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Monitor Newsletter February 18, 1991

Bowling Green State University

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There's no Wolf Blizzards, but BG has its own war commentators

Helping the public gain a better grasp of developments in the Persian Gulf has become routine for some faculty this semester. They are among news sources journalists are turning to for political, geographical, historical and economic insights into the events unfolding in the Middle East.

"About a week before the U.N. deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, I began getting calls from reporters who asked for our assistance in locating experts on the Middle East and issues related to the conflict," said University news services director Terri Sharp.

One of those requests came from WPOT-TV, Channel 16, in Dayton, which needed an expert on the Middle East for a panel on the station's weekly public affairs program.

"We put them in touch with John Merriam in political science who took part in the show through a phone broadcast link at the WBGU-TV studios," Sharp said.

Since mid-January, Merriam has responded to a number of similar requests from the news media.

University faculty in departments ranging from journalism to psychology also have been interviewed on subjects related to the Middle East conflict and its effects on the home front.

Before war broke out, a reporter with the international news service Reuters interviewed Dr. James Besseland, journalism professor, about sending "care packages" to troops stationed in the gulf. Soon after the fall of Bagsbad, both Dr. Erwin Silverman, psychology professor, and Dr. Howard Burton, educational foundations and inquiry, were interviewed, and initially concerns were expressed over the fears of children who watch the war on television or have relatives serving in the military.

Later, Dr. Peter Hutchinsen, economics, explained to television viewers why the oil spill in the Persian Gulf would have little immediate impact on oil prices.

Reporters know the caliber of our faculty from past experience and sometimes call professors directly rather than contacting the public relations office to arrange interviews," Sharp noted.

Military history expert Dr. David Skaggs is one such resource. Although Skaggs is on leave this academic year, he has been tracked down by Albuquerque stations for telephone interviews by northwest Ohio news media.

Others include Dr. Jack Nachbar and Dr. Robert Suit, anthropology professors. In recent days both have responded to questions from regional and national media about the folk tradition of displaying yellow ribbons and other war-related symbols. On Jan. 27, through the WTOI-TV studios in Toledo, an interview to appear in the "BS Sunday Evening News" with Connie Chaves.

"Because faculty are willing to share their expertise outside as well as inside the classroom, the public benefits from their knowledge of west perspectives on current events," according to Sharp.

Partly willing to be interviewed by the news media are encouraged to be listed in "BGU Resources," a catalog of information sources distributed to the media annually.

SOUNDS OF INDONESIA

A new musical opportunity for risk-taking students is being offered this semester. They are among the 30 students who comprise the Gamelan Ensemble, a non-profit organization housed at Wright State University's Departments of Music. The ensemble, which was formed in 1985, is currently under the direction of Professor John Jones.

The Gamelan Ensemble's music offers a new experience for the ear, both to audiences and performers. The Gamelan Ensemble's music offers a new experience for the ear, both to audiences and performers. The ensemble will give a free concert on February 18, 1991 in the Moore Musical Arts Center of Wright State University.

The Gamelan Ensemble is under the direction of John Jones, who is the primary composer and performer of the ensemble. Jones is a member of the department of music at Wright State University and has studied Gamelan music extensively in Indonesia. The ensemble consists of over 20 members, each specializing in different instruments such as the rebab (balinese violin), the gambang (balinese xylophone), and the kendang (balinese drum).

The ensemble's music is characterized by intricate melodies and rhythms, as well as complex improvisational techniques. The ensemble's performances often involve the use of traditional balinese dance and storytelling, creating a unique cultural experience for audiences.

Information about the Gamelan Ensemble and its upcoming concert can be obtained by visiting the Department of Music website or by contacting Professor John Jones directly.
New book takes a close look at plight of New Mexico’s Rio Arriba

Dr. Alvar Carlson, chair of the geogra­phy department since 1983, has spent the past 25 years conducting research and writing a book on the history of New Mexico. The result is his new book, The Spanish-American Homeland: Four Centuries in New Mexico’s Rio Arriba, which makes some surprising and what will likely be controversial conclu­sions.

Carlson became en­meshed with the region of the Rio Grande Valley when he traveled there on a field experience as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. After writing his master’s thesis on the San Luis Valley, a part of the Rio Grande Valley in southern Colorado, he returned to New Mexico for his doctoral studies and continued his research on New Mexico’s upper valley known as the Rio Arriba.

