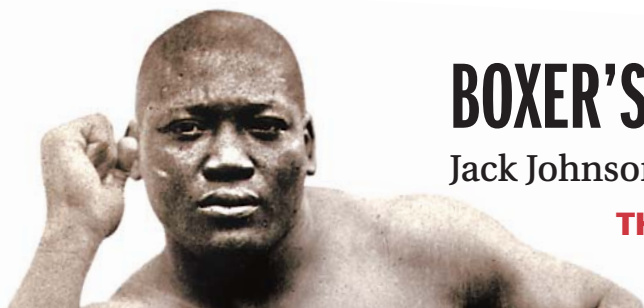


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The Columbus Dispatch

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2005

State's cash woes could hurt local services

Municipalities, counties warned they must fight to keep share of funding

By Lee Leonard
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

LONDON, Ohio — John Leutz was like an evangelist who had the congregation in the palm of his hand, and he knew it.

His baritone voice boomed through the conference room at the Madison County Engineer's Building as he warned 80 spellbound local government officials of the financial upheaval on the way, threatening their funding for police officers, garbage pickup and snow removal.

State budget officials looking for ways to make up a projected shortfall of as

much as \$5 billion in the two-year budget that begins July 1 could take all \$1.2 billion in the state's Local Government Fund — state tax money that is funneled back to local governments and libraries.

"There's competition for our resources," said Leutz, a Columbus lobbyist for Ohio's county governments, holding a coffee cup in one hand and gesturing wildly with the other to make his points. "We've got to make sure local government gets in there, even to the detriment of other worthy programs."

The former mayor of Grandview Heights, now working for the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio, was preaching about the dire consequences if the state cuts its Local Government Fund.

Because one-time money — tobacco-settlement funds, a federal windfall and savings — was used to balance the current budget almost two years ago, the upcoming plan promises to be a nightmare. The state, which might need \$50 billion for the next two years, projects that it will be short \$4 billion or more just to continue existing programs.

A temporary sixth-cent-per-dollar on the sales tax expires on June 30, and Republican lawmakers are vowing not to renew it. That accounts for about \$2.5 billion of the shortfall.

State aid to local governments and libraries has been frozen since 2001,

See **BUDGET** Page A2

INSIDE

Surge of violence

As the new Palestinian leader officially took office, Israeli forces attacked sites in the Gaza Strip, killing at least eight Palestinians | **World A7**

Buckeye loss

In a neck-and-neck nonconference game, Louisiana State races past Ohio State in double overtime, 113-101 | **Sports E1**

Stretch of development

Southern Delaware County's Rt. 23 corridor continues to grow rapidly, with new homes and new commercial sites sprouting up and transforming the area | **Business G1**

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dispatch.com



What happened at Arosa Villa the night a gunman killed "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three others?

3 MINUTES OF HELL



JEFF MULLER | FOR THE DISPATCH

Chaos reigns around the stage in Arosa Villa seconds after a Columbus policeman ended a gunman's deadly rampage. Four other people were killed soon after the start of a performance by the heavy-metal band Damageplan.

Fans and workers put themselves in danger to try to stop the carnage

By John Futtty
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

His high-pitched scream spoke to all of the things William Wever couldn't say.

"It was like he suddenly realized, 'I've got another man's blood on me,'" said his friend Crystal Levings, 25, of Mount Vernon.

Wever was cleaning the blood from his hands, face and clothing in the Arosa Villa bathroom when he was struck by the horror he had witnessed.

Like other fans at the heavy-metal concert by Damageplan, he had watched a gunman shoot guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott in the back of the head, then turn the gun on those who tried to intervene. For

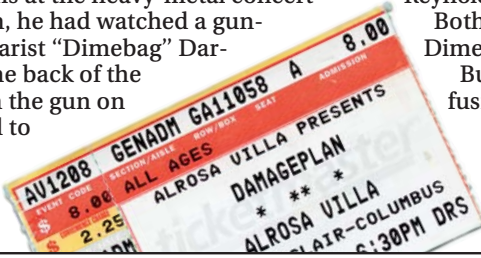
reasons he can't explain, Wever climbed onstage to try to save a bleeding victim, even as the gunman, Nathan Gale of Marysville, continued shooting.

