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## The BG News December 4, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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**Thursday**  
December 4, 2008  
Volume 103, Issue 69  
WWW.BGNEWS.COM

## Celebrating Kwanzaa with a bang

By Kate Snyder  
Reporter

Students as well as Bowling Green residents gathered in the Union ballroom last night for free food and to enjoy a myriad of dancers, singers and drummers in celebration of Kwanzaa.

This year was the 12th year the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives hosted the celebration.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a professor at California State University. It's a religion-free holiday in celebra-

tion of family and culture in the black community — but the audience last night represented a cross section of the United States.

"I did not expect this level of diversity," said Angelo Brown, associate director of Academic Investment in Math and Science. "This is beautiful."

After Brown performed the libation, a portion of the celebration in which wine is poured, members of Black Lifestyles and Cultural Knowledge, a student organization from Bowling Green High School, lit the ceremonial candles. There were seven candles, representing

both the seven days and seven principles of Kwanzaa. The principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

The principles define how people should live in their day-to-day lives.

"That is what Kwanzaa is really all about," said freshman Tonye Van Dunk, who hosted the event.

Shortly after the libation, the music and dancing began.

See **KWANZAA** | Page 2



RACHEL RADWANSKI

**CELEBRATION:** A Kwanzaa holiday event featuring dancing, singing and libation with the African Dance Troupe performing in the background in the Union Ballroom.

### 'Odd' events, holiday spirit

UAO is hosting the 'Odd Olympics' tonight for students to get ready for break and relieve finals stress | **Page 3**

### She can't get enough of Josh Schwartz!

Columnist Tannen Gliatta writes about her love for the creative director of hit shows like 'The O.C.' and 'Gossip Girl' | **Page 4**

### Are we wasting our time with the bailout?

Despite the fact that General Motors, Ford and Chrysler are struggling, the CEOs show up in Washington on private jets and columnist Josh Whetherholt wonders if the bailout is a waste of time | **Page 4**

### The blame falls on Balfour

William Balfour, the brother-in-law of singer Jennifer Hudson, has been named as the alleged killer by the prosecutor | **Page 5**

### Gunman was promised money

A gunman captured during a terror fight in Mumbai claimed he would get money if he died fighting for militant Islam | **Page 8**

### Pontius led in win over UDM

Sophomore point guard Tracy Pontius proved she has what it takes after 16 points, five assists and four steals against Detroit-Mercy | **Page 6**



Why do you think the University has two mascots?



**RACHAEL LOGSDON**  
Junior, Education

"I didn't know we had two mascots." | **Page 4**

**TODAY**  
Scattered Flurries  
High: 29, Low: 17

**TOMORROW**  
Mostly Cloudy  
High: 26, Low: 19



BG NEWS ARCHIVES



BG NEWS ARCHIVES

**THEN:** Freddie Falcon, the first of the two falcon mascots at the University, has had at least three or four different costumes since his conception in 1950, according to Deb Novak, the faculty adviser for the mascots.

## two Birds one University

A tale of BGSU and its unique two-mascot system

By Ryan Sullivan  
Campus Editor

In the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity in 1950, the idea of Freddie Falcon was hatched and school spirit at the University has never been the same.

It was in 1927 when the University officially changed from the Normals to the Falcons, but Freddie wasn't introduced until Jan. 16, 1950, at the University's men's basketball game.

It was several years after Freddie was first hatched before his partner, Frieda, was introduced.

"When Frieda was created, she was actually Mrs. Freddie Falcon," said Deb Novak, the assistant dean of students and faculty advisor for the mascots.

According to Freddie and Frieda's official Web site, Mrs. Freddie Falcon was first introduced in 1966 and was a male cheerleader in disguise.

It wasn't until 1980 that Frieda Falcon officially emerged as Freddie's little sister and sidekick.

The costumes have changed several times since Freddie and Frieda's first appearance, Novak said.

"At the time, [the first Freddie] was just a paper mache head," she said. "The first head was actually eaten by mice. So far, there have been at least four versions of the costumes, but probably five or six."

Novak said new costumes may be considered in the next few years, but no major changes will be made.

Freddie and Frieda Falcon are unique in the mascot community. There are few universities with more than one mascot and the level of secrecy surrounding the identity is higher than most schools. Other

See **MASCOTS** | Page 2



**NOW:** The current Freddie and Frieda Falcon, as seen at the BGSU-Kent State game on Nov. 1.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA MCGINNIS THE BG NEWS

## Obama names his commerce secretary

By Liz Sidoti

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — President-elect Barack Obama named New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as commerce secretary yesterday, filling a top economic post in troubled times and placing a second former campaign rival in his new Cabinet.

Talking optimistically despite the recession, Obama also said, "We have everything we need to renew our economy, we have the ingenuity and technology, the skill and commitment — we just need to put it to work."

The president-elect called Richardson a leading "economic diplomat for America. During his time in state government and Congress, and in two tours of duty in the

Cabinet, [Bill] has seen from just about every angle what makes our economy work and what keeps it from working better."

Obama seemed in a light-hearted mood as he made the announcement. Asked about Richardson's recent decision to shave his beard, Obama joked that he was "deeply disappointed." He said he guessed Richardson decided to jettison the facial hair after his wife found it scratchy.

Richardson, 61, was United Nations ambassador and energy secretary during the Clinton administration, and he is in his second term as New Mexico's governor. He also served seven terms in the House of Representatives.

See **OBAMA** | Page 2

## Students play games with women's history

By Richard Chandler  
Reporter

The University Women's Center used their final Brown Bag Luncheon of the semester to have attendees assess their command of women's history.

The informal event, which utilized a series of games aimed to test popular knowledge of women's history, was held yesterday at the Women's Center in Hanna Hall.

"Game Day: How Well Do You Know Women's History?" featured complimentary cookies, group discussion and card games that highlighted the achievements of various notable women in history.

The first game, which vaguely resembled "Go Fish," featured notable African-American women such as jazz singer Billie Holiday, entertainer Josephine Baker and poet/activist Alice Ruth Moore Dunbar-Nelson. For this game, the players tentatively agreed upon a set of rules that were constantly exploited in the various players' interests.

The second game, which somewhat resembled rummy, featured renowned female athletes like track and field legend Wilma Rudolph, tennis star

Billie Jean King and swimming gold medalist Shane Gould. In this game, each of the rules was disputed from the onset and eventually all discernible rules were abandoned, with the various players cheerfully crying foul play at one another.

Marshall Rose, the director of the University's Office of Equity and Diversity, noted the absence of distinct regulations effectively nullified the claims of cheating.

"You can't really cheat if there are no rules," he said.

Grace Mhumbi, the graduate assistant of the Women's Center, appeared to win both of yesterday's games. Not surprisingly, she was the most accused of all players.

"I feel really good about this game. It was the most enjoyable thing I did at the Women's Center this year because it was a learning experience. And because I won," she said.

Mary Krueger, the director of the Women's Center, was pleased with the event's relaxed atmosphere.

"I thought it was really cozy and fun. I wish we would have had more folks, but that's okay."

See **WOMEN** | Page 2

## Cyber Monday grows more popular this year with help from students

By Lin Chafetz  
Reporter

This season many students at the University are finding themselves turning to Web sites such as Craig's List and eBay, which offer them the opportunity to get more bang for their buck.

These Web sites often see a lot of use by college students, according to a recent survey done by eBay. Ian Fletcher-Waterworth, sophomore and frequent eBay shop-

per, thinks the reason behind this might simply be "laziness."

"One huge reason why I do it is because it's so easy to just get things shipped to you," he said. "Many people do it just because they're too lazy to go to the store."

The ease for online shoppers to sit at a computer and buy whatever they want is not the only reason for the high numbers in shoppers this season. According to eBay, there was a 27 percent

increase in shoppers this year than last on Cyber Monday, the online equivalent of Black Friday that takes place the Monday after Thanksgiving, and many of them were looking for electronics.

These Web sites have recently had a lot of traffic during this past week for both Black Friday and Cyber Monday. According to an eBay press release, the Nintendo Wii Console was the most popular product sold on Black Friday, selling 3,171. The second most

sold item was the Nintendo Wii Fit with 1,059 sold.

One of the online shoppers on Black Friday was freshman Tom Price, a frequent eBay shopper.

"I've already started my Christmas shopping on eBay; I bought some music equipment for my brother," Price said.

Price also mentioned some incentives for college students to shop on eBay.

"eBay is fantastic for us because we want to get things cheaply,

especially this year," he said.

One other reason for people to use eBay, especially in Bowling Green, is the ease of getting something shipped here.

"There aren't a lot of stores that sell the things I need for my hobby here, so I can order it on eBay and have it shipped to me," Price said.

Another Web site that sopho-

See **MONDAY** | Page 2



## BLOTTER

### TUESDAY, DEC. 2

11:03 A.M.

Complainant reported receiving harassing and abusive phone calls from her ex-husband.

4:43 P.M.

Complainant reported unknown person entered his vehicle and took a pair of \$30 Bushnell binoculars sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning.

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

## 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.

## WOMEN

From Page 1

she said.

In 2009, the Women's Center will resume its Brown Bag Luncheons as well as a number of other featured events.

"We will have another series of Brown Bag Luncheons next semester on a variety of topics, some serious, some lighter," Krueger said.

## OBAMA

From Page 1

If confirmed by the Senate, he would take over a sprawling department that oversees the National Weather Service, the Census Bureau, economic development programs and more.

One of the nation's most prominent Hispanic politicians, Richardson pledged — in English and Spanish — to work to renew the economy.

## HAVE A WITTY OR FUNNY CAPTION FOR THIS PHOTO?



FREDDY HUNT | THE BG NEWS

**YOUR CAPTION HERE:** Submit your caption to [caption.contest@bgnews.com](mailto:caption.contest@bgnews.com) or at [bgnews.com](http://bgnews.com) for your chance to have your photo and your caption appear in next Thursday's issue of The BG News. Be sure to include your contact information to be considered for the contest. Winner will be selected by The BG News.

Last Week's Winner:

## Corey Norris



Corey is a freshman majoring in computer science. He loves computers just about as much as his guitar. Growing up in Massillon, Ohio, Corey is used to the cold weather, but wasn't ready for the brutal Bowling Green wind. He keeps warm by eating Chipotle chicken burritos and wearing a jacket.



MICHAEL WEIGMAN | THE BG NEWS

**THE WINNER:** "If chickens REALLY had fingers, it wouldn't be so hard to flick you off right now."

## KWANZAA

From Page 1

Shelia Brown, Kwanzaa program coordinator, sang an original song with the Harmony and Soul Singers. There were interpretive dances to "Amazing Grace," and African dances to the sound of drums performed by the Africana Dance Troupe.

The dances were sophomore Megan Pucci's favorite part.

Pucci had to come to the celebration for class credit, but she had a good time and would go again next year.

"I thought it was really enter-

taining," Pucci said. "My personal favorite was the dancing."

The last act and feature performer was Habib Iddrisu, a Ghana native, master drummer, choreographer and BGSU alumnus.

"Tonight, I'm going to be sharing a lot with you," Iddrisu said.

He came from a family of drummers and shared how music, dance and art is woven into everyone's lives in West Africa. As a sign of respect for his elders, he played the flute first.

The first song he played on the drums was one his mother used to sing to him. He called it the "Stupid Song."

He told a story about how people, when praised for doing well, tend to stop working hard. That song was a warning from his mother to never stop working hard.

