was welcoming and kind. The work of "ex-gay" organizations like Exodus is considered unethical and harmful by every major psychological organization, the things they say about gays and lesbians (and anyone else they "help") border on slander, and to associate Christ with their work is plain and pure blasphemy. The two groups just don't fit together.

After the event, one of h2o's staff members admitted that they hadn't intended to be offensive by inviting him, and had hoped that a loving message would have come across, rather than one of hostility.

Unfortunately, the message that Exodus brings with it is not one of love. What they say is offensive no matter how thickly it's covered in a shiny Christian veneer. You cannot tell a gay or lesbian person that there is something wrong with homosexuality and expect any form of kindness to come across: You've

just debased their love. To label someone's sexuality as a sin is to attack that person's love.

Homosexuality is the desire to connect with someone of the same sex — to connect emotionally, physically and spiritually. It isn't anything more or less.

And to say that homosexuality as the opposite of heterosexuality distracts from the most important thing about both: desire. The only difference, the only way that the two sexualities can be considered opposites, is whether or not the lovers' bodies match each other.

The difference between the two sexualities is so trivial. When it comes to love, people aren't hardware. Our bodies aren't USB devices, and sex isn't a tool to accomplish some other goal.

Sex isn't about having children, or anything else except a connection between two people, whether it's a physical connection for one night, or an emotional connection that lasts a lifetime.

When a person stands and calls homosexuality sinful or dirty, they attack that connection. You cannot attack that sort of thing lovingly. Why a gay person is offended by a mes-

sage like Armelli's comes down to something very simple: He debases love.

It doesn't matter if that person is gay, straight, bisexual or anything else. When you call someone's love "sick" or dismiss it as a "lifestyle," you've attacked the best thing that they have.

Love is something that influences what we do, and who we are — the love that Armelli tries to cure people of is the same love that starts families, the same that makes marriage so beautiful.

Marriage is beautiful because it's two people pledging to be together for the rest of their lives. Two people pledging to selflessly give to each other. To say that someone needs to be cured of that love is unquestionably offensive.

Being gay isn't something that's chosen. Neither is it a sickness that can be prayed away or exorcised. Neither is it a lifestyle that can be cast off as easily as changing one's clothes.

It all comes down to whom a person loves, and it's not something that needs to be "cured." It's not a sickness, and it is not a sin. Pure, selfless love is never a sin.

In the end, those like Armelli are wasting their words when they say they love gay people. You cannot insult the very purest part of a person in one breath and claim to love them the next. And you definitely cannot show God's love to a person while you debase theirs. God doesn't work that way.

— Respond to Benjamin at [thenews@bgnews.com](mailto:thenews@bgnews.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Here's a chance to make change at the University

University Dining Services is going to change its meal plan offerings. However, this is not set in stone and now is your opportunity to make your voice heard.

Tonight at 7:30 in Union 308, USG will have their weekly general assembly meeting. Among those who will be speaking will be Joseph Oravec, associate vice president for Student Affairs; Gail Finan, Dining Services director; and Michael Griffel, director of Residence Life. All will be discussing their budgets for next year.

This is a perfect opportunity for you, the students, to ask the questions you've always wanted to ask: Why take away rollover? Why decrease the number of on-campus apartments? What's going to happen to Mac dining? Why is Rodgers lacking the heat it needs? What are your plans for the future?

We have a unique opportunity to have three administrators in the same room at the same time to discuss what they are going to do with your money! Do not let this pass you by.

USG will also be discussing the condensing of BGEX, Ohio's master plan for higher education, and many other items. Very rarely do we have so many important agenda items that require our (and your) immediate action.

I am personally extending an invitation to all members of the BGSU community to ask questions, participate in discussion and really see us in action! See you tonight at 7:30 in Union 308.

— Jeremy Lehman  
Undergraduate Student Government Speaker  
Junior, AYA Social Studies

### SPEAK YOUR MIND

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

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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.

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## The BG News Submission Policy

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

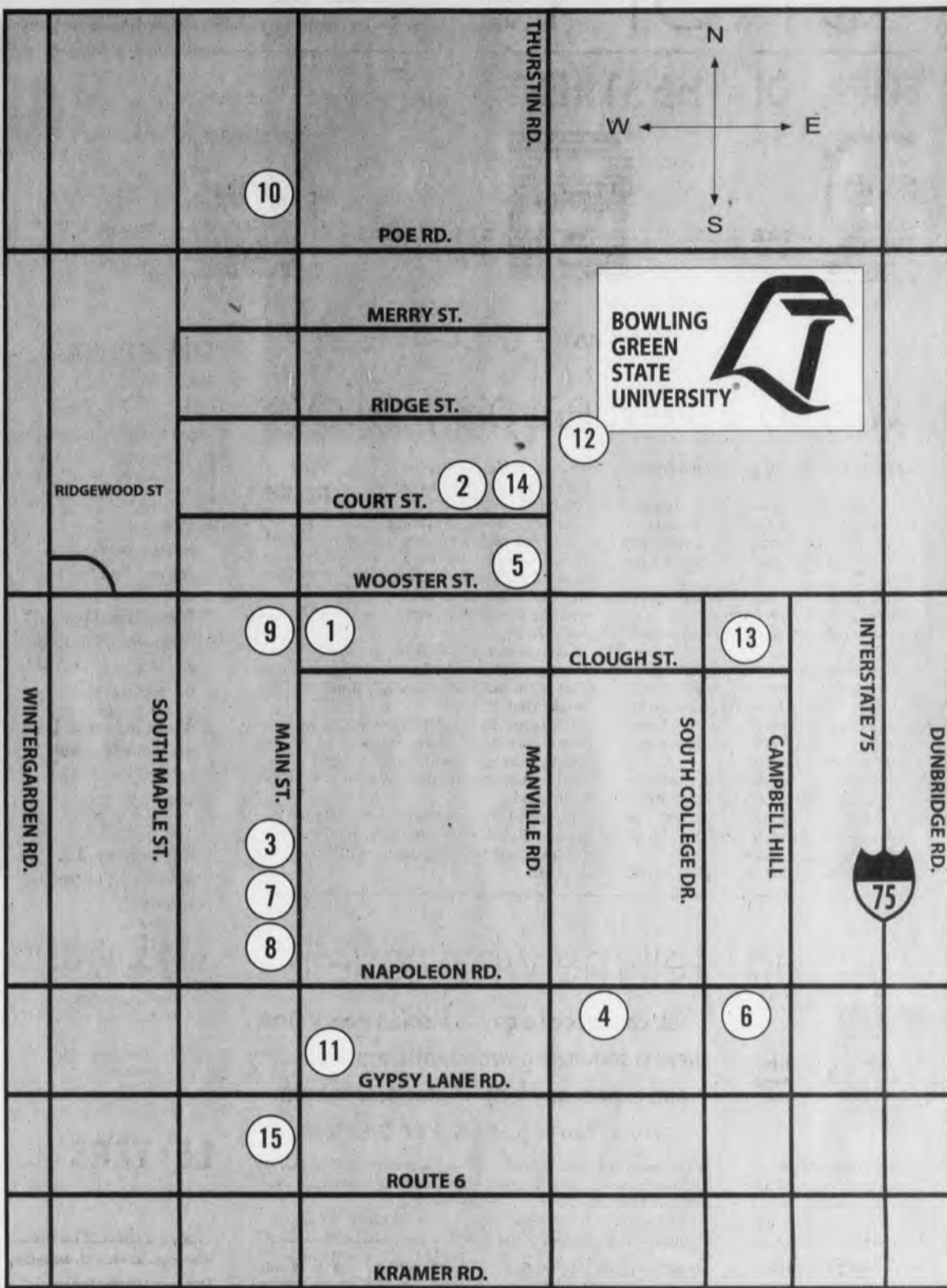
**POLICIES:** Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous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

