SURVIVORS
Two survivors of the Hiroshima attacks shared their stories and promoted peace. | PAGE 2

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Nuclear tensions threaten peace

By Emily Gielink
Reporter

The final presentation of the Seeking Peace in the Nuclear Era: A Peace Symposium brought local peace activists and University students together Wednesday, as Hiroshima bomb survivors Keiko Ogura and Setsuko Thurlow talked about their experiences.

The speech was hosted by the BGSU Asian Studies Program and Peace & Conflict Studies, and sponsored by the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation, Hiroko Makamoto, and the BGSU College of Arts and Sciences.

Ogura is the official story-teller of Hiroshima, as well as the founder of Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace, and witnessed the bombing at the age of eight. With her home a mile and a half away, she was one of few in her family to survive.

“Miraculously, not all of my family members died,” Ogura said.

In the days before the bombing, the air raid warnings filled the air of Hiroshima. On the morning of Aug. 6, 1945, Ogura’s father ordered her to stay home from school. While walking on the road, she witnessed a strong flash and was knocked unconscious.

After years, Ogura still worries of the nuclear weapon tension. As a child, she have taken firm stances and have actively voiced their opinions.

A yellow banner travels with Thurlow to most places, bearing the names of the 351 girls in her class who perished.

“Each one of them had a life. Each one of them had a name. Each one of them was loved by someone, and they all disappeared,” Thurlow said.

Both women continue to tell their stories and work on the total abolition of nuclear weapons. According to Thurlow, they do it to ensure the future of our children, and all the future children.

A final talk and farewell reception will be held on Oct. 19, 2017 at the Wood County Public Library at 4 p.m.

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Continued on page 11
Kaepernick and intentionality bias

By Chase Bachman
Columnist

Psychology is something that really fascinates me. How our brains work and the processes we use to think are things I find really interesting. It applies to many different aspects of life and has changed my understanding of how people interact with one another.

This understanding even applies to the National Football League, where in the last several days former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, filed a grievance against the NFL team owners for alleged collusion. What that essentially means is that Kaepernick believes the owners of the 32 teams in the league have colluded to keep him off of any and every roster.

This could perhaps be a result of his playing abilities, his personal politics or simply the color of his skin, but either way, we are six weeks into the new season, and Kaepernick is yet to be signed to any roster.

Kaepernick hopes the grievance, if successful, will terminate the current Collective Bargaining Agreement. For those of you that don’t know, this is the agreement the owners make with the players to ensure their fair treatment. This can be achieved if Kaepernick and his team of lawyers are able to prove the collusion of owners.

The next step would be to draft a new CBA that prevents collusion against players, and the kneeling Kaepernick would potentially have a team on which to play. This, of course, is the ideal chain of events, except for one possible roadblock: he is a mediocre player.

To think that he can take on the NFL and prove them guilty of something so subjective is ridiculous.

Intentionality bias is a phenomenon that occurs often in humans when ambiguous events happen. We instinctively assume that the ambiguous event was intentional. Conspiracy theorists usually possess this bias (you know the guy that assumes every plane crash is intentional and thinks every house fire is an act of arson).

I don’t believe the league is intentional-ly dropping Kaepernick because his stance makes people uncomfortable. I don’t think it is simply because of his skin color. Michael Bennett still sits and is a Pro-Bowl level player. If Aaron Rodgers took the same stand, he’d still be in the league next year because the difference between Rodgers and Kaepernick is that one is really talented while the other simply isn’t.

It’s Kaepernick’s lack of play-making ability plus his politics that are enough to make owners hold on to their money. If Kaepernick had Aaron Rodgers’s arm, or Dak Prescott’s game management, then there’d unquestionably be a spot for him.

Kaepernick, like any frustrated NFL player without a job, is looking for answers. The idea that the owners have colluded against him is one that makes sense, and he will certainly make a case for himself. But the NFL is about profit and PR, and Kaepernick is simply bad PR for the league and many of its fans.