"So she sang the 'Stupid Song,'" he said. "I just want to say thank you, Mom, for teaching me that."

He sang, he drummed, he danced solo and then he invited the audience to the stage to learn a dance. He drummed, they danced and the event was over.

But Kwanzaa is not.

It's celebrated officially every year by millions from Dec. 26 to New Year's Day.

## MASCOTS

From Page 1

schools that have a two mascot duo include the University of Kansas, University of California, Los Angeles and Youngstown State University.

Novak said that she is not sure where the tradition of two mascots got started but can't imagine not having the brother and sister combination to stir up school spirit wherever they go.

Each year, Novak said four students are selected as mascots, two as Freddie and two as Frieda. The pair alternate working at sporting events and will sometimes work the same game in different shifts, she said.

Michelle Doyle, a senior majoring in interpersonal communication, was one of the two Frieda's last year and said that keeping the secret from her friends was the most difficult part of the experience.

"It's hard because you want to scream it," Doyle said. "It's difficult because you have to remember what lies you told your friends. After the game, you have to go home and pretend like nothing happened."

Doyle recounted an incident that showed how dedicated the University is to preserving the mascots' secret identities.

"I went to the Boston [football] game and at the game, my head fell off," Doyle said. "When that happened, all of the cheerleaders swarmed like I was the president of the United States and kept me covered up until I could get my head secured back on."

Doyle said she tried out for the job because she is a huge fan of tradition and is full of school spirit.

Mark Zimmerman played Freddie Falcon during the 1977-78 season and sees the opportunity to play the mascot as an experience very few students will ever have.

"Just a rough guess, but I figure there have been at least 1 million students to go to BGSU and maybe 100-125 have had the privilege of wearing the suit," Zimmerman said.

A few years ago, Zimmerman said he started to become disappointed at the lack of activity that some of the mascots exhibited. A few years ago, an e-mail was sent to former birds to come back and teach the new ones the tools of the trade, and Zimmerman said

he jumped at it.

During his time as Freddie, "hockey ruled supreme" and was the biggest event to attend on campus.

"My most memorable event was hockey," he said. "I was pretty good on skates and I talked to the coach and I got to lead the team out onto the ice. That was the most surreal moment because, as a mascot, I got to see things from a player's perspective."

During Zimmerman's time as Freddie, the University's hockey team hosted an NCAA tournament game and progressed to the Final Four.

"To get to know the people on that team was incredible," he said. "It was an amazing atmosphere to be in. It was incredible getting to play to an audience that I knew."

Tommy Balicky, a current graduate student, played the part of Freddie during the 2005-06 year and said his time as a mascot was one he will never forget.

"It's a great opportunity to represent Bowling Green in a different way," Balicky said. "I did the Wisconsin game on the road and running out of a Big 10 tunnel was amazing."

Being one of the birds, Balicky said it is their responsibility to get the crowd pumped up for a game.

"You have to be creative," he said. "When you are in the suit, nobody knows it's you so be creative; you have to embody school spirit. You are Freddie, you are Frieda and you have to act like that all the time."

Novak said one of her favorite things to do in her role of advisor is to help in the selection process of the new mascots each year.

"It is a three-part process to select the new birds: application, interview and in-suit tryout," she said.

Sometime around the end of February, Novak said the applications are due. "The more creative, the better," she said.

After applications are turned in, Novak and the current year's mascots review and decide who to bring in for interviews.

During interviews, it is narrowed down to a select few who are called back to do an in-suit tryout, Novak said. During the tryout, the applicants must go and perform at an event so it can be seen how they deal with the pressure of being a mascot, she said.

Tara McGinnis, a senior major-

ing in graphic design, was the other Frieda last year and said she shared the same sentiments as Doyle.

"It was probably the coolest thing ever," McGinnis said. "I had done mascot before and I really wanted to be Frieda."

During her time as a mascot, she said the other three were really supportive of each other and it was like a family to her.

She said interviewing her replacements was one of her oddest responsibilities.

"It was so weird to have people try out," McGinnis said. "It was really cool to see their spirit and energy, though."

When McGinnis goes to games now, she will sometimes approach the birds to make sure they are getting breaks and water because she knows what it is like to be in their position, she said.

McGinnis said her favorite part was the interaction with fans, both at the games and at the various functions which Freddie and Frieda attend.

McGinnis was the only mascot to go down to Mobile, Ala., for the football team's GMAC bowl game last January. She said that during the trip, she took part in the parade, went to the hospital to visit some of the sick children and went to a bowling event as Frieda.

Before the game, she led the team onto the field.

"I was scared during the run-out," McGinnis said. "I don't think I have ever run so fast in my life."

She said her main focus was keeping people fired up for the game, even when she looked at the scoreboard in the fourth quarter and saw that Tulsa was leading 49-7.

All of the mascots said one of the hardest parts of their job was their "be-heading" at the end of the basketball and hockey seasons.

Though they all expressed a sense of relief that their secret had finally been revealed, they said it was bittersweet because the illusion of being Freddie or Frieda was gone.

When it comes to it, Novak said there is nothing she doesn't love about the mascots.

"It is a lot of responsibility. People know Freddie and Frieda," Novak said. "Even if it is a low point in a game, they have to be a symbol of hope for people to rally around. We need to keep moving forward and we may not always win, but there will always be another game we can win at."

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## MONDAY

From Page 1

more Ryan Hilgefert said he will be using this holiday season is Craig's List.

"I love sites like eBay and Craig's List because they offer you great ways to shop, with cheap prices," Hilgefert said.

Craig's List differs in many ways

from eBay. On eBay, there are many people bidding on an item. Craig's List is like a classifieds site, in which the buyer contacts the seller and negotiates a sale.

"eBay is more official," Hilgefert said. "You use a great system to pay for everything called PayPal which offers you a safe way to pay for everything, and you don't have to worry about having a credit card. In general I like Craig's

List better though, because you can get better deals."

Regardless of which site one favors, Hilgefert loves shopping online because a bargain goes a long way in a time of economic strain.

"To me, eBay and Craig's List make up one huge garage sale, and that's where I plan on doing my Christmas shopping this year," said Hilgefert.

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# 'Odd Olympics' to ease finals stress, showcase holiday cheer

By Courtney Flynn  
Reporter

Holiday spirit may be the key to taking home the gold at the Outrageously Odd Holiday Olympics, hosted by the Homegrown Planning team of the University Activities Organization.

The event is holiday-themed with seven activities, five of which are a competition for the olympics.

The competitive events include a race to decorate a tree the fastest, name that holiday song, a paper snowflake competition, holiday trivia and a cookie decorating competition. The winner of these events will receive prizes sponsored by Apple and the University Bookstore, which will be equivalent to gold, silver and bronze medals.

Organizations and offices around campus were also encouraged to turn a three foot decorated tree into the UAO office to be displayed at the Odd Olympics. At the end of the event, participants will judge the trees and name a winner. The winner will receive a "cookie party" from the Cookie Jar.

The Office of Campus Activities, Recreational Sports and the Technology office have already turned in their trees. Homegrown Events Director Catherine Lewis said. She also said UAO will not be decorating a tree because both of their trees are out on loan.

Although students will be competing for prizes, the purpose of this event is to bring the holiday spirit out while finals stresses are high.

"This provides a nice break for students to relax and prepare for the holidays."

Brandy Rosebrock | Team member

"Everyone is stressed out from school, this gives them an opportunity to get away from it," Lewis said. "We want students to have fun, they don't have to compete."

"This provides a nice break for students to relax and prepare for the holidays," Homegrown Programming team member Brandy Rosebrock said.

Freshman Jessica Gallagher said she is ready for a break, and holiday activities are the best way to do so.

"I normally do holiday activities with family, so it will be fun to do with others," she said. Her favorite activity is cookie decorating.

The idea to infuse students with holiday spirit came from the Homegrown Programming team of UAO, which is one many teams in UAO.

"We want to think of ideas that are unique and can be built from the ground up," Rosebrock said.

The Outrageously Odd Holiday Olympics was inspired by an olympic event hosted by Michigan State University. Lewis said she wanted to take that idea and put a holiday spin on it.

The event will be today from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Union tables.

"I hope everyone can come," Rosebrock said.

## An artist's playground — Arts X to entertain, educate

Several University departments collaborate to host event featuring art, dance, music and theater

By Steve Kunkler  
Reporter

With the holidays fast approaching, the University's art department is throwing an Arts X party tomorrow from 6 to 10 p.m. Arts X is short for Arts Extravaganza: A Celebration of Excellence in the Arts.

The University's art program was designated as a center of excellence by the University Board of Trustees on June 25, and includes the College of Musical Arts, the School of Arts and the Department of Theater and Film.

The University System of Ohio awards Centers of Excellence, which the Strategic Plan for Higher Education 2008-2017 describes as "drivers of both the regional and state economies and that will complement the comprehensive, quality education available at each institution."

This will be the fifth annual Arts X event, which showcases several groups with a dedication to the arts.

Dennis Wojtkiewicz, a professor in the school of art, said people can have a dedication to the arts even if they are not into painting or sculpting works of art.

Wojtkiewicz included jugglers, which he described as having a performative aspect to their act, as those who deserve recognition in the arts.

"There's an audience for their craft," he said.

There will be other performances, including a bronze pour and stone carving. Those in attendance will be able to see how both stone carving and bronze pouring is done by students who have practiced both skills.

"There is kind of a beauty in that process, you're seeing metal as this molten liquid,

the stuff is literally on fire," Wojtkiewicz said.

Also included in Friday's events will be sessions on metal sculpting and glass blowing.

"It gives people an opportunity to see the process of how things are made," Wojtkiewicz said. "Too often we see just the finished product."

Wojtkiewicz believes the presentations will give people a unique chance to see how objects are made from stone and bronze rather than just seeing the finished product in a store or on the street.

"We are pulling the curtain back a little bit revealing what goes on here," he said.

Planning for the event began in late August when Wojtkiewicz discussed the possibility of putting the event on with Mike Tarr, president of the Arts Student Senate, who has helped in arranging groups to help

participate in the event.

Other groups participating in the arts celebration include the Juggling Club and improv comedy group Bad Genetics.

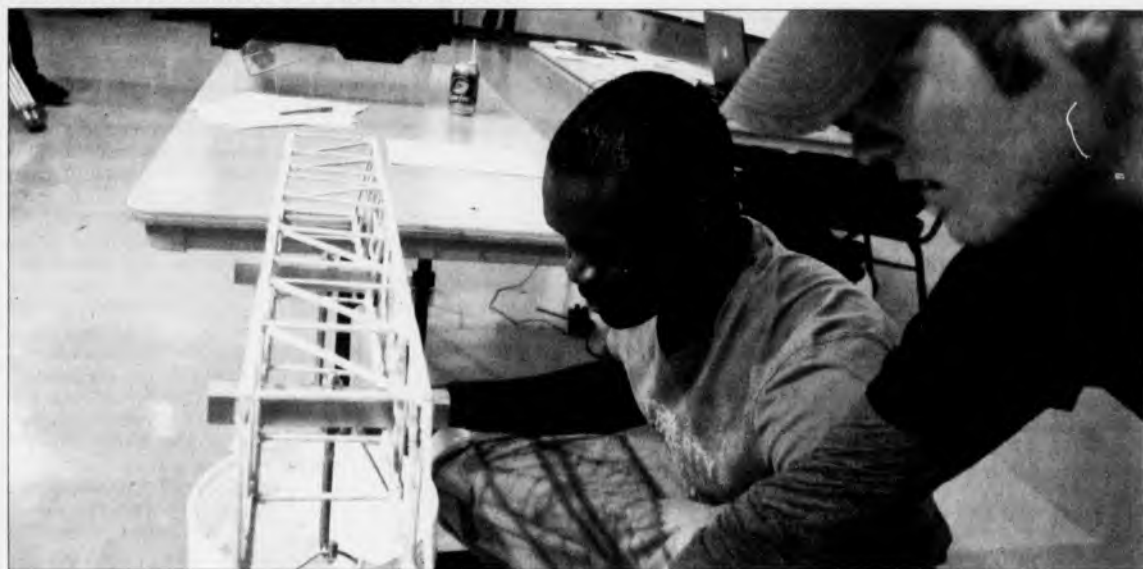
Tarr believes events like Arts X allow people to become more enriched.

