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Monitor Newsletter January 19, 1999

Bowling Green State University

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Friday party to mark rec center’s 20th birthday

Of all the people who had a hand in planning, building and updating the Student Recreation Center (SRC), there are two who have defined what it has become over its 20-year history, yet have never stepped inside and likely won’t in the near future: Jane Fonda and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

This week, festivities will mark the 20th anniversary of the center, which opened Jan. 2, 1979, primarily to give students a place to shoot hoops, go for a jog, swim a few laps, enjoy a little racquetball—in short, a place to play.

A 20th birthday party is planned for Friday (Jan. 22), beginning at 3:30 p.m. and ending after 4:40 p.m. with refreshments, music and memorabilia on display.

A 4 p.m. ceremony will feature Edward Whipple, vice president for student affairs; Mike Wilcox, chair of the original SRC planning committee; Terry Parsons, former SRC director; and Thomas Zung, SRC architect.

In addition, a slide show and pictorial history of the building will be set up in the center all week.

Prior to the SRC, the only building on campus that could accommodate student recreation and activities was the Epler Center—formerly the men’s and women’s gymnasiums—but its availability was severely limited because of physical education classes and group events.

There arose among some insightful administrators and students what then was a radical idea: construct a center solely for recreation.

“The was the first recreation center of its kind on any college campus in Ohio,” said Thad Long, recreational sports, who has researched the building’s history. What made it unique was that, while some classes were held there initially, the chief purpose was for student recreation and a relatively new concept, exercise.

“Back then, exercise was a fairly new topic,” said Diana Muenger, recreational sports, who joined the staff shortly after the building opened.

“Aerobics was popular then, but everybody thought it was going to be a fad,” added Jodi Laibis, who also joined the staff within a year of the center’s opening and is now office manager for its companion building, the Perry Field House.

Enter Fonda, who in the early 1980s made her mark on the fitness craze by releasing an exercise workout on video. A big part of the Fonda workout was aerobics. That was the start of exercise going from a pastime to a lifestyle, and the change became reflected in the SRCs use.

When it opened, the center was being used mostly by males, but the Fonda-fueled aerobics interest attracted women. It was then that both genders began to use the center, said Muenger.

“Aerobics is hotter than ever,” Laibis said. “When the center opened, racquetball was hot, but that and not aerobics turned out to be the fad. In fact, now we can’t give the racquetball courts away.”

Other activities have had their day. The football and pool tables were early casualties. Also replaced were stationary bicycles that in the early 1980s were top-of-the-line. But they became outdated with new technology and desire. Students today like the exercise equipment with the computers that calculate resistance, calories burned and heart rates—all the bells and whistles,” Laibis said.

Other activities that came and went were Squorerice (a sport for exercise equipment to be held in front of a television tuned to the afternoon soap opera), kayaking, wind surfing and cross-country skiing.

Enter Schwarzenegger, the actor who had been a champion body builder. As aerobics was the biggest change in the Rec Center’s focus in the 1980s, weights became the change as the 1990s began, Muenger observed.

“We went from a small weight room for men and one for women to three large weight rooms now,” she said. The most recent change was converting a room that had been used for archery and golf training to a weight lifting center.

Amid the changes in use, the center remained popular.

A departmental study shows that three of every four students use the center at some point in their career at BG. Scott Levin, recreational sports, said as many as 2,500 students use it daily.

Usage was believed to be near record-breaking numbers last Thursday, when winter weather forced the cancellation of classes all day for the first time in seven years.

Another survey shows that the center is the fourth most-cited reason students choose to enroll at Bowling Green, Muenger said.

In addition, it’s among the most employer of employees. Long said about 130 students work there each year, and as many as 2,000 students have drawn paychecks in the past 20 years.

The center also is open to faculty, staff and the community, as Muenger said. “Its number one priority is students, always was and always will be.”

“It’s not just a place for fitness,” Laibis said, “it’s the social place to be on campus.”

Chibucos, Hannan study welfare reform’s impact on young families

How is welfare reform affecting families with infants and toddlers?

That’s the question two University faculty members are addressing with the help of a $52,000 grant.