Teo Arriba, located between Taos and Albuquerque, was first settled by the Spanish in 1598. New population predomi­nantly by Spanish Americans, the region has been plagued by rural poverty, a second-class climate and a history of conflict between its Spanish, Indian, and Anglo neighbors.

Through the years, much of the blame for the region’s hardships was put on U.S. government policies. But after examining patterns of settlement, economic development, demographics and marital culture in the area, Carlson produces evidence in his book that the United States—accompanied by the Spanish-American homestreading, allowed an extensive use of previously claimed grant lands after they were incorporated into the public domain, and even sanctioned Spanish-American encroachment upon Pueblo Indian land.

“I think these findings are going to make the book very controversial,” Carlson said. “That’s one reason—the revisionist approach—why The Johns Hopkins University Press agreed to publish it.”

Ever since the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo by the U.S. and Mexico, many historians, anthropolo­gists, sociologists and other academi­cians as well as Spanish Americans have accused the U.S. government of implement­ing unfair land policies. The treaty assured existing landowners of their continued property rights, but it ignored the Mexican law. The American legal system was left with the difficult task of discerning the validity of land claims, particularly grants that included vague boundaries and a paucity of documentation.

“The United States became an easy target for the area’s troubles,” Carlson said. “But when I really started looking into these accusations, I found that the U.S. really accomplished the Spanish Americans very much. There are other reasons for their problems. The land is poor and there is a history of overpopula­tion. And due to the harsh climate, it’s bad for most of them to get out of the area. You really can’t blame the U.S. for the region’s population problems.”

In the book, Carlson shows how the Spanish Americans have been en­meshed in a subsistence economy which they were in also under Spain and Mexico, because of these other factors as well as the land use practices. Inheritance customs, folk culture and the limited possibili­ties for agriculture and subsistence.

For example, he explains how Spanish settlement patterns divided land ad­joining to produce into irrigated plots. As the population grew and land continued to be divided among children, farms became so small that they could not possibly provide even a subsistence level of production to the people who had access to communal lands in the public domain.

In an effort to avoid the problems that have plagued their ancestors, young Spanish Americans became seasonal laborers, but today they are migrating to the surrounding cities, searching for jobs and better lives. But, Carlson said, they are not being somewhat reluctantly. “They’d like to stay in the Rio Arriba but there is very little industry there to absorb the excess rural population,” Carlson said. “So they still hold on to their properties hoping they can come back and retire.”

This outmigr­ation of young­er genera­tion threatens the survival of the Rio Arriba culture and homeland that have prev­iously not been seen as a threat in the past for more than 400 years. “They are very proud people and have tried to retain their culture. But that culture is waning largely because of the Anglos who are moving into the region,” Carlson said.

Ironically, Carlson notes that while the Anglos are responsible for plugging Anglo homes or modern air-conditioned trailers, the Anglo Americans are restoring and preserving the unique and culturally characteristic region of the area. In the conclusion of the book, Carlson researched at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the United Pueblo Agency in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, the Bureau of Land Management in Santa Fe, the Research Center for the New Mexico State University and the National Geographic Society.

He also extensively photographed the geography and history of the area, concentrating on historical Anglo homes or modern air-conditioned trailers, the Anglo Americans are restoring and preserving the unique and culturally characteristic region of the area. In the conclusion of the book, Carlson researched at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the United Pueblo Agency in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, the Bureau of Land Management in Santa Fe, the Research Center for the New Mexico State University and the National Geographic Society.

Carlos’s next project is a photographic essay of the Rio Arriba region which will focus on showing the changes in the land over the last 40 years.

Carlos joined the University’s faculty in 1970. He has been editor of the Journal of Cultural Geography since 1980 and is the author of three books, the latest a professional journals and books. He also is the recipient of research grants from the Association of Hispanic Geographers and the National Science Foundation, which support his work.

Carlos, in addition, is a founding donor of the New Mexico Geographical Society.

Oppens to perform in Forefront Series

Pianist Ursula Oppens, a Grammy Award winner, will perform in the Forefront Series Tuesday (Feb. 19). Oppens, who intrigue many of her own feelings into music, will appear at 8 p.m. in Kuebker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center.

One of the major pianists of her generation, she has been described as having an “effortless technique, rich tone and mesmerizing interpretation.” Oppens has traveled throughout the United States and abroad performing her wide range of repertoire in performance halls from the Indiana University, the Sacredmento Symphony and the Toronto Symphony.