"It's important for students to put on a staged activity," he said. "It improves their organizational skills, presentation and their skills of marketing."

Some of the events allow for students to show off the skills they have learned. Cody Peyton, a junior majoring in fine arts, will be creating intuitive drawings while locked inside a box in the Fine Arts Center. Audiences will be able to look down from the second floor of the building to see his progress.

"Intuitiveness comes from the inside, so whatever state I feel I'm in, the drawing will reflect that state," Peyton said.

## CONSTRUCTING COMPETITION



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

**DESIGNING TO WIN:** Seniors Sahr Gbondo and Ryan Wehn carefully place sandbags in buckets attached to the bridge they have created for a structural design competition. "Construction 336" students from architecture and construction management backgrounds participated in the competition yesterday, hosted by the College of Technology.

## GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

5 - 7 p.m.

**SETGO: Art of SCIENCE COMMUNITY Gathering**  
Perry Field House Meeting Room

8 - 9 a.m.

**BG@100 CSS Town Hall Event**  
113 Olscamp

8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Exhibit #6: Josh Eckhart Photography Exhibit**  
130 and 131 Union - Gallery Space

8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

**Muslim Student Association Prayer Room**  
204 Olscamp

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Wish You Were Here / Tye Thom**  
Table Space on Educ Bldg North steps

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**World AIDS Day Raffle**  
Union Table Space

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Fashion Show Ticket Sales**  
Union Table Space

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Toy Donations**  
Union Table Space

12 - 4 p.m.

**Carol-gram Sale**  
Union Table Space

5 - 9 p.m.

**NAKAMA Asian Students Guest Speaker**  
201 Union - Sky Bank Room

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**BG24 Broadcast**  
Union, Falcon's Nest TVs

6 - 8 p.m.

**Outrageously Odd Holiday Olympics**  
Union Table Space

7:30 - 11:30 p.m.

**Creed Weekly Speaker Series**  
208 Union - McMaster Meeting Room

8 p.m.

**"A Christmas Carol"**  
Eva Marie Saint Theatre, University Hall

8 - 10:30 p.m.

**H2O Live**  
202A Union - Lenhart Grand Ballroom

8 - 10:30 p.m.

**Harshman Winter Wonderland**  
Harshman Community Room

8 p.m.

**World Percussion Night**  
Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center

9 - 11 p.m.

**CRU**  
101 Olscamp

9:15 p.m.

**Philanthropy Chair Meeting**  
119 Olscamp

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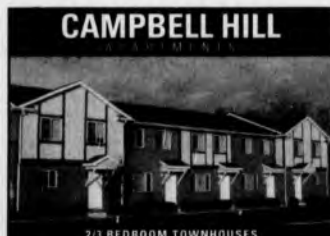
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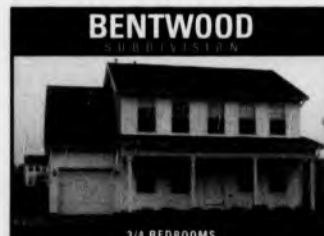
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"At the [Boston football] game, my head fell off. When that happened, all of the cheerleaders swarmed like I was the president of the United States and kept me covered until I could get my head secured back on."  
— Michelle Doyle, a former Frieda Falcon, on preserving her secret identity [see story, pg. 1].

Thursday, December 4, 2008 4

## PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Why do you think the University has two mascots?



"Because we're all connected to each other."

**BLEN AYELE**,  
Sophomore, Supply Chain  
Management/Accounting



"Because everything is based on pairs."

**JOHNATHAN VAN MELLE**,  
Grad Student, American  
Culture Studies



"To represent both men and women."

**SAM ZISS**,  
Sophomore,  
Math Education



"To not be sexist."

**DREAU BOWSER**,  
Sophomore,  
Spanish Education

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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.

## 'Big Three' may not need such a big bailout after all



**JOSH WHETHERHOLT**  
COLUMNIST

Lately most of the news has surrounded two things: crazy people stampeding others to buy a blender at a discount price, and the auto industry and future of the "Big Three," General Motors, Chrysler and Ford. I keep reading about how if GM goes, then so goes the country, and other such mantras. I will agree that the stability of Detroit's auto industry is extremely important, but at the same time, our government can't give away and over extend itself in rescuing the auto industry. I understand that the government cannot simply let the companies fail to teach them a lesson, but the government does need to start cracking down and being a little tougher on them.

A common reaction to this is to simply let the Big Three fall by the wayside and let foreign companies with American factories, such as Toyota and Honda, take over, and all they would have to do is up their production rates. As a lifelong Civic driver, at face value that would be alright by me. However, this is not just a personal, vehicle-popularity contest we are talking about, this is a major situation that could greatly affect our already struggling economy. Besides, for the last several months increasing production rates is exactly what foreign companies have been doing, because of having gas over \$4.00 a gallon throughout the summer, people were dropping their gas-guzzling Land Rovers and picking up something a little more fuel-efficient.

My mother decided it was time to upgrade from her old Civic to a newer model, and had an incredibly hard time finding one that she wanted because the local factories simply couldn't produce them fast enough. Now imagine if the Big Three simply failed and companies such as Toyota, Honda and Volkswagen were the only ones left. Finding a decent, new car would be next to impossible.

I don't think that the Big Three should perish, but at the same time, it makes me wonder if they are wasting our time with all of this bailout business. The first time the CEOs of the Big Three showed up in Washington, they all three made their arrivals in private jets. Showing up in a vehicle that is worth more than half the houses in Bowling Green combined is not a sign of financial struggle. The least they could

have done is come in one plane or something.

But there is also another sign that the American auto industry is not in such dire straits as to warrant a bailout. When arriving for yet another hearing before Congress to negotiate a bailout situation, the three companies had their own plans and requests for loans. GM asked for \$18 billion worth of bailout money and \$4 billion of that needs to come before the end of the month to stay afloat. Chrysler asked for \$7 billion for its bailout, also, by the end of the month.

Then Ford came in and rocked the boat. They asked for a standby loan of \$9 billion, meaning that they don't necessarily want the money, just the assurance that if it comes to that, they want it available, because the Ford CEO feels that his company may be able to make it and start turning a profit by 2011 on its own. On top of that, the Ford CEO said he would forego his annual salary of \$21 million and bonuses in order to help in whatever way he can for his ailing company.

What a kick in the pants for GM and Chrysler. While they're out there trying to get every nickel's worth out of this bailout situation, Ford is over there playing the meek child who wants nothing for himself, and I thought it was impossible to find a CEO who would give up millions in salary and bonuses to save his company and the jobs of his workers. While I haven't gone over all the numbers in GM and Chrysler's books, I feel it is safe to say that they are not doing everything possible to save their companies, and Ford made them show their true colors.

While I feel it is extremely important that these companies not just suddenly collapse because of the repercussions on our economy would probably be devastating, I also feel that more can be done before giving them billions of dollars in aid. Going to the government for a glorified allowance advance should be the last resort for these companies. While I have never really cared for American cars, minus some exceptions, I have to respect the Ford CEO for the offers he has made. Whether a government bailout is in the future for these companies is unknown, and whether their downfall would mean an economic tailspin is also unknown, but if push comes to shove, I'm prepared to start saying, "how Honda goes, the country goes."

— Respond to Josh at  
thenews@bgnews.com.

## Josh Schwartz is a god — no, really, he is



**TANNEN GLIATTA**  
COLUMNIST

Are you a fan who has a blind devotion to an actor or director, so much so you will watch any show or go see any movie based solely on the fact you like a person involved in the project?

I am not usually one of those people. I am pretty picky and it takes more than an actor or director for me to give up my time or money to watch a television show or movie. But there is one writer/creator/director that I have become undeniably loyal to: Josh Schwartz.

His name may not be familiar to you but I bet you have heard and probably watched some of his work. Schwartz is the man behind "The O.C.," "Gossip Girl," and the just announced "X-Men: Origins." His resume may be small but as far as pop culture impact goes it's as big as it gets. And at 32 years old, Schwartz is the leading voice of our generation in Hollywood.

His first foray in television was FOX's "The O.C." When the show premiered in 2003 Schwartz was only 26 years old, the youngest creator of an hour-long program in history. In its first season, "The

O.C." became a pop culture phenomenon and rejuvenated the teen drama genre. He introduced audiences to stock characters but with a new spin — like comic book-loving but romantic hero Seth Cohen who Schwartz modeled after himself.

Throughout the course of the show Schwartz also became a powerful ally to small bands. Groups like Rooney and Death Cab for Cutie, who became the signature sound of the show, achieved mainstream success because of Schwartz's influence.

Perhaps most importantly "The O.C." was a learning experience for Schwartz. He was forced to learn the art of pacing storylines and how to maintain success and buzz after the initial frenzy died down. But in the course of the 17 episodes he wrote in the premiere season it also allowed him to create a distinct voice that was all his own.

Schwartz returned to television last year with "Gossip Girl" based on the popular Cecily Von Ziegesar book series. He, along with creating partner (and fellow "The O.C." alum) Stephanie Savage, quickly proved "Gossip Girl" would not hide in the shadows of Schwartz's first hit. The smart, addictive and fresh drama has Schwartz's distinctive marks in all areas including the almost perfect casting. Sure, not all members of the cast are the best

"In combination with surprisingly complex characters, what sets the show apart from other teen dramas is [Josh] Schwartz's signature witty, pop culture-infused, rapid-fire dialog that he has come to perfect."

actors but Schwartz is forgiven with the casting of relative unknowns Leighton Meester as the queen bee of the Upper East Side, Blair Waldorf, and Ed Westwick as Chuck Bass, a womanizer with a hidden soft side. Meester and Westwick make their two scheming, selfish and devious characters the true heart and soul of "Gossip Girl." In combination with surprisingly complex characters, what sets the show apart from other teen dramas is Schwartz's signature witty, pop culture-infused, rapid-fire dialog that he has come to perfect.

The other show Schwartz currently has on the air is the lesser-known "Chuck." In fact, the spy comedy is forced to compete with its flashier, more attention grabbing sibling "Gossip Girl" which both air Mondays at 8 p.m. The show, now in its second season, centers on Chuck Bartowski a computer expert at a Best Buy-like store who accidentally becomes the holder of all of the CIA's secrets. Although

it is not highly rated, "Chuck" has managed to avoid the sophomore slump that paralyzes some shows. With Schwartz's quirky writing and his ability to combine multiple genres in a single hour "Chuck" is charming without being annoying. So much so, the program manages to fill the void left by both "The O.C." and the recently canceled "Pushing Daisies."