"I have no clue why I jumped up there," said Wever, a 33-year-old Mount Vernon man who is trained in CPR for his job in store security. "I wasn't thinking anything. I just did it."

Gale was waving a handgun behind a wall of amplifiers as Wever began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the victim while another fan, Jimmy Van Fossen of Reynoldsburg, did chest compressions.

Both assumed they were working on Dimebag. But even that was a matter of confusion. The men recently learned

See **3 MINUTES** Page A8



Words in stone are worn, but King's dream unfaded

By Jonathan Riskind
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

WASHINGTON — As she walked up the steps to the Lincoln Memorial last week, Jill Loewer paused to look back across the green expanse of the National Mall.

She stood just a few feet from where Martin Luther King Jr. thundered out his "I Have a Dream" speech to 200,000 supporters in 1963.

A stone, dedicated in 2003, marks the spot, but Loewer didn't need an engraved reminder to conjure memories of an event already etched

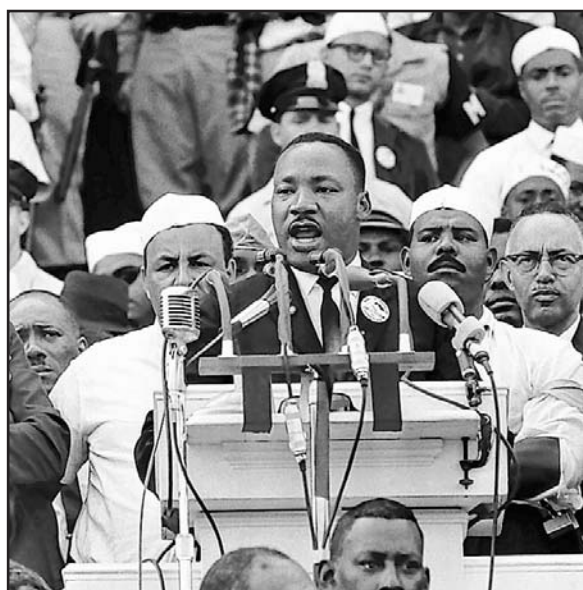
► King Day events and closings | A2
► Community leaders explain how they are inspired by King's words | H1

on her psyche.

On that hot August day, King proclaimed his dream that his children one day would live in a nation "where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

His words were very much on her mind, as was that she and a friend,

See **DREAM** Page A3



FILE PHOTO

On that hot August day, King proclaimed his dream that his children one day would live in a nation "where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Prison guard receives 10 years

Reservist sticks to contention military-intelligence officers ordered abuse at Abu Ghraib

By Kate Zernike
THE NEW YORK TIMES

FORT HOOD, Texas — The Army reservist found guilty of being the ringleader of the abuse at Abu Ghraib prison was sentenced yesterday to 10 years in military prison after telling the jury that he had repeatedly complained about orders to treat detainees harshly, but had been told to go along — and praised when he did.

The reservist, Spc. Charles A. Graner Jr., had faced a maximum sentence of 15 years. The jury deliberated two hours before delivering the sentence, which also reduced him in rank to private, the lowest possible, and ordered him dishonorably discharged from the military.

Graner's was the first contested court-martial in the abuse scandal that set off international outrage against the U.S. military and led to nine high-level Pentagon investigations into reports of abuse at U.S. detention centers in Iraq, Afghanistan and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"I didn't enjoy anything I did there," Graner told the jury at the end of three hours of answering questions from his lawyer yesterday morning. "A lot of it was wrong; a lot of it was criminal."

His comments were his first about what happened at the prison and the photographs that became symbols of the abuse scandal — detainees bound and cowering, or naked and

See **GUARD** Page A3

WHITE HOUSE CAMPAIGN

Social Security workers skeptical of private accounts

By Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Over the objections of many of its own employees, the Social Security Administration is gearing up for a major effort to publicize the financial problems of the program and to persuade the public that private accounts are needed as part of any solution.

The agency's plans are set forth in internal documents, including a "tactical plan" for communications and marketing of the idea that Social Security faces dire financial problems requiring immediate action.

Social Security officials say the agency is carrying out its mission to educate the public, including more than 47 million beneficiaries, and to support the agenda of President Bush.

But agency employees have complained to Social Security officials that they are being con-

► Whether Social Security faces a crisis depends on economic assumptions | A4

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