The owners haven’t messaged each other in a 32-person group chat, all agreeing to blackball the kneeling QB. They’ve individually taken a look at his lack of skills, and the bad optics he brings, and made a football/business decision.

I would never ask Kaepernick to change his politics to appease other people, so if Kaepernick would like to play in the NFL again, he should prove in tryouts that he can up his completion percentage.

The Columbus Crew needs to stay where it belongs

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

The owner of the Columbus Crew, Anthony Precourt and Precourt Sports Ventures, made a statement on Tuesday, Oct. 17 announcing that if a new stadium is not built in downtown Columbus, the club will move to Austin, Texas pending the approval of a stadium plan.

The statement by the Crew is on the Major League Soccer website. “Despite our investments and efforts, the current course is not sustainable.” – Anthony Precourt – Owner of the Columbus Crew

The purchase agreement contained a promise to keep the team in Columbus for at least 10 years; it also included an escape clause in the case Precourt wanted to move it to Austin.

So what does this all mean? It means that unless the people at the University of Texas is ‘all but done’ for 2019...Precourt paid $68 million — above market value — for the team in 2013 because he long entertained plans to move it ... The purchase agreement contained a promise to keep the team in Columbus for at least 10 years; it also included an escape clause in the case Precourt wanted to move it to Austin.”

“Despite our investments and efforts, the current course is not sustainable.”

Austin … Soccer is the world’s game, and with Austin’s growing presence as an international city, combined with its strong multicultural foundation, MLS in Austin could be an ideal fit.”

Precourt’s quote from the statement sounds like he has been planning this move for years, ever since he bought the team. In fact, it has been rumored that this is exactly what Precourt did when he bought the team.

An anonymous source that spoke to Deadspin said, “A deal to host home games sounds like he has been planning this move for years, ever since he bought the team. In fact, it has been rumored that this is exactly what Precourt did when he bought the team.

An anonymous source that spoke to Deadspin said, “A deal to host home games

Continued on page 4
MLS is just over 20 years old, and soccer is still growing in the country, but MLS needs Columbus. This is because Columbus is seen as a culture in U.S. soccer. Any time the U.S. Men’s National Team is in a dire situation, and needs to rally around a city, they go to Columbus. Columbus has been home to some of the most important victories in U.S. Men’s National Team qualifying and has hosted every U.S. vs. Mexico qualifier since 2001. Columbus is seen as the headquarters of U.S. soccer, and for good reason. The Crew’s move to Austin would take away this headquarters, and some people may say this isn’t important, but I would say that it is.

One reason that Precourt believes that the Crew needs to move is because he believes that Columbus only cares about the Buckeyes. He may be right that Ohio State is the most important sports team in Columbus, but that doesn’t mean people don’t care about the Crew. Precourt’s way of thinking would also do the same for Austin. The University of Texas is in Austin and will be the same thing as Columbus.

I know sports are businesses, and if attendance isn’t where the team wants, then it’s within their right to make changes. However, I’m of the mind that the fans are the most important part, and Ohio fans are some of the most devoted in the country.

This move would be bad for Columbus, MLS and U.S. soccer in general. As a soccer fan in the U.S., other than Atlanta and the rising Cincinnati, I have always seen Columbus as the home of soccer and that home is in trouble.

Continued from page 3
City Council Candidate Forum

OCTOBER 23, 2017 8-10 P.M.
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Students can submit questions via social media before the event or during the event.

Election date is Nov. 7

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Discussions of a changed grading scale have begun at the University, and student input is being sought before action begins to possibly implement.

Andy Alt, assistant vice provost of academic affairs, will be visiting the Undergraduate Student Government on October 30 to gather input that will influence the first draft of the proposal to change the current grading scale to include pluses and minuses.

The discussion for the change began about six months ago.