The creator's next project will be writing and possibly directing the new "X-Men: Origins" film franchise. Some critics and fans are questioning if he can handle the transition from television to blockbuster. I don't know much about "X-Men" but I do know about Schwartz and I say no one is better suited for the job. The big screen is a natural progression for Schwartz who is just beginning his long and successful journey in Hollywood.

— Respond to Tannen at  
thenews@bgnews.com.

## No bailout for auto industry if they're unwilling to change their gas-hogging ways

By Laura Brennan  
U-Wire

Hello, my name is Laura, and I drive a Ford.

It's served me pretty well over the past five years or so, breaking down roadside only four or five times. The alignment is permanently off-kilter, defying repeated trips to the mechanic. The alternator died, but I didn't have to worry because the car was still under warranty — less than a year old in fact. That's normal right?

But alas, my trusty Ford has gotten me from point A to point B in one piece, at least up to this point. It's like the comfortable, trusty boyfriend you know won't care if you spill a little makeup on his dashboard. He gets decent mileage but never really surprises you. Yet recently I have found myself with eyes a stray. The flashy stud from afar with the tiny carbon footprint has stolen my heart. That's right, I have a crush on a Honda.

The era of the Expedition, the Suburban and the Hummer is over. Americans are tired of seeing paychecks leak out of their exhaust pipes, even with gas prices below \$2 per gallon as of late. Even more are tired of feeling personally responsible for the extinction of the polar bear every time they take a trip to the grocery store. If the slow disappearance of these mammoths from America's highways isn't enough to convince you

of such, the \$25 billion bailout The Big Three are asking for should do the trick.

The American auto industry has gotten itself, for lack of a better phrase, in quite a pickle. In response to staggeringly high gas prices during summer 2008, we are only now seeing advertisements for better gas mileage and new hybrids hitting the showrooms. Guys, you caught on a little too late.

Despite years of consumer demand for more economically and environmentally sound cars, the Big Three of the economy, the industry and most importantly, the consumer. They have ignored the mounting numbers of tiny, fuel-efficient foreign models zipping down the highways. Worse yet, they continued to create scarier, clunkier monsters even in the face of nearly \$5 per gallon fuel prices.

And according to President-elect Barack Obama, they're not going to squeak by. He spoke about the bailout request Monday, saying, "Taxpayers can't be expected to pony up more money for an auto industry resistant to change, and I was surprised that they did not have a better thought-out proposal."

Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of American workers will be affected by the internal combustion of an industry that's been essential to our economy

for over a century. The closing of plants in small towns and cities would mean the ruin of local economies, and the already dire state of the unemployment rate would most likely take another hit. At the same time, we must consider that foreign automakers employ nearly as many American workers as the Big Three. Assisting an ailing and unviable industry to sputter and swerve for another five or 10 years (at best) could only hurt the American workers employed by the much more fiscally responsible foreign automobile companies.

While I do not support this bailout and feel that the auto industry has had its chance, I cannot foresee our next president or the American public letting that happen.

President-elect Obama seems to be leaning toward giving some help to the Big Three but is at least leaning in the right direction. He continued on Monday, "What we should expect is that any additional money that we put into the auto industry is designed to assure a long-term, sustainable auto industry and not just kicking the can down the road."

If we allow any bailout without strict guidelines and high expectations for a change toward sustainability, Congress will not only burden itself with an additional \$25 billion to scrape together, but we will condone an attitude that

rewards bad business practices, a blatant disregard for changing market conditions and refusal to adapt to and plan for the future of the car-buying public.

American automakers need to toss the private jets, forget the extra-large SUVs and sit down with the brains behind Honda, Toyota and Nissan to concoct a plan that will cut costs and produce high quality, efficient and forward-thinking cars that will propel, not destroy, what is left of the industry.

And if Congress seriously considers giving the industry a boost and saving these jobs, Ford, GM and Chrysler need to go above and beyond to show they're equally serious.

A \$25 billion bailout, while perhaps the easiest solution for the Big Three to come up with, is not the answer for long-term change. While it would surely give the economy a temporary boost, it would be sending the wrong message and opening the door for bailout requests from every other industry that doesn't have its act together. Ford, Chrysler and GM have proven that, at least up to now, they don't have their act together. Instead of looking to taxpayers for pity handouts, they need to take a good, hard look at themselves and decide if they're ready to make a change for the long haul. If this is not the case, they must face the unfortunate consequences.

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## THE BG NEWS

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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.

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





PAUL SANCYA | AP PHOTO

**FIGURING IT OUT:** United Auto Workers members Aaron Warfield, left, and Dave Page listen to UAW President Ron Gettelfinger speaks at a news conference during a meeting of UAW officials in Detroit yesterday.

## United Auto Workers make contract changes

By Kimberly S. Johnson  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The United Auto Workers said yesterday it is willing to change its contracts with U.S. automakers and accept delayed payments of billions of dollars to a union-run health care trust to do its part to help the struggling companies secure \$34 billion in government loans.

United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger said the union will suspend the jobs bank, in which laid-off workers are paid up to 95 percent of their salaries while not working, but he did not give specifics or a timetable of when the program will end.

"We're going to sit down and work out the mechanics," Gettelfinger said at a news conference after meeting with local union officials. "We're a little unclear on some of the issues."

Members of Congress criticized the automakers last month for paying workers who are not on the job. About 3,500 auto workers across the three companies are currently in jobs bank programs.

One local union member who was in the meeting said the changes to the jobs bank would nearly eliminate the program. The member asked not to be identified because the details had not been made public.

Gettelfinger stopped short of saying the union would reopen contract talks with General Motors Corp., Chrysler LLC and Ford Motor Co. but said it would be willing to return to the bargaining table to change some terms.

Talks with GM will begin immediately, but additional bargaining officials must be elected for Ford and Chrysler, Gettelfinger said, and any modifications would still have to be ratified by local union members.

He also said the union will run a television ad in Maine, Kentucky, Indiana and Minnesota to put the faces of union workers on the controversy over the loans, and explain how the auto industry differs from the banking industry. The ads presumably are designed to pressure Congressional opponents of the loans.

"There's a perception problem," Gettelfinger said, stressing that the automakers' woes have painted a negative view of the union. "Yes, we have lost some clout."

Delaying the health care trust payments will help the companies survive their cash shortages, which they say were brought on by the severe economic downturn and the worst U.S. sales climate in more than a quarter century.

GM had been scheduled to pay more than \$7.5 billion early next year to the union-administered fund which will take over retiree health care payments on Jan. 1, 2010. Ford owes \$6.3 billion to its trust fund at the end of this year. Chrysler figures were unavailable.

The delay will have to be approved by federal courts, which already have blessed the trusts' formation.

All three companies agreed to fund the trusts, called volun-

tary employee beneficiary associations or VEBAs, as part of the landmark 2007 contract reached with the UAW. By doing so they move billions in liabilities off their books.

When they go into effect, the trusts will pay health care bills for about 800,000 UAW retirees, spouses and dependents at the three companies. GM expects to save about \$3 billion a year when the expenses are moved, while Ford says it will save \$1 billion.

The CEOs of all three automakers are heading to Washington for more hearings today and tomorrow on their loan requests after an abysmal showing before lawmakers last month. Gettelfinger will also attend.

Congressional leaders demanded business plans from all three that include a reduction in labor costs so Detroit is more competitive with foreign automakers with U.S. factories. The companies submitted their plans to Congress on Tuesday.

"I don't think Congress is out for blood," Gettelfinger said of the criticism the union received during his previous testimony last month.

"There will be more pressure on us to do this. We're going to step up and do it."

That sentiment was echoed by several union representatives at the news conference.

"Everybody has to give a little bit," said Rich Bennett, an official for Local 122 in Twinsburg, Ohio, representing Chrysler workers.

"We've made concessions. We really feel we're doing our part."

## Balfour's guilt in murders disputed

By Don Babwin  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A prosecutor alleged yesterday that Jennifer Hudson's brother-in-law killed three family members because he was angry his estranged wife — the singer's sister — was dating another man.

At a court hearing, prosecutor LuAnn Snow said William Balfour came to the family's South Side home the morning of Oct. 24 and confronted his wife, Julia Hudson.

Balfour and Julia Hudson, Snow said, left together but Balfour returned to the home. The bodies of Hudson's mother and brother were found there later that day. The body of Julia Hudson's 7-year-old son was found in an SUV three days later.

Balfour, 27, was charged with murder Tuesday after being held for weeks on a parole violation. Judge Raymond Myles yesterday denied his request for bail and set his next court date for Dec. 30.

Balfour's attorney, Joshua Kutnick, criticized the charges against Balfour, saying there was no fingerprint, blood or any other forensic evidence linking him to the slayings.

"There is no direct evidence of Mr. Balfour committing these

**"There is no direct evidence of Mr. Balfour committing these crimes."**

Joshua Kutnick | Attorney

crimes," he said, adding that a woman who claims Balfour confessed to her and asked her to provide him with an alibi is "highly suspect."

The slightly built Balfour, wearing a yellow jumpsuit, stood quietly as Snow described how he allegedly killed his stepson, Julian King, the Hudson sisters' mother, Darnell Donerson, and their brother, Jason Hudson.

Balfour, Snow said, had been at the home the morning of the slayings and saw a birthday present he believed had been given to Julia Hudson from a boyfriend he had threatened her about earlier that month at her job.

As he did previously, he threatened the safety of her family, Snow said, a threat Julia Hudson did not take seriously because he "had not followed through on any of those threats" before.

The two left at the same time, with Hudson driving away as she saw Balfour walking toward his own car.

But Balfour's car broke down and two acquaintances gave him a ride to a gas station. At that time, according to Snow, Balfour said he had a handgun but had left it in his car.

The gun, Snow said, belonged to Jason Hudson and Balfour allegedly stole it during the summer.

In the stark language of a legal document that she was reading from, Snow described what allegedly happened next:

He entered the home at gunpoint. "He shot Darnell Donerson several times while she was in the living room area," she read. "He then went into Jason Hudson's bedroom and shot him two times in the head. Jason Hudson was still in bed when he was shot."

Then, prosecutors allege, Balfour took Julian and loaded him into Jason Hudson's white SUV. "Defendant shot Julian King in the head while the 7-year-old was laying behind the front seat of the Suburban," Snow read.

Snow said there is evidence linking Balfour to the crimes, including gunshot residue on the steering wheel of his broken-down car.

Further, she said, Balfour has made statements to authorities that detectives have proven are not true.

## Trampled worker's family sues Wal-Mart

The family of the recently deceased worker claims the store was 'reckless'

By Frank Elman  
The Associated Press

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — The family of a worker trampled to death in a "Black Friday" crush of bargain hunters at a Long Island Wal-Mart store filed a wrongful-death lawsuit yesterday, claiming store ads offering deep discounts "created an atmosphere of competition and anxiety" that led to "crowd craze."

The lawsuit claims that besides failing to provide adequate security for a pre-dawn crowd estimated at 2,000, Wal-Mart "engaged in specific marketing and advertising techniques to specifically attract a large crowd and create an environment of frenzy and mayhem and was otherwise care-

less, reckless and negligent."

Wal-Mart, the adjacent Green Acres Mall, a realty company that manages the property and a security company hired to patrol the property were all named as defendants. None immediately responded to phone and e-mail inquiries seeking comment.