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

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RICHARD DREW | AP PHOTO

**CLOSER LOOK:** New York City police and firefighters inspect the bomb crater inside the World Trade center on Feb. 27, 1993. With the 15th anniversary approaching, the days before the blast mark the last time when Americans were unaware of the dangers of terrorism.

# Church members hold vigil for NIU shooting victims

By Ashley M. Heher and Caryn Rousseau  
The Associated Press

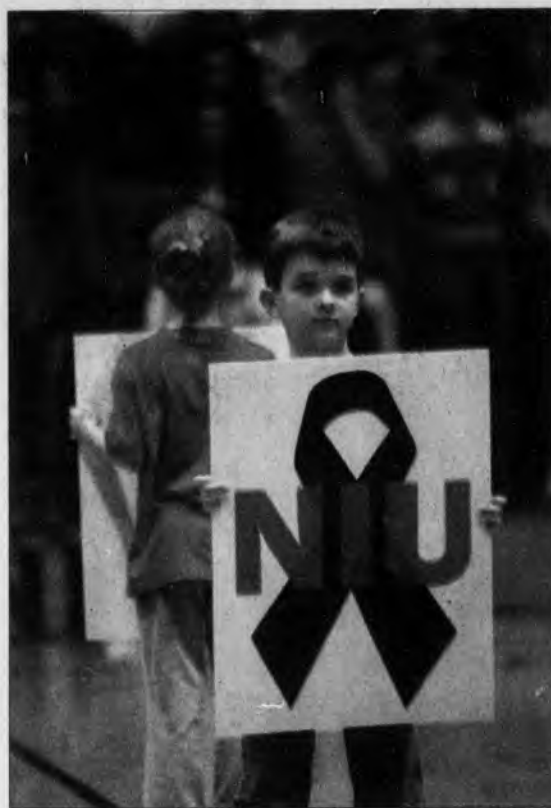
DEKALB, Ill. — Churchgoers remembered the victims of the Northern Illinois University shooting rampage yesterday with prayers and support for the school and family members.

At First Baptist Church of DeKalb, members passed out red ribbons to several dozen people who attended a morning service. The Rev. Joe Sanders offered prayers for the families of victims and relatives of the gunman who killed five students and wounded 16 other people in a lecture hall Thursday before taking his own life.

"Our spirit cannot help, cannot even begin, to grasp the horror that we have seen," Sanders told those gathered. "I'm never going to be the same. I don't think any of us will be the same. The way we think and live will be altered by what happened at NIU."

In the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook, worshippers at Christ Church were asked to rally around Gary and Linda Parmenter, whose 20-year-old son, Daniel, was killed in the shooting.

"We think of unexpected and unexplained violence that strikes our family," the Rev. Doug Calhoun prayed. "We grieve and we shudder. We know there's no answer to this."



SUE OGROCK | AP PHOTO

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** Jarrett Sykes, 6, and Sophie Jones, 9, hold a Northern Illinois University sign during a moment of silence before a basketball game Saturday.

# Bombing anniversary calls for national reflection on impact of terrorism

By Larry Neumeister  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The 1993 World Trade Center bombing left a giant crater in the basement of the 110-story twin towers and an even larger hole in the nation's sense of security.

With the 15th anniversary approaching, the days before the bomb blast appear to mark the last time when millions of Americans went about their business, unaware of the dangers posed by international terrorism.

"Not an awful lot of people thought about how vulnerable we were," recalled Joseph Guccione, the U.S. marshal for New York. "It was a terrible lesson that was learned."

Lower Manhattan tried to armor itself — only to learn the limits of protection just eight years later.

All the steel barriers, restricted access, closed streets, security gates and gun-toting security guards that tens of millions of dollars could buy could not stop the two hijacked airliners that

brought down the trade center.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, security has been ramped up even more across Manhattan. More guards. More barriers. Higher fences. More video cameras.

Yet millions of Americans live in fear of another terrorist attack, with the anxiety particularly strong in Washington and New York, the two cities hit on Sept. 11.

All of it can arguably be traced back to Feb. 26, 1993, when a homemade bomb mixed by a group of men in Jersey City, N.J., was carried into the trade center garage in a yellow van and exploded shortly after noon, killing six people.

More than 1,000 people were injured fleeing the buildings on that cold dreary day. With the electricity knocked out, the buildings stood in darkness that night for the first time since they were built two decades earlier.

Weeks later, authorities infiltrated a group of Islamic militants who were followers of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, the spiritual leader of the trade

center bombers, and learned that a plot was being developed to blow up five landmarks in Manhattan in the summer of 1993.

As the years passed, more plots were unraveled.

By 1995, investigators had focused their sights on Osama bin Laden; separately, plans to blow up a dozen airliners headed to the U.S. from the Far East were discovered in a Philippines apartment where Ramzi Yousef, mastermind of the 1993 trade center attack, lived.

With more threats and bombings in the late 1990s, including the attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa, security in lower Manhattan was tightened even more, some of it paid for with funding in anti-terrorism bills passed by Congress.

Giant planters were put around the trade center to prevent truck bombings.

City Hall Park was redesigned to boost security and limit access. Soon, the steps of City Hall were closed off to the public, unless people were screened in security tents set up outside.