“This summer as part of our strategic plan…was the creation of an ad-hoc working group…that would be chaired by Andy Alt out of the academic affairs side and Chris Cox from the registrar’s office,” John Fischer, vice provost for academic affairs, said about the process to change the scale.

This ad-hoc committee includes faculty representation from each college.

“The charge of that group is to go back to the individuals they interact with” and get feedback from departments and students, Alt said. “All of which has been pretty positive.”

So far, Alt has visited with two executive board members of USG, the president of GSS, leaders in residence life and others.

The committee is using 14 schools in the MAC and other public four year schools in Ohio as benchmarks.

“There are only two examples of 14 that don’t have plus and minus grading,” Alt said. Along with the University, only Shawnee State and Central State University don’t use pluses and minuses out of the 14 schools.

“We’re one of three schools in Ohio now…what does it matter?” Nevada Todt, a junior accounting student, said. “The justification has no legitimacy behind it…it’s group-think written all over it.”

He thinks there’s no need for a different system and that one with pluses and minuses would be unfair.

“Someone struggling shouldn’t get docked for getting a 71, they’re already struggling enough,” Todt said.

“When you have someone getting an 89, it is qualitatively different from the person who has an 80,” Fischer said. “And they’re getting the same quality points in our GPA system.”

Jodi Devine, the associate dean of the Honors College, is on the committee.

“I presented the idea to our Honors Student Advisory Board…They discussed the pros and cons of the proposal, offered additional suggestions, then shared the proposal with their friends and classmates to get broader feedback,” Devine wrote in an email.

Devine said honors students generally like the idea of a plus and minus system.

“Their strongest suggestion was that if we move to this model, that all faculty must be more explicit in outlining expectations for grading,” Devine wrote.

Sophomores Cody Miller and Melissa Green are both education majors but with differing opinions on the topic.

“I feel like our grading system now…it’s just not fair,” Green said. “If I get a good grade in something I only go up by what, like .5 percent versus if I miss one assignment and then I’m a whole letter grade back.”

Miller, on the other hand, likes the scale as it stands currently.

“I kind of like the fact that there’s no plus or minus,” Miller said. “You have that comfort zone, so anywhere in the 80s you have a B and don’t have to worry about getting a B minus.”

As of now, it is not clear whether a proposal will include an option for an A plus.

“Michigan and Miami both have an A plus, and the A plus doesn’t carry any point signifier, it’s simply there for the faculty member instructor to be able to say to the student ‘I really noticed that you were outstanding,’” Fischer said.

These details, which also include whether there should be any plus or minus below a C, are not of major concern right now.

“Once that proposal happens, it starts its way up through the governance structure” to GSS, USG, the committee on academic affairs, Faculty Senate, and ultimately gets approval for fall of 2018 at the soonest, Fischer said.

Alt and Fischer are aiming for a draft to be circulated around Veterans Day, which will incorporate feedback generated from the October 30 USG meeting.

“It (the draft) will be everywhere,” Fischer said. “It will go out to stockholder groups, it will go out to various student organizations, it’ll go out to Graduate Student Senate…it will be everywhere.”

Students are encouraged to offer input during the October 30 USG meeting at 7:30 p.m. in BTSU 308.
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Hockey starts conference schedule

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team will start their conference schedule on Friday and Saturday night against the Minnesota State Mavericks, the team’s first Western Collegiate Hockey Association opponent of the season.

“We need to play the game a certain way to get those offensive chances on a consistent basis,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “If we don’t do that, we end up chasing our opponent around.”

Minnesota State made an impression in their series last week against the Boston University Terriers, who at the time was ranked the second best team in the nation, defeating them in both games. The sweep also propelled Minnesota State into the rankings as the 14th best team coming into this weekend.