Idimytai Damour, 34, had been hired by an employment agency as a temporary worker at the Wal-Mart store in Valley Stream and had been on the job about a week when he died, said his family's lawyer, Jordan Hecht.

The 6-foot-5, 270-pound man died of asphyxiation after being crushed early Friday morning by the crowd, which broke down the electronic doors in frantic pursuit of bar-

gains. At least four other people were treated at hospitals, including a woman who was eight months pregnant.

Authorities suspect that because he was as big as an NFL lineman, Damour was placed at the entrance of the store to assist with crowd control.

"Those hundreds of people who did make their way into the store, literally had to step over or around him or unfortunately on him to get into the Wal-Mart store," Nassau County Police Commissioner Lawrence Mulvey said this week.

Police are reviewing store video to identify possible suspects in Damour's death, but Mulvey conceded that criminal charges are unlikely.



## Class ring found inside of a bass, 21 years later

BUNA, Texas (AP) — The one that didn't get away held an unlikely surprise for a Texas man.

The blue-stoned class ring of Joe Richardson, engraved with his name, turned up inside an 8-pound bass 21 years after he lost it while fishing on Lake Sam Rayburn.

"My first reaction was — you gotta be kidding," he said yesterday.

The fisherman who discovered the tarnished ring inside his catch contacted Richardson on Nov. 28 in Buna, about 100

miles northeast of Houston, after tracking him down with help from the Internet.

His fisherman hero asked to remain anonymous.

Richardson, 41, said he lost the ring about two weeks after his 1987 graduation from Universal Technical Institute in Houston. His mom had bought it for about \$200 and wasn't pleased when it went missing.

As a mechanic, Richardson said he doesn't wear jewelry so he tucked the undamaged ring away.

"I have not cleaned it," he said. "I told my wife I don't want to clean it."

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## SIDELINES



## FOOTBALL

## Briggs and Iovinelli named All-MAC

Senior defensive lineman Dyral Briggs and junior punter Nick Iovinelli were named All-MAC selections. Briggs was named to the first team defensive team and Iovinelli was named to the third team defense.

## ONLINE

## The BG News Sports Blog

Be sure to log on to The BG News Sports Blog for continued coverage of all BG sports. For the remainder of the week, we will continue covering the football MAC Championship game. We also have additional women's basketball notes, a video and will have coverage of the weekend basketball games. [www.bgnewssports.com](http://www.bgnewssports.com)

## OUR CALL

## Today in Sports History

**1997**—Latrell Sprewell suspended for one year for attacking his coach.  
**1988**—Baltimore trades Eddie Murray to the Dodgers.  
**1964**—Baseball approves a free agent draft and gives the commissioners office full power over baseball disputes.  
**1920**—First NFL game is played. Buffalo beats Canton 7-3 at The Polo Grounds.

## The List

Yesterday, the Mid-American Conference announced All-MAC selections as well as postseason individual awards. Today, we're listing the five individual season award winners:

**1. Larry English:** Northern Illinois defensive lineman garnered the Vern Smith Leadership Award, MAC Defensive Player of the Year and first team All-MAC.

**2. Nate Davis:** Ball State's quarterback was named MAC Offensive Player of the Year and first team All-MAC.

**3. Brady Hoke:** After leading his team through a perfect regular season, Ball State's coach was awarded MAC Coach of the Year.

**4. Antonio Brown:** Central Michigan's kick and punt returner led the MAC in punt return average and averaged over 21 yards on kick returns and was named MAC Special Teams Player of the Year.

**5. Sean Baker:** Ball State's first-year safety was awarded with the MAC Freshman of the Year award after leading the Cardinals with six interceptions and 90 tackles.

## Showing no mercy



## Three Falcons end in double figures as BG routs Detroit

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

Detroit Mercy entered Anderson Arena last night having played three games in five days.

The BG women's basketball team was well aware of this, and took full advantage of any fatigue UDM may have been feeling, jumping out to an early lead and never looking back, winning decisively, 72-42.

BG coach Curt Miller was ready to exploit any fatigue UDM was feeling and wanted a fast start from his team.

"If [Detroit] would've found a way to keep it close, I think you forget about the fatigue factor and play to the finish line," Miller said. "If you jump on them early,



AT BGNEWSSPORTS.COM: Be sure to log on to The BG News Sports Blog for a highlight video of last night's game.

on a team playing their third game in five days, I believe that we could potentially make the fatigue factor a big deal and have a good night."

"We jumped on them early and gained confidence," he added.

Senior Lindsey Goldsberry started the early run, scoring six of the team's first 12 points on a

pair of three-pointers.

After Goldsberry's small run, the rest of the lineup found its rhythm, opening up a 14-2 lead with 14:40 to go in the first half. Guard Tracy Pontius and forward Niki McCoy had eight of that 14.

Miller thought that Goldsberry's early scoring really made the offensive rhythm possible.

"I'm really proud of the way Lindsey Goldsberry started the game shooting, giving us confidence at the arc against their zone," he said.

UDM is a team that plays primarily 2-3 zone defense, and the

## TOP PERFORMERS

**TRACY PONTIUS:** Had 16 points, five assists and four steals

**NIKI MCCOY:** Had 13 points and three rebounds

**LINDSEY GOLDSBERRY:** Had 10 points, six rebounds and four assists

**LAUREN PROCHASKA:** Had eight points and eight rebounds

**CHELSEA ALBERT:** Had nine points and a steal

**SANDI BROWN:** Had 11 points and nine rebounds for Detroit

See **RECAP** | Page 7

## Pontius helping point BG in right direction

By Chris Voloschuk  
Sports Editor

In the BG women's basketball team's first two games, the players were feeling things out and trying to figure out where everyone fit in the human jigsaw puzzle.

The result: an 0-2 start to the season.

But, since losing to Valparaiso last month, the Falcons have been on a tear, winning five straight games.

After last night's decisive 72-42 victory over Detroit Mercy, point guard Tracy Pontius admitted the pieces are finally falling into place.

"I think just over time we'll continue to get better," Pontius said. "We are learning how to play off each other better, so the next couple of years we should be good, considering we're young and we're 5-2 now."

While Pontius has no problem citing the merits of her teammates when it comes to the team's recent on-court success, she really has been a huge factor in all of it.

Last night, her 16 points, five assists and four steals led both teams in all three categories. In one impressive athletic feat, Pontius committed a turnover at the offensive end, sprinted the length of the court, jumped as



**Tracy Pontius**

Has taken over point guard for graduate Kate Achter

See **POINT** | Page 7



TONY DEJAK | AP PHOTO

**LEAVING?:** Browns GM Phil Savage (right) and head coach Romeo Crennel are both on the hot seat this season.

## Browns' Savage looking ahead to next season despite questions of his return

By Tom Withers  
The Associated Press

BEREA — His future in doubt, Cleveland Browns general manager Phil Savage is moving ahead with plans for 2009 without knowing if he'll be around to see them through.

Savage, who has come under added scrutiny since sending a profane e-mail to a fan a few weeks ago, said yesterday he hopes to return next season. Last week, Browns owner Randy Lerner said he will wait until January before deciding the future of Savage and coach Romeo Crennel.

"I've got four years left on a contract," said Savage, who joined the Browns in 2005 and is signed through 2012. "I'd love to be able

to finish that out. He [Lerner] said everything is under review. I'm an open book. I can walk with my head held high. I think we have done a lot of positive things here. Is the job finished? No.

"I would be disappointed if I was not able to finish it out. I'd like to do that. Only time will tell."

Savage and his staff have begun preparing for free agency and will soon begin work on next year's draft. Savage is pushing ahead.

"Life goes on, business as usual continues," he said.

There's no denying Savage has substantially upgraded the talent on Cleveland's roster. However, he has been criticized for not being visible, and his mishandling of several off-field situations — most notably tight end Kellen Winslow's hospitalization for a

staph infection — this season has led to speculation he may be fired following the season.

At 4-8 overall and just 1-6 at home, the Browns have been one of the league's biggest disappointments after just missing the playoffs in 2007. Savage acknowledged his dissatisfaction with his team's record, but believes the Browns are far enough along in their development to bounce back without a complete makeover.

"I would say this year will be more the exception than the rule," said Savage, who had not met with Cleveland reporters in nine weeks. "I think we have a lot of good players on this team."

See **SAVAGE** | Page 7

## Bettman to meet with Avery regarding comments

NEW YORK (AP) — NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has summoned Sean Avery to New York for a hearing today on remarks that resulted in the indefinite suspension of the Dallas Stars' instigator.

Bettman disciplined Avery on Tuesday for making "inappropriate public comments, not pertaining to the game." The punishment came down only hours after Avery used a crude term about his former girlfriends now dating other hockey players.

Avery missed the Stars' game against the Calgary Flames on Tuesday night and missed their game yesterday night in Edmonton. The league did not have a timetable for when a decision would be made after the meeting.

"More than anything, he's let his teammates down," said Dallas co-general manager Brett Hull, who played with Avery in Detroit several years ago, was a driving force in signing him and will represent the Stars at the hearing.

Despite all the cajoling, snide remarks and other stunts Avery has pulled on the way to becoming the biggest pest in hockey, this is the first time he's been suspended by the NHL.

Avery's inflammatory line came following a morning skate in Calgary, Alberta.

Reporters were waiting to speak with Avery about disparaging remarks he'd made last month about Flames star Jarome Iginla when Avery walked over to the group and asked if there was a camera present. When told there was, he said, "I'm just going to say one thing."

"I'm really happy to be back in Calgary; I love Canada," he said. "I just want to comment on how



TONY GUTIERREZ | AP PHOTO

**TALKING:** NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and Dallas Stars Sean Avery will meet today about Avery's recent comments.

it's become like a common thing in the NHL for guys to fall in love with my (former girlfriends). I don't know what that's about, but enjoy the game tonight." He then walked out of the locker room.

Avery's ex-girlfriend, actress Elisha Cuthbert of the television show "24" and the movie "Old School," is dating Calgary defenseman Dion Phaneuf; she also had been romantically linked to Mike Komisarek of the Montreal Canadiens.

"I completely support the league's decision to suspend Sean Avery," Stars owner Tom Hicks said in a statement. "Had the league not have suspended him, the Dallas Stars would have. This organization will not tolerate such behavior, especially from a member of our hockey team. We hold our team to a higher standard and will continue to do so."



## RECAP

From Page 6

Falcons almost got too confident from the three-point arc, taking 30 shots for the game. They connected on 12 of them.

Miller wasn't happy with the volume of threes taken, but was happy with how open many of the shots were. His offense attacked the Titans from the inside out to combat the zone.

Another key to BG's win was

forcing UDM into 26 turnovers. The direct result of all the take-aways was 23 points, compared to UDM's nine.

As a whole, BG's defense held UDM to 29.6 percent shooting from the field and 22 percent from beyond the arc. The Titans only attempted 12 free throws all game.

For the game, the Falcons had three players reach double figures in scoring. They were led by Pontius' 16 points, five assists and four steals. McCoy and Goldsberry



**Niki McCoy**  
Had 13 points and three rebounds against Detroit

added 13 and 10, respectively.

All evening, the Falcons hustled and found their scoring lanes, tiring road-weary Titans.

"We kept our intensity up from the get-go, and that's what got us the 'W,'" Pontius said.

## POINT

From Page 6

high as she could and blocked a UDM shot.