# U.N. worker dies after 19-story fall

By John Heilprin  
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — A woman who worked for the United Nations died yesterday after falling from the 19th floor of the U.N.'s Secretariat Building, authorities said.

Police and U.N. security officers at the scene, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, said the 45-year-old woman had jumped from a

window after showing up to work early in the morning.

"A U.N. agency staff member died after falling from the 19th floor of the U.N. Secretariat Building," U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said. "At this time there is no suspicion of foul play."

Okabe said U.N. officials would not confirm her identity even after her next of kin were notified.

The official cause of death was to be determined by the medical examiner.

U.N. staff rushed to the scene and escorted investigators to the rear area of the building, where yellow tape was put up around the woman's body.

Some U.N. staff were blocked from leaving the building just after the discovery.

In 1982, a 57-year-old senior U.N. official who had just resigned from the Office of Financial Services and was reported to have been upset about his failing health plunged to his death from the 18th floor.

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## SIDELINES



### BASKETBALL

#### James leads East All-Stars to 134-128 victory in New Orleans

LeBron James recorded 27 points, nine rebounds and eight assists and garnered MVP honors as the visiting East All-Stars downed the West last night.

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### BOXING

#### Pavlik has new career goals

After winning his rematch with Jermain Taylor Saturday night, middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik has plans to achieve his career goal of unifying his WBC and WBO belts with the WBA and IBF titles.

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### ONLINE

#### The BG News Sports Blog

Log on to The BG News Sports Blog for updates and inside information on all of your favorite BG teams. The blog is also good for live updates during hockey and men's and women's basketball games.

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

## OUR CALL

### Today in Sports History

**1986**—San Antonio's Alvin Robertson records the NBA's second-ever quadruple double.

**1967**—Softball pitcher Eddie Feigner strikes out six major leaguers.

**1909**—Boston Red Sox trade Cy Young to the Cleveland Naps.

### The List

We totally dig NBA All Star Weekend, so today we're counting down five of the coolest moments from the weekend's festivities.

#### 1. Dwight's dunks:

Dwight Howard owned the Slam Dunk Challenge. He brought some much-needed creativity to the table.

#### 2. Gibson's range:

Cleveland's Daniel Gibson drained 11 three-pointers in the Rookies vs. Sophomores game. He was on fire.

**3. Alley-oop:** In the same Rookie/Sophomore game, Sean Williams of the Nets threw the ball off the glass to himself and slammed it home.

#### 4. Kaponov can shoot:

Toronto's Jason Kaponov won his second Three-Point Shootout in the last three years.

#### 5. The big game:

With nasty dunks, fast breaks and no defense whatsoever, the NBA All Star Game is always entertaining to watch.



DETRICK HALE | THE BG NEWS

**GOING GLASS:** BG forward Chris Knight attempts a layup during Saturday's game.

## Men's hoops drops tight game to Akron

By Bill Bordewick  
Assistant Sports Editor

Free throws are supposed to be easy. They are designed to serve as a penalty for an infraction committed by the opposing team. On Saturday, they served as a penalty for the Falcons.

In the 65-56 loss to Akron, the Falcons were only able to convert on 11 of their 22 free tosses. Akron, meanwhile, converted 18 of their 24 attempts.

"Our guys competed and they fought — Akron's really a good basketball team," said BG coach Louis Orr. "But competing is not enough, you got to play well. You can't hurt yourself."

BG hurt itself a lot on Saturday. The team turned the ball over 18 times and that led to 26 points for the Zips.

The Falcon shortcomings in free shooting and turnovers negated their advantage in rebounds and points in the paint.

"To get the prize at the end, you make it hard on yourself when you commit 18 turnovers that leads to 26 points and when you go 11 for 22 from the line," Orr said. "Those are areas that you have complete control over."

While the Falcons were unable to stop from beating themselves, the Zips took advantage of their opportunities.

Akron only turned the ball over 10 times and that only led to seven Falcon points. The Zips were also able to convert on their free throw opportunities.

The normally poor shooting Zips from the foul line were able to pull it together to make 10-of-11 free throws attempted during the final minute of the game, which sealed the loss for BG.

The three biggest of those free

See **FOUL SHOT** | Page 8



BENCH SPARK: Freshman forward Jen Uhl scored 13 points off the bench against EMU.

BRIAN BORNHOEFFT | THE BG NEWS

# Falcons grind out home victory

## Women's basketball survives cold shooting, wins with tough defense down the stretch

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

Pink shoelaces. Pink headbands. It was "Think Pink" night at Anderson Arena.

While much of the evening was dedicated to promoting breast cancer awareness, the BG women's basketball game against Eastern Michigan made 1,763 spectators painfully aware of some fairly ugly basketball.

In a game that featured two tough defenses playing for first place in their respective divisions, made shots were at a

premium in BG's 57-43 victory over Eastern.

"It wasn't a pretty game," said BG coach Curt Miller. "I don't think either team would be real happy with the way they played. But I do believe it's not an atypical game for two teams fighting for first place."

The first half of Saturday night's game featured enough missed shots to make a brick-layer blush. EMU went into halftime with a 22-18 lead. The 18 points was one of BG's lowest first-half outputs of the season.

The shooting percentages for

both teams also left much to be desired. Eastern finished the half at 24.3 percent from the field. BG, despite being down only four points, shot a frigid 16.7 percent.

Eastern and BG also had 10 and 11 turnovers, respectively.

"I think being down four and only making a handful of shots in the first half, I think we were feeling pretty good about ourselves even though we were playing so poorly," said guard

See **GRIND** | Page 8

## The crowd was a major factor in BG's win

By Bill Bordewick  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons shot a chilly 16 percent in the first half and needed to find a spark — good thing they were at home.

The Anderson Arena throng of more than 1,700 rose to the occasion in the second half and was basically able to will the Falcons to victory.

"The crowd was phenomenal tonight," said BG coach Curt Miller. "I think if this was a road game and we shoot the way we do early, I think that we may have folded and drifted off to an easy, unfortunate defeat."

They were not on the road, though. They were in the friendly confines of "The House that Roars."

With the crowd behind them, BG erased any memory of making only four of 24 shots in the first half and responded by shooting 51 percent in the second half.

Chants of defense filled the arena throughout the second half and the Falcons responded.

"Our fans were great tonight," said BG guard Kate Achter.

BG was able to hold Eastern Michigan to only five points in the final 10 minutes of the game.

The Falcons, meanwhile, scored 22 points in that same time frame. Once Crystal Murdaugh hit a turnaround jumper to give the Falcons a 41-40 advantage, the rest was history.