Thomas Chibucos and Kristi Hannan, both family and consumer sciences, received the grant, one of eight awarded by the Joint Center for Research on Poverty operated by the University of Chicago and Northwestern University for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Seventy applicants competed for the national funding.

“A major goal of the project,” Chibucos said, “is to alert policy makers that assessment of the effects of welfare reform must be more meaningful than simply counting the number of people who are removed from the welfare rolls.”

“We want to let those involved in legislation know what impact welfare reform is having on our families,” Hannan added. “I think that our study, along with a combination of other studies across the United States, will highlight the need for change.”

The emphasis of welfare reform according to the two researchers, has long been on the number of people who are getting off welfare. Little attention, they say, has been given to specific ways it has impacted families, particularly the children in those families. It is a topic that needs to be addressed, they contend.

“Children three years and younger,” Hannan said, “are at a very vulnerable stage of development, when guidance is critical. But as their parents try to move from welfare to work, they may face difficulties finding good child care. Daycare provisions for infants and toddlers within the welfare system are scarce, low-quality and largely unregulated.”

“We’ve been hearing repeatedly that evaluations of welfare reform are not looking at the effects of the policy on children,” she continued. “Our goal is to show that any welfare reform needs to take these children into account.”

She and Chibucos, who chair family and consumer sciences, are analyzing Census Bureau information on families with children under the age of 3 who are receiving welfare benefits. They also are analyzing data on 1,140 families from the bureau’s 1993 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Among the most interesting findings so far is the discovery that nearly all of the AFDC recipients were working, in school or looking for work. The majority of mothers used relatives to care for their infants while engaging in these activities. Those who did pay for child care spent 39 percent of the family income (an average of $117 per month) for the service.

This spring, Hannan and Chibucos will be conducting interviews with Wood and Lucas County families who are in the Ohio Works (welfare) program. The interviews will provide a way for parents to describe first-hand how welfare reform is affecting their children and families.

The researchers recently presented their preliminary findings at a conference in Boston. They said they hope to present their final report at a June meeting of grant recipients in Washington, D.C.

After that, they want to extend the scope of their research to assess both the short-term and long-term direct impact of welfare reform on children’s development. Learn how families manage on a personal, daily level as they move from welfare to employment and examine the impact of welfare reform on states by-state basis.
A good thing to know when weather conditions get bad

If this month's snow and ice has left you wondering just what the University's severe weather policy says, here it is, straight from staff handbooks.

On occasion, weather conditions develop which may cause employees to experience difficulty in getting to work on time. Extreme weather conditions may also cause the University to be closed. Even when situations such as these occur, many essential functions at BGSU must continue to operate. These include preparation and serving of meals to students, provision of lighting and heating to University buildings, law enforcement and public safety, snow removal from parking areas and sidewalks, and other activities.

In the event of severe weather, any decision to close the University will be communicated by the Office of Public Relations, which will notify the University Fact Line (2-3445), WBUG-FM (98.1), WFAI-AM (680), WFOB, WOHO, WCWS, WLQR-FM, WRTN-FM, WFXI and WGTE. In addition, WBGU-TV (Channel 27) and three Toledo television stations (channels 11, 13 and 24) will also be notified.

Every effort will be made to notify these media by 6:30 a.m. on the day of closing.

The University closes only in times of emergency. If weather or other conditions warrant limiting University activities, a decision will be made either to operate class and offices or to close them both. If closure is determined, only designated emergency employees are expected to report to work. Designated emergency employees are those individuals who have been issued ID cards identifying them as such. Designated emergency classified staff specifically advised in advance of or called in specifically for the emergency will be paid two-and-one-half times their hourly rate of pay for all hours worked during the emergency. Administrative staff will receive time off at the rate of two hours off for each hour worked.