“This week’s opponent is as good as any team maybe we’ll play all year,” Bergeron said. “This isn’t about the WCHA anymore, they showed that they’ll go into Boston and beat BU twice in their own rink, whose the number two team in the country, obviously it’s early and they’re number two in the country based on paper, but Minnesota State went in there and said ‘yeah, we think we’re a good team.’ So we’re going to have to play the game a certain way to give ourselves a chance to take advantage of the opportunities that we have this weekend.”

The team is also looking to build on their defense, which they feel has played well despite a number of defensive losses from the offseason.

“We have a willingness to take away time and space,” Bergeron said. “If you take away time and space from a defensive standpoint, you’re giving yourselves an opportunity. The best players in our sport want time and space to create. If we can take that away, I think we’re good. That’s something we can practice, that’s something we can get better at and that’s where we are.”

The team is also looking to continue to play aggressively despite Minnesota State’s play coming into the series.

“In the neutral zone, we don’t want to sit back and not get beat and take that approach, we want to be up the ice to take away time and space, so it’s just a mindset of the way we want to play the game. We want to be relentless and we want to take away time and space and then ultimately what we want to do is create turnovers so we can go the other way and put them in situations where they’re defending. Obviously the more they have to defend, the less they’re playing offense and that’s a good thing against a team like this.”
The Falcons football team will look to break even in the Mid-American Conference standings on Saturday afternoon against the Northern Illinois Huskies.

The team struggled offensively in the second half of last weekend’s loss to the Ohio Bobcats, and while the team is expecting a similar showing from Northern Illinois, they are looking to learn from last weekend and be aggressive in their running game.

“Northern Illinois is going to do the same thing from the beginning of the game,” Falcons head coach Mike Jinks said. “They’re the number one ranked rush defense in the conference; they want to stop the run, and if six guys aren’t stopping the run, they’re going to put a seventh. And if seven aren’t stopping the run, they’re going to put in an eighth, and it’s going to happen in the first quarter, so we’ve got a good idea of what we’re going to get from them, we’ve just got to go out and execute.”

The team also is looking to put even more emphasis on the passing game as well with the strength of Northern Illinois’ rushing defense.

“It’s always a worry, and it’s always a concern, that’s how you get beat,” Jinks said. “Really we’ve got to put a game plan in place to give ourselves the best opportunity to be successful and to that note, it’s not just the pressure. It’s not just the guys they put in the box... we don’t need to be in a lot of third and long situations for protection’s sake, there probably is some things that we’ll do in order to neutralize their ability to come get the passer and some things take some of the pressure off those positions.”

The team is also looking to work on their completion percentage as well, as they had 17 passes complete on 43 attempts against Ohio.

“The receivers are doing a good job of winning at the line of scrimmage,” Jinks said. “We’ve got some guys open; we’ve just got to complete some of those balls and at the same time, when they do get open, guys start to press a little bit, and we have some untimely drops as well, so there’s enough blame to go around.”

Northern Illinois also handed the Falcons their largest margin of loss against a MAC opponent last season, taking it 45-20. The team feels that a good effort for this game could be a turning point for the rest of the season.

“It would definitely be a big win for us and our program,” Jinks said. “NIU and BG have been in some big games over the last few years, so there is definitely a sense of pride there. I think the kids will come out ready to play.”
App tries to curb in-class phone use

By Kevin Bean
Reporter

A new phone app on campus helps users find deals by leaving their phone locked.

Pocket Points, from Pocket Points Inc., is an application for both Apple and Android phones. Available for free from their respective marketplaces, the application promotes the user locking their phones and keeping their attention on the lessons during their time in the classroom.

Originally launched in the fall of 2014 on Chico State campus in California, Pocket Points is currently being used in over 250 schools throughout 43 states plus D.C. and the Canadian province of British Columbia. Ohio alone has 18 different schools participating including Toledo and Ohio State. University saturation is around 10% since the start of the fall 2017 semester according to Pocket Points’ data.