"[The crowd] needs to know that they were a huge part of our success tonight," Miller said. "They were a huge story in why we won."

Two freshmen, Lauren Prochaska and Jen Uhl, may have been the biggest benefactors of the crowd support down the stretch.

Prochaska had 11 points in the second half, including two big three-pointers to increase the margin. The freshman's performance in the second half came on the heels of maybe one of her worst halves of the season.

She made only one of her seven shots and turned the ball over twice.

"I struggled shooting in the first half and I just came out and stayed confident," Prochaska said.

Uhl also responded to the crowd and put up 10 points in the second half.

The crowd cannot put the ball in the basket themselves but they can certainly change the course of the momentum of the game.

And it certainly did on Saturday.

See **CROWD** | Page 8

## Offense was lacking in Akron loss

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

With 6:13 left to play in the second half of Saturday's game, a winning opportunity knocked for the BG men's basketball team.

The opportunity was two-fold. First, a layup from Brian Moten gave BG a 50-47 lead over Akron — its largest of the entire game. Second, it was a chance to shake off a rough loss on Akron's home floor in January.

At last, BG was going to get revenge for the 80-44 loss to the Zips. Or so it seemed.

In just over a minute, Akron guard Nick Dials sank two free throws, and with them, the hopes of the Falcons and the 2,003 fans in attendance in Anderson Arena.

See **OFFENSE** | Page 8



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**SPLITSVILLE:** The BG hockey team split its weekend series with Nebraska-Omaha this past weekend. They've split their last three series.

## BG hockey splits weekend games at Nebraska-Omaha

By Ethan Magoc  
Reporter

The Falcon hockey team split yet another Central Collegiate Hockey Association series this weekend.

For those of you counting at home, that's five of the last seven weekends since winter break ended. It was a different type of split, however, than the Falcons have lately become accustomed to.

On Friday, they lost to Nebraska-Omaha 5-3 in front of 5,197 fans at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

Up until this point in the season, if they lost Friday's game, the Falcons were doomed to suffer a sweep on Saturday.

But not this time.

BG put both themselves and the Mavericks back at the .500 mark with a 3-1 victory Saturday night. The win came at a crucial time because the loss the night before had enabled Ferris State to

leapfrog the Falcons in the CCHA point standings.

"The overall picture is that there are five teams fighting for four home-ice spots [in the playoffs]," said BG coach Scott Paluch. "That's a big, big goal of ours and we know that earning points this weekend gives us a real good chance of fighting for that fifth spot."

The Falcons (15-15-0, 12-12-0 CCHA) finished the weekend where they started — sitting two points back of the Mavericks (14-14-4, 11-11-4) for fifth-place and the first home-ice playoff seed. BG also allowed Ferris (13-12-5, 10-10-4) to catch them for a share of sixth-place.

Not exactly any progress being made.

But what the Falcons did accomplish, now that a first-round bye

See **HOCKEY** | Page 8



# East takes All-Star Game behind James' dunk

By Tom Withers  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — In a proud city still restoring its unique beauty, the Eastern Conference repaired its own image.

Ray Allen scored 28 points, making three straight 3-pointers in the final 3:15, and LeBron James added 27 as the East, widely considered the NBA's weaker half, beat the Western Conference 134-128 in last night's All-Star Game.

Last year, the West humiliated the East in a 153-132 rout in Las Vegas when Kobe Bryant and Co. rewrote the event's record books. However, this time led by Allen's 14 fourth-quarter points and a stunning dunk by James with 55 seconds left, the East salvaged some pride and can return to the season's second half with bragging rights.

James, who added nine assists and eight rebounds, was the MVP for the second time in three years. He also won the honor in 2006.

Amare Stoudemire, Brandon Roy and Carmelo Anthony scored 18 points apiece to lead the West, which trailed by 13 entering the fourth quarter and rallied behind New Orleans' Chris Paul. The guard's seventh assist of the final period set up Roy's layup to give the West a 122-119 lead.



ERIC GAY | AP PHOTO

**WHAM WITH THE RIGHT HAND:** The East's LeBron James dunks home the go-ahead points in last night's NBA All-Star Game.

But Boston's Allen, the final player added to either roster, knocked down his second 3-pointer in 48 seconds to tie it before Paul answered with a 3 of his own, sending the hometown crowd into a frenzy.

Allen finally missed and James poked away the ball and

then came up with the night's most stirring moment.

Slashing through the lane, Cleveland's megastar rose and dunked over several West defenders, much like he did in Game 5 of last year's Eastern Conference finals in Detroit when he scored the Cavaliers'

final 25 points.

Paul was called for an offensive foul on the West's next trip. Dwyane Wade hit a layup and Allen scored to make it 131-125. Roy's 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds brought the West within three, but Allen made three free throws to close it out.

## HOCKEY

From Page 7

is almost certainly out of reach, is to stave off the four hungry basement teams (Alaska, Ohio State, Lake Superior and Western Michigan).

Saturday's win gave BG a four-point cushion between itself and Alaska, a team they would most certainly like to see finish below eighth in the standings.

This advantage looked scanty at best after Friday's loss because Northern Michigan had taken both points from Ohio State and looked poised to catch BG.

The Falcons played rather poorly out of the gate Friday, surrendering an 11-4 shot advantage to the Mavericks, as well as a 1-0 UNO lead. Three minutes later, Derek Whitmore got his team back into the game when he gathered power play assists from Dan Sexton and Slovakia native Tomas Petruska to tie the game

at one. Whitmore's co-captain, John Mazzei, opened the second period with his fourth goal of the year to give BG a 2-1 advantage.

It would be the last lead the Falcons saw all night.

UNO scored the next two goals, one by Joey Martin and one by Petruska's Slovakian counterpart Tomas Klempa, to take back the lead at 3-2 with five minutes to go in the second.

Whitmore returned the favor to Sexton on the power play with 21 seconds left before the third period to tie the game at three, but that third period would belong entirely to the Mavericks.

Klempa picked up his 10th assist of the year on Brandon Scero's power play goal, and JJ Koehler put a puck through Jimmy Spratt's empty crease at 19:35 of the third period to cap the score at 5-3 UNO.

With Friday night's loss in hand, BG was just 2-13 during games in which they gave up the first goal. Thus, when Martin bagged

## "The overall picture is that there are five teams fighting for four home-ice spots."

Scott Paluch | BG hockey coach

his 14th goal of the season for the Mavericks with less than a minute to play in the first period on Saturday, one might say that the outlook was bleak for the Falcons.