While she had a solid game stat-wise, the blocked shot turned out to be the most impressive, as Pontius is not known for the length of her vertical leap.

"When I made the turnover, I knew I better get back and do something, or [Head Coach Curt Miller] was not going to be happy with me," Pontius said. "I just ran back and got a good block, I guess."

Miller jokingly said that he's told his sophomore point guard a few times that she couldn't jump over a Sunday

edition of a newspaper.

"She has trouble getting on top of the paper, the Sunday edition," Miller said. "Tracy will rub that in for weeks — that she got a blocked shot."

Jumping ability aside, Pontius has taken nicely to her new role as the team's floor general. It's not easy replacing someone like the departed Kate Achter, but Pontius hasn't shied away. So far this season, she's averaging a team-high 4.17 assists per game and shooting 47 percent from three-point land.

According to Miller, she's done a good job of taking over the point position and running the offense. Last night's performance displayed that ability.

"She really ran the show

tonight," Miller said. "You can see her confidence growing by leaps and bounds ... In a game like tonight, where you're going to get 40 minutes of zone, she can really shoot it. She played really, really well and hit big shots when we needed it in the zone."

After serving as Achter's understudy for her freshman season, Pontius is blossoming into BG's next talented point guard as a sophomore. In other words, she's found her place in the team's puzzle and is fitting quite well.

"[Point guard] is now her position," Miller said. "She's won it through this year's preseason. She had good experience around Kate. Now, she knows it's her team."

## SAVAGE

From Page 6

When you watch the tape, we have more than enough ability to compete in this league."

Savage cited injuries, dropped passes and inconsistency for a season he described as "difficult." He hopes the younger players take away something from the team's regression.

"Every season is a new season," he said. "It doesn't matter what you did last year. It doesn't matter what you're planning on doing next year. It matters what you're doing today."

Savage caused a stir last week when he seemed to distance himself from Crennel. During a radio interview, Savage pointed out his responsibility was the 53-man roster and it was up to Crennel and his staff to utilize the

45 players who dress for games.

"If I'm going to get involved in those decisions," Savage said, "then I may as well put a headset on and double my salary."

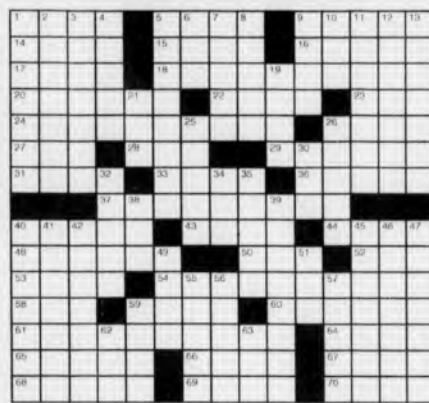
Savage insists he and Crennel have a solid working relationship and disagreements are common in the NFL.

"We're definitely on the same page," Savage said. "We work well together. Romeo and I have a good relationship."

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### ACROSS

- 1 Hold the lead
- 5 Moolah
- 9 Canada's National Park
- 14 Stitch's sidekick
- 15 Melville novel
- 16 Historian Durant
- 17 Comet rival
- 18 Comden/Green musical
- 20 Legendary Cardinal
- 22 Stan of sax jazz
- 23 Pinup's leg
- 24 Rainout remedy
- 26 Bamako's land
- 27 "Bambi" character
- 28 Gunky stuff
- 29 Extras
- 31 ... and file
- 33 Daughter of Tom Cruise
- 36 Discomfit
- 37 University in South Bend
- 40 Fur merchant John Jacob
- 43 Color changer

- 44 Cuts and runs
- 48 Kindling wood
- 50 "Spin City" network
- 52 Toshiba rival
- 53 Channel island
- 54 Cooperstown attraction
- 58 Ms. Thurman
- 59 Golf warning
- 60 Deodorant type
- 61 Delano or Alva, e.g.
- 64 Australian lake
- 65 Jose's January
- 66 Reebok rival
- 67 Weizman of Israel
- 68 Impertinent
- 69 Ex-Georgia senator Miller
- 70 Erotic

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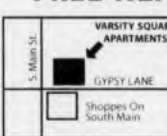
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# Mumbai gunman says money was promised to family



SEBASTIAN D'SOUZA | AP PHOTO

**MUMBAI SHOOTING:** In this Nov. 26 file photo, a gunman identified by police as Ajmal Amir Kasab walks through the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal railway station in Mumbai, India.

## Interrogation reveals horrifying evidence

By Ramola Talwar Badam  
The Associated Press

MUMBAI, India — The only gunman captured during the terror attack on Mumbai says he was promised that his impoverished family would get \$1,250 if he died fighting for militant Islam, security officials said yesterday.

The captive, 21-year-old Ajmal Amir Kasab, is from Faridkot village in the Punjab region of Pakistan, according to the two Indian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss details gleaned during a week of interrogation.

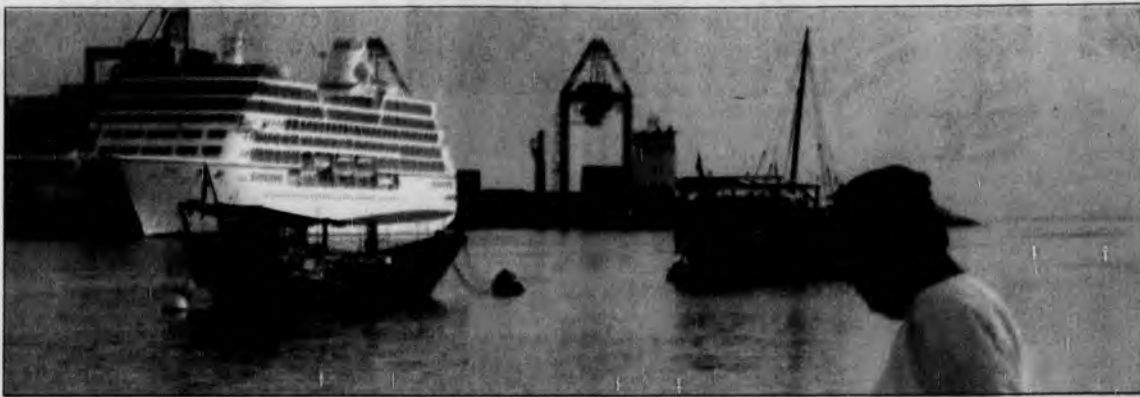
Kasab was arrested hours after the three-day rampage began the night of Nov. 26. Photographs of the young man walking calmly through Mumbai's main train station — assault rifle in hand — have made him a symbol of the attacks that killed 171 people, including 26 foreigners.

India has blamed the banned Pakistan-based extremist group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the carnage. But in an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," Pakistan's president, Asif Ali Zardari, expressed skepticism that the man in custody is a Pakistani citizen.

According to the Indian security officials, Kasab was a day laborer, like one of his brothers, before joining Lashkar. He recounted being told that if he was "shaheed" — or "martyred" — his family would receive 100,000 Pakistani rupees, or about \$1,250, they said.

Kasab said that he and the nine gunmen killed during the attack were hand-picked for the Mumbai rampage after intensive Lashkar training, the officials said.

He told police that after landing by boat in Mumbai, the attackers split into two-man teams. Kasab and another gunman, Ismail Khan, took a taxi from the waterfront to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, where they killed 54 people before fleeing.



SEBASTIAN ABBOT | AP PHOTO

**PIRATE ATTACK:** An Omani citizen views the 600-foot long M/S Nautica, left, as it sails near traditional Omani boats and prepares for a daylong port stop in the Omani capital of Muscat yesterday.

## Aggressive pirates fire at luxury cruise liner near Somalia

By Sebastian Abbot  
The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — Passengers on a luxury cruise liner attacked by pirates in the dangerous waters between Yemen and Somalia said yesterday they were surprised by the assailants' boldness and described hearing the "Pop! Pop! Pop!" of the pirates' rifles firing at the ship.

Sunday's attack on the nearly 600-foot long American-operated M/S Nautica in the Gulf of Aden was the latest evidence that pirates have grown

more aggressive, viewing almost any ship on the water as a potential target. But the attack lasted only five minutes and the ship with about 650 passengers and 400 crew members on board sped away quickly and was not seized.

"We didn't think they would be cheeky enough to attack a cruise ship," Wendy Armitage, of Wellington, New Zealand, told The Associated Press shortly after disembarking the ship for a daylong port stop in the Omani capital of Muscat.

"It was very minor really," she said of the attack. "But it was a

surprise that they attacked us, and they did fire shots."

In about 100 attacks on ships off the Somali coast this year, 40 vessels have been hijacked. Thirteen ships remain in the hands of pirates along with more than 250 crew members including a Saudi supertanker filled with \$100 million worth of crude and a Ukrainian ship loaded with 33 battle tanks.

International warships patrol the area and have created a security corridor in the region under a U.S.-led initiative, but attacks on shipping have not abated.

The cruise liner was traveling from Rome to Singapore, a route that most directly must pass through the dangerous strait between Somalia and Yemen.

During the assault, pirates fired eight rifle shots at the ship, according to its operator, Oceania Cruises, Inc. But the captain ordered passengers inside and accelerated quickly, leaving the pirates far behind in their 20- to 30-foot speedboats.

"I couldn't see them shooting, but I heard them hitting the ship, 'Pop! Pop! Pop!'" said Clyde Thornburg, on vacation from his home in Bend, Ore.

## Russian warship to pass through Panama Canal for first time since WW II

By Juan Zamorano  
The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Russia said yesterday it is sending a warship through the Panama Canal for the first time since World War II, a short journey loaded with symbolic weight: the destroyer will dock at a former U.S. naval base, showcasing Russia's growing influence in the region.

Russia appears to be relishing the idea of stopping at what was long a symbol of U.S. global power;

the Russian Navy announced it would visit "the Rodman naval base" — a name that the host nation, Panama has not used since taking over the base from the United States in 1999.

The destroyer Admiral Chabanenko is scheduled to enter the Panama Canal tomorrow morning and arrive late in the day at what Panama calls the Balboa Naval Base.

"It is a sort of tit-for-tat for Russia's perception of U.S. meddling in Georgia, Ukraine and

Eastern Europe," and has little military purpose, said Adam Isaacson, an analyst for the Washington-based Center for International Policy.

Russia, like the United States, already has ports with access to both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

"Sending a destroyer through the Panama Canal obviously has a lot of symbolic significance [and] this is primarily symbolism," said analyst Michael Shifter of the Inter-American Dialogue

think tank in Washington

U.S. officials have expressed no concern over the visit — continuing a stance they took when the ship earlier participated in joint exercises with Venezuela's navy, which concluded Monday.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who campaigns against U.S. influence in the hemisphere, invited the Admiral Chabanenko and the nuclear-powered missile cruiser Peter the Great to join the exercises, adding to his growing military ties with the Kremlin.

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# The BG News!

## Holiday Gift Guide



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## Some tales from the worst gift-giver ever



RYAN SULLIVAN  
CAMPUS EDITOR

There are several very important traditions in my family when it comes to the holiday season.

The annual watching of the movie "Christmas Vacation" after a filling Thanksgiving dinner. Playing, and I kid you not, "hide the pickle" with a pickle-shaped ornament on the Christmas tree. And lastly, pretending that when I give someone a gift, they actually like it.

Around the Sullivan family, I have developed a bit of a bad reputation of getting people gifts that aren't all that well received.