A Business Insider interview with company founders Rob Richardson and Mitch Gardner, two former Chico State students and fraternity brothers, reveals the duo built the app while still in college. The two noticed cell phone use in class was becoming a problem and sought a solution. Their answer was Pocket Points. Since its creation the two students have taken a leave from college, Business Insider reports they intend to return to finishing their degrees, and formed Pocket Points Incorporated with seed money from another Chico State alumnus.

The applications use, as described by Pocket Points’ Campus Success Director, Brianna Kline, is as simple as opening the application and locking your phone once you enter the classroom. The application will track the amount of time spent locked in the background. Exit class and unlock your phone to see the points you have earned.

The application does require you to register. Registering with Facebook is the default option, though there is a small link underneath the Facebook login link labeled “Don’t have Facebook”. Use either to sign up for an account and accept the request for the application to...
have access to your device's location. Finally, set your school to Bowling Green State University, or Bowling Green High School if you are a high school student reading this article, and set your expected graduation date.

The application uses a technique called “geo-fencing” to detect where students are. Similar to applications like last summer’s Pokemon GO, or the evergreen Apple and Google Maps, the phone is tracked using geo-location date given off by the phone at the acceptance of the phone's owner. Unlike GO and Maps, however, Pocket Points only tracks to see if you are - or are not - in a defined location.

The locations are defined by digital fences placed around buildings on campus determined, by Pocket Points’ internal researchers, to be educational buildings. Dorms and recreation centers are examples of excluded buildings. If the application detects you are inside the fence, then it will function correctly, collecting points as time passes. Walk outside the fence, and points stop accruing. Pocket Points did not provide a detailed map of the campus but stated their research teams put fences around classroom buildings and libraries.

Of note is the application’s limited ability to only track time spent in a location not the time spent in an actual class period. This means a student could not only earn points for being in class with his or her phone off but could also activate the application during a study time outside of class to earn points.

The application starts you off with 30 free points and points thereafter are earned at an average of one point per 20 minutes of inactivity on the phone. The formula can change depending on the number of active users the application has. This app also features a leader board element to track your points earned and compare them with other students by day or week.

Brianna listed several local franchises taking part in the applications reward process. Included, but not limited to, are Pita Pit, Dairy Queen, Collegiate Connection, Domino’s Pizza, Papa John’s Pizza and Insomnia Cookies.

However, upon opening the gift section of the app, only College Connection and Insomnia Cookies are listed as local businesses involved at this time. The Pocket Points’ website has a page for businesses looking to sign up. There is also a link in the application to suggest a business that you would like to see.

The most common reward is a 10% to 20% off at the selected retail location for approximately 10 points. Other offers include solid dollar amounts of specific items as well as buy one, get one deals.

The monetary and gaming incentive of Pocket Points are a good draw for users, but the application’s vision statement remains to increase student success by reducing cell phone distractions in the classroom.

“We are excited to expand Pocket Points to every school possible,” said Brianna. “I see a great future for it.”

A word of caution to users: the application, during personal tests, crashed often and means a student could not only earn points for being in class with his or her phone off but could also activate the application during a time spent in an actual class period. This suggestsPocket Points are a good draw for users, but the application's vision statement remains to increase student success by reducing cell phone distractions in the classroom.

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McOmber said allowing interest groups to amend the city's charter would set a troubling precedent that could lead to the city's charter becoming cluttered and unsystematic.

He also addressed multiple points of ambiguity within the language of the amendment, referencing issues with the “Right to Enforcement” clause saying Bowling Green law enforcement would be left powerless to intervene in nonviolent protesting.

BGUS Environmental Action Group president, Brad Holmes, argued for the necessity of the amendment.

"It is an unprecedented initiative..." Holmes said. "And we'll be continuing to face unprecedented advances from the fossil fuel industry."

Both McOmber and Holmes urged Bowling Green residents to read in detail the entirety of the amendment before casting their votes.

The Wood County Board of Elections has sample ballots outlining the full text of each issue on its website and residents are encouraged to view them before casting their vote.
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