During periods of severe weather when no emergency is declared, employees are expected to make every effort to report to work. Employees who report to work at a reasonable time during their work day will be compensated for the entire day. Those employees who because of individual circumstances are unable to report to work, may use accrued vacation, compensatory time, or personal leave for that day to complete a 40-hour workweek, or the day may be accounted for as leave without pay;

Whenever a severe weather emergency occurs, there is always some confusion regarding radio/television announcements. Employees should confirm the announcement by listening to more than one radio/TV station. An alternative method of checking, they may also call a University answering service number (2-3N0W) to confirm whether the University is actually closed or not. If the University is not closed, but local police authorities declare a Level 3 emergency and roads are closed for safety reasons, it is expected that employees who live in the affected area, or must drive through it, will report to work as soon as the emergency has been lifted. If less than two hours work time remain at the time the emergency is lifted, employees will not be required to report to work. Under this circumstance, employees will be paid for the entire day. In all other cases, employees who do not report to work at a reasonable time will be required to use vacation personal leave, compensatory time, or leave without pay to cover those scheduled work hours which were missed.

Firelands College will generally comply with these rules and procedures but may additionally pay a specific need within their county and surrounding area.

If an emergency is declared during regular work hours, caused by events such as tornados, severe snowstorms, disruptions, power failures, explosions, etc., employees may be dismissed only after an announcement by each vice president of the area or his/her designee. Individual areas or departments cannot dismiss employees without authorization. If an early mass announcement by the area VP designee is made during the work day, University employees may then not be required to report to work and released from work will be paid for the remainder of the work shift. Employees who desire to leave work before an early release announcement is made may request this from their immediate supervisor. If approved, these employees may use accrued vacation, compensatory time, personal leave or leave without pay to complete the working day.

Employees who are required to work beyond their normal shift during an emergency will be paid accordingly. Time spent in non-duty status, such as sleep, will not be compensated.

A summary of attendance policy in severe weather situations is included as part of the policy.

A good thing to know when weather conditions get bad...
in brief

Presidents' Day volunteers sought
The admissions office is looking for staff help with the fourth annual Presidents' Day campus open house, set for 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 15. Volunteers may greet visitors, provide them with directions or help with check-in procedures. Shifts of two to four hours are required to provide continuity.

Training sessions will be held Feb. 9 and 12 in the McFall Center Assembly Room. The scope and mission of the Presidents' Day program will be explained, and the agenda for the day will be distributed. Printed materials will be available as well, with the information needed to answer visitors' questions. Because changes to this year's program will be explained and job assignments given, past volunteers are also urged to attend a training session.

Volunteers should complete the recently distributed form and return it by Jan. 29 to Kay Nickel Gadowus, admissions, 110 McFall Center. For more information, contact Jill Henninger, admissions, at 2-9680 or jhenne@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

ASC has brief January meeting
Administrative Staff Council took no action at a short Jan. 7 meeting.

Council members learned in reports that ad hoc committees are being formed to address the administrative staff performance evaluation form and handbook revisions, and that a professional development conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. noon March 17 in Obcamp Hall.

The performance evaluation panel, with representatives from the human resources office, ASC's Personnel Welfare Committee and its first performance evaluation committee, will review what's working with the document. The goal for completion of the work is June 30.

Chaired by Brev Starnes, Libraries and Learning Resources, the handbook revision committee will include changes approved since the book was last compiled in 1994.

ASC members also heard that the Professional Connections program is seeking mentors who have worked at the University for only a few years. Applications may be obtained by contacting Amy Prigge, public relations.

Music center wins award
The University's Mid American Center for Contemporary Music, the chief sponsor of the annual New Music & Art Festival, was honored in New York City Sunday at the Chamber Music America/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming.

Marilyn Shrode, the center's director, accepted the award, the only one given in the category for festivals that emphasize music written since 1970. The center also received the award in 1993.

The annual awards recognize "presenters who make an exemplary commitment to programming contemporary repertoire." The Library of Congress was the other first-place winner in the category for presenters of 10 or more chamber concerts featuring music written since 1970.

Union scheduling events for fall
An altered construction schedule for the Student Union project means the union will remain open through September—rather than closing in August—and events may be scheduled for next fall semester by contacting Shannon Tackett either by phone (2-2244) or fax (2-7940).

Weather delays Monitor
Completion and distribution of this week's Monitor was delayed by last week's inclement weather.

The normal publication schedule will resume with next week's issue.
**University Performing Dancers**

**music series starts 10th year**

The College of Musical Arts will begin its 10th "Music from Bowling Green at the Manor House" series today (Jan. 19).