Bleak, that is, if number 21 hadn't dressed in orange that night.

After John Mazzei tied the game at one a little over two minutes into the second period, Mr. Whitmore effectively took the game into his own hands as he has done quite a few times this season.

He scored his 25th and 26th goals of the season on the power play at 16:15 of the second and 00:41 of the third, respectively, to give the Falcons a permanent 3-1 lead.

Then, despite being out shot 17-4 for the final 20 minutes of the weekend, the Falcons pulled

out their 15th victory of the season for just the fourth winter of this millennium.

This was due in no small part to freshman goaltender Nick Eno, who stopped over 30 pucks for the fourth time in his young career to pick up his 10th win.

This might seem like quite an advanced workload for a kid who just turned 19 last Tuesday, but like a puck hitting his pads, Eno appears to be soaking it all in.

"I like seeing more shots, you know, get a sweat going," said Eno. "It gets you more into the game than when you only see 15 shots a game and you're just sitting back there."

"Last year [in juniors], we didn't have the best team, so there were a few times when I'd see 40 or 50 shots a night, so I'm used to it."

## FOUL SHOT

From Page 7

throws attempted came from Nick Dials, who was fouled by BG guard Brian Moten while shooting a three. Dials calmly stepped to the line and made all three to push the Zip advantage to four with 47 seconds

in the game.

"Cardinal rule — you never foul a jump shooter," Orr said of the Moten foul. "Brian was just competing — trying to contest."

Akron, playing without leading scorer Jeremiah Wood, got a very balanced scoring day from its starting five.

Dials, Cedrick Middleton and

Nate Linhart all put up 14 points on the day, and forward Chris McKnight also found double-figures by posting 10 points.

Akron coach Keith Dambrot noted how the loss of Wood has improved his team's depth because other players are getting the opportunity to show what they can do.

"[The loss of Wood] has allowed us to play our young kids," Dambrot said. "If we can get him back playing at a high level, I think we're capable of beating a lot of people in this league."

While not young players, seniors

Dials and Middleton proved they still knew how to win after all of the winning that the program has experienced the last four years with Romeo Travis and Dru Joyce.

The Falcons have not proven to consistently find ways to win. Hence, you get games like what happened on Saturday where the team played well, but saw it all unravel because of the simplest aspect of the game — free throw shooting.

"It's a free shot — it's a free opportunity to score," Orr said of the poor shooting.

## GRIND

From Page 7

Kate Achter.

In the second half, EMU was able to increase their lead in the early going. With a shade over 15 minutes to play in the game, they led 29-22. But then BG turned up the defense and got themselves back into position to win.

The last nine minutes of the game featured a 23-3 BG run that squelched EMU's lead, continually brought the raucous Anderson Arena crowd to its feet and produced the Falcons' fourth straight win.

Even the shooting improved — at least for BG. While Eastern shot 29.2 percent in the second half, the Falcons shot 51.9 percent, making 14 shots from the field. Freshman guard Lauren Prochaska led the way with 17 points and eight rebounds.

The change in offensive production in both halves was extremely noticeable, especially when the Falcons figured out how to attack EMU's tough 3-2 zone defense.

"In the second half, I thought we did a much better job of

attacking their zone, and got better ball movement and got better opportunities," Miller said. "And I finally figured out how to ball-screen them in the zone. It took me about 35 minutes to start calling a good offensive game. I felt that I finally got that turned around, and the kids really stepped up when they needed to in the second half."

BG's freshmen came up big in the win. Prochaska led the team in points and played all 40 minutes of the game. Forward Jen Uhl came in off the bench and sparked the team, scoring 13 points.

"Jen is an unbelievable offensive player when she gets it going," Miller said. "And she's going to have a great career offensively ... She plays hard, she plays carefree, and you just love her. She steps up to the big moment."

With the victory, BG is now 8-3 in the Mid-American Conference and tied with Miami for first place in the East Division. They are also in a three-way tie for the best record in the entire conference.

It sure wasn't pretty, but a win is a win. And the win over Eastern was an important one.

## CROWD

From Page 7

"The crowd needs to know that they were a huge part of our success tonight. They were a huge story in why we won."

Curt Miller | BG coach

Miller also noted how the fans are on their way to a special kind of recognition with their performances.

It's crunch time for the crowd," Miller said. "We really have a chance to not let Toledo have the 18th straight of attendance record."

Attendance record or not, the Anderson Arena faithful showed Saturday why they can



BRIAN BORNHOEFF | THE BG NEWS

**SHOOTING BLANKS:** BG and EMU shot 35.3 percent and 26.2 percent, respectively.

still make it very difficult on the opposing team when they are coming into BG's gym.

## OFFENSE

From Page 7

In the 65-56 loss, BG's game on both sides of the floor played out in a very familiar way. The defense was solid, keeping them in the game the whole way. But offensively, the team stalled at key points.

"We just have to keep competing but then raise the level of our play and try to not hurt ourselves," said BG coach Louis Orr. "But our guys gave effort and showed some heart and some character, so I was pleased with that."

In short, while the level of play on defense was consistent, BG's offensive game didn't rise to the occasion.

"Those are the toughest losses you have to face, when you know you can win and you don't. It's pretty tough," said

forward Chris Knight.

The Falcons were in the game for all 40 minutes because of their defense. As a team, they forced 10 turnovers, four steals and blocked eight shots. They even won the rebounding war 41-33.

In the end, and even with 16 offensive rebounds to their credit, the effort wasn't enough to get the Falcons over the hump offensively. Three Falcons scored in double figures, but it didn't translate into anything consistent.

On the other hand, four Zips finished with double-digit points, with three of the four scoring 14 points apiece.

Akron scored when they had to. Twenty-six points scored off 18 forced turnovers also aided them.

"[With] turnovers, you've got the ball in your hands, so the onus is on you because you have possession of the ball," he said. "But they capitalized off our turnovers."