She also has participated in various festivals, including the Charleston Islands and Santa Fe as well as the Ojai Festival where she played with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Always expanding her repertoire of works to be performed, the founder Spectrum Musicus, an ensemble associated to performing modern music, in 1977.

Tickets for her performance are $5 for adults and $2 for students and senior citizens. They can be reserved by calling 373-3717 or at the music center box office beginning at noon and 8 p.m. weekdays.
Trustee favors child care facility, encourages staff involvement

In remarks to the Administrative Staff Council, trustees, including Academic Vice President John Laskey, a member of the Board of Trustees Committee on Student Affairs, and President of Port Lawrence Title and Trustee, has repeatedly told them no space is available for the facility. Laskey has said he is in favor of a campus child care facility, but it won't be self-funding and the University will not provide the building.

"Then be aggressive," Laskey said, "the University has a couple thousand acres of land. Why don't you build one?" However, when asked about funding for such a facility, Laskey said he did not know where the monies would come from.

Some council members said the issue of child care has been a topic on campus for more than a decade but no real progress has ever been made. Faculty Senate appointed a task force and the Faculty Council in 1989 that conducted a survey which shows there is a need for some type of care on campus and prepared a cost analysis. Last fall the Ad Hoc Child Care Committee was formed, and the Faculty Council on Child Care were established in the Senate.

Council member Melissa Finestone said that as long as child care is not a higher priority of the University's administration, it will never become a reality on campus. Council member Jill Carr said ASC has discussed the issue for 12 years, sometimes with the support of other constituent groups. "But basically what we have found is it is something is not an issue with Faculty Senate, then it doesn't go anywhere," she said. "That's been the problem with other concerns of ours, like implementing the 125 hour per week cutting two days to personal days. Those shouldn't be a big deal, but we have to struggle to get them." Laskey questioned whether it was part of his role as a trustee to try to solve the child care problem in favor of having a child care facility on campus. "I don't think I could read this knowing we don't have one now," he responded during a question and answer period.

Laskey is serving his second year of a nine-year term as a trustee and president of Port Lawrence Title and Trustee. He has been appointed to the board of trustees.

On other topics Laskey said he doesn't see a lot of big cuts being made this semester despite the University being told by the state to trim $1.9 million from its budget. "I don't see any job losses and expenses will be handled through attrition," he said. "If anything, I see us getting stalled on progress on the research part." He praised the University for being in generally healthy shape and attributes it to Olscamp's strength as an administrator. "Two years ago he has with BGSU is that it doesn't market itself enough and it is having a debate." He said he sees the University's sports programs as one of its greatest marketing tools because it draws in the most possible.

The trustees have stressed to the president and Dr. Philip Mazur, vice president for University relations, the importance of marketing and plans are being made to promote the campus, Laskey said.

BGSU is easy to sell because it is so "squeaky clean," he said. "In fact, maybe it's too nice, isn't there any passion here? Where are the students at the games?"

In other business, the council passed a motion recommending that the mileage reimbursement rate be brought up to 1991 rates. The University currently reimburses staff 20 cents per mile while the state is reimbursing its employees 41 cents per mile.

An item of recent concern was the issue of parking. Chair, of ASC, said he had previously discussed the matter with Carl Lipp, director of the business office. Laskey said that while the administration agrees that the rate needs adjusting, the current budget situation does not allow for any changes.

Council member Marcia Laat said the University's mileage rate has not been adjusted since 1981. "That is like not giving a raise for 10 years. For those of us who use our cars extensively on the job, it's a concern," she said.

Shneiderman speaks on user interface design

Originally from Florida, Liewllyn now lives in Washington, D.C., where she began writing poetry in 1973. She has been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Her poems have been published in several publications and anthologies including Pleaughshares, MS Magazine, 13th Moon and The New York Times.

Liewllyn received a master of fine arts in creative writing degree from Warren Wilson College, the first college in the nation to grant the National Writer's Union and is on the board of the National Labor Heritage Foundation. Active in organizations which advocate equal rights for handicapped children and adults, she is an officer of the D.C. Down's Syndrome Association.

Poetry focuses on 1911 garment worker fire

Welsh-American poet Chris Liewllyn will give a reading of her poems, "Fragment From the Fire: The Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire of March 25, 1911," at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday (Feb. 20). The reading will be held in the Early Childhood Center in the Assembly Hall.

On March 25, 1911, 149 garment workers, most of them immigrants, were killed when the building's 8th floor went up in flames. The fire was a milestone in the American labor movement.