Perfect examples include the Adkins cookbook I got my step-mom when I found out she was going on the Adkins diet, the back massager I got my dad a few years ago that is still in the box and a wall clock I got my mom a few years ago that sits in an empty room of their house.

Since I got my first job at 16, I have spent countless hours wandering around malls and department stores shopping for gifts to express to the recipient that I care enough about them to spend my hard-earned money on them.

With a little bit of luck, I was able to get the gifts from the various stores I worked at with my employee discount.

Recently, I have all but given up and just gone with the generic tried and true approach and used gift cards for almost everything.

It might not be the flashiest gift the person receives but at least I know (or hope) that it gets them something they want instead of ending up in the next garage sale.

So I have finally come to understand that gift giving really isn't my thing.

This year, I have decided to take a different approach. Instead of going out and spending a lot of money on gifts that I am not sure if the people who they are going to will like, I have instead decided to split the cost of them with siblings and let them pick out the present

"... I have developed a bit of a bad reputation for getting people gifts that aren't all that well received."

of merriment meant for others.

If you think about it, it does make a lot of sense.

Since I don't live at home anymore, I don't really know what my family does and doesn't have. I also am able to pass the buck if the gift isn't used by saying that it was somebody else who picked it out.

Oh yeah, I also won't be paying full retail price for something that will probably see its final resting place in the basement.

From the years of my bad judgment with gifts, I have a few recommendations for things to avoid wrapping this holiday season.

First on the list is a cook book. This gift will most likely lead the receiver to the assumption that you think they can't cook. This is not a good thing, especially if they make dinner most nights.

Anything the recipient might be allergic to. I found this out the hard way when I gave somebody a box of chocolate covered almonds to somebody with a tree nut allergy.

Finally, and I can't stress this enough, unless you know a woman's size, avoid buying clothes. I have tried this numerous times and usually with the same affect... me in the doghouse for picking something that either looks huge on them or is so small that a toddler would have trouble fitting into it. You can make your own conclusions for the consequences of this one.

I leave you with this piece of advice. As the saying goes, it is always better to give than to receive during the holiday season. When somebody is expecting a crappy gift from you and you manage to blow them out of the water with something that is thoughtful and somewhat useful, the look on their face is its own reward... or so I am told.



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Holiday Decorations  
Holiday Tableware  
Games & Toys  
Snow Tools*

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# Gift ideas for the significant other

## For her:



### CREDIT CARD SIZE DIGITAL CAMERA:

This compact camera is a digital camera, web cam and video cam 3-in-1. Includes user manual, software CD and USB cable. Contains universal USB 1.1 interface for almost any digital device. This camera may be the steal of the Holiday.

*findgift.com*  
Price: \$29.99



### WINE OF THE MONTH CLUB

**— PREMIER SERIES 3 MONTHS:** If she loves wine then this gift is for her. Two bottles of wine from various parts of the world are sent every month. Discover new tastes you may have never been able to experience without this gift. Free Shipping.

*findgift.com*  
Price: \$111.00



### WHEN WE FIRST MET PERSONALIZED BOOK:

A from the heart gift for a long term girlfriend symbolizing the year that you met. This personalized book contains names, dates, a poem you choose and a dedication you write.

*findgift.com*  
Price: \$39.95



### GOURMET DINNER CRUISE:

Do something different for her this year and take her to one of America's most stunning cities for a dinner she won't soon forget. Available in various U.S. cities.

*findgift.com*  
\$200+



**CUT GLASS SINGLE ROSE:** A single pink glass rose that is both unique and loving.

*findgift.com*  
Price: \$24.95



**VIDEO GAMES:** If your boyfriend is an avid video game player, this gift is the obvious safe bet if you can find out his game wish list without ruining the surprise.

*Next Gen.*  
Game Price: \$40-\$65



**SPORTS TICKETS:** Sports tickets can make any fan's holiday.

*multiple Web sites*  
Price: \$40+



**BAR MASTER:** This flask shaped, pocket-sized bar-tender allows users to find drink recipes by name, kind of alcohol, type of drink or even kind of glass used. Useful while hosting parties or trying to figure out what would make the perfect next drink at the bar.

*findgift.com*  
\$28.95



### INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC BEER OF THE MONTH CLUB:

For the curious beer drinker. Each month you will receive 12, 12-oz. beers. You will get four different beer styles each month — three bottles of two imported beers and three bottles of two domestic micro-brewed beers. Take variety to a whole new level.

*findgift.com*  
Price: \$28.95 per month  
memberships available for 2-12 months



**USB DRINK CHILLER & WARMER:** This device plugs into the USB of any laptop or desktop. Can be set to warm or chill a drink.

*findgift.com*  
\$24.95



**IPOD:** An iPod makes a great gift for anyone, but if you are having problems thinking of what to get her and she does not have an iPod (and you have the money), this would make a great gift.

*apple.com*  
\$150.00 - \$400.00



# How to: wrap a Christmas gift

Compiled by Rachel Radwanski  
Assistant Photo Editor

1

Measure the paper to make sure it fits the gift. Use additional pieces if needed. Old editions of The BG News make great wrapping paper.



2

Place the gift in the middle of the paper.



3

Next, wrap the paper around the box, as far and tight as possible — but be careful, newspaper can rip easily!

If the gift is larger than the piece of paper used, tape the paper to the gift. We recommend clear plastic tape, but we used blue so you could easily see where we were taping.



4



4a  
If the gift was larger than the original piece of paper, use an additional piece and tape it in place over the gaps.

See GIFT WRAP | Page 7

## A look at gift ideas for video gamers

By Britton Peele  
U-wire

It's the start of the holiday season. Time to plan trips home, study for finals, and most importantly, figure out what awesome video games you're going to put on your Christmas wish list.

This is made increasingly difficult by the fact that more games were released in the past couple of months than Santa could possibly fit in his sleigh — and December promises at least a few more.

But never fear! With this guide, it is my intention to at least help get your greedy gaming hands started.

Ignoring most games that came out much earlier in the year — really, people, you should have bought "Grand Theft Auto 4" and "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" already — here are some of the biggest and best games this holiday season, separated by categories better to suit your playing style.

### The Action Gamer

"Call of Duty: World at War": Unlike "Call of Duty 4," which brought the series into modern warfare, "Call of Duty: World at War" goes back to the battles of World War II. However, it uses the same engine that made "CoD4"

See VIDEO GAMES | Page 9

## a Perfect Holiday Gift

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Gift Baskets\* with Harry London Candy, holiday Gifts, flowers, and much more!

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# Gift ideas for the parents

## For Mom:



**FLOWERS:** Almost every mom likes flowers! A rather cheap and effective gift that will brighten her Christmas morning.

Price: \$15.00 +



**PERSONALIZED 12 PHOTO CALENDAR:** This custom calendar allows 12 personal photos. Allow your mom to enjoy a different photo every month to provide her with joyful memories.

Price \$19.95



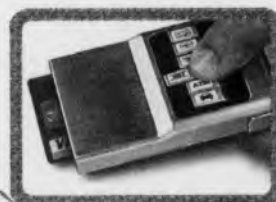
**CHRISTMAS CARD:** Parents usually understand college students have a minimal amount of money, but still let them know you care. A simple card can be a perfectly adequate gift for mom this Holiday season.

Price: \$4.00



**GOURMET CHOCOLATE OF THE MONTH CLUB:** Each month, enjoy a variety of chocolates from one world class chocolatier from various parts of the world.

Price: \$30.95 per month  
Gift memberships: 2 - 12 months



**CREDIT CARD WALLET WITH BUILT IN MONEY CLIP:** An innovative design that will allow dad to easily sort and protect 6 of his most used cards. Money clip on back.

Price: \$40.00

findgift.com



**GIFT CARD:** A gift card is usually a pretty safe and well-liked Christmas gift for mom. After approximately 18 years of being around her it should not be hard to distinguish her favorite restaurants and stores.

## For Dad:



**THE BEATLES PINT GLASS SET:** If your dad is a classic rock enthusiast then this gift may be the highlight of his holiday season. Comes with four pint glasses. Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin pint glass sets also available.

Price: \$29.95 - \$39.95



**DAD'S PERSONALIZED PHOTO PLAYING CARDS:**

If your dad is a card player he may enjoy a set of cards with pictures of cherished family members. These personalized decks allow the purchaser to be creative and unique with their choice of pictures.

findgift.com

Price: \$25.00 - \$49.99



**GOLF BALL OF THE MONTH CLUB:** If your dad is a hardcore golfer who strives to find the perfect ball and is always trying new ones to find perfect chemistry, then he may be astonished with this gift. One sleeve of top line golf balls will be sent each month.

findgift.com

Price: \$49.99 Price reflects three months



**NFL POOL BALLS:** Let your dad show off his pride for his favorite NFL team with this set of Belgian Aramith billiard balls. Perfect for the dad who frequently has friends crowding around his home pool table. All 32 NFL teams are available. They are quite costly so the whole family might have to pitch in.

findgift.com  
Price: \$175.00

**Your Choice \$150.00**



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Jewelers & Engraving

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Monday-Friday 10-7  
Saturday 10-5  
waddingtonjewelers.com



## GIFT WRAP

From Page 5



**5** Now move to an end of the gift, any end that hasn't been taped down. Begin by folding the top so it lays flat against the gift and folds the sides of the paper into triangles.



**6** Next, fold down the triangle side so that they lay flat along the bottom part of the paper. Do the same to the other triangle on that side.



**8** The bottom layer of paper should look like a triangle, fold the tip of it in a little so that you have a nice flat edge.



**7** Tape the corner of the triangles against the gift so that they stay put while you finish taping up the side you're working on.



**9** Tape the bottom edge up against the gift. Repeat steps 5-9 on the other open end.



**10** Voilà! You have a beautiful wrapped gift! To learn how to make the bow, go online.

## 'DOWNTOWN, WHERE ALL THE LIGHTS ARE BRIGHT'



CHRISTINA MCGINNIS | THE BG NEWS

**DECK THE STREETS:** The Main Street Christmas lights spread holiday spirit and cheer in the downtown Bowling Green area.

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## Two Bedroom Apts. Duplexes &amp; Houses:

- 320 Elm
- 801-803 Fifth
- 311, 319 S. Main
- 507 & 525 E. Merry
- 843 Sixth
- 309 High
- 109 N. Main #G
- 520 E. Reed
- 224 Troup-House

## Three Bedroom Apts. &amp; Houses:

- 330 N. Church
- 433 N. Enterprise -house
- 534 S. College A&B
- 734 Elm
- 233 W. Merry
- 338 N. Church House
- 123+127 E. Merry
- 532 Elm A&B

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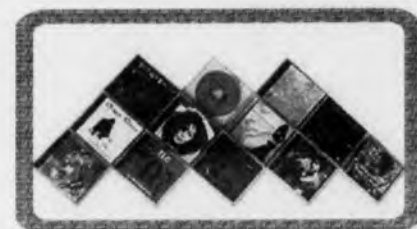
# Gift Ideas for the siblings

## For brother:

## For sister:



**SPORTS:** Sports equipment and team apparel make great gifts!



**CD CLEARPOCKET WALL DISPLAY:** This wall display allows the cover art of 12 CD cases to become a unique decoration.

Price: \$19.95



**BATH AND BODY GIFT BASKETS:** A great, inexpensive gift idea for the sister who is hard to buy for.

Price: \$10 - \$35



**CANDLES:** A relaxing gift almost every sister will appreciate.

Price: \$10+



**HOLIDAY RETRO CANDY GIFT BOX:** Nostalgic candy assortments from past decades. Select from 1940 - 1990.

Price: \$28.74  
findgift.com



**GAS CARD:** It may not be the flashiest gift, but it will likely be used.

Price: \$24.95  
findgift.com



**MP3/IPOD ALARM CLOCK RADIO:** This compact alarm clock is compatible with any iPod, MP3 or portable CD player.

Price: \$24.95  
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**BOARD GAMES:** Board games are an excellent gift idea that can provide hours of fun. There are whole stores dedicated solely to selling board games. They are also readily available online.