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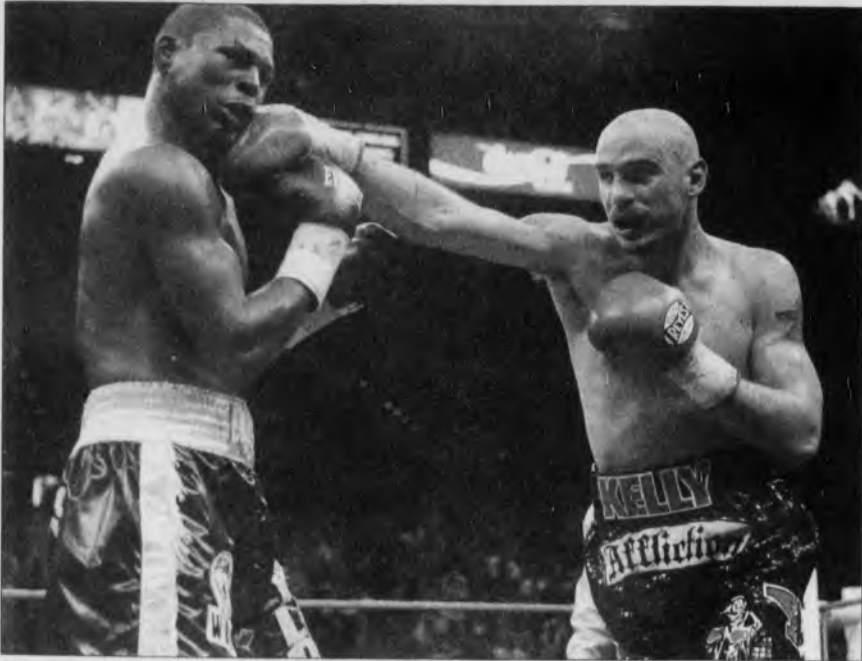
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ERIC JAMISON | AP PHOTO

**EATING GLOVE:** Middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik punches opponent Jermain Taylor in the face during their rematch Saturday night.

## Pavlik setting his sights on unifying middleweight titles

By Greg Beacham  
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Kelly Pavlik proved his superiority and fattened his bank account with a second victory over Jermain Taylor. Now this frugal people's champion is finally ready to go shopping — for two really ugly belts.

Moments after winning a unanimous decision in his rematch with Taylor on Saturday night, Pavlik reiterated his plan to add the WBA and IBF middleweight titles to the WBC and WBO championships he took from Taylor last year. He'll get started on that quest after a June tuneup fight that shouldn't be nearly as tough as the stops on his difficult road to Taylor.

"My No. 1 goal since I won the middleweight title has been to unify the belts," Pavlik said. "That's been a dream of mine since I started fighting, and that's what I'd love to do now. It's something

special to be the champion that everybody recognizes, and that's a life goal of mine."

Pavlik showed both mettle and resourcefulness against Taylor, using improved defensive skills and taking control of the fight late to win the decision. In particular, Pavlik got Taylor moving backward in the final three rounds after Taylor's inspired game plan staked him to an early lead.

Taylor also performed well in the rematch, showing more discipline and tenacity on his way to a \$3 million payday. He faced trouble only in the 11th round, when Pavlik staggered him and came close to a knockout.

"That 11th round, if there was 5 or 10 more seconds, he was out," said Pavlik, who made \$2.5 million plus a percentage of pay-per-view sales. "I hit him with some big punches. He was hurt, and you could see it. I just ran out of time."

The bout was Pavlik's least dramatic fight in three years, but likely his most disciplined, according to his trainer, Jack Loew. That discipline will be necessary if Pavlik is to achieve his new dream.

"Kelly can do whatever he sets his mind to do, and we've always wanted to take [charge] of the middleweight division," Loew said.

Pavlik hopes to follow in the big footsteps of Bernard Hopkins, who held all four major middleweight belts until Taylor beat him by split decision in July 2005. Hopkins held at least three belts for nearly four years while making 20 total title defenses — a remarkable achievement in the fractious boxing world.

Pavlik would be a huge favorite against the other two champions. If promoter Bob Arum can make the matches, Pavlik might be just a couple of years away from realizing his dream.

## Mickelson claims Northern Trust open win

By Doug Ferguson  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It has been 20 years since Phil Mickelson first stepped inside the ropes at Riviera, a 17-year-old amateur in awe of the fabled course off Sunset Boulevard, inspired by names like Hogan, Snead and Nelson that were on the trophy.

Lefty finally joined them yesterday, adding to his impressive collection of PGA Tour titles on the Left Coast.

Mickelson made two clutch putts on the back nine, seized control when Jeff Quinney self-destructed with the putter, and took a relaxing walk up the 18th fairway with a victory he felt was a long time coming.

He closed with a 1-under 70 for a two-shot victory, the 33rd of his career, with 16 of those in California and Arizona.

"The fact I haven't won this and it has taken me so long to win makes it that much more special," Mickelson said.

A year ago, Lefty was poised to win in LA until he bogeyed the 18th hole and lost in a play-off against Charles Howell III.

This time, he was steady down the stretch as Quinney's putter changed from a magic wand to a ball-and-chain.

He made four straight putts outside 10 feet, only to make three straight bogeys starting on the 13th hole. The first two came from missing consecutive par putts from 7 feet that allowed Mickelson a cushion over the closing holes.



MARK J. TERRILL | AP PHOTO

**BIG WINNER:** Phil Mickelson poses with his newly won Northern Trust Open trophy.

"I just put a little too much pressure on the putter on the back nine," said Quinney, who made a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole that only changed the final score. He closed with a 71.

British Open champion Padraig Harrington and Luke Donald each shot 68 and tied for third, although this was a two-man race from the start, and a one-man celebration over the final two holes.

Mickelson finished at 12-under 272 and earned \$1,116,000.

He might never catch Tiger Woods in the world ranking, PGA Tour victories or in the

major, but for now he has done something the world's No. 1 player hasn't — win at Riviera.

Jack Nicklaus never won here, either.

Riviera was Woods' first PGA Tour event as a 16-year-old. He has not played the last two years.

Mickelson made his PGA Tour debut at Torrey Pines at age 17, then showed up a week later at Riviera. As much as the course impressed him, it also confounded him over the years, and he played there sparingly until returning with a renewed commitment last year.

"I didn't understand the nuances of this golf course, where you can and can't hit it," he said. "And learning those nuances and how to hit the shots into some of these greens has helped me over the years. Last year was when I started to put it together, and I'm fortunate to break through this year."

His work on the West Coast is not over, even though he has won in every city of regular PGA Tour stops, from ocean courses of Torrey Pines and Pebble Beach, soggy La Costa Resort, desert courses in Phoenix, Palm Springs and Tucson, and now Riviera.

Next up is the Accenture Match Play Championship, which he has never won.

The victory came one week after taking an 11 on the 14th hole at Pebble Beach to miss the cut, and two weeks after he lost a playoff to J.B. Holmes in the FBR Open.

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4. Beware of "teaser" or introductory interest rates; find out the actual interest rate and whether that rate will change.
5. Make sure a lender answers the following questions before you take out a loan:
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# Kosovo parliament declares nation's independence, seeks democratic state

By William J. Kole and Nebi Gena  
The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Revelers fired guns in the air, waved red-and-black Albanian flags and set off fireworks in the skies over Kosovo yesterday after parliament proclaimed independence, defying Serbia and Russia which condemned the declaration of the world's newest nation.

A decade after a bloody separatist war with Serbian forces that claimed 10,000 lives, lawmakers pronounced the territory the Republic of Kosovo and pledged to make it a "democratic, multiethnic state." Its leaders looked for swift recognition from the U.S. and key European powers — but also braced for a bitter showdown.

Serbia called the declaration illegal and its ally Russia denounced it, saying it threatened to touch off a new conflict in the Balkans. Russia called for an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council, which met later yesterday.

In the capital, Pristina, the mood was jubilant. Thousands of ethnic Albanians braved sub-freezing temperatures to ride on the roofs of their cars, singing patriotic songs and chanting: "KLA! KLA!" the acronym for the now-disbanded rebel



CHEERS ALL AROUND: Kosovars celebrate the proclamation of Independence in Kosovo's capital Pristina yesterday.

Kosovo Liberation Army. They waved American flags alongside the red Albanian banner imprinted with a black, double-headed eagle.

Many dressed in traditional costumes and played trumpets and drums, and an ethnic Albanian couple named their newborn daughter Pavarsie — Albanian for "independence."

"This is the happiest day in my life," said Mehdi Shehu, 68. "Now we're free and we can celebrate without fear."

Kosovo had formally remained a part of Serbia even though it

has been administered by the U.N. and NATO since 1999, when NATO airstrikes ended former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists.

Ninety percent of Kosovo's 2 million people are ethnic Albanian — most of them secular Muslims — and they see no reason to stay joined to the rest of Christian Orthodox Serbia.

The European Union and NATO, mindful of the Balkans' turbulent past, appealed for restraint and warned that the international community would

not tolerate violence.

President Bush said the United States "will continue to work with our allies to the very best we can to make sure there's no violence."

"We are heartened by the fact that the Kosovo government has clearly proclaimed its willingness and its desire to support Serbian rights in Kosovo," Bush said while on a visit to Africa. "We also believe it's in Serbia's interest to be aligned with Europe and the Serbian people can know that they have a friend in America."

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

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# Afghan conflict rises after suicide bomber kills 80 during dog-fighting show

By Allauddin Khan  
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber penetrated a crowd watching a dog-fighting competition in the Taliban's former stronghold yesterday, killing up to 80 people in one of the bloodiest bombings since the regime's 2001 ouster.

The attack follows a year of record violence and predictions that the Afghan conflict could turn even deadlier this year.

Several hundred people, including Afghan militia leaders, had gathered in a barren dirt field to watch the event on the western edge of the southern city of Kandahar. Witnesses reported gunfire from bodyguards after the blast, but it was not immediately clear if the bullets killed or wounded anyone.

A prominent militia commander who stood up against the Taliban was killed in the attack and officials said he may have been the target. The bombing crumpled several Afghan police trucks and turned the field a bloody red.

Death tolls fluctuated. Kandahar Gov. Asadullah Khalid said 80 people died, while the Health Ministry said 70 were killed and 70 wounded. The Interior Ministry first said 80 died and then revised the toll to 65.

The previous deadliest bombing in Afghanistan killed about 70 people — mostly students — in November, part of a record year of violence in 2007 that included more than 140 suicide attacks.

Khalid blamed the attack on "the enemy of Afghanistan" — which typically means the Taliban.

However, a Taliban spokesman denied the militia was behind the attack. "That is not our work and I will not take responsibility for it," said Qari Yousef Ahmadi.

Kandahar — the Taliban's former stronghold and Afghanistan's second-largest city — has been the scene of fierce battles between NATO forces, primarily from Canada and the United States, and Taliban fighters the last two years.

The province, one of the country's largest opium poppy regions, could again be a flashpoint in the increasingly violent Afghan conflict this year. Canada, which has 2,500 troops in Kandahar, has threatened to end its combat role in Afghanistan unless NATO countries provide an additional 1,000 troops to help the anti-Taliban drive there.

The U.S., which already has some 28,000 forces in the coun-

"There are too many patients here. Some of them are in very serious condition."

Durani | Doctor

try, is sending an additional 3,200 Marines in April, most of whom are expected to be stationed in Kandahar during their seven-month tour.

Unlike in the U.S., where star Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick was sentenced to 23 months in federal prison for his role in a dogfighting operation, dog fights are a popular form of entertainment in Afghanistan and the fights can attract hundreds of spectators who cram into a tight circle.

Afghans place discreet wagers on the dogs, the reason the Taliban banned the sport during its 1996-2001 rule.

Fighting dogs in Afghanistan — German shepherds, bully kuttas and Afghan mastiffs — have clipped ears and tails and carry the scars of battle. The dogs do not fight to the death but rather until one dog pins another or one runs away.

Afghans bled in yesterday's attack crammed into cars that drove the wounded to Kandahar's hospitals. Afghan soldiers donated blood after the attack to help with the overwhelming need, said Dr. Durani, who goes by only one name.

"There are too many patients here," he said. "Some of them are in very serious condition."

Italy's Foreign Ministry called the attack an "act of inexcusable violence," while British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, who visited Kandahar last week, called it a cowardly act of terrorism.

Wali Karzai, brother of President Hamid Karzai and the president of Kandahar's provincial council, said the target of the attack was Abdul Hakim Jan, the leader of a local militia who was killed in the attack.

Jan was the provincial police chief in Kandahar in the early 1990s and was the only commander in the province to stand up against the Taliban during its rule, said Khalid Pashtun, a parliamentarian who represents Kandahar.

"Hakim Jan is one of the important, prominent jihadi commanders in Kandahar," Pashtun said. "There were so many people gathered and of course the Taliban and al-Qaida usually target this kind of important people."

# Iraqi leaders express tentative optimism over success of security operation

By Patrick Quinn  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi military officials expressed hope yesterday that security gains from a yearlong crackdown against extremists will allow the removal of thousands of concrete barriers in six months that protect Baghdad residents from bomb attacks.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki spent the weekend touting the successes of the security operation that began one year ago and peaked last summer with the influx of thousands of U.S. troops. The operation helped restore some security to a country that in January 2007 was on the brink of civil war.

The U.S. military said yesterday that insurgent attacks had declined by 60 percent over the past year, but cautioned the war was not yet won.