Liewllyn's poems, which won the 1986 Whitney Award for "Political Poetry of American Poets," offer moving testimonies of those who were there: survivors, victims, relatives, policemen and reporters. Liewllyn spent two years researching the subject.

Shneiderman speaks on user interface design

and also has written Designing the User Interface: Strategies for Effective Human-Computer Interaction (Addison-Wesley, 1988) and Human-Computer Interaction: Psychology and Human Interaction (Addison-Wesley, 1988).

In addition, he is editor of the Alan Publishers series on human-computer interaction, the author of more than 140 technical papers and creator of the HyperText software system.

Planning to retire?

Faculty members who plan to retire on or after June 30, 1991, should forward their resignation letters to the dean at least two weeks prior to the end of the fall semester 1991 or during the spring or summer of 1992 must make application by June 30 in order to be assured for consideration.

Please contact Norma Stickler in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at 372-9251 for forms or for additional information on the Employee Retirement Investment Plan or the Supplemental Retirement Program.

College's annual poster session showcases various research projects of its faculty

Faculty members of the College of Education and Allied Professions use bulletin boards and graphics to describe their work at the College's fourth annual Research Poster Session Thursday (Feb. 21).

The research projects will be on display from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Commons Society. The College's annual Research Poster Session Thursday (Feb. 21).

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Rounding up to meet

University Computer Services will hold the next Microcomputer Roundup from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday (Feb. 20) in the Student Union Library.

T he theme will be "File Conversations: How Do You Get From Package A to Package B?"

For more information, contact Dr. Duane Whitmer at 372-2927.

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Search for a copying of the Osmond’s first album, or Pia Zadora’s greatest hit? You may find them among the many rock, jazz, soul, classical and pop records, posters and magazines to be sold by the Music Library and the Recreation and Activities Archives Feb. 26.

The sale will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in 150A conference room of John Library. All sales are final, and no duplicates and unwanted items from the archive’s collection.

Committee needs you

Classified Staff Council’s Personnel Welfare Committee is seeking new members. The committee investigates and makes recommendations on topics such as handbook changes, vacation time, part-time benefits, grievances, surveys or any classified staff concerns.

Classified employees who are interested in becoming involved with the committee should submit their names and telephone numbers to Classified Staff Council, P.O. Box 91, University Hall. For more information, contact Kathy Engerer, chair of CSC, at 372-7659.

Obituary

Gerald Womack

Gerald Womack, 36, a plumber for the University, died Feb. 12 in the St. Vincent’s Infirmary on Tontitown. Womack had been working out in the Student Recreation Center when he became unconscious.

He began working at the University in November 1987 in plant operations and maintenance.

Active in community functions, Womack coached Pee Wee baseball, was a Cub Scout leader, and was a member of the Bowling Green Swim Club. He also was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Maumee.

Faculty/Staff positions

The following faculty positions are available:

Accounting/MBI: instructor in MBS (terminal, full-time). Also, instructor in accounting (terminal, full-time). Contact Paul Lunder (5-0765).

Biology: Ecologist (anticipated assistant professor (full-time, probationary). Contact David Fullington (5-0641). Deadline: March 15 or until position is filled.


Computer science: 1) Instructor of applied informatics (full-time, probationary). Contact the Dean, School of Computing and Information Science, for interview. 2) Assistant professor (full-time). Contact Edward McClenen (2-2117). Deadline: March 1.

English: Instructor of applied linguistics (full-time, probationary). Contact the Dean, School of Computing and Information Science, for interview. 3) Assistant professor (full-time). Contact the Dean, School of Computing and Information Science, for interview.


Information: Assistant or associate professor (full-time/probationary). Contact Edward McClenen (2-2117). Deadline: March 1.

Library: 1) Instructor of library and information science (full-time). For non-Lib. position is full. Also, instructor in library and information science (full-time, probationary). Contact Deborah Talia (2-3630). Deadline: March 15 or until position is filled.

Modern Languages: Instructor in French. Also, instructorship in Italian and Spanish. For both, contact Larry Knapp (4-3267). Deadline: March 15 or until position is filled.

The following administrative positions are available:

Residential Services: Residence hall manager. Also, residence hall director. Also, residence hall complex coordinator. For all positions, contact Michael Vetter (2-2465). Deadlines: Until filled.

WGOU-TV/Provision: Television promotion assistant (part-time). Contact Search M, person nel services (2-2256), Deadline: March 1.