Price: \$15+



## PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What is the worst Christmas gift you have received and who was it from?



"Great aunt gave her a sherbert colored fuzzy sweater in high school."

**IMANI THOMAS,**  
Junior,  
Sports Management



"Shelf for my wall from grandma."

**LEE UNSINGER,**  
Sophomore,  
Education



"Power Rangers soap when I was 13 from my grandma."

**JACKIE PIERSON,**  
Junior,  
VCT



"Lego set when I was in high school from grandma."

**LOGAN MONTS,**  
Junior,  
Education



VISIT US AT  
**BGNEWS.COM**

Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at [bgnews.com](http://bgnews.com).

## VIDEO GAMES

From Page 5

immensely fun and popular, delivering great gameplay and a fantastic online experience. For the 360, PS3, Wii and PC.

"Far Cry 2": Set in Africa, this open-world first-person shooter is packed with action, mercenaries, guns and wildfires. While the plot may be lacking, players have a lot of choices of which directions they will take in any given scenario. For the 360, PS3 and PC.

## The Horror Fan

"Dead Space": Taking the best aspects of classics like "Bioshock" and "Resident Evil 4," "Dead Space" is an extremely good and immensely terrifying survival horror game in which you have to cut off the limbs of undead aliens and discover the shocking fate of Planet Cracker class ship USG Ishimura. For the 360, PS3 and PC.

## The Sports Enthusiast

"Motorstorm: Pacific Rift": Continuing in the tradition of the gorgeous visuals of the PlayStation 3's launch title original, "Pacific Rift" takes things out of the desert and somewhat more lush scenery. With twice as many tracks as the original and great multiplayer, off-road racing fans should enjoy this one. For the PS3.

"Tecmo Bowl: Kickoff": Remember "Tecmo Bowl" back from your old Nintendo days? It's back, and provides the beloved over-the-top, all-American football experience you would want. Easy to pick up and play - both alone and with friends, online and off - it's a football title that can be enjoyed by more than just "Madden" fans. For the DS.

# Don't know what to get family and friends for the holidays?

## Get them a gift they'll enjoy - a *Visa gift card!*



*Glass City Visa gift cards may be purchased at any Glass City branch in denominations of \$10 - \$500.*

To get more information or to view a listing of our branch locations, visit us online at:

[www.glasscityfcu.com](http://www.glasscityfcu.com)

\*Prepaid Visa Gift Cards cannot be used at ATMs, at gas station pay-at-the-pump, at hotels, or at car rental locations. A fee applies to the purchase of each Visa Gift Card. Gift Cards may be purchased by Glass City members only.

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We're working for you!

**Make sure to check out our NEW ATM in the Student Union next to Starbucks!**

# Homemade cookies make heartfelt yet inexpensive gifts

By **Freddy Hunt**  
Editor-in-Chief

While Tickle Me Elmo and iPods have dominated the holiday wish list in recent years, a little flour, butter and sugar have always mixed into a sweet and sound gift.

If it's made from scratch, it's made with love. And who doesn't like cookies? So head to the grocery store and buy the ingredients you

need to make your favorite holiday cookies.

My favorites are my grandma's Candy Cane Cookies. Don't be fooled by the presentation, they're not hard and peppermint; they're soft, crumbly and amazing. So if you don't have a favorite recipe of your own, borrow mine:

## INGREDIENTS:

\*\*\* yields 4 dozen

1 c. shortening (or 1/2 c. butter + 1/2 c. margarine)

1 1/2 tsp. almond extract

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 egg

1 c. confectioner sugar, sifted

2 1/2 c. flour, sifted

1 tsp. salt

red food coloring



**STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART:** Cookies made from scratch can be great gifts for both the giver and the receiver because they are inexpensive but made with love.

FREDDY HUNT | THE BG NEWS

- 1.) Mix shortening, egg, vanilla and almond extract in a bowl. Be sure to scramble the egg before adding
  - 2.) In separate bowl, mix confectioner sugar, flour and salt
  - 3.) Slowly mix the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients bowl. Use an electric mixer on medium or beat with a fork
  - 4.) Once dough is formed, split into two equal halves.
  - 5.) Add red food coloring to one half until dough is red, not pink
  - 6.) Roll dough into 4-inch cylinders about as thick as a pinkie finger
  - 7.) Twist together one red and one white strand into a candy cane shape.
  - 8.) Preheat oven to 375 F
  - 9.) Place Candy Cane Cookies on a cookie sheet and bake for about 7 minutes
- Baked goods: pretty, pretty, pretty good gift idea.

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# Make yuletide love, not war during the Christmas season

By Taylor Kessinger

U-wire

There are many things in this world worthy of being fought over. But Christmas is not one of them.

Ideologues on both sides of the political fence have taken up arms in a "war on Christmas," furthering a conflict which promises to provide continued stupidity for us all. But like a wrecked car — or, if you prefer, a demolished Christmas

sled on the side of the road, you can't help but slow down and watch in morbid fascination as you drive by.

First of all, let's get one thing straight. Either Christmas has a great deal to do with Christianity or it doesn't.

Christmas may be a sacred Christian holiday that exists solely to glorify the birth of Jesus Christ; in that case, it seems like people who aren't Christians, and who therefore

do not celebrate Christmas, have some right to be a little weirded out when someone wishes them a Merry Christmas, just as non-Jews have a right to be a little weirded out when someone wishes them a Happy Chanukah, and so on.

On the other hand, maybe it's a holiday that has basically nothing to do with Christianity except that a number of people have arbitrarily decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at this time, a tradition

which is so pervasive that it has even seeped its way into the name of the season.

In all other respects, Christmas is mostly a traditional Western holiday that has become completely secularized and commercialized over the years. Of course, since Christmas is secular, no one has any real right to be offended by its celebration.

That the latter description of Christmas is the correct one should

be obvious to anyone who studies the history of the holiday season. Celebrations near the start of winter originated in pagan societies long before Christianity.

More importantly, pretty much every Biblical scholar agrees that the Gospels do not suggest that Christ was born in December.

Jesus simply is not the reason for the season; some might argue Jesus is a reason not to have the season at all.

## Remember those in need

Travis Schulze

U-wire

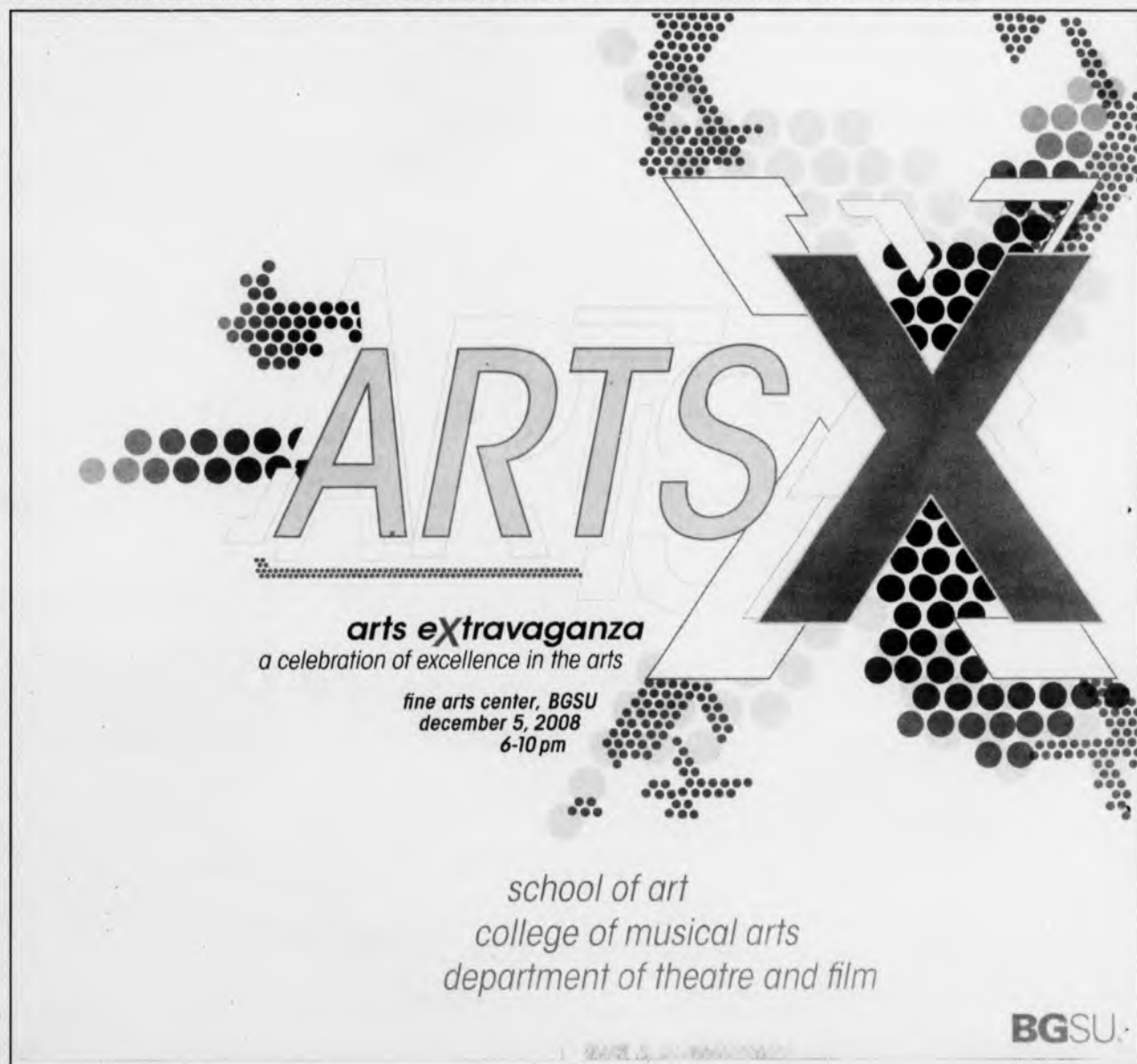
Now that my favorite holiday has passed, it seems all eyes are turned to that cultural juggernaut of Dec. 25. The first fatality is already in. A temporary Wal-Mart worker was trampled by a Black Friday crowd drunk on Christmas's materialistic fervor.

This incident is all too representative of the gift-oriented culture that has undermined the spirit of good will and made me despise the holiday season.

This is a culture that I, along with most middle-class children in America, participated in for most of my life.

Hopefully, most of us, being college students, are past the point where we expect extravagant gifts from our parents. I would even expect most Ohio State students to say that they enjoy giving gifts more than receiving them.

The problem is that we generally give to friends and family or boyfriends and girlfriends -- people that generally don't need anything material from us or anyone else. Often the neediest in our society go overlooked. Now, I am not saying that we should stop giving gifts to those we care about most, but we should remember to think about those most in need during the holidays.



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