"They are reminders that although the enemies of the people of Iraq are weakened, they can still recruit and conduct spectacular attacks," said Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, a U.S.

spokesman in Baghdad.

Brig. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, the chief Iraqi military spokesman for Baghdad, said the government hoped within six months to reopen the Imams bridge, which spans the Tigris river and links a major Sunni neighborhood with a large Shiite district. The Imams was sealed and barricaded after nearly 1,000 Shiites, fleeing what they thought was a Sunni suicide bomber, died in a stampede on the bridge in 2005.

Al-Moussawi added that the government also would lift "all concrete walls from Baghdad streets," a promise that will be much harder to keep. The so-called Green Zone that houses the Iraqi government, parliament, and many of its officials is surrounded by thousands of concrete "blast walls" that enclose a huge portion of central Baghdad.

Several concrete walls and barriers also have been erected to dampen sectarian violence by separating or dividing Sunni and Shiite neighborhoods. There has never been a count of the barriers, but they are thought to number in the tens of thousands.



MOURNING: A woman reads the Quran at a cemetery in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday by the grave of her son Hussein Ali Halli, who died in violence in June 2006.

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J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE | AP PHOTO

**AGING BIAS:** With the addition of the Supreme Court's newest member, Justice Samuel Alito Jr., top row at right, the high court sits for a new group photograph in this March 3, 2006, photo at the Supreme Court Building in Washington.

# Supreme Court faces multiple claims of age discrimination

Five cases in last term have called national attention to seniors' job rights

By Mark Sherman  
The Associated Press

**"Every employee at some point is going to be protected by it because all of us get older. It's true whether you are a male, female, minority or not."**

Steven R. Wall | Partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius Law Firm

WASHINGTON — There is only one anti-bias law — the one against discrimination based on age — that would cover all nine Supreme Court justices, if such laws applied to them.

The justices, ranging in age from 53 to 87, are the last people to worry about such things in their own lives. They have life tenure and no mandatory retirement age.

Yet the justices are confronted by allegations of age discrimination in five cases this term. While the sheer number of cases probably can be explained away as coincidence, the topic is one of growing importance as more people work longer because of economic necessity or by choice.

"The importance of protecting older workers as the work force ages is enormous," said Stu Cohen, AARP's director of legal advocacy. "More older workers remain in the workforce and projections are that the percentage will continue to expand."

The percentage of people 65 and over who continue to work has grown from 10.8 percent in 1985 to 16 percent last year, AARP said. For people 55 to 64, the numbers also are up, from 54.2 percent in 1985 to 63.8 percent in 2007.

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act applies to workers who are at least 40. It prohibits discrimination based on age in hiring and firing, promotions and pay.

"Literally every employee at some point is going to be protected by it because all of us get older. It's true whether you are a male, female, minority or not. It's not true for any other statute. It's a very broad class of protected people," said Steven R. Wall, a partner at the Morgan, Lewis & Bockius law firm in Philadelphia. The cases at the court this year include what kind of evidence an employee may present to bolster an age discrimination claim; whether retirement-age workers are entitled to disability payments; and whether federal workers who complain about age discrimination are protected from retaliation.

The last issue is the subject of oral arguments tomorrow in a case involving a postal worker in Puerto Rico who complained of both discrimination and retaliation. Federal courts dismissed the retaliation claim, saying there is nothing in the age discrimination law that allows such claims by federal employees.

Other anti-discrimination laws do provide protection from retaliation for government workers, said Eric Dreiband, former general counsel to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The language in

the laws are different "and it would appear deliberately different," Dreiband said.

The AARP and the National Treasury Employees Union are backing the employee.

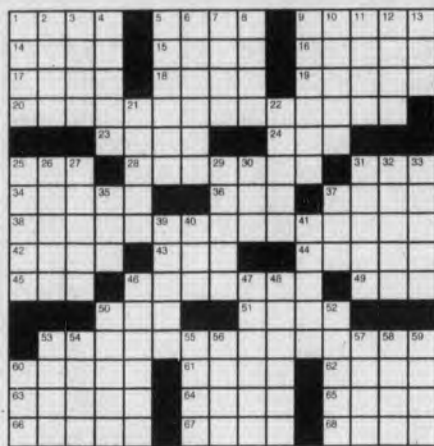
The most important case from the employers' perspective involves "me-too" evidence in a lawsuit filed by a woman who was 51 when she was laid off by a subsidiary of Sprint Nextel Corp. The fight at the Supreme Court is over whether she should be able to introduce testimony from other employees who also say they were victims of age discrimination, even though they worked for other supervisors.

The employee, Ellen Mendelsohn, argued that such evidence is critical to establishing a culture of discrimination.

"Is it fair to an employer that somebody can call co-workers to testify, even though they had nothing to do with the plaintiff or her boss?" said Wall. "To sum it up from a management attorney's perspective, it's a very dangerous case because you can see how that applies no matter the form of discrimination."

A third case tests whether a retirement plan can treat disabled employees of different ages but similar tenures differently.

## The Daily Crossword Fix brought to you by DACOR



- DOWN**
- Constellation member
  - Mountain lion
  - Cover for a crook
  - Engages in diatribe
  - Humphrey the VP
  - Pandemonium
  - Library transaction
  - Capped joint
  - Puts up
  - Cosmic spectacles
  - Hyped up
  - Salad veggie
  - Jersey, for short
  - Dogie catcher
  - Hindu holy man
  - Family men
  - Grown-up
  - Teary-eyed
  - Fire bug's crime
  - Collar
  - Great honor
  - "Tomorrow" singer
  - Fills up at the pump
  - What have we here!
  - Shoshone
  - Stupor; pref.
  - Psyche division
- ANSWERS**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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### ACROSS

- Practice punching
- "Incredible" superhero
- Put into law
- Big horn
- Current
- Scoundrel
- Grace ender
- Highland hillside
- Conjure up
- Aggravate personally
- Gilbert or Teasdale
- Goddess of folly
- Shriver or Dawber
- Leaves in the lurch
- Comic's bit
- Tijuana ta-ta
- Shout from the stands
- Arm bone
- Exasperate personally
- Kind of sax
- Earlier
- Very strange
- Pigs' digs
- He or she, e.g.
- Count me in!
- Cul-de-
- "Do...others..."
- Intimidate personally
- Buzz in the blender
- Early Peruvian
- Adorable
- Mystery-novel award
- Theater prompts
- Asian range
- Social equals
- Latin I verb
- Clean-up cloths

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