The 7:30 p.m. performances are free on Tuesdays in the Manor House at Toledo's Wildwood MetroPark. Tonight's event will feature faculty members Kevin Schempf, clarinet, and Robert Satterlee, piano, along with soprano Ellen Strba, with pianist Virginia Marks, in a program of solo piano and opera selections on March 16.

Jennifer Maas, Trinity Luette and Alicia Davis (left to right) rehearse "Pas De Quatre" in preparation for performances this week by the University Performing Dancers. The dancers will be in concert at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (Jan. 21-23). There will also be a special show on Saturday, Jan. 21. For more information, call 2-6918.

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**Women's Center workshops**

The Women's Center is sponsoring three-week workshops for women who care for aging parents as well as taking care of their families, themselves and work.

All sessions will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. in 107 Hanna Hall, beginning Jan. 28 with "The Realities: Who is Caring for Aging Parents and Why?"

The second session, on Feb. 4, is titled "The Dilemmas of Dependence," while the Feb. 22 finale will discuss "When You Can't Do It Alone." Among the questions to be answered are:

- What special issues are involved as aging parents become increasingly dependent on their adult children, and less able or willing to make autonomous decisions?
- What is that experience like from the perspective of the aging parents?
- What is the best type of care for aging or chronically ill parents and how should decisions about that care be made?

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**Facility Art Series**

Kevin Schempf, clarinet, will perform at 11 a.m. in 107 Hanna Hall, beginning Jan. 28 with "The Realities: Who is Caring for Aging Parents and Why?"

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**Campus Calendar**

- **Tuesday, Jan. 19**
  - Tickets go on sale for the Feb. 6 concert by Chuck Mangione to benefit the Edwin T. Beitz Scholarship Fund. Kuhnbacker Hall box office hours are noon-6 p.m. weekdays. Tickets are $35, $25, $20 and $10, and may be reserved by calling 2-8171 or (800) 589-2224.
  - Faculty Senate, 2:30 p.m., Assembly Room, McFall Center.
  - Dissertation defense, 2:30 p.m., 301 Shattell Hall, by Andrew R. Ackerman, philosophy, on "Local Liberty and Respect for Individual Autonomy (A Toquequenl Critique of Liberal Neutrality)."
  - Men's Basketball hosts Marshall, 8 p.m., Anderson Arena.

- **Wednesday, Jan. 20**
  - The Black Church in America: Civil Rights and Religion, 10 a.m.-noon, Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Program, sponsored by the Libraries and Learning Resources Multicultural Affairs Committee.
  - Brown Bag Luncheon, noon, Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. "Your Money Matters," with Audrey Rentz, retired higher education administration faculty member.
  - Women Writers Group, 4-5:30 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. The group meets the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of each month.
  - Women Graduate Students Support Group, 5-6:30 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.
  - Women's Basketball hosts Ohio, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

- **Thursday, Jan. 21**
  - Creative Writing Program Reading Series, Wendell Mayo, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel. Free.

- **Friday, Jan. 22**
  - Symphonic Band, 8 p.m., Kuhnbacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Kevin Schempf, musical arts, will be featured clarinet soloist at the concert, which is part of the 41st annual New Band Music Reading Clinic.

- **Saturday, Jan. 23**
  - Concert Band, 11 a.m., Kuhnbacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Part of the 41st annual New Band Music Reading Clinic, which will conclude with a 2:45 p.m. concert by two All-Ohio bands, also in Kuhnbacker Hall. Both concerts are free.
  - Men's Basketball hosts Ohio, 1 p.m., Anderson Arena.
  - Men's Tennis hosts Illinois-Chicago, 2 p.m., Laurel Hill, Toledo.
  - Women's Gymnastics hosts Western Michigan, 4 p.m., Eppler Complex.
  - Hockey hosts Ferris State, 7 p.m., Ice Arena.

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**Job Postings**

- **Network Technician**

In filling these positions, the University seeks to identify enthusiastic team players committed to serving the institution's faculty, staff and students in a manner consistent with the vision and core values of Bowling